

Tightening My '66 Interior Mirror

by Don Zullinger

I did my first NCRS Regional in Gettysburg, PA in May 2010. My wife and I were helping MAC with set up and what ever needed to be done. Since my '66 was on the field for Flight Judging, my wife followed me in the family car so we had transportation while there. Enough of the preview.

While driving the approximately 35 miles, my interior mirror began to droop. I guess better words were it had the tendency to just basically flop around. Every time I went to look in the mirror, I was looking at the seats. I must have adjusted the mirror at least 35 times, well , maybe 20 times in that short drive. It was very annoying.

I remember reading various posts in the NCRS discussion board regarding the tightening of mirrors. I had done my exterior mirror years before for the same reason. I thought: this is my next little project. This flopping of the mirror has got to go.

After returning home, I went back and reread some of the posts and made some notes. I did not want to break this mirror because it is original and date-coded.

So, to begin this project:

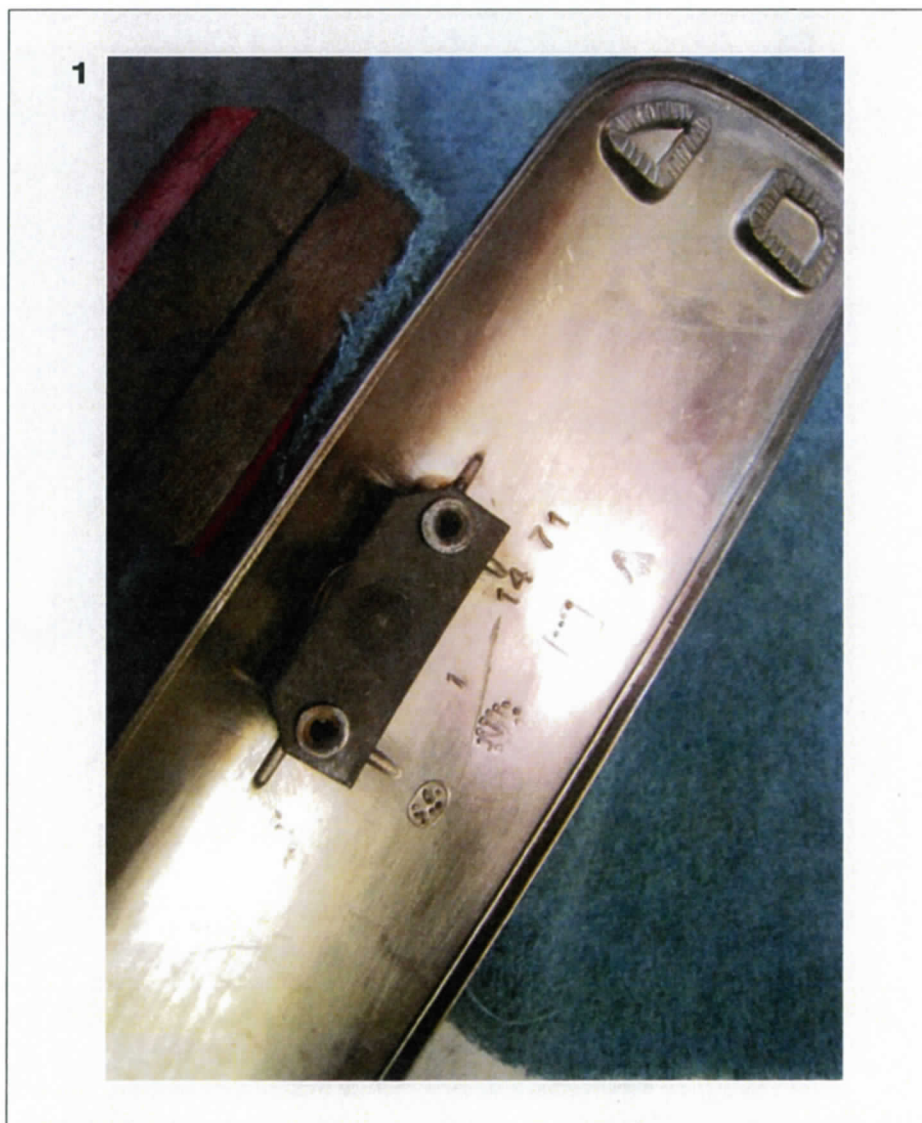
After removing the mirror, I took a small metal pan (not plastic, I've done that before!) and filled it with lacquer thinner, enough to cover the mirror when placed face down in the pan. Some articles say it may take a few hours while others indicate it might take overnight. I went for the overnight.

The next day, I carefully lifted the mirror and frame out and the mirror itself was laying on the bottom of the pan. SUCCESS!

There was a fair amount of old adhesive that held the mirror in place and that needed to be cleaned up, the lacquer thinner having made it kind of gummy. Along with the mirror was a thick piece of black paper. This was brittle and the lacquer thinner did not help it. I disposed of it and did not re-use it.

After all of the clean up, I began by inspecting everything and taking photos of any imprinted logos or numbers for my files. (Photo 1)

I took a small vise and covered it with a thick towel so as not mark the backside of the mirror. In photo 1, you can see the two (2) rivet heads. I took a small ballpeen



hammer and tapped each rivet head. After each set of taps (one per rivet head) I checked the tightness of the swivel. It does not take very much.

At this point I needed to place the mirror back into the frame but the articles I had read did not provide me with types of adhesive to use. I decided to take a trip around town and chat with some of the glass shops. I got several varying opinions. I then went to a friend who had a body shop that had done mirror repairs. He suggested the 3M product shown in photo 2.

One thing everyone agreed on was do not coat the back of the mirror with an excessive amount of adhesive. Use only dabs of adhesive.

So off I went with a tube of 3M Window Weld Super Fast Urethane #08609 to finish my project. I placed 5 dabs of the adhesive (see photo 3). I then placed the mirror and with very light pressure, pressed it into place. I used masking tape around the mirror as seen in photo 4. I left the adhesive to set up and dry, and then removed the masking tape. Now I have a nice snug mirror that does not need adjusting every mile I drive.

