

INSTALL CLIPS IN MOLDINGS PROPERLY

Trim moldings are attached to the body sheet metal with clips or retainers spaced every few inches to hold the molding tightly to the body. There are many types of clips and they must be installed properly so the molding will be held to the body and not be damaged. Following are some of the types used and the recommended method of installation.

1. Plastic Clip with "push-in" prongs and a tail. This is molded in one piece of plastic, usually nylon, and has a thin "tail" which is used to keep it twisted into the back side of the molding. Install the clip into the backside of the molding by rotating the body of the clip under the back edges of the molding. When the clip is rotated as far as it will go, pull the thin "tail" out and flex it until it snaps under the back edge of the molding and keeps the clip rotated in its position. See figure 1. The clip may be carefully slid along the molding to exactly align with the holes in the body. See figure 2. This type of clip requires an accurate hole diameter since the plastic is not as springy as a metal clip and will not flex to fit a wide range of hole sizes. Just be sure the holes are drilled the correct size and the edges are smooth. Use care when pressing the clips into the body to prevent damage to the molding. Do not use a rubber hammer or the palm of your hand directly on the molding surface. Use a flat rigid support such as the side of a paint stirring stick to press the molding clips into the sheet metal holes. This will distribute the pressure over a large area and prevent damage to the molding at the clip. See figure 3.







2. Wireformed Clip This type clip is made from spring wire. It slides into the back side of the molding and has two prongs that snap into a hole in the body. It must be slid into the molding from one end or from a spot where the back side of the moldings have been trimmed to provide a clearance for sliding the clip into the molding. See figure 4. These clips are designed to fit a specific molding and to fasten into a specific size hole in the body. Be sure the hole drilled in the body is the correct size. As with all "push in" type clips, use care to press them in to prevent damage to the molding. A flat paint



stirring stick or similar tool may be used to install the molding. Do not use a mallet or the palm of your hand directly on the molding.

3. Metal Clip with built in stud and a tail. These clips may be placed into the backside of the molding near the point where they will be installed and do not have to be slid into the molding from one end. See figure 5. If they are not installed properly, they will not stay in place and may cause damage to the molding or the painted sheet metal. The clip must be inserted into the molding by twisting or rotating it to get the ends of the clip under the molding edges on the back side. After rotating it into the molding as far as it will go, bend the clip "tail" so that it is also inserted under the molding back edge and applies spring tension to keep the clip rotated in its position. See figure 6. At this point the clips may be carefully moved along the molding so the studs will exactly align with the corresponding holes in the body. When the threaded stud is pushed through the hole, a nut with a gasket or dab of sealant is used to hold the clip and molding to the body.





4. *Metal Clip with "push-in" prongs and a tail.* These clips are similar to the clips described in #3 above except they must be snapped into a hole in the body instead of being retained by a stud and nut. They are usually used to attach a molding where there is not access to the back side of the body panel. Install this clip into the molding by rotating it under the edges of the molding on the back side. Use the springy tail to keep it rotated in position and slide it along the molding to the proper location to match the hole in the body. See figure 7. A word of caution about this type of clip. They are difficult



to remove once installed into the body. Be sure everything is ready for final installation of the molding before pressing them into the body holes. As with all "push in" type clips, be sure the hole is the correct diameter and press them in carefully to prevent damage to the molding.

- 5. Shaped Metal Clip with stud This clip is used on the end of a molding and is shaped to fit into the back side of the molding so once installed it will not rotate as the nut is tightened. See figure 8. Simply slide the clip into the molding under the back side edges of the molding and install the molding onto the body with the stud through the hole in the body. If the clip is loose in the molding it may be held in position with a small amount of caulk or body sealant between the molding and clip until the molding is installed and the nut tightened.
- 6. Plastic Clip with Adhesive strip This clip is a precision shaped piece of plastic that snaps tightly into the back side of the molding. It has a patch of adhesive that holds the clip and molding to the body, so holes in the body are not needed for this clip. To use this clip, determine where the clips should be placed on the molding and snap them into the molding back side. See figure 9. Do not remove the release paper from the adhesive patches until right before you are ready to install the molding. Clean the paint surface where the molding will be installed with solvent and then with alcohol or similar cleaner to remove all traces of the





solvent. If the surface is clean, the adhesive will stick permanently to the body. After cleaning the surface, remove the release paper from the adhesive clips, align the molding where it will be installed, and press the molding to the body. Apply pressure over each clip to be sure the adhesive is firmly pressed to the body surface. Do not attempt to move the molding after the clips are pressed in place. They must be installed correctly the first time.

7. Plastic clip fitted to a welded stud. This clip fits over a small headed stud that is welded to the body. See figure 10. The clip is first installed on the stud by placing it over the head of the stud and sliding it over the stud until the clip is tight. When properly installed the clips will be tight against the body and will not move. Be sure there is a clip on every stud for the molding and that they are all aligned before installing the molding. Simply position the molding over the clips to hold it in place. If the molding is being installed onto a



body that does not have the welded studs, a body shop can weld them on or you can use special studs that are attached to the body with small screws.

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