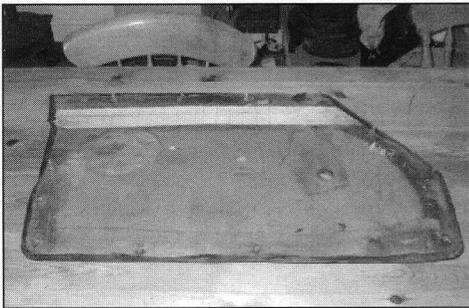




## REMAKING ROVER P6 DOOR TRIM CARDS

Although the hardboard backing of the door cards in Rover P6s' become distorted due to water damage the vinyl covering will normally be in good condition. It is no trouble to make a new hardboard backing and recover with the original vinyl and is a common job for the home restorer of many classic cars. Unfortunately the Rover P6 has a line of stitching along the top of the card that extends and goes through the vinyl and hardboard, which is difficult to replicate without an industrial sewing machine.

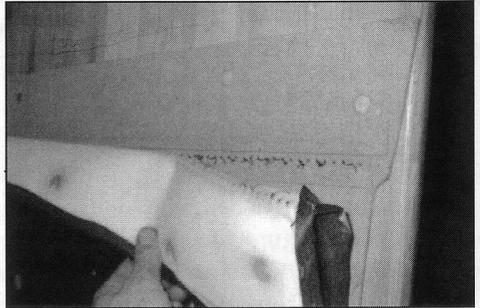
When I remade the door cards in my car, my solution to this problem was to sew the stitching to a piece of stiff card before attaching the vinyl to the new backing. The following pictures and description may be of help to any member wishing to carry out this simple but satisfying job themselves.



**Fig 1:** A front door card with typical water damage. The hardboard backing is distorted and disintegrating. The card doesn't sit flat against the door anymore and the vinyl is sagging.

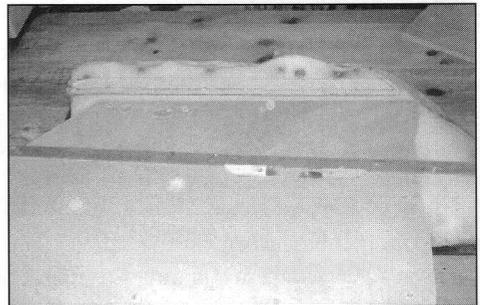
The first job is to remove the clips that hold the card to the door and in the case of the front door card the rubber grommet that goes around the hole for the quarter light knob.

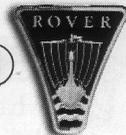
**Fig 2:** All the staples that hold the vinyl to the hardboard have been removed and the foam gently eased from the hardboard backing where it has been glued in place. The old stitching can then be cut with



a sharp knife to remove the vinyl completely. Above and below the stitching there are two strips of hardboard which are stapled to the hardboard backing and give the top of the door card it's profile. Their orientation should be noted and then they can be carefully removed for re-use.

**Fig 3:** The first job is to make the new hardboard backing. B&Q sell small sheets of 3mm hardboard that is suitable. Note that the shiny side of hardboard should face towards the door as it is more resilient to water ingress. To mark the main shape simply place the old hardboard



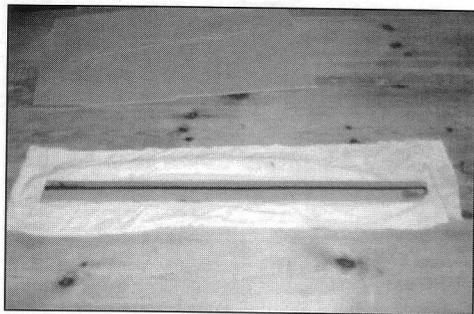


over the new sheets and push down any distortion before drawing round with a pencil. Any straight lines should be refined with a rule.

To cut it out I would recommend a sharp Stanley knife. Once the line has been scored, again using a rule for straight sections, the initial cut will provide a guide for the blade which can be run repeatedly along the cut until it breaks through. Curves can be done freehand; you just need to work carefully until the score mark is deep enough to guide the blade.

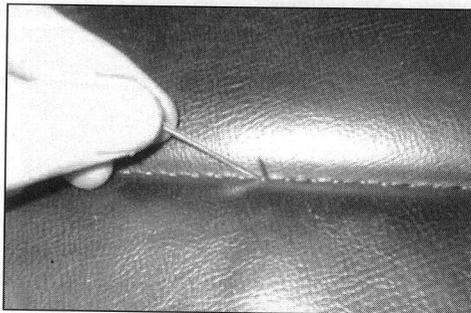
Holes for clips and handles should then be carefully marked and drilled. I would recommend cutting the hole for the handles and the quarter light control slightly oversize, as it will make fitting easier if there are any slight discrepancies.

The packing around the handle mounting holes must be reused and I re-fixed them to the new backing using impact adhesive. In the picture you can see the straight edge being used to position them.



**Fig 4:** To make a backing for the stitching I used a strip of stiff card 50mm wide and glued the two hardboard packing strips from the old door card to the front face. To stop the stitching pulling through the card a piece of light fabric such as piece of old bed sheet must be glued to the

back. Use spray impact adhesive and glue an oversized piece on, trimming to size afterwards.



**Fig 5:** The strip of card must then be positioned behind the vinyl and foam padding. Use the marks in the foam as a guide and check frequently as the first run of the stitching is put in.

A heavy thread is required and a sturdy leatherwork needle. The thread I used had a sort of plastic coating on it and was sold as shoe repair thread. Two runs of stitching are required to give the same effect as the original and is just a case of working slowly to sew through the original holes in the vinyl. To find your place when coming up from below push a second needle in from the vinyl side, then follow this up with the needle and thread from underneath. Don't worry! You should be an expert by the time you've finished all four cards!

**Fig 6:** With the stitching in place the vinyl should be fixed to the new backing. Although originally stapled I used impact adhesive. Start with the top edge and spread an even coat of adhesive on the edge of the door card and the vinyl. Once it's gone tacky, glue the vinyl down using the crease where it was on the old



## P6 ROVER OWNERS CLUB

backing to position is correctly.

It is important to glue accurately to avoid any wrinkles when finished.

With the top edge glued move on to the bottom edge followed by the two sides.



You'll probably need to stretch the vinyl slightly to get it to sit on the original crease, but this is fine as it will give a nice flat face when finished.

When I refitted the door card I found it best to start by putting two clips in at the top so the card was hanging on the door. Then refitting the plastic retainer for the fake wood trim allows you to push the card into the correct position so that the top edge sits under the plastic retainer. The rest of the trim clips can then be put in with a pair of long nose pliers while the card is on the door and position so they line up with the holes in the door.

Armour-All does a brilliant job of cleaning up the vinyl and they look very smart once all the handles and trim are refitted.

Bennet Longman



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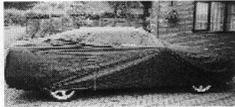
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