

Mounting Shades in a Model A

By Charlie Viosca - Drawing by Bob Bidonde

This article is written particularly for the Victoria (A-190) but is applicable to all model A's with side and/or rear shades (curtains). The dimensions given are for the Victoria so if you are installing shades in another Model A, be sure to use the dimensions applicable to your particular Model A.

Because many of you are not lucky enough to have original, metal shade rollers, the wooden rollers sold by Home Depot and Lowe's (and other suppliers) will serve as well.

Purchase the shortest roller they have over 26" (you'll need three - two for the side and one for the rear window). These wooden rollers are manufactured so as to be shortened and usually the store will cut them to the length you need.

On the Victoria, the single rear shade is 26" and the shade roller is 26 3/8" long. The two quarter window shades are 20" and the shade rollers are 20 2/8" long. If you cut them yourself, take the plastic end piece off and cut each roller so it is 3/8" longer than the shades, including both roller end fittings. (We are not including the end mounting hardware in these measurements.) The Model A set of mounting hardware fittings are different in that one has a slot that allows the shade to wind the spring (when you pull the shade down) and the other has a pin to insert into the roller so it will allow the shade to roll up and down. The wooden shade roller end with the pin on it has to have the pin removed and a 1/4" hole drilled into it to accept the pin made onto the model A mounting fitting. Note: on the shades you purchase, they have the pin on the roller whereas the Model A hardware comes with the pin on one of the end pieces. The other mounting fitting has a slot to accept the roller wind-up spring flat prong. You may have to grind off some of the wind-up prong to fit into the Model A slot.

First, let's talk about the original roller, which is metal and has a slot made into it (running lengthwise across the roller) to mount the shade. Take the serge edge and turn it once and stitch it and the insert into their slot. (The serge end is opposite to the shade stick end and has a special stitch to keep the material from unraveling.)

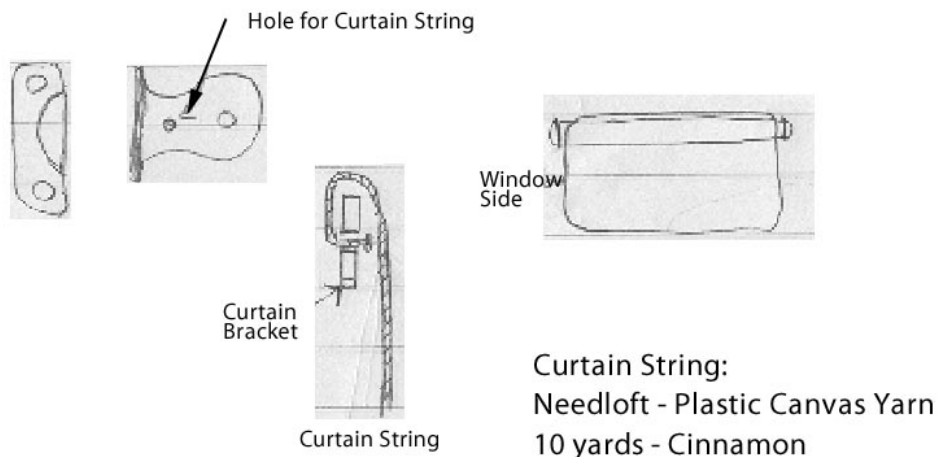
Second, on the wooden rollers (or the metal original rollers) you can mount the shades with masking tape or white glue. If you use the glue method, mark a straight line with masking tape from left to right as a guide. Brush on white glue (such as Borden's) very thin. It doesn't take much. Then place your shade top end of the glue and press into the glue with your fingers. Removing the masking tape. Be sure to leave overnight to dry completely. Roll the shade on the roller so that it unrolls off of the roller top and is close to the window (NOT over the top of the roller towards the inside of the car.) It is very important to be sure you glue the shade to the roller properly. It is advised to lay the shade on a table and place the roller over the shade to see if you are rolling it properly after checking which fitting goes on which side and how it rolls up in relation to the slotted fitting. After the shade is mounted on the roller, you can mount the roller and end hardware in the Model A. To facilitate the mounting, (determine the window center at the bottom of the windows the top is curved.) I hold the shade up to the window and place a piece of masking tape on the upholstery above the roller. Mark the tape for the center of the window. Also place a piece of masking tape on the roller over the shade and mark the center. That way, you can line up the two marks and the shade will be centered with the window. By doing this, you can see just where the hardware end pieces go. After the shades and rollers are mounted in the car, you can add the side strings.

You are now ready to mount the shade strings (refer to Bob Bidonde's drawing). The string used to be carried in craft stores like Michael's or JM Designs. It's getting very hard to find now. It's called Craft Yarn, made by "Needloft" in the Cinnamon color. You get 10 yards for 48 cents, a bargain for a Model A

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part. Bill Cilker, member of the Victoria Association has an original Victoria and an Original Coupe. The manner in which to mount the string was sent in by Bill as per original installation on his Coupe. I have tried it and it works just great.



Using your Needloft string supply, cut four strings each 20 inches long for the two quarter window shades and two strings each 15 inches long for the single rear shade. Tie a knot on one end of each of the strings. Thread the opposite end of each string through the small hole in each roller end hardware fitting front the inside to the outside and pull it through the hole

until the knot is up against the end pike on the inside. Now, pass the string **up** and **over** the end piece and **come down** the **inside** of the **end piece**. Pass the string through the eyelet in the end of the shade stick (at the bottom of the shade) and secure the string to the upholstery panel with an upholstery tack with a brown colored head.

With the shades installed, the bottom of the roller should be just above the top of the window(s). The string should be tacked at the bottom 14 ¼" below the roller on the quarter windows and 9 ½" on the rear window. Be sure the strings are parallel vertically. You can check them by rolling the shade on to the bottom of the window and see that the shade is not pulling the string inward or pushing them outward. It would be a good idea to do this before you hammer the upholstery tacks permanently.

To partially wind up the spring, start with the shade rolled up on the roller and grasp the flat spring winder with a pliers and turn the roller. (you can only wind it up in one direction.) Do not wind too tightly as when the shade is mounted on the hardware and you pull the shade down, you automatically wind up the spring. If it is wound too tight, it will not be able to go down all the way; conversely if it is too loose, it may not go up all the way up. You may have to fool with this to get the proper adjustment. When you roll the shade down, you have to quickly snap the shade downward a small bit to release the internal catches so the shade will go up.

Finally, let's talk shade care. You may clean the shades by vacuuming gently. If necessary, spots can be removed by dampening with cool water, rubbing gently with a clean cloth, then blot gently between layers of towel. Air dry, then press with a steam or dry iron set on silk/ rayon. Too much heat or moisture will cause them to shrink.

Now enjoy your Model A shades!

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