

**Installation Guidance**  
Model: MGB RV8 1993 to 1995

There is nothing technically difficult to prevent the average mechanically minded person from replacing the hood. After all the hood is simply screwed / riveted and glued to the various parts of the frame. No special tools / sewing or trimming skills are required, you simply remove the old hood and fit the new one to all the relevant fixing points on the frame. There are factors which will affect the fit of the new hood. Take a good look at the old hood for signs of damage or poor fit. This can sometimes be due to a worn or mal-adjusted frame that will need attention. You should allow approximately 4-5 hours to complete the task and remember that soft tops must be fitted in a warm dry environment. The material will be pliable and easier to stretch when warm. These guidance notes will help you remove the old hood and install the new one in the correct sequence. As you remove the old hood you will get a much clearer indication of the re-fitting procedure. The old hood will be a valuable point of reference during the installation of your new hood.

Tools required: Pop rivet gun and a selection of 1/8<sup>th</sup> rivets. 1/8<sup>th</sup> drill bits to drill out existing rivets and a selection of screwdrivers and spanners. A strong contact adhesive such as “Evo-Stik Impact”, (Available at most hardware stores, usually seen in red tins). To obtain the strongest possible bond we always apply 2 coats to the hood fabric allowing the 1<sup>st</sup> coat to completely dry before continuing. The steel frame will only require 1 coat of adhesive.

**Important:**

Before removing the old hood check the new one carefully. Is the new hood the correct model / colour / material etc? Are there any obvious signs of faults or damage? No point finding this out after you have removed the old one so please check the new hood carefully. You can loosely drape it over the old one for direct comparison.

**Removing old hood**

Unclip front of frame and fold back.

- 1 Use a 1/8<sup>th</sup> drill to drill out all rivets that hold the front metal retaining bar to the header rail. Note there are also rivets holding the front side window valance material to the sides of the header rail that will need removing. This should now release the hood from the front header rail.
- 2 Peel the hood bow straps from around all 3 frame bows. Note the rear frame bow has a plastic trim insert that will need removing first.
- 3 Unbolt the rear frame rail to release the rear of the hood from the bodywork. The bolts are accessible from inside the car below the rear window area.
- 4 Unbolt the rear of the hood from the rear frame rail. See nuts below rear window.
- 5 Peel hood material away from this bar for use on the new hood.

The old hood should now be fully released from the frame.

Now would be a good time to check the frame for any signs of wear or damage. Check it moves freely both up and down. Check for any irregularities in its operation and that it is correctly aligned by checking the gaps between the frame, car body, tops of doors etc are correct and even on each side of the vehicle.

**Installing the new hood**

Having successfully removed the old hood you will already have a good idea how and where the new hood fastens to the frame. These guidance notes will provide pointers to the correct installation order. Note you should take extra care when handling the new hood and the folding frame. There are many unprotected sharp edges on the folding frame which have the potential to cause damage to the new hood and the car body work. Take precautions to protect the rear bodywork when installing the rear rail and take particular care of the new soft top during all phases of the installation. The fabric is tough but until it is fully installed there is always a risk of damage either by miss-handling or inadvertently trapping the fabric in the folding frame. The rear window is particularly vulnerable to creasing so pay particular attention to it when folding the frame back during various phases of the installation.

The installation will commence at the rear of the car. With the frame up loosely drape the new soft top over the framework and carefully check that all fixing points can be aligned to the frame. Now would be a good time to check the soft top for any damage prior to the installation. Once installation begins we cannot be held responsible for damage that might occur during the installation.

- 1 The first part of the installation is done on a bench. Re-fit the rear bar with 4 captive bolts to the rear of the hood directly under the rear window. Its position is determined by the pre-cut location holes. Note how this was glued on the old hood for guidance. (Fig.1)
- 2 Re-bolt to rear rail and continue to glue hood around sides of rear rail. Again use the pre cut holes and the old hood for guidance. (Fig.2 & 3)
- 3 Bolt rear rail to rear of car and carefully pull hood taught over hood frame. Check rear window area comes out taught without any undue signs of creasing. Any problems would be caused by the fitment to the rear rail. In such cases some adjustment would have to be made to the glued areas to rectify.
- 4 The front of the hood can now be fitted around the front header rail and glued. Glue is applied to the top surface of the header rail and the corresponding area on the inside of the hood. For a stronger bond it is advisable to apply 2 coats of adhesive to the fabric, allowing the first coat to dry first. Ensure the front bound edge of the hood lips over the front edge of the header rail. A common problem here is to leave the front of the hood slightly short over the header rail resulting in the front lip of the fabric pulling upwards from the rail when under tension. It is essential to achieve a good strong bond to the header rail to prevent any slip of the fabric when under tension.
- 5 Re-fit the metal retaining bar and rivet front tab to sides of header rail. (Fig.4 & 5)
- 6 Glue all bow straps around the frame bows to complete the installation.

**Assuming you have no bits and pieces left over the installation should now be complete.**

The new hood may be very tight at first. This is normal. It should be left up and used for a few weeks. Any excessive tension will soon dissipate with use. Never leave your hood folded for more than 24 hours or shrinkage can occur. Observe car manufacturer's instructions when folding and caring for your hood. When folding the hood down always ensure the window folds without buckling or creasing. Many vehicles have inherent design problems / flaws which affect the hood during normal operation. Check for signs of this on your old hood and be aware that we have no control over factors which will cause premature wear and tear under normal operation. Such damage would not be covered under warranty.

