

X1/9 Visor Foam Replacement

Supplies

1. 1/8" to 1/4" thick, soft foam cushioning or other fibrous material. It must be large enough to fit the length and width of the visor. I was lucky to get some 1/4" fibrous packing material that worked perfectly and it was free! So, you can improvise with what you use. It is your preference, but if you go harder, go thinner. Softer will be easier to close the seams. I didn't want to put the same open-cell foam, because it would probably just turn to dust in a couple decades again. Yes, I do plan on having my X that long. 😊
2. Black or clear silicone adhesive – Color of visor preferred
3. Very sharp Exacto knife, box opener or razor blade
4. Scissors
5. Rubber bands
6. Toothpicks
7. Steel wool or sandpaper
8. Marker or pen
9. Sticky tape
10. Steady hand

Procedure

1. Remove the visors by unscrewing all the mounting screws attaching the hinges to the vehicle.
2. Remove the hinges from the visors by removing the screws and set aside.
3. Using a very sharp Exacto knife, box opener or razor blade, SLOWLY cut along the seam ONLY on the side the hinges are mounted.
 - a. Try to glide along the sealed edge line and stay on one side of it. Take your time and make sure the cut is as close to the edge seam as possible. Don't zig-zag across it or it might look uglier once sealed back up. It will be easier to stay on the seam if the blade is razor sharp. I also found it easier to run/push the blade away as I cut.
 - b. Leave about an inch on each outside corner uncut because you should have enough room to pull the wire frame out and this will make it easier and cleaner to seal up later.



Figure 1 -Left inch on corners uncut



Figure 2 -Edge cut using Exacto knife

4. Carefully pull the wire frames and cardboard (only on the mirror visor) out of the vinyl coverings. I found it good to take the mirror out of the plastic clips for cleaning, but that is up to you.

5. Dump out the disintegrated greenish-yellow foam and dispose.



Figure 3-Insides after opening



Figure 4-Inside with mirror removed

6. Use steel wool or sandpaper to clean off the wire frames.
7. Wash the vinyl cover with water to remove all foam particles, wipe down, and let dry overnight. You don't want water left inside.



Figure 5 -After cleaning

8. Put mirror back in the one visor and use some of the black silicone adhesive to tack the mirror in place such that it doesn't come out of the tabs in the future. You only need to put a few blobs on the back along the edge.

9. Lay the wire frame over the foam material and draw an outline of it on the foam and repeat. You will need two foam pieces per visor. One for each side of the wire frame.

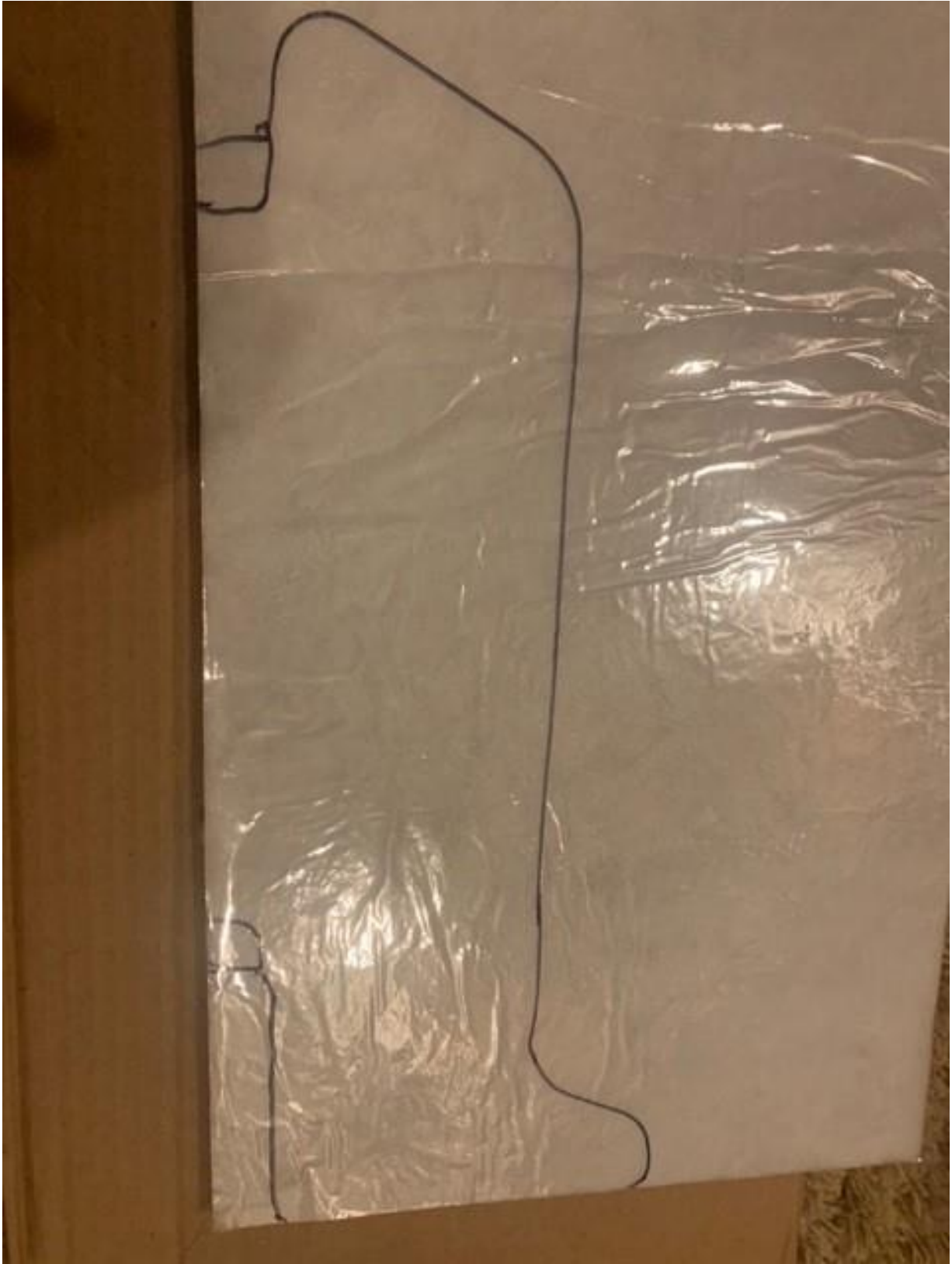


Figure 6 -Metal frame outline on foam material

10. Cut the new foam to shape by using the wire frame as a stencil. For one of the foam pieces on the visor with the mirror, cut a rectangle out in the middle of the foam that aligns with the mirror. This will keep the mirror from bulging out due to the foam. The back of the mirror should basically touch the center cardboard insert.

11. Insert the two pieces of foam into the vinyl, insert the wire frame, and make sure all is aligned. Prior to inserting the wire frame for the visor with the mirror, tape the center cardboard piece inside the wire frame. This holds the cardboard piece in place.



Figure 7 -Foam and Wire Frame in Vinyl

12. Get all insides aligned and make sure the holes in the frame are not obstructed by the foam pieces.
13. Put the metal hinge brackets back on and semi-tighten the screws. The hinge brackets make sure everything is aligned with the holes.

14. And now the fun part! Wrap the visor with several rubber bands as shown below to pull and hold the vinyl seam together before applying the silicon adhesive. Try to get the edges of the vinyl to touch with as few of gaps as possible. It wasn't too hard to do using the rubber band method.



Figure 8 -Rubber bands holding vinyl seam together for gluing

15. Using a toothpick, apply a small amount of silicon adhesive along the seam and between the rubber bands. Go slowly and try to do the best job of not going overboard with the stuff. It is better to go light at first. You can always touch up later. Don't worry about missing parts where the rubber bands lie. You'll get that later too.



Figure 9 - Black silicon adhesive applied between rubber bands along seam

16. Let the silicon adhesive dry overnight.
17. Remove the rubber bands.
18. Finish applying silicon adhesive to the areas that were under the rubber bands and any other area that looks missed.
19. Again, let the silicon adhesive dry overnight.
20. Inspect your work and reapply silicon adhesive for any areas missed.

21. Stop admiring your work and install back into the car. You'll hardly notice the imperfections since the repaired seam is on the side towards the car. No more yellowish/green dust inside your X!



Figure 10 - Completed visors ready for installation