



Measure Notch 8x3 to Centerline



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September 2013

Reprint from June 2006 TPOC Newsletter: *Bulkhead Mod.* Jack's January 2006 newsletter article on *Cutting the Bubble Loose* inspired me to action. The bolted Recaro seat gives ample legroom but it doesn't have enough room to allow the use of the backrest's adjustable rake because of the bubble. This very upright position causes an extremely uncomfortable ride with the tightly sprung setting I use on my springs. Some have notched the seatbacks for more legroom than DeTomaso provided while some have gone to a flat bulkhead design. I decided a notched steel door for the needed space in the passenger compartment was best for me. What follows is how I modified to my '73.

Begin by doing a trial fit to establish the amount of depth you wish. Remember don't get greedy here. I needed only 1½ inches. Remove the bulkhead cover and the steel door as outlined in Jack's article. Mark the area of the notch you wish on the steel door. Be sure to locate the centerline of the alternator on the door too. Imagine the creases needed for the notch then mark these as well for reference. These, for me, translate to 8" down from the top corner for the centerline, 3" high from the base as a horizontal plane when the door is on the ground, and a 5" arc to the apex.

It is extremely important to test fit the alternator position many times. Measure the intrusion of the alternator blades and its pulley. The curvature here must begin over the blades and extend over the pulley. The lower section along with the belt need not be measured because no alterations are made in these areas.

The sound insulation is cut and a putty knife makes its removal easy. Mark the cut lines by transferring them from the padding. Mine was adjusted to 1¾" depth. Relief cuts ease the hammer work to form the notch. Tack weld then test fit to make sure you have the clearance you seek. Run the engine with the door in place to make certain nothing touches it. Complete the welding, paint and retest the fit. Glue the padding back and test again.



Welded steel cover w/padding



Fiberglass bubble is discarded

Next the leatherette is carefully lifted from both the fiberglass bubble and the flat panels flanking it by removing the metal strip and the staples holding the upholstery. Cut out only the area of the bubble itself. Keep the flat piece on the bottom to hold the fiberglass cover tightly behind the console (optional). Save the bubble for a salad bowl or just discard it. The purist can cut and reform it to follow the notched door but it reduces the amount of space saved by at least ½". Reposition the metal stay strips and glue back the flat side

panels. Bolt the steel door then place upholstery batting on it. Mount the modified fiberglass cover in the car. Check to be sure that no batting shows.

An additional inch is available by moving the alternator back as outlined in Jack's article but I made my modification on the lowest possible buck method. (I once took a Cost Accounting class years ago.) Forego the door pad to gain another 5/8" if needed.

Results are I gained about 2 inches for the seatback, but, more importantly, a happy wife. Note that it looks normal but it is very lightly padded and gives in easily when touched...the bulkhead cover, not my wife.

Note. After seven years of use, I find it one of the best mods I've made. I have complete access to the front of the engine by lifting the cover, removing the batting and unbolting the steel door even with a full cage in place.

Belmont Shore was a fantastic place to display our cars. Gary Mitchem brought back the luster to my car that has not been seen in years. I proudly parked next to his along with John Schirmer and Doc Stewart. Bill and Cindy drove their Model T and attracted quite a crowd. Attendance was just a bit lower this year but still had a considerable amount of traffic. That highly modified Pantara from AZ (Tony Ortez?) to simulate a Ford GT was parked at the other end of 2nd Ave. We, meanwhile, held a premier spot at the top of the street. Many of you dropped by to wish us well including: Judy McCartney and her son, Tom Gorney and Shawn, Dawn Schirmer, Gary Hirschberg, Richard and Jana Flores.

Bill Harris and Cindy have a video that may be seen here.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vW5ffvwHYzg&feature=c4-overview&list=UUQICCB-D3F44RrhPMbNJMAw>.

Sign up now for the up coming shows. Laguna Beach and Coronado are fast approaching.

Consider Serving as an Officer for next year. November is when we hold elections. Volunteer to help.

General Meeting Changed (Reminder) to Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719 at 7:30PM on the third Wednesday of each month.

Toys for Tots remain in force this year even as we have not given it the attention it truly deserves. There is a need to find a suitable place to store your toy offerings for delivery in December. If you can do so, it would be much appreciated. We urge you to bring your donations to the meeting so we can fulfill our commitment to these children in need.

POCA Fun Rally is scheduled for May 28 through June 1, 2014. Our many thanks goes to those who bring this vital event to our DeTomaso community. The gratitude goes to the Rally Committee, POCA Board and to both past and future host Chapters. San Diego will host 2014 and will direct us to the wonderful features there. This close proximity offers the California chapters a unique opportunity to participate in numbers that underscore our support of the international organization while expressing our appreciation of the effort made by our host brethren. We have plenty of time to block the dates and prep our cars for all to see.

Picture of Your Car is needed for our web site. Email one to Greg Ford at tpocwebmaster@gmail.com.

Badges Available once again. You and your associate may wear either a pin or magnetic style TPOC badge simply by asking any Board member. Their lettering is a very fashionable black to match everything you wear.

Reminders: from rkunishige@hotmail.com. Everyone with an interest in DeTomaso cars is always welcome.

Sep 18 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Sep 21-2 **Coronado Speed Festival** San Diego. Tickets at <http://www.fleetweeksandiego.org/tickets.html>.

Oct 6 **Laguna Bch Car Show** is open for registration at www.lagunabeachcarshow.com costing \$35. It was a favorite of Dave Rudderow. Our display area was a prime spot in the atrium.

Oct 16 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Oct 27 **Wings, Wheels and Rotors** Los Alamitos.

Nov 9-10 **Willow Springs Open Track w/e**

Nov 20 **TPOC Mtg 7:30pm** Coco's (12582 Valley View St.) Garden Grove (714) 898-9719.

Dec **NO TPOC Mtg**

Dec 1 *John Force Holiday Show* Yorba Linda

Dec 1 ***Christmas Party*** is at Meadowlark CC in Huntington Beach. We had it there many years ago and hope it will be as successful as in the past. It will be Italian Buffet style. Contact Bob Singer for more info.

Dec 28 ***Gondola Tour*** - Contact Bob Singer for your tickets.

Please help me rkunishige@hotmail.com fill in the dates for the calendar.

Long Beach Swap Meet: Oct 13 Nov 10 Dec 1 @ 6am – 1pm at Veterans' Stadium \$8.

Weekly Events: Friday: Garden Grove Main St, Saturday: HB Donut Derelicts, Irvine Cars n Coffee, Sunday: Woodland Hills Supercars, Topanga Canyon & Erwin St 7-11am.