

# SAVING AN ORIGINAL 66 CORVETTE SEAT COVER

By Gary Seymour

In June 2017, I bought a red on red 1966 convertible with nearly 80K miles on the odometer. The car had been setting in a garage since 1976 wrapped in plastic. It has the original paint, vinyl interior and 427/390 motor. The owner bought the car in 1972, put it in storage in 1976 and passed-away in 2010. After 7 years, his widow finally decided she could part with it.

I was so happy with my "garage find" but then the work began. In my effort to "save" as much originality as I could, I had to repair the driver's side seat bottom with three torn seams. I fixed them but was not happy with the outcome. Then I was lucky enough to find an original seat bottom in decent shape, but the cloth wire retaining loop (think proper term is "listing") under the seat had come apart. So, I set out to fix it without reading if anyone else had done so. Here is what I did and it works perfectly. Maybe this will help/encourage others to save an original piece instead of throwing it away. In a sentence, I bought some tough nylon cloth and glued it to the bottom of the original cloth of the retaining wire loop.

## Supplies:

- Nylon cloth or woven nylon ribbon at least 1.5 inches wide
- Good epoxy glue (I used JB Weld 2-part clear)



## Steps:

1. Measure how big the wire retaining loop should be from a good seat or best guess using the remains of the seat you have



2. Cut the new cloth to the correct width and length (allow for length)



cloth

extra

side to fiber

3. Glue one of the ribbon the existing loop material remaining. Be sure to get the new material as far down as you can on the old fabric. You can use a small dab of hot melt glue every five inches or so to hold the new

material in place at the bottom. Then glue with epoxy. I clamped the new material with butterfly clamps for 10 minutes until the epoxy was tacky. Be sure to remove the clamps before the glue dries.

4. Glue the other side of the new material to the old material. Be sure when you glue you do not get the glue too high so you close the



hole for the retaining wire to go thru. If you glue some of the new loop shut, then you have the challenge of pushing the retaining wire through your new loop. As an option, you can glue the material on both sides of the seat first, insert the wire and then glue the new material around the corners and front of the seat. Be sure to keep the wire high in the loop while the glue is drying.



6. Let the glue dry over night.

7. Attach the retaining clip wires to the wire in your new loop as you normally would and continue attaching the seat cover.

In my pictures below,  
did the loop on the sides  
wire and then finished  
over the wire. Corners  
patient.



you will see that I  
first, inserted the  
building the loop  
take time, so be