

Gee I Wish I Had Known That

Fix an Aftermarket Body Panel

These are the steps I went through to make the after market steel inner fender wells fit my 1970 El Camino. If I can do it you can to.



Have you ever purchased an after market body panel that just did not fit? Maybe it was the wrong shape. Here we have a picture of a 1970 right front fender with an after market steel inner fender well that meets that criteria. The inner fender well did not match up with the fender. There was a gap between the fender and the inner fender well. What to do??

Below, I cut a template out of cardboard To match the “missing piece”.

This was done for both sides, I then traced the template outline onto steel.



Then cut the pieces out of the steel to create the patch panels



The patch panel was then checked to be sure it fit correctly



The panel was then clamped into place leaving a small gap for welding



Ok; the patch panel is welded in place and ground smooth, now we have to fix the hole that is in the wrong place.



Make a small patch piece and weld it in.



Grind it smooth.



Lets take care of these dimples



Fill the dimples with weld, being careful to keep moving so as not to burn through



Some people do not like plastic. I think it is ok so long as you keep it really thin

That is pretty thin, don't you think?



Now for the reward for all that work. I think it was worth the effort.

