

Re-Upholstering Your Austin Healey BJ7/BJ8

We decided to create this video because there were no written instructions for the installation of the upholstery kits in Austin Healey BJ7s or BJ8s. Anyone familiar with these two wonderful cars will know that they are quite luxuriously appointed for what was, after all, a sports car. However, the interiors are complex, and as a direct result, they are very difficult to re-upholster. I've been told that the carpet in a 66-67 Ford Mustang is one piece, molded to fit the floor pan sheet metal. The Healey, in contrast, has over a dozen, many of which have separate padding. There is no "dropping in" an interior in a Healey. The bits need to be fit by hand, just as it was done in the factory.

In the production of this video, we actually spent 16 week re-upholstering a BJ8 so you could see the actual "before", "during", and "after" shots. In many cases it took us longer to figure out how to explain the process than it took to do it... in many case we did the steps over and over again. There are no special effects here. We experienced the difficulties first-hand, resolved them, and then worked out the best way to show you how to overcome them. By studying the DVD carefully, you will be able to accomplish the re-upholstery of your car with relative ease.

The tape is divided into eleven logical segments, each one of which deals with one task, If you are completely re-doing your Austin Healey, we suggest you follow the same order that we did. If, on the other hand, you are just doing one or two of the tasks, you will find the appropriate segments quite comprehensive. In any case we suggest you watch the entire tape trough as there may be tips or techniques in one section you may find useful in another.

For your reference, we have listed the operations covered by this video, and the time it will take to view each segment. We also provide an estimated time to complete each task with two assumptions:

- a) you've never performed the specific task before, and
- b) you are reasonably handy around cars

In all cases we've started with clean, primed surfaces. If your Healey needs some prep work, you'll need to take that into account. In this respect it's like painting a car- 90% of the work is getting the car ready for the last 10%.

As mentioned in the DVD, use of the correct tools will also make job a lot easier. The last page of this enclosure lists the special tools used in each of the 11 tasks. We have not listed the common hand tools 99% of us have in our tool box. In that respect it is by no means inclusive, but we have tried to list the special tools that make the job easier. By preparing a table showing the special tools you need and the job you'll need them for, your preparation for each task will be simplified.

Tape Directory & Viewing Times

Given the variety of DVD players and the variations in digital counters, we cannot tell you where a specific segment begins. We suggest you make you own index by making notes in the space provided below.

Operation	Viewing Time Minutes	Working Time Hours	Tape Ref
DVD (Part 1)			
1 Trunk Lining Kit	:24	2:00	
2 Cockpit carpet, except floor	:30	6:00	
3 Transmission Tunnel	:12	1:00	
4 Cockpit carpet, floor	:05	2:00	
5 Panels, Door Top Rails	:14	8:00	
6 Center Console, Armrest	:07	2:00	
7 Rear Seat Bottoms (both)	:13	2:00	
DVD (Part 2)			
8 Rear Seat Back /Parcel Shelf	:33	8:00	
9 Front Seat Back (both)	:27	6:00	
10 Front Seat Bottom (both)	:15	4:00	
11 Convertible Top	:22	10:00	

The most important advice we can give you before you attempt to undertake any one or all of these operations is to allow sufficient time to do the work properly. If you rush it, the end result will be less that satisfactory. If you take your time, use quality materials, exercise care and patience, the finished job will be as spectacular. Even if you choose to do just a few of the tasks, you can save a tremendous amount of money.

Despite the efforts made to cover every detail of the upholstery, there will be some specific point that may be unclear to you. Ask one of your fellow club members with an unrestored BJ8 about their car. Arrange to spend some time going over it with digital camera in hand. If there is a BJ8 with a Moss interior that you like the look of, especially one where the installation of the interior was done by the owner, spend some time looking at the mysterious bits and take more pictures.

Material List

You will also want to make sure you have all the materials that you need for each job before you get started. We have prepared another table that shows the materials we used to re-upholster the BJ8 featured in this video.

Many items are referred to by Moss Item number. Moss kits are good value- they're complete, well-made, and incorporate quality materials. Some material will have to be purchased locally.

Operation	Notes on Material & Supplies
Tape 1	
1 Trunk Lining Kit	Moss Trunk Liner Kit 249-930
2 Cockpit carpet, except floor	Moss Carpet Set (see Catalog)
3 Transmission Tunnel	
4 Cockpit carpet, floor	
5 Panels, Door Top Rails	Moss Panel Kit (See Catalog) Door Panel Clips 803-420, 18 per car 3.0 mil plastic sheet to cover the door before the panel is installed Door top brush seals 682-030 (2) plus the Clips 803-410 (8)
6 Center Console, Armrest	Armrest Covering Kit (See Catalog) ¼ inch foam (mentioned above) Bulk vinyl for console comes with Moss carpet set
7 Rear Seat Bottoms (both)	Rear Seat Kit (See Catalog) ½ inch scrim backed foam- for the rear seat "buckets" ½ inch dense foam- for the rear seat "buckets"
Tape 2	
8 Rear Seat Back /Parcel Shelf	Rear Seat Kit (See Catalog) ½ inch scrim backed foam may be needed Snaps for pull-tabs 227-108 (5) Plywood and/or masonite to replace rotted / warped wood Upholstery tacks or heavy-duty staples
9 Front Seat Back (both)	Front Seat Kit (See Catalog) Seat foam: BJ7 use 856-198 R/H & 856-218 L/H (1 of each) Seat foam: BJ8 use 643-920 R/H & 643-910 L/H (1 of each) ¼ inch scrim backed foam for the back of the seat back 1/8 inch Landau foam for edges; see video Thin plastic bag (2) (dry cleaner bags work fine)
10 Front Seat Bottom (both)	Cover is part of Moss front seat kit Cushion is part of seat foam set
11 Convertible Top	Convertible Top Kit (See Catalog) Wooden header rail 806-090 (1) Header Rail Seal 682-360 (1) Rubber end caps 021-778 (4) and 021-779 (4) Vinyl to re-cover wood pieces Spring for top frame 805-010 (2) if needed

Tool & Material List

Tool / Material	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Adhesive, quarts	3/4	2	1/4	1/4	1/2	1/2	1/4	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Brushes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DuPont Prepsol	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Awl or Icepick	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			
Scissors- heavy duty & sharp	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Single Edge Razor Blades	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
X-acto Knife	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chalk	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sharpie felt pen		Yes									Yes
Phillips Screwdriver	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes
Straight Screwdriver								Yes			
Pozi-drive Screwdriver								Yes			Yes
Stuffing Tool	Yes	Yes							Yes		
Knee Pads	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes						
2in X 4 in Blocks		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes
Tack Hammer			Yes					Yes			
Duct Tape						Yes			Yes	Yes	
Heat Gun or 1200 watt hair dryer	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Standard Pliers			Yes			Yes					
Needle Nose Pliers					Yes						
Tape Measure		Yes						Yes			Yes
Large straight pins									Yes	Yes	
Pop-Rivet Gun									Yes	Yes	
1/8 x 3/16 in Pop Rivets									Yes	Yes	
Electric/cordless drill					Yes				Yes	Yes	
1/8 in Drill Bit					Yes				Yes	Yes	
Spring Clamps							Yes		Yes	Yes	
Large Sewing Needle							Yes				
Nylon twine							Yes				
Staple Gun					Yes			Yes			Yes
Snap Set								Yes			