

2005 Prius Armrest “upgrade”

Disclaimer: This mod is described for informative purpose, do it at your own risks, I'm not responsible for any malfunction or damage that you could do on your car.

Introduction

Are you fed up with your armrests getting dirty in your Prius. Well my wife and I do so we have decided to change the fabrics covering them. This guide is here to help you do the same.

First you've got to buy the fabrics you want to cover the armrest with, we bought ½ yard (~50 cm) of a vinyl style fabrics at Joann for about 10\$.

Besides that, you'll need some screws, and super-glue.

The nice part about this mod is that it's reversible; we will not damage the existing armrests so you'll be able to go back to the original fabrics if you want.

Armrest removal

I'll take the passenger front door as an example from now on:

1. Remove the screw in the door handle, then the plastic handle



2. Remove the screw hidden behind the handle



3. Remove the door console.

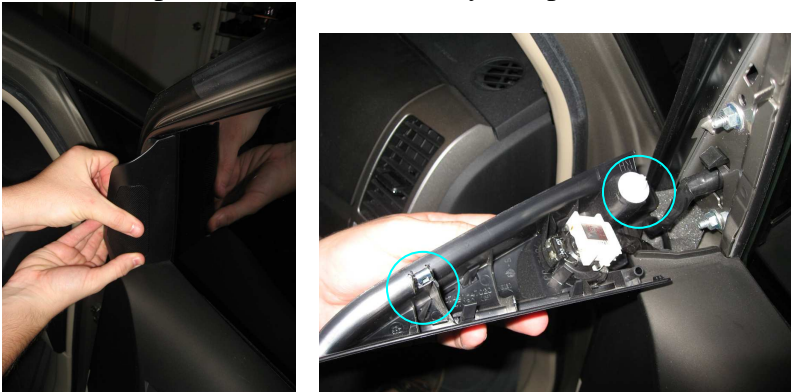
Using a small flat screw driver, you can lift the door console; it is maintained by 2 clips and 2 hooks:



Then remove the wires and put the console on the side

4. Remove the small speaker (tweeter) holder (only front doors)

Grab it and pull it, it is maintained by 2 clips



5. Remove the door interior

Grab the door interior by the bottom (there is a kind of handle there) and pull firmly, the door is maintained by 8 clips in the periphery of the door:



There is a wire connecting the door bulb that you need to remove **before** lifting the door:



6. Remove the clips that could be stuck on the door and place them back on the door interior

These clips are a pain to remove from the door but with a flat screw driver you should be able to get them!

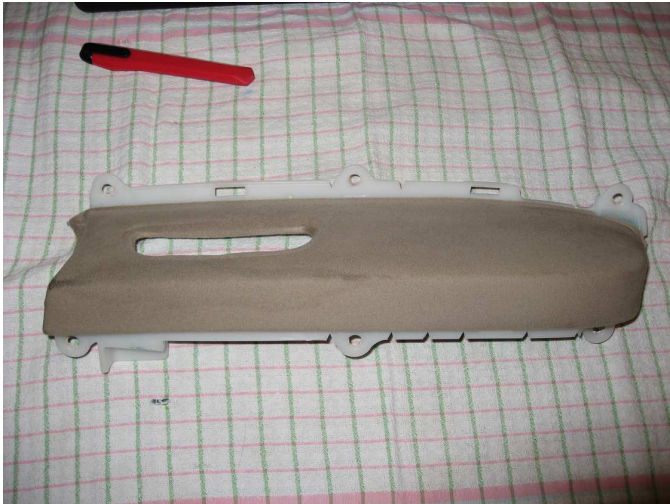
Now you should have the door in front of you on a table. We will now remove the armrest from the door interior itself:

7. Cut the melted plastic holding the armrest

The armrest is actually maintained in the door by six melted plastic “rivets”. Don’t worry we will replace them by screws later!



8. Remove the armrest

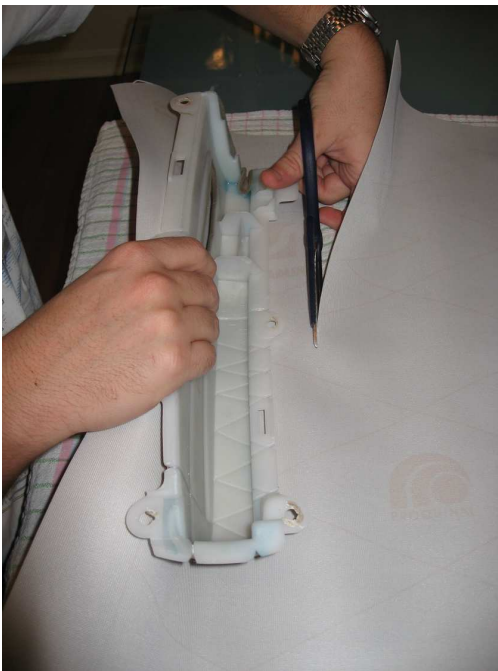


Dirty after only two years, Prius doesn't like wet paddlers...

Covering the armrest

If you notice the white plastic surrounding the fabrics in the previous picture, we will use this plastic band to glue our new vinyl tissue to. So if for any reason you don't like your fabrics anymore, you can change it or revert to the original.

9. Cut the fabrics to match your armrest and fold it around the armrest

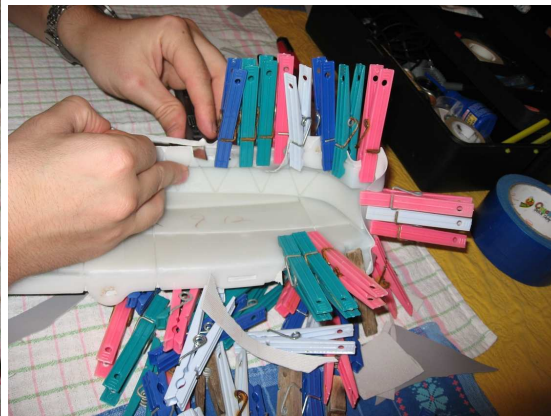


The toughest part is to fold it without any folds.

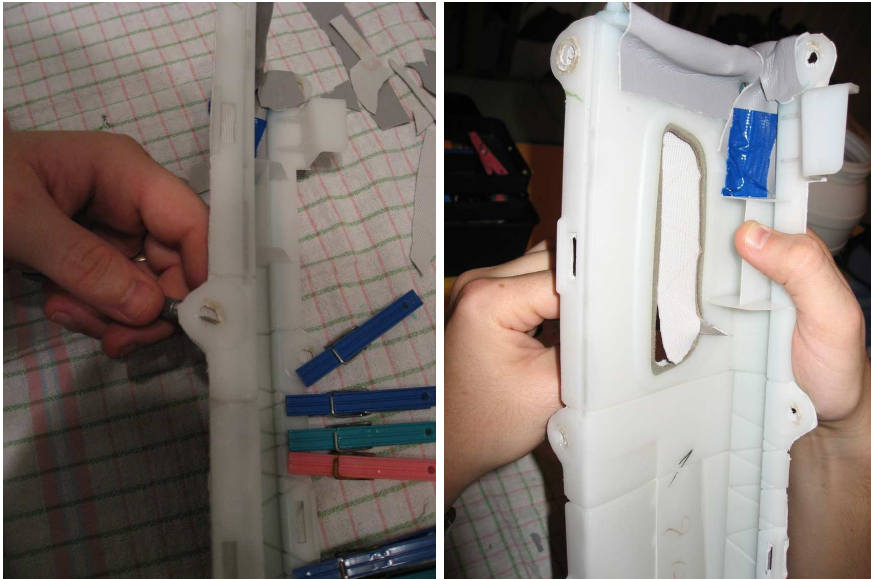
10. Glue the fabrics on the plastic edges...be careful with the super glue...



11. Trim the fabrics edges



Cut also the fabrics in the screw and hooks holes



12. Armrest is covered :



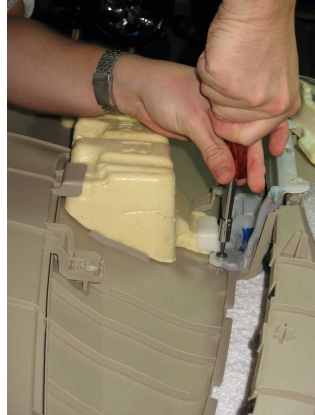
Re-assembly

Nothing too complicated, replace the armrest in the door:



Now we will secure it with screws, since the mounting holes for the screws are not very tall (except one), I took some small wood screws and cut the ends (except one):





Finally we will replace the door interior in the car

- Maintain the speaker up and place the top of the door interior on the window opening
- Don't forget to reconnect the door bulb (bottom wire)
- Replace the speaker
- Re-clip the door
- Re-mount the door console after re-wiring
- Replace the two screws and the cover of the handle screw.

That's it you have 3 more left to go and you will have new, shinny and washable armrests in your Prius.



NB: The central armrest is much easier to cover : remove 6 screws and 2 clips, fold it with vinyl and you're done !

That's all folks, I hope you like it. If you want more pictures and details, you can PM me on priuschat.com, my pseudo is loupitou

Enjoy your Prius !