

# TIPS TO HELP YOUR CONVERTIBLE...

## Tips to help your convertible stay young, happy and healthy

### HYDRAULIC TOPS FOR 1955+ CARS

**Clean and lubricate** the rods annually. With the rods extended from the cylinders, wipe them with 3 in 1 oil. Best done prior to winter storage.

Do not overfill the pump reservoir. Reservoirs should be about 25% empty.

**Fluid:** Never use silicone brake fluid. All cars used DOT-3 brake fluid until the 1960s. They then all changed to automatic transmission fluid (ATF) - Type "A" (now Dexron). Any car made after 1952 can use ATF. Cars prior to 1953 can use ATF if all rubber hoses have been replaced with new hoses.

### GM SCISSOR TOP CARS - 1971-76

If the gear box that is attached to the end of the motor has been exposed to water, the gears may be swollen and binding. Dry the gears (2-3 days in a sunny windowsill) to prevent the gears from binding.

**To hot-wire your motor:** Black wire is negative (ground). Large reddish wire is primary power, yellow or green tell the motor which direction to run in. You must put positive from battery to BOTH the reddish wire and either the green or yellow wire to make the motor run.

**Side tension/holddown cables** that are threaded through the side of the top are attached at each end and to the end of the second bow. The cables control folding of the top - if not properly attached, serious damage may occur.

Do NOT close the latch handles when putting the top down. To do so will snap the latches in half. See your owner's manual.

### ANY CONVERTIBLE

**Clean** the electrical contacts at the top motor annually.

**Lubricate** the top frame annually. Place 1 or no more than 2 drops of light oil on every place where two parts contact each other.

**Long Term Storage:** store with the top up.

Never leave the top down if it is wet - mildew is not something you want.

### CONVERTIBLE TOP INSTALLATION INFORMATION

**Testing 1 -2:** Take your new top and place it right over the top on your car. This will make certain you have the correct top for your car.

**Glue:** If needed, use a slow-setting contact cement. As long as the two surfaces are not pressed together, there is some time available to move the 2 items to be glued.

#### Types of Glue:

3M Super Trim Adhesive or General Trim Adhesive  
DAP Weldwood High Strength Spray Adhesive

**Staples:** Both 1/4" and 1/2" will be needed. Use stainless steel staples suitable for your staple gun.

**Tack Bow/Tack Strip/Trim Stick:** On most cars this refers to the tack bow located in the back of the rear seat. This is where the rear of the top is attached below the rear window.

**Tension/Holddown Cables:** Holddown cables run through the pockets on the side of the top on most U.S. cars made after 1961.

**Cleaning Vinyl Windows:** Clean with warm, soapy water with a soft cotton cloth using a mild dish soap like Ivory. DO NOT USE ANYTHING ABRASIVE.

