

Avanti Repair

MOST OVERLOOKED PARTS ON THE 1963 TO 1985 AVANTI

This is one of the most overlooked parts on the 1963-1985 Avantis. They are mostly missing or in very poor condition. The part# 1347528x61 was installed on all 1963-1985 Avantis. It's made of steel and was installed on the left and right kick panels.



Part # 1347528x61 N.O.S. are \$20.00 each and very rare. I don't think anybody else has them as N.O.S. only reproductions.

It's purpose was to hide the rear edge of the upholstered and carpeted cowl kick pad. It also kept feet from kicking this pad loose, from the fiberglass. Their purpose served well, except they were made of painted steel. I doubt if Studebaker sanded and primed them, before they were painted.

My best guess is Studebaker did the same thing as Avanti Motors did, they painted them with interior paint and the paint didn't last very long, as shoes would chip off the paint. Humidity and wet carpet would cause rust to start at the bottom and work it's way up. In Studebaker and Avanti Motors defense, the way they are made, it would be hard to get paint underneath the curved sections, so they wouldn't rust as quickly and of course they are located inside the car, so they probably weren't that concerned.

They are extremely easy to change. You simply lift the carpet and upholstery, you will see 3 small Phillips screws. These screws very seldom will just come out, with screw driver, as the steel screw threads are usually rusted and seized to the fiberglass.

I just take a grinder and grind off the heads. I remove the old one and grind the screws flush with the fiberglass. I place the new molding #1347528 in place, after it's been painted, and move it up about 1/4" before I drill the 3 new screw holes. Install the screws and you are finished.

By Dan Booth

Nostalgic Motor Cars

Dan Booth has over 45 years of exclusive, hands on Avanti sales, service, collision and parts, not Studebaker cars or trucks, just 1963-1985 Avantis.



Part# 1347528x61ss \$23.50 each made from polished 304 non magnetic stainless steel (paintable)



Photo of rusted kick pad retainer
P#1347528x61

I have 1347528x61SS made from 304 non magnetic stainless, they are absolutely incredible and they were made by a superb tin smith, who is second to none in talent. They are polished and they will match the dash end caps Illust#2113-3 part #1350630/631 or you can scuff them so they match some of the Avanti II brushed end caps and of course they can be painted to match whatever color was originally on the originals. These superb 304 stainless part #1347528x61SS are \$23.50 each. The length is 14" long. If yours are shorter, that means somebody has shortened them.

This is a very inexpensive repair at \$40.00 a pair of steel or \$47.00 for a pair of 304 stainless and just about anybody can install these.