

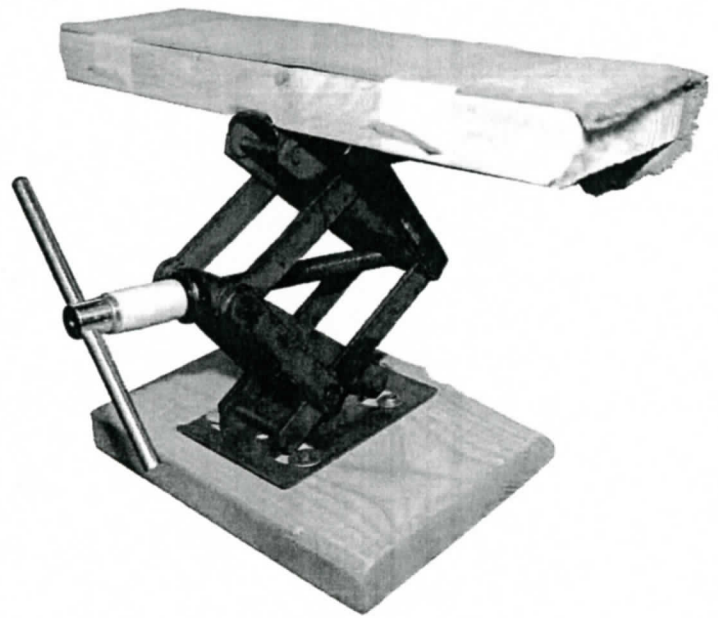
A Needful Thing

by Larry C. Sherertz

Stephen King penned the novel *Needful Things*, where every visitor to a quaint if not eerie little antique shop seemed to find a wanted treasure. As is the case with all hobbyist, need is the mother of frustrations, ideas, fabrication, and invention. Most of us work alone in our garages and shops, seizing any available time to make meaningful progress on our cars. Second and third sets of “hands and muscles” are rarely available.

In the early summer of 2010 the doors for my car had to be reinstalled. I had looked forward to this day but also dreaded known and unknown technical issues. The fun part would be doing these things while supporting a freshly painted door that weighed “50ish” pounds. There would be alignment adjustments to be made using the 12 bolts and several 3 slot shims on the two hinge straps. The problematic issue was supporting the door while having the capability of making incremental alignment changes at the hinge mountings.

I recalled an article in the *Restorer* magazine showing a hydraulic jack cradle that could support the door for mounting purposes. This was a useful starting point

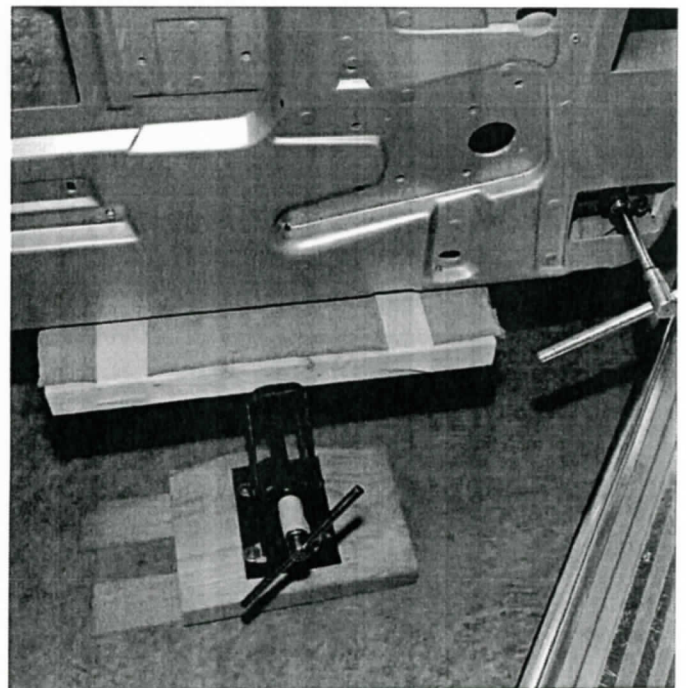


for the initial door installation but the small alignment issues remained. I needed a tool that I could use sitting at the hinge strap and move the door.

There was a generic scissors jack, similar to a corvette jack, in the corner of the garage. Hmmmmm that just might work! I “J-bolted” a wooden support on the cradle, attached an old $\frac{3}{4}$ inch socket to the screw nut, and added a wooden base plate. The $\frac{1}{2}$ inch “T” bar for the socket was the final touch. This contraption worked great! It was, in my case, a needful thing.



Door jack in use. Note construction shims used for leveling.



Masking tape is used for indexing door position while adjusting.