



Installation Instructions and Care Instructions

(Part 2-Soft Top)

American Convoy Soft Top

Vehicle Application:
Jeep Wrangler Unlimited (LJ)
Years 2004-2006



Important!

For first time installation, the temperature must be above 72°F. Park your vehicle in direct sunlight and leave fabric in the sun for at least 30 minutes before you begin the fabric portion of installation (part 2). The fabric can contract an inch or more, making installation extremely difficult if these guidelines are not followed. Make sure to follow the instructions below carefully since first time installation is more complex than other brands of soft tops and requires special care to insure you do not damage your new top. Once fully installed, leave it to stretch and form for several weeks allowing the fabric time to relax and mold into shape.
Please read all instructions before you begin. Certain steps do require a second person to complete.

Initial Installation Time

2.5 Hours

Skill Level

2.5 out of 5

Tools

CAUTION!

Safety glasses should be worn at all times when installing this product.

Safety Glasses

Large Phillips Head Screwdriver

Small Pliers

Support

For questions or help, please email info@americanconvoy.com or go to www.americanconvoy.com and click on 'contact us' and we will either respond with information needed or set up an appointment to speak live.

Thank you

To all those who have supported us in our efforts to bring this limited production soft top to the Jeep community we thank you for all the wonderful comments and input. This would not be possible without your encouragement, enthusiasm, and generosity of spirit.

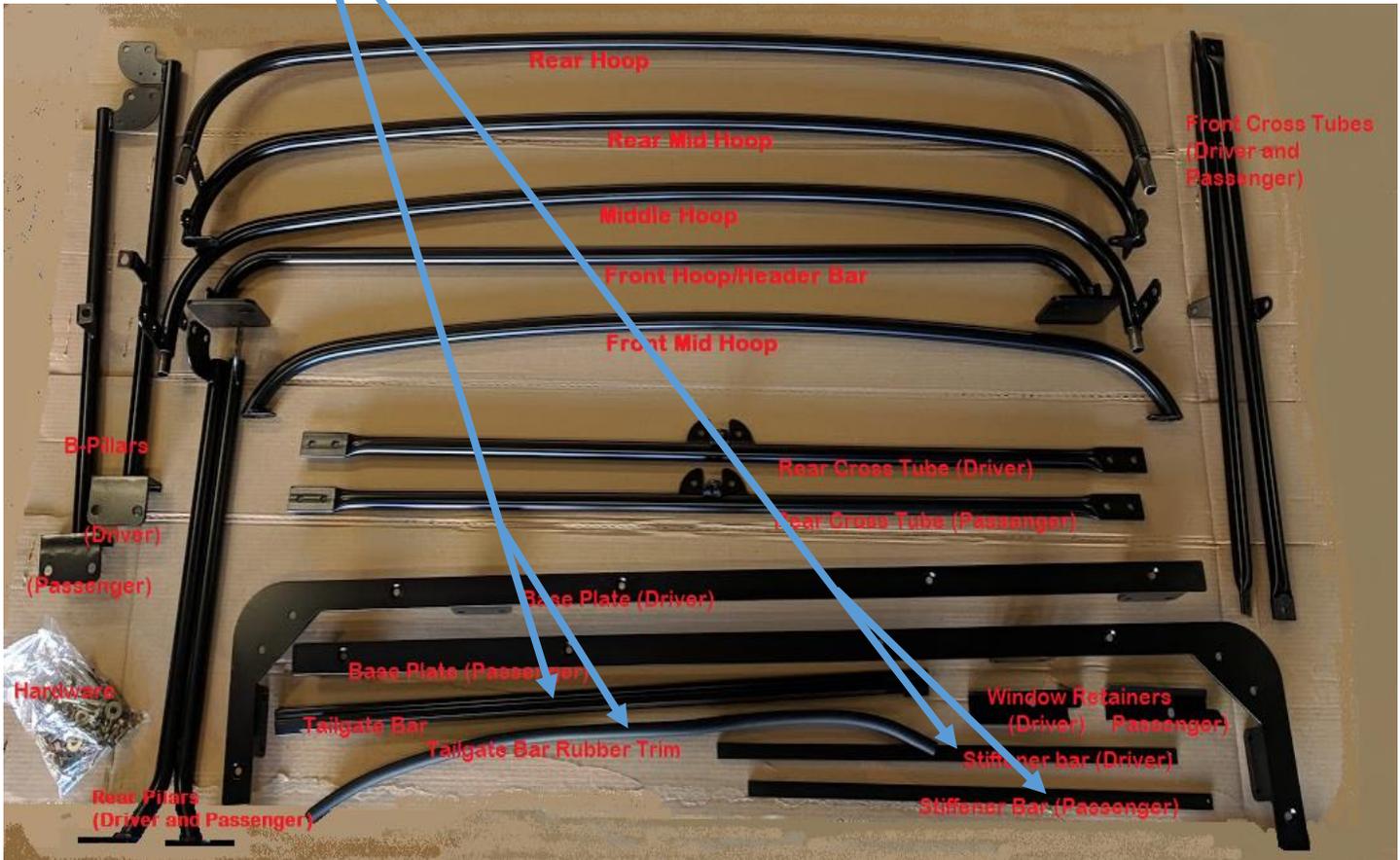
Required Parts List for Installation

Hardware included in Box

From the hardware box, you will need the Tailgate Bar, Rubber Trim and Stiffener Bar for the soft top installation.

Not Included and Required

****This top requires the factory door surrounds and a Header Windshield Channel (part code 51238-01), both of which are **NOT included and cannot be purchased through American Convoy*****



Required Parts List for Installation (Continued)

Soft Top Panels included in Box

Take caution when opening the soft top (wide, flat, box).

Do not use a razor or knife when opening as you could cut through the fabric.

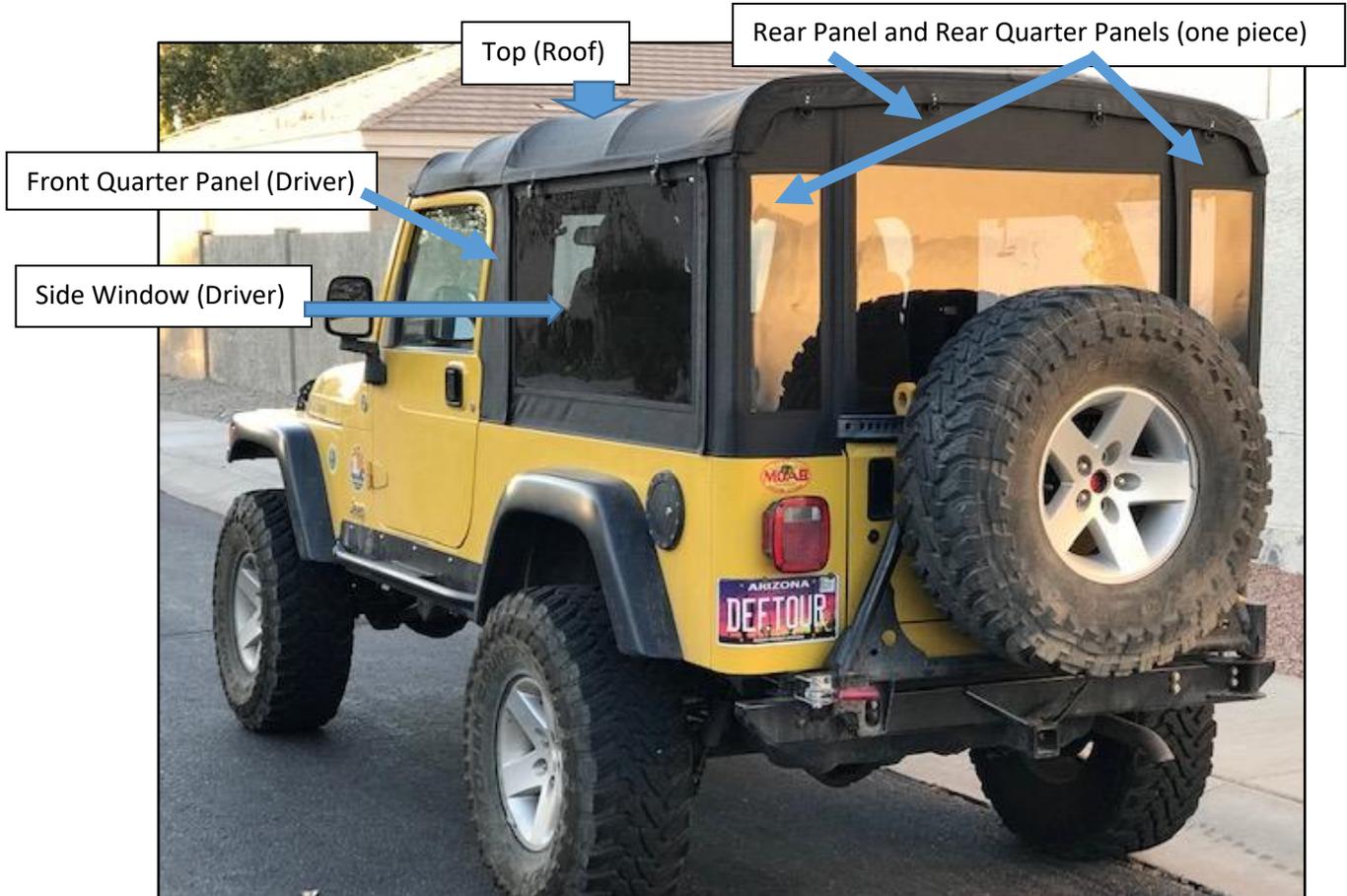
You will find 6 sailcloth pieces and a plastic bag containing 2 foam pieces, metal screws and your American Convoy decals.



Installation Instructions: Soft Top

Getting to know your Soft Top

Locations of 6 soft top pieces



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(1a)Top (Roof) Prep

Lay Roof piece on top of hardware as pictured with the rear triangles overhanging the rear.



(1c)Attach at Windshield

Install white belting into the Windshield Channel. It helps to have a second person holding the rear straps loosely to keep tension so the belting does not fall out. Start from one end, working your way to the middle, then move to opposite side and work from middle to the side. Once installed, make sure the belting is centered across the Windshield Channel.



(1b)Foam Block

Insert Foam block here on each side of Windshield Channel to fill gap



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(1d) Prepare Rear Straps

- Slide tri-glide all the way up toward metal D-ring.
- Loosen male end and leave about 1.5" strap here.
- Loosen the strap with the female buckle all the way to the end.

(1e) Repeat

Repeat step 1d on passenger side.



When you are finished, it should look like this.

Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(2a) Position Rear Triangle Straps

Pull female buckle end over and around Rear Mid Hoop. It should be positioned 1" to the outside of the velcro sleeve.



(2b) Lock in Place

Insert male end of buckle into female end. It will be extremely tight the first time the top is installed. It helps to have a second person pulling the top and holding while you insert the buckle.

Make sure the corner straps are pushed over the Rear Hoop.



(2c) Repeat

Repeat 2a and 2b for passenger side strap.

It should now look like this



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(2d) Position Velcro Sleeves

Each of the six velcro sleeves should be aligned over each hoop as pictured. This will make it easier to fasten them once the top is pulled tight. **Do not fasten yet.**



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(3a) Tighten Straps

Pull triangle straps using your body weight. It helps if you can stand on the bumper and lean back.



(3b) Pull

Cup the fabric over the Rear Hoop with your hands and pull backwards and around Rear Hoop to stretch the top.

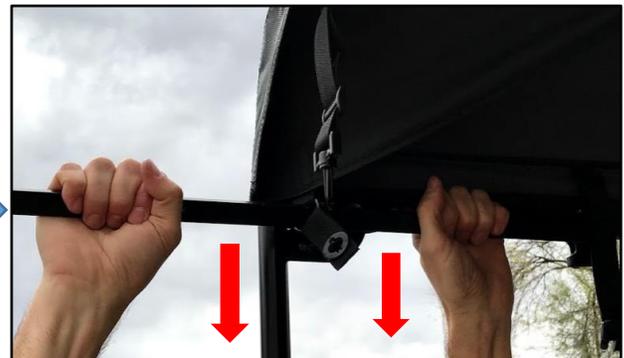


(3c) Repeat

Repeat 3a and 3b, alternating between tightening the straps and pulling the top around the rear hoop with your hands, stretching the top.

(3d) Pull Sides and Align

Insert Stiffener Bar into Metal D-ring and pull downward with both hands. Repeat on opposite side until top is centered across rear hoop. If the straps are too tight to center the top, release the buckles and start again. It will be easier the second time since the fabric has started to stretch.



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(3e) Repeat

Repeat steps 3a and 3b as necessary, alternating between tightening the straps, pulling the top around the rear hoop with your hands. Continue with this process until it the seam starts to wrap over the over the Rear Hoop.



Pull the edge of the top until it meets the top of the round weld bead. If it does not stay in place, you can adjust later by hand. ****More importantly, each side should be the same height from the weld bead to insure the top is centered****

Seam should be here, starting to wrap around Rear Hoop.

It should now look like this.



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(4a)Above Door

Fasten top above door by pulling front plastic retainer down into slot in factory door surround. Repeat on passenger side.

Tip: if you pull the rear plastic retainer downward during step 4a, step 4b will be much easier since the rear plastic retainer can become pinned between the material and the Front Cross Tube.



(4b)Above Door

Repeat process for rear plastic retainers, pulling them into the door surround slots on driver and passenger sides.

If the rear plastic retainer is too far to the rear to be inserted into the factory door surround slot, you have pulled that side of the top too tight. (Not all door surrounds are positioned exactly alike.) Go back and repeat steps 3a-3e and don't pull that side as tightly.



It should now look like this.

Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(4c) Corner Straps

Install corner straps by sliding eyelet over twist-lock. Press against twist-lock firmly and turn twist-lock to secure.

If eyelet will not reach, it helps to have a second person use the Stiffener Bar to pull while you align the eyelet over the twist-lock. (See step 3d)



(4d) Mid Strap

Install middle strap by pulling down strap over the outside of the Rear Cross Tube and pulling it up and over the vertical bolt on the Rear Mid Hoop.



(4e) Velcro Sleeves

Wrap all six velcro sleeves around metal hoops.



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(5a) Prep for Front Quarter Panel

Insert finger or blunt screw driver into gap behind rear plastic retainer and pop it out of factory door surround.

****Do not use sharp object since you could tear material****



(5b) Start Front Quarter Panels

Align zipper and zip quarter panel on about 2" only, in direction of the red arrow.



(5c) Hook

Hook end of white plastic around the sharp ending of groove in factory door surround by pulling top of Quarter Panel forward. At the same time, pull plastic outward and forward as seen below.



(5d) Channel

Insert the rest of the plastic into the factory door surround channel from top to bottom.



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(5e) Zip

Zip all the way forward.



Under

Over



(5f) Velcro

Push top of Quarter Panel velcro in between roof under-flap and velcro. Push velcro together and push in plastic retainer at same time. It should look like this.



(5g) Velcro Sleeves

Wrap bottom and top velcro sleeves around B-Pillar and secure.



(5h) Belting

Push white belting (in and up) into factory channel rail.



(5i) Repeat

Repeat steps 5a-5h on passenger side.

Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(6a) Preparing Rear Panel

Stick top drivers side of rear panel velcro as shown. It should be attached slightly towards the passenger side so that the zipper is easy to start.



(6b) Start Zipper

Fold back velcro away from zipper on Rear Panel so it doesn't get in the way when starting the zipper on the passenger side.



(6c) Zip Rear Panel

Climb inside the back of the Jeep and zip the rear panel across to the end, making sure to move the 4 rear inside straps out of the way as you come to them.

Inside strap



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(6d)Unzip

Unzip the two vertical zippers all the way to the top on both sides. (To zip to the top, zip the rest of the way from the inside) Do not attach velcro across the top of the rear panel. (That is the last step)

(6e)Prep for Rear Quarter Panels

Begin to push top of Rear Quarter Panel around the Rear Pillar and up, underneath the Top. ****Rear panel must be under these pieces****

Fold velcro away from top. **Do not attach.**



Insert underneath inner flap. **Do not attach to velcro.**



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

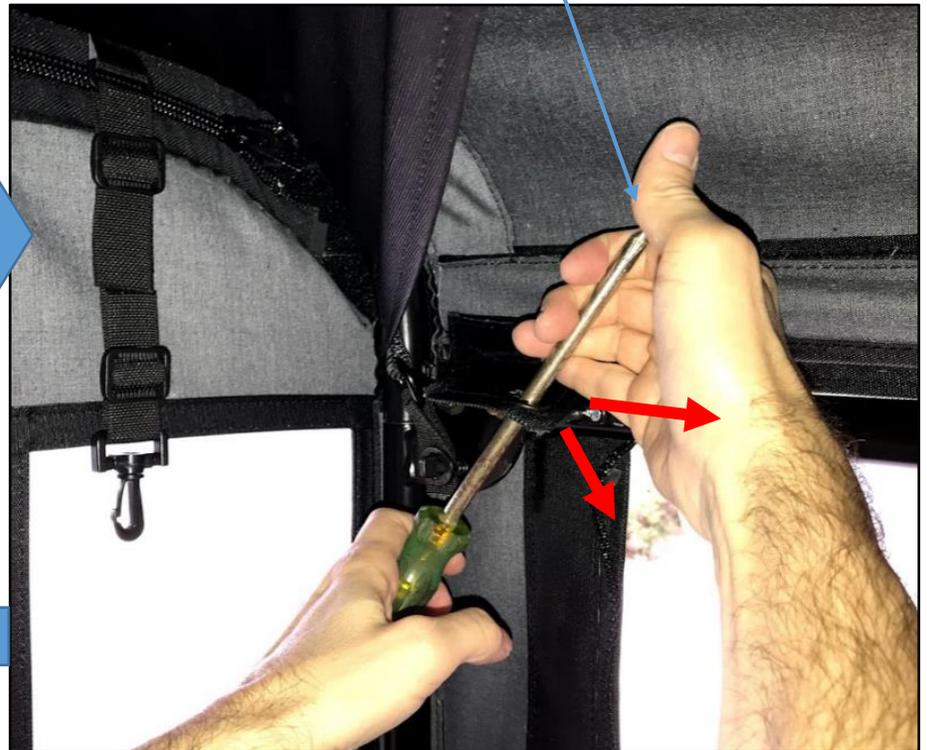
(6f) Insert Twist-Lock Flap

Push twist-lock flap of Rear Quarter Panel underneath Top. Do not let it catch on the velcro by pushing it underneath of inner flap of Top.



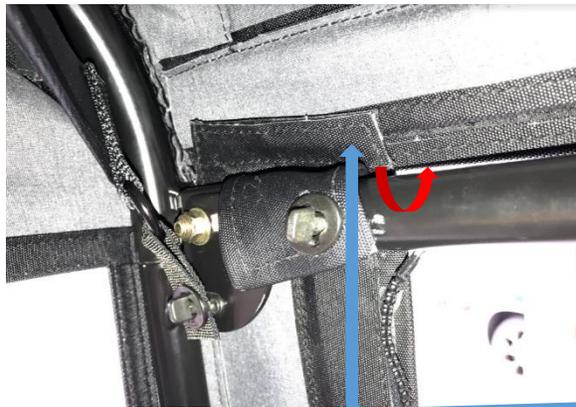
(6g) Stretch Twist-Lock Flap

Push **large** phillips head screwdriver through eyelet of Twist-Lock flap **being very careful not to push screwdriver through canvas**. **Cover the sharp end of screw driver with your hand or a rag to be safe**. Pull screw driver towards front of jeep first and then downwards to stretch the canvas (see red arrows). Pull until it just barely is able to fit over the twist-lock. Remove screwdriver, push eyelet over twist-lock **firmly** and turn to secure. The twist lock stud is spring loaded so you can use small pliers to turn if necessary. It may also help to turn twist lock at a slight angle, to mimic the angle of the eyelet hole. Stretching is only required for first time install. **Do not over-stretch as you could cause damage to the top.**



(6h) Reposition Velcro Flap

Push velcro flap in between inner and outer flap of Top so that it contacts the velcro on the Roof.



(6i) Repeat

Repeat 6e-6h on passenger side.

Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(7a) Stretch Rear Quarter Panel

Insert Stiffener Bar into strap loop and use both hands to stretch Rear Quarter Panel downward while a second person pushes the **white belting closest to the tailgate** under the Window Retainer Bracket. (There must be a 3/16" gap as per step 1c of the *Part 1, Hardware Installation Instructions*). **This step takes two people.** Once it is stretched for a month or more, you should no longer need a second person to reinstall.

(7b) Rear Belting Alignment

It will now look like the pic below. With just the right side belting inserted. The far right **edge of the Rear Quarter Panel should be ¼" away from the rear door frame edge** of the Jeep. If it is not, just grab both sides of the belting and tug it in the appropriate direction.

(7c) Rear Belt Continued

Push down with body weight and palms to pop in the rest of the rear belting. **Before you begin make sure belt is positioned under BOTH the Window Retainer Bracket and the factory channel.**



Rear Panel should now look like this. Smooth and even with the rear belting pushed under both the Window Retainer Bracket and the factory channel.



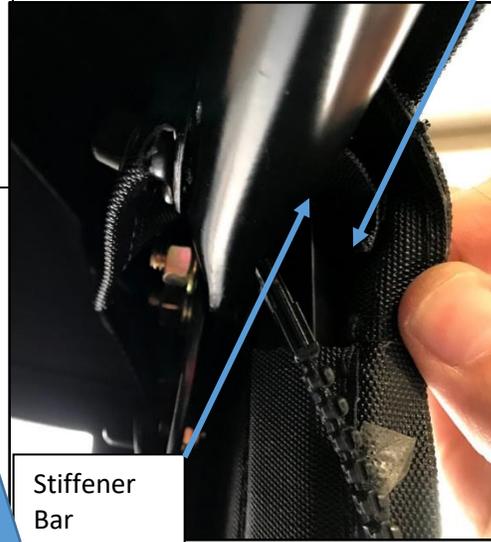
Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(7d) Stiffener Bar

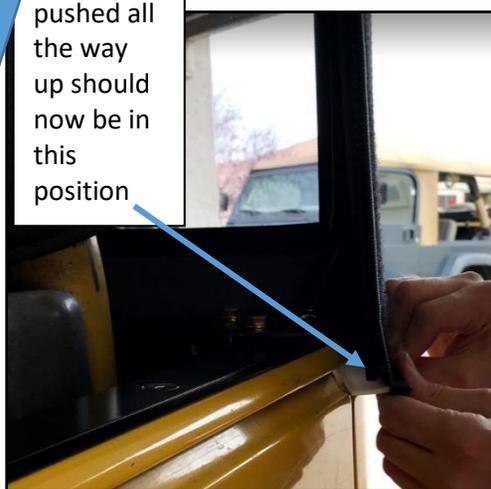
Position the belting downwards and insert Stiffener Bar through the sleeve at the bottom of the Rear Quarter Panel as pictured. Slide Stiffener Bar up as far as it will go. It will get hung up on the twist-lock flap seam towards the top so you will need to angle it inwards by pulling the bottom outwards to get past it.



Twist-lock flap seam



Stiffener Bar pushed all the way up should now be in this position



(7e)

Insert belting into factory channel. This keeps the Rear Quarter Panel from flapping in the wind with the sides off or in the rolled up position.



(7f) Repeat

Repeat 7a-7e on passenger side

Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

Note: Steps 8a-8e are for first time installation only since soft top is not yet fully stretched.

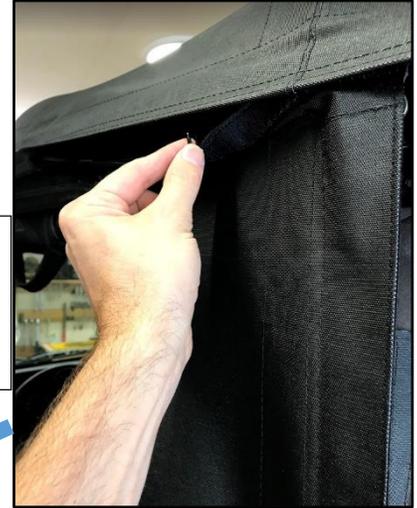
(8a)Prep for Side Windows

Insert finger or blunt screw driver into gap behind rear plastic retainer and pop it out of factory door surround. ****Do not use sharp object since you could tear material****



(8b)Prep Continued

Unzip Front Quarter Panel Zipper most of the way. Leave 2" zipped at the end.



(8c)Prep Continued

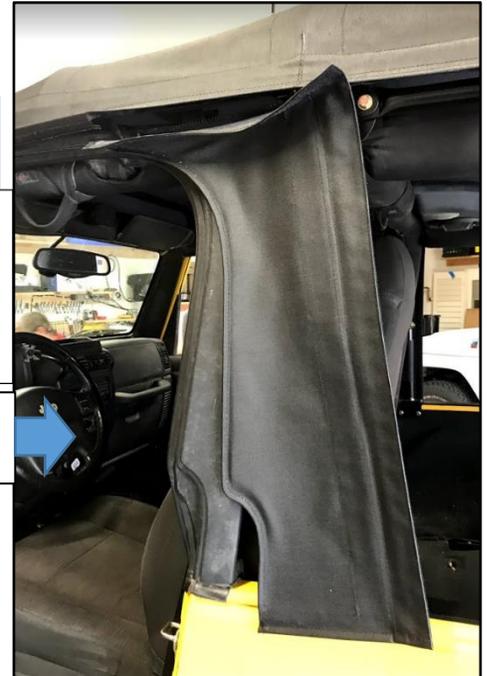
Open top and bottom velcro sleeves and pop out bottom belting on Front Quarter Panel from factory channel.



(8d)Prep Continued

Pull out front plastic from door surround channel and let Front Quarter Panel hang by the zipper.

It should now look like this.



(8e)Repeat

Repeat 8a-8d for passenger side.

Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

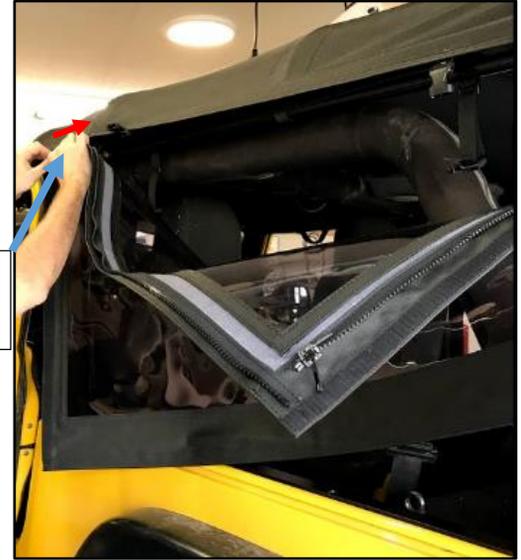
(9a) Side Window Install

Stick velcro rear of side window up at an angle as shown.



(9b) Side Window Install Continued

Fold velcro back and out of the way. Zip horizontal zipper 3" only.



Tip: Pull female buckle ends out so they don't impede zipper in later steps.

(9c) Side Window Install Continued

Zip front and rear vertical zippers 2" only.



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

Skip step 9d if you skipped steps 8a-8e

(9d) Side Window Install Continued

Reinstall Front Quarter Panels. Zip, hook top of plastic and push into surrounds, attach velcro sleeves and insert belting at bottom.



For detailed instructions on Front Quarter Panel, see steps 5a-5i.

(9e) Side Window Install Continued

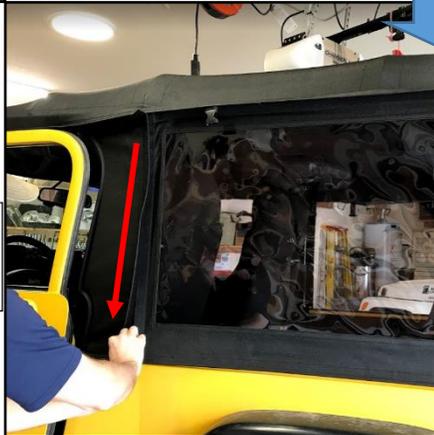
Zip horizontal zipper all the way across until it stops at Rear Quarter Panel.



Note: Horizontal zipper has additional zipper length at the end that will not be used at this time. This is only used when rolling up sides when entire back is rolled up or removed.

(9f) Side Window Install Continued

Zip front and rear vertical zippers all the way down.

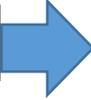


Note: zippers will pull very tightly during the first install. Use caution!

Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(9g)Side Window Install Continued

Push belting into the factory channel rails.



Make sure belting is pushed all the way in (up). They are extremely tight until they wear in, after repeated use.



(9e)Side Window Install Continued

Tuck and fasten all velcro. Smooth out with hands. It should now look like this.



Tip: For a straighter, more squared roofline here, Don't pull velcro downwards over window. Just allow it to wrap around top of side windows and down, creating a shelf.



(9f)Repeat

Repeat 9a-9e for passenger side.

Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(10a)Rear Window

Reach inside rear window and zip both vertical zippers down about half way.



(10b)Rear Window

Push Rubber trim onto tailgate bar ridge as shown. (It takes some effort.) Rubber tube must be installed against C-channel.



(10c)Rear Window

Align Tailgate Bar C-channel to rubber welt on inside of rear window and slide until it is centered with the rear window. Rubber tube should face downward.



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(10c)Rear Window

Push Tailgate Bar into Window Retainers. Do this by facing tailgate bar downwards as in pic 10c, align into Window Retainer on each side and push with palms downward to snap into place. First time install will be very tight.



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

(10d)Rear Window

Pull vertical zippers all the way down and attach velcro from top to bottom.

(10e)Rear Window

Attach velcro across top and smooth with hand.

Note:If there is a gap here, simply pull it down with both hands and it will stay.



Installation Instructions: Soft Top (continued)

Window Rolling Instructions

Rolling Side Windows

Roll side windows tightly and adjust two side straps by sliding tri-glide up or down. Ideally, you want the strap just long enough not to crimp the windows. **Roll side windows to the outside only. Rolling to the inside will cause scratching/damage.**



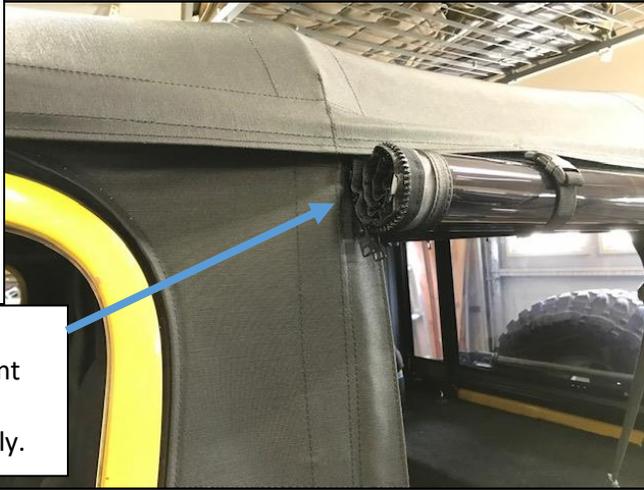
Rolling Rear Windows

Roll rear windows tightly and if needed, adjust the straps so that they are tight. Use two **hooks facing to the outside to avoid damage to the soft top. Roll rear windows to the inside only. Rolling to the outside can cause scratching/damage.**



If you want the ability to zip down the side windows quickly, leave the tops of the vertical zippers zipped 1". The only downside is the Front Quarter Panel flap will not be under the top, like this.

Vertical zippers completely unzipped allow you to push Front Quarter Panel flap behind the rolled window for aesthetics only.



American Convoy Soft Top Care and Use

Once your full soft top has been installed, let it stretch and form for at least three weeks to a month. This will allow the windows to mold into position and the material to stretch so that you will not need a second person when installing in the future.

Soft Top first time installation must be in the sun in temperatures above 72°F. Material must be warm to the touch. Reinstalls will also be much easier in temperatures above 72°F.

When not in use, store your top indoors. Storing the top outdoors can cause it to degrade, become brittle and crack, eventually.

While storing your vehicle with the American Convoy soft top under a cover or in a garage is not always possible, it will greatly increase the lifespan of the fabric and windows.

Clean fabric with mild soapy water and rinse with clean water. Do not leave soap residue on fabric. You can use a vinyl window cleaner such as Bestop's brand to clean and protect sailcloth against UV. Do not get vinyl cleaner on windows. Do not clean fabric with harsh detergents or chemicals. (Do not use Windex, Simple Green, etc)

Keep zippers clean and use silicon lubricant to keep them in good working order. Do not get lubricant on windows!

If water seeps through seams, use 3-M Scotchgard on the inside of material portion of soft top to prevent this. Do not get 3-M Scotchgard on windows.

Always clean windows before rolling. Dirt and grit can cause scratching during the rolling process. Do not roll windows in cold temperatures as they may become brittle and crack!

Rinse windows with clean water or ideally, clean with Imar Strataglass Protective Cleaner and Imar Strataglass Polish. Do not use a brush! Do not wipe windows while they are dry! Do not clean windows with harsh detergents or chemicals. (Do not use Windex, Simple Green, etc)

Always warm up soft top indoors before reinstalling in the cold. Cold causes the material to shrink and become hard to the touch and can make installation difficult and can lead to damage to the soft top and windows.

Be careful cleaning snow and ice from windows as it may cause scratching.

Do not leave windows rolled for long periods of time since it can cause damage. Rolling windows and leaving them for more than a few days can sometimes cause distortions where the straps meet the window. If you want your windows to stay as clear as possible, only roll them for a day at a time or just zip them off instead.

Do not drive off-road in the brush with windows installed or rolled up since this will cause scratching/damage.

Windows will contract, become hard and will sometimes wrinkle in the cold. Once warmed up in the sun, those wrinkles will smooth out and the windows will become looser and more pliable.

For more info on window maintenance and care from manufacturer please read Strataglass instructions [here](#).

Warning!

Make sure all instructions are read and all bolts are tightened as per instructions before driving your Jeep with American Convoy products.

This product is designed to shield the occupants from ordinary weather conditions.

American Convoy hardware is not a substitute for a roll bar or cage, nor is it meant to contain occupants within the vehicle, or to protect against injury or death in the event of an accident or a roll-over.

This top is not meant to protect passengers from flying or falling objects.

Do not operate vehicle in excess of manufacturer's specifications or recommendations.

Congratulations, you are finished with the install!

www.americanconvoy.com

American Convoy Limited Warranty

We warranty our American Convoy products to be free of manufacturer defects and workmanship for a period of 12 months from the date of purchase to the original purchaser of the Product only. The warranty is valid only as long as the original retail purchaser owns the vehicle upon which the product is installed. The warranty expires should the product be removed from the original vehicle or if the original vehicle is transferred to another owner. This warranty is not transferable or assignable.

The warranty does not cover the following. (1)Malfunction or failure of any product caused by improper or inadequate maintenance, abuse, misuse, modifications, and improper installation or operation. (2)Tears or rips, scratches, rusting, or chipped paint are also not included in the warranty.(3)Incidental or consequential damages, including but not limited to loss of use, loss of time, commercial loss, or inconvenience.(4)Shipping costs to American Convoy.

During the warranty period, American Convoy shall, at its option, either repair or replace any Product that it confirms, in its discretion, is non-compliant with the warranties herein. American Convoy will not pay for labor charges associated with installation or removal of the Product.

Please retain your proof of purchase. Original proof of purchase for the Product must accompany any warranty claim. If you have a warranty claim, first you must email info@americanconvoy.com for instructions.

Returns must be made within 30 days of purchase, and must be pre-approved. If the merchandise is returned in like-new condition, we will issue a full refund of the purchase price, less the shipping charges. If the merchandise has been used or damaged, the return will be subject to a restocking fee.

American Convoy | Gilbert AZ, 85295 | info@americanconvoy.com | 323-538-4334

