

Reupholstering the Center Console

By: Andy Chase

My center console vinyl cracked right where my elbow would rest and it got quite annoying- especially on long drives. I've also found out that a few other members have had the same issue. I wanted to go with a fabric because I didn't want to have the vinyl crack again. My dad replaced his with vinyl. I bought my fabric at JoAnn Fabrics and they usually run 40-50% off coupon's every week. I also bought extra to do some other things. I believe the Camo Print was \$9.99/yard and there were different thicknesses of vinyl available. Total time was a few hours, because I did use some spray glue on it, but actual labor time was 15-20 minutes total.

Tools Needed: Small Phillips Head Screwdriver, Needle-nose Pliers, Fabric or Vinyl of your choice, Spray Glue (recommended, but not needed- I used it, my dad did not)

Step 1: Unscrew 3- small Phillips head screws holding armrest to center console.



Step #2: Unscrew 9 screws holding the bottom black base of armrest. The Red arrow is pointing to the 1 screw that is underneath the hinge. This will be visible after step 1.



Step #3: Remove old Vinyl, if I remember correctly there are some staples that secured the vinyl to the base (may need the needle nose pliers for this step). You will also notice there is a grayish soft material in between the Vinyl and Yellow Foam padding.

Step #4: Unfold or stretch out the vinyl and lay it out over your new fabric/vinyl and cut out a new piece. You may want to iron the fabric first to get it nice and smooth. (Here's what my vinyl looked like)



Step#5: Place the Grayish foam material back on arm rest. You may want to use spray adhesive here.

Step#6: Shape the new Fabric/Vinyl onto the armrest, again, you may want to use spray adhesive. I felt that it would limit the amount of "slipping" between the fabrics and prolong the life of the fabric. Let this Dry per spray adhesive recommendation. Pay careful attention and take your time for the rounded front edge and the 2 corners on the bottom of it to limit the number of creases and folds that will occur. You also may need to cut some angles out of it to make it fold better. Here are some closer up pictures:



Step#7: Put the Screws back to attach base to reupholstered armrest.

Step#8: Put the Armrest back on the hinge and tighten the 3 screws.

Step#9: Admire your work, and enjoy the more comfortable ride without the vinyl digging into your elbows.

