

Ask Ronny

by Ronny Shaver @ Ronny's Garage

Answering Your Questions About Classic Car Care Service And Restoration

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Where Can I Find The Vent Window Seals For My Silver Cloud or Bentley S?

by Ronny Shaver

After last month's article, I was asked about replacing the rubber seals around the front door vent windows on a Bentley S2. When these seals get old and dried out, they will whistle while cruising at speed. The seals are available in an aftermarket form from Flying Spares in the U.K. The website is www.flyingspares.com and the part numbers are UB2224P (rh side) and UB2223P (lh side). Last time I checked they were about \$170 each.

To install these seals one must first remove the door panel and wood trim. Lift the armrest locking tab at the bottom of the armrest and slide it upwards to remove. Then remove the two screws holding the armrest mount to the door. Be careful not to lose the spacers behind the plate. The window crank (if fitted) and door handle have large rings right up against the panel with two small holes 180 degrees apart on the outer edge. Use an awl and hammer to carefully unscrew the ring to the left. Be careful not to slip and damage the leather. Once the handles are off, gently pry between the door panel and door with a sturdy putty knife to remove the panel. It is held on by a number of spring clips pressed into small holes in the door. If your car has electric windows, I recommend that you remove all the window fuses first (the window fuse box is located on the left side of the firewall in the engine compartment), then gently let the panel hang. If you prefer, mark and remove all the wires to the switches and remove the panel completely. The wiring screws are very small and have a very hard to find thread pitch, so don't lose any!!

The wood trim comes off next, the driver's side is easy, simply remove the three screws immediately below the wood and it lifts right off. The passenger side is more difficult if it has the large chrome grab handle. The handle is held on by some "captive nuts" from behind. Use a thin 1/4" BS or a worn out 7/16" open ended wrench and slip it between the wood and the door and loosen the nuts to the right until the handle comes off. There should be some spacers behind the handle so don't lose them. Then remove the screws along the bottom of the wood to remove it. Next remove the black metal panel along the top edge to gain access the vent window friction mechanism.

Note that the spring loaded friction mechanism has an adjusting and locking nut. Remove the nuts, washer and spring noting their respective positions. Now remove the two small bolts holding the lower pivot mount and slide these parts off. Once this is off then the vent window can be removed. Note the outside upper pivot for the vent window, between the two halves is a ball bearing or pivot pin that must not be lost. Gently push the window downward towards the lower pivot and remove the ball bearing. Tilt the top of the window out for clearance and pull the window up and out. Now the seal can be replaced. Pull the seal out (it may be stuck and petrified causing it to come out in pieces) and clean the channel. Install the new seal and reverse the disassembly process. When re-fitting the friction washer assembly, use the nuts to adjust the window to open without too much difficulty, but stay in place when open while cruising down the highway.

Thank you for the questions and keep them coming. Please send your questions to Ronny at ronnyshaver@ronnysgarage.com.

Happy Motoring!
Ronny