

Making my own door cards

Putting the peddle to the floor on my (mums) Toyota RS2000 (sewing machine).

Last week I trimmed my dash and door cards.

The fibreglass dash is available from pilgrim. This was done similar to the way Mark Evans did his on 'A car is born' but with out the wrinkles. The only tips I can give differently is I used a portable oil heater to warm the vinyl and make it easier to stretch prior to glueing. I also used a time bond adhesive for the centre piece rather than contact adhesive. The adhesive softened the vinyl and made it easier to form in to the shape of the centre piece.

The door card and dash cost me about £35 to do excluding the fibreglass dash. The whole exercise took me about 4 hours to do including about 1 hour trying to work out how to thread a sewing machine.

I used the following tools and materials to make my door cards.

Staple gun I had one

8mm Staples from Wickes

8mm plywood had some offcuts from Dove building supplies free.

8mm upholstery foam from ebay

2 meters of textured black vinyl £8 a meter from Fabricaz

1 meter of textured grey vinyl £8 a meter from Fabricaz

5 meters of 8mm elastic £2 from local crafts shop

5 Leather sewing needles £2 from local crafts shop

200 meters of thick heavy grade 20 Bonded Nylon thread £2 from local crafts shop

Sharp scissors from kitchen draw

Sewing machine stolen from mum.

I glued the upholstery foam to the door card, a mistake I made here was to cut the foam the exact shape of the door cards, it should overlap or cut approx 1mm shorter to give a sharper edge.

I cut some vinyl to shape and heated it on a portable oil heater to allow it to be stretched easier. I then stapled it to the door card. Press studs can be hidden behind the foam and vinyl for an alternative to screws when it comes to fitting the cards to the doors.



I cut pieces of material for the curtain effect map pocket and the centre of the door card. The map pocket should be cut approx 50% wider than the centre space.

I had a few practices with the sewing machine and some scrap material and made a couple of map pockets in black and a couple in grey. Playing around with different colour stitching and different stitching patterns.



I used a metal ruler to fold the vinyl over twice (a French seam so I'm told) and clipped it in to position. I then ran a stitch 10mm across the top followed by a 24mm stitch. This created a nice channel to thread the elastic through. I stitched the elastic in to the channel at one end pulled it taut and stitched at the other end. Giving a nice curtain.



I then stapled the curtain on to the back of the card followed by some backing.



I don't think the finished product came out to bad and may have a go with some leather in the future. Don't worry I know I still need some door handles.



I chose to have a go at doing my own door cards because I looked at getting my dash and door cards trimmed prices ranged from (forty bob and a button?) £190 - £300 + VAT in vinyl and £450 -500 in Leather. I thought I would have a go myself after pricing some leather at £28 and Vinyl at £8 a meter. I went for the vinyl since I had never done any upholstering before.

On my first few practice attempts at stitching the curtain I found my stitching was not to straight but this did not seem to be to noticeable as the curtain hides any wobbly lines. However I found after a couple of attempts using a sewing machine is not difficult. After an hours of trying to work out how to thread the sewing machine I reverted to doing some research on the net and everything went smoothly after that.

I found I had plenty material left over to Fabricaz sell various colours and types of vinyl 54+wide at £5-8 meter.

http://www.fabricaz.co.uk/acatalog/Faux_leather_fabric.html

I am sure there are many other suppliers and possibly at an better price but I found cost/quality was good and the fabric was easy to form, cut and stitch.