Repairing Vehicle Headliner

Steps to replace a car's headliner (solid backing board style)

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INTRODUCTION

This guide will show the basic steps to remove your old headliner, replace the loose material, and re-install the headliner into the vehicle. This type of headliner has been used since the early 1980s through today.

TOOLS:
- General hand tools (1)
- Vacuum Cleaner (1)

PARTS:
- Headliner material (1)
- Spray headliner adhesive (1)
Step 1 — Repairing Vehicle Headliner

- Prep the car for work.
- Disconnect the negative battery terminal.
- Removal of the right passenger seat may be necessary to help remove the headliner from the car.
Step 2

- Remove the trim.
  - Unbolt the sun visors, dome lamp, grab handles and any other accessories that are attached to the ceiling.

- Remove the upper seat belt mounting loops.

- Remove and/or pull back just enough of the side interior trim panels to gain access to the edge of the headliner. Complete removal of these panels is usually not needed.

- Lower one side of the headliner panel and slide it over to clear the trim panels.

- Turn the panel and remove it from the vehicle.
Step 3

- Remove the old fabric from the board.
- Place the headliner panel on a clean work table.
- Carefully pull the old fabric material off the board. Usually the foam backing will remain stuck to the headliner board. Use a piece of the old material to rub the old foam loose from the board.
- Vacuum the foam bits from the backing board.
Step 4

- Install new fabric:
  - If the board is damaged, repair it using aluminum tape. Any rough areas might show after the new fabric is applied.
  - Lay out the new fabric over the board. Pull 1/2 of it back over itself.
  - Spray headliner adhesive glue on 1/2 of the board and the back side of the fabric.
  - Carefully place the fabric onto the board starting from the center point and smooth it outward with your hand as you lay it down.
  - Pull up the other 1/2 of the fabric over the side you just glued down. Repeat the above steps to lay down this side of the fabric.
Step 5

- Trim up the fabric edges
  - Fold over the front & rear edges and glue them to the back side of the board about 1 inch from the edge.
  - Cut the side edges flush with the board. Also cut any access holes for the sun visors and other accessories that were previously removed.
Step 6

- Reinstall the headliner to the car:
  - Reverse the removal steps to re-install the headliner into the car.
  - Start one edge over the side trim panels and then raise the headliner into position over the other side trim panels.
  - Re-install the sun visors, dome lamp, seat belt upper loops and any other items that were previously removed.
  - Lightly brush the headliner to remove marks & fingerprints.
  - If any of the trim clips break off of the interior trim panels, you can reattach them to the panel with 2-part epoxy glue.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.