



THE SUNROOF KIT

Text, photo and illustration by Leo Gravelle, #1780

Ever wondered how a sunroof goes up and stays in the closed position? This article should be of interest to those who own a '60 Thunderbird with Sunroof whose panel doesn't work properly, and to those who are curious by nature.

To most of us, turning the recessed handle in the headliner of the Sunroof panel is all we know about the mechanism. And yet, if you take the headliner off, you'll see that this handle puts into motion a few interconnected rods that lead to the parts you see in the picture, that are at the rear, one "kit" each on the right and on the left.

The two small bolts and nuts on the left (1) tie the plate at the center (2) into the underside of the sunroof panel. Now the part at the bottom left (3) connects the L-shaped pin (4) and clip (5) to the rod coming from the front of the panel. That particular part, which is shown broken on the picture (3), is the one that I had to

replace. Try to find a spare part that equipped only 2,536 cars in 1960! If it does exist, it is as rare, if not rarer than a sunroof windbar. Therefore, in order to make my sunroof panel work properly, I had to manufacture my own part. The bottom right two parts in the picture show the "new" parts: one is a nut with a piece of metal welded to it (6), and the other is a cut-off pre-drilled nail (7). The drawing shows you the part which must be made.

First, take a 1/4" nut (or so) and make the edged end of the L-shaped pin fit in it. Then cut the nut, widthwise, in half down to the middle of the nut (see drawing). Weld a small (approximately 1" long) plate of metal (shape does not matter), so that the bottom lip will prevent the L-shaped pin from turning. Next, use a fair sized nail or smoothed bolt, with head, which will fit the hole at the end of the panel side rod; cut it to