

Installment 3 of “This Old Rialta”

The ceiling of the Rialta is covered with a carpet like fabric and ours was nasty in spots. The fantastic vent had leaked and left a brown stain around it and the A/C had blown dirt out the sides and the vents to leave black areas. Also the plastic A/C shroud had yellowed and looked bad against the white ceiling. Solution I removed the A/C shroud and the vent trim then using a Bissell Steam Carpet Cleaner upholstery attachment I cleaned the ceiling. I then cleaned the shroud and painted it with Krylon Plastic Paint. This paint is specially formulated for plastic and bonds to it extremely well.



Before



After

Next project install the inverter to power the surround sound system. I located the inverter under the right rear seat along with the Amp/Subwoofer. This worked out great, you can reach the on off switch by reaching thru the opening just under the seat. This supplies some good ventilation to the inverter and its close proximity to the battery compartment made the wiring simple.



The replacement LCD TV arrived and I fashioned a mounting base out of plywood and covered it with some of the fabric I had removed from the kick panels under the rear seats.



Opened



Closed, it even has dome lights.

Mounted the speaker cubes in the front (there are 4 of them 2 more in the rear) and reinstalled all the panels and the headliner. I found some large holes behind the transition panels and I plugged these with spray expanding foam ("Great Stuff"). I added some additional insulation to the ceiling and behind the wall panels.



The DVD/CD/MP3/TV tuner and the X10 camera receiver are all mounted in the front cabinet. The box on the wall is the video distribution controller that feeds the front and rear video screens, both screens play the same video or the rear one can show the X10 cam feed.

I had removed the carpet in the cab, this allowed me to clean the floor mat you would not believe what I FOUND UNDER THAT CARPET! With it removed it was easy to steam clean it with the Bissell. I reinstalled the refurbished seats and gave the rubber floor mats a good scrubbing. And Presto (only 4 weeks later) we have an interior that looks as good as new.



With the interior finished I started work on the outside. My original plan was to just remove the damaged stripes, order replacements and give the thing a good bath and a wax job. Well like they say "If you want to make GOD laugh just tell him your plans". First I called about the replacement striping. Not all the stripes are available only the straight sections. OK I'll re-stripe it with just straight ones.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE THE STRIPES ON A TEN YEAR OLD RIALTA! I tried all the tricks, let it set in the hot sun...Nuttin! Used a heat gun...this helped got the blue stripe at the back to peel but it left behind the plastic backing.



Tried some "Goof Off" ... This stuff works great melted the stripe and the plastic backingAND THE PAINT!!!! The paint on this thing is split frog hair thin and it has no primer behind it! So out came the orbital sander! Stripes GONE!

My plan now is to repaint the coach body and just compound and polish the front and the rear. The cab paint is in great shape and the fiberglass caps will polish back to new. I removed all the plastic skirt panels (had some minor damage to one section) and will paint them a dark metallic blue to replace the blue stripe. I have ordered enough of the front striping to redo the body sides and the back. As you can see in the pictures the body had a grey tint to it partly because of the infamous "Black Streaks" but mostly due to the thin paint letting the aluminum skin show thru. The roof paint is totally gone the sun and lack of cleaning and waxing has taken its toll. So off with all the roof hardware, A/C, New Maxi Vent, Antenna and plumbing vent stack. The real fun here will be cleaning up all the excess caulking smeared all over the roof. All the windows will be removed as well as the door and anything else that's needs paint behind it (This won't be no MAACO paint job).



There was some damage to this skirt not much just some scratches. The skirts are held on with some screws at the bottom and clips at the top. Remove the screws and lift up on the panels (It may take more than a gentle lift rubber hammer works good)



I wonder if I can find a place to carry this 3 and 1/2 Ton jack it might come in handy.

NEXT.....PARTS is PARTS!

Robert