

Headrest Monitor Installation

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The Snake Pit

Getting Started

Step 1: Checking your headrest

Before you start installing your headrest monitor, it's a good idea to check your headrest to make sure there is enough room inside. The first thing you have to look at is the angle of the headrest posts. Some materials can be harder to work with than others. For example, cloth will not stretch as much as vinyl and can possibly unravel. Vinyl or leather will tear much easier than cloth when under stress. You will also want to take extra care with stitching that can run along the back of the headrest. The stitching can unravel if not handled carefully. Most of all is **BE CAREFUL WHEN CUTTING**. It is very easy to slip if you rush to make your cuts, and there is no correcting the mistake other than visiting your local upholstery shop.



The posts normally rise up into the back of the headrest 4-5 inches. This is very important since the monitor will need approximately 1 1/8" of clearance. Before you cut, use your fingers to "pinch" the back of the headrest making sure you have enough depth.

Step 2: Materials you will need

There are very few materials needed when installing headrest monitors.

You will need:

- 1) A marker
- 2) Utility knife or retractable knife with break away blades
- 3) 2 Zip ties
- 4) 4 1/2" self tapping screws
- 5) Masking tape / electrical tape
- 6) Cordless Drill/screwdriver
- 7) 1/4" Drill bit

Step 3: Getting started



Before you remove your headrest, take a strip of masking tape and put an "X" on the front.. This will ensure you will not cut into the wrong side.



Once the headrest is removed you will need to use the bottom edge of your headrest as a reference point. Make sure the template is centered and approximately 1" from the bottom edge.

Step 4: Cutting the headrest material



Using your marker, trace the interior of the trim ring spacer of the mounting tray.



*Using your utility knife, cut the headrest material along the “X” first - then cut along the sides. Make sure you **cut along the inner side of the marker line.** Cutting along the inner side will give you a tight fit since the material can stretch.*

***Note**

When cutting the material away from the headrest make sure you insert the blade to the approximate depth of the mounting tray. This will make it easier to remove the headrest foam when making room for the mounting tray.

Step 5: Cutting the headrest inner foam pad



After cutting the opening, cut an "X" pattern in the foam and begin pulling out sections. It's a good idea to undercut the foam by an inch or so because excess foam will compress easily to help hold the monitor's mounting tray and keep edges taught.



Under the foam you will find either plastic or metal inner framework. With any luck, it won't have to be cut to accommodate your LCD monitor housing!



- **Note** - At this point, you will need to make room next to the post in order to route the monitor's harness out of the headrest. The wire harness will be on one side of the monitor. Insert the mounting tray so you can tell what side the wire should be routed. You can use your fingers or a screw driver to poke a hole through the foam right along side of the headrest post.

Step 6: Securing the Mounting Tray on Metal



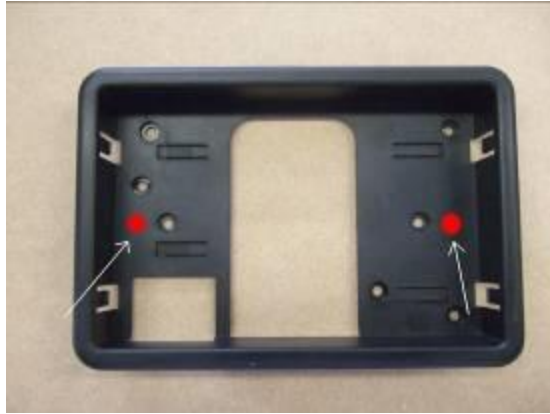
There are several methods to use when mounting the monitor tray. The method used is determined by the headrest once the foam has been pulled away and you can see behind the foam. Some headrests (such as the example shown here) will have a metal backplate that can easily accommodate screw attachments



Here is an example of the finished monitor installed in the headrest. Note that the trim has an edge that allows it to be trimmed for contour to the headrest. This comes in handy if the headrest has compound curves, which almost all of them do!

Step 6 (alternative): Securing the Mounting Tray on Plastic or Hard Foam

With other headrests there is only foam and two mounting posts. This is where the zip ties and $\frac{1}{4}$ " drill bit comes into play.



Start by taking the monitor tray and drill out two $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ " away from the factory mounting holes.



Take the zip ties and wrap them around the headrest posts so the zip ties will meet up with the holes drilled out on the monitor tray.



Insert the monitor tray into the headrest and attach the zip ties as shown.



Once the zip ties have been attached you can tighten them. This will bring the tray closer to the headrest eliminating any gaps that can occur around the monitor tray and the headrest. Once the proper fit has been determined trim the zip ties and slide the zip tie head into the 1/4" hole you drilled. which will prevent the zip tie from hitting when snapping in the monitor.



Now you can insert the monitor and feed the cable out of the headrest and it's ready for installation on the seat back.

Conclusion

This simple tutorial should have given you some methods by which headrest monitor installation can be done in a variety of vehicles. If you have any additional questions, please contact us at The Snake Pit.

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