



Force Soft Top Install

BY JOHN GOETHERT, PHOTOS BY COOPER GOETHERT

Ever since I was a kid and rode for the first time in my Grandmother's '67 Galaxie 500 convertible, I knew one day I would have to own a topless car. But I also loved going offroading. So, what better vehicle to own than a Bronco... the most capable offroader that just happened to also be a convertible.

Unfortunately, soft tops are as "scarce as hen's teeth" for Full Size Broncos. But after I really thought about it, I didn't really need a soft top... I would never put it up when the weather was nice. But what would I do if it was not so nice? It would be nice to have a cover I could throw on in case a quick shower pops up. That is why I chose the Soft-Tops.com's "Replacement" soft top for Full Force. There is nothing complicated about this top. If it starts raining I can just pull over to side of the road, snap a few snaps and in less than a minute the Bronco was covered. Easy! Plus the swooping design of the cover allows the kids to stay strapped in the back seat, a feature not available with some other "emergency" covers on the market.

Something that also attracted me to this top was their new and ingenious system of rails that the top mounts to. This means only a very few holes are drilled in the body... nine in fact and those are only in the tailgate. And since these rails are held on by only a few bolts, removal in the Fall is also a breeze.

After receiving the top I was instantly amazed by the quality of the materials. The metal rails were powder coated black and the optional StayFast fabric was super-thick and rich... the same stuff that comes from Mercedes or BMW from the factory. Wow!

So, follow along with the install. It was so easy, I hope I can actually fill these two pages. 🚗

REQUIRED TOOLS:

- Torx T-40 bit ('92-'96 Broncos)
- Torx T-50 bit ('92-'96 Broncos)
- 8mm socket ('80-91)
- tape measure
- Phillips screwdriver
- 1/8" drill bit & drill
- masking tape
- one-two helpers



1 Start by removing all plastic trim where hardtop meets the body. Both plastic stoppers (shown) and screws need to be removed.



2 Then remove the seat belt anchor with the T-50...if your Bronco has shoulder belts.



3 Unclip the third brake light connector (if applicable) located on the driver's side beside the tailgate.



4 Now remove all the hard top bolts using the tamperproof T-40 bit or 8mm socket. The bolts are held to the body by "fender clips." Be sure not to let them fall into the body. Fishing them out is nearly impossible (don't ask how I know this).



5 Now it is time to take off the top. This is at least a two man job, not too heavy but certainly is difficult to manoeuvre especially off a lifted truck. It helps to back up to a hill as I did so you won't have to bring it down so far.



6 Ahhhh, open-air driving!



7
The first step is to put down the foam tape in the area where the brackets would rub the paint. Starting at the rear I worked my way around the perimeter of the truck.



11
Then I placed a strip of masking tape along the tailgate centering it on the 6" line. Then drew a line across at the 6" mark.



15
Next I screwed in the snaps to the tailgate. Done!



8
This is a closeup view of how the foam tape turns and covers the fender clips. I use a sharp tool to punch a hole in the tape (not shown) to allow the bolts through.



12
Next I measured to find the center of the tailgate and marked it. The remaining snap locations are 8 1/4" apart, four on each side starting in the center.



16
A quick snap of the tailgate snaps and the top was on and ready to keep out that rain shower.



9
The two halves of the upper rail are connected together with two screws, one plain and one with a snap. Next, starting at the center, finger tighten the upper rail to the body with supplied bolts. The photo shows the factory bolt... I used supplied bolts AFTER the photo was taken. Now, attach the side rails to the body in the same manner... but use the factory bolts here.



13
The measurements better be correct as it is time to drill holes. Using a 1/8" drill bit I carefully drilled the holes. Then I removed the masking tape.



17
The view from the front seats shows the headroom still available to the rear passengers... not too bad!



10
On to the tailgate. I measured up 6" from the body line and marked it. This is where the row of snaps will go.



14
To stop rust in the future I dabbed a little Rust Bullet into the drilled holes. Any paint should do but I know Rust Bullet works!

SOURCES:

Soft Tops Convertible Tops

www.Soft-Tops.com

800-781-6278

Special!
Bronco Driver Magazine readers

Jon at Soft-Tops Convertible Tops has informed me that if you mention this article he is willing to discount their tops!

Get \$25.00 off a top with the original mounting system or \$50.00 off one with the rail mounting system. How cool is that!

Go to:

www.Soft-Tops.com/broncdriver.html