

# **VolksTech Industries**

*PO Box 453  
Petrolia, TX 76377  
940-524-3705*

## **Instructions - SK-14 Speaker Kick-Panels**

### **PLEASE READ COMPLETELY BEFORE YOU START**

The VTI SK-14 Panels are designed to fit the Karmann Ghia (Four different panels are required to fit the various years of the Karmann Ghia) as closely as possible. The fit will be fair to good, as there are deviations in the under-dash Ghia sheet metal. Accordingly, we have made the panels slightly oversize and some trimming on the panel will be required for a precise fit on your Ghia (Deviations as much as 1/2" from car to car are not uncommon).

Most simply stated, installation is accomplished by inserting the panel in the existing carpet trim bracket, swinging it to the wheel-well, and securing it with two screws into the forward bulkhead. It's not accomplished that quickly though. A professional looking installation will require trimming the panels to your specific Ghia. This requires a little time and patience. It's not difficult, just go slowly, trim only small amounts of plastic and recheck for fit.

In an effort to clearly describe components of your Ghia and our panels, use the definitions as follows:

Bulkhead - The sheet metal wall running between the two wheel-wells from the floor pan to under dash (firewall on American cars).

C-Channel - The carpet trim made from sheet metal attached to each doorjamb with screws. It holds the vinyl beading and a piece of cardboard in place.

Forward or Front - A direction referenced to the front of the Ghia. The edge of the SK-14 when installed that is closest to the front of the Ghia is the front of the panel.

NOTE: 1969 and 1970 Year models have defrost selector levers/cables mounted slightly forward of the doorjamb. The easiest solution to this problem (If they are still on your Ghia) is to discard them and use a '71 or later heater vent, which has a built in lever.

1. Lay out and cut the proper diameter hole for your speaker and drill the holes for the speaker mounting screws in the SK (Dimensions or mounting template should have been provided with the speakers you are using).
2. Remove both front seats in order to give yourself plenty of working room. Take off the existing wheel-well/door jamb carpet (Don't damage the lower section of carpet as you will reuse it to cover the reinforcement channel). Remove the passenger side foot-rest plate (Under the floor carpet).
3. Remove and discard the cardboard behind the C-Channel on the left and right doorjamb.
4. Position the SK-14 between the doorjamb and the bulkhead of your Ghia, resting on top of the reinforcement channel that runs along the floor pan. It needs to fit snugly but not bind. Trim and fit the forward panel end FIRST (The contours on the flanged edge of the SK's need to mate with

those of the bulkhead). Once the forward panel end contours align with the bulkhead, concentrate trimming primarily on the bottom edge of the panel whenever possible. Too much trimming on the panel top will tilt the back panel edge, leaving it too short to reach the C-Channel (Which it must fit into).

5. When you have a good fit along the panel top, bottom, and front edge, only then do any trimming on the rear panel edge if required. Since the rear edge will be held by the C-Channel, it needs to go full depth into the channel for a secure mounting. If you have to you can drill new holes and move the C Channel closer to the front of your Ghia if too much material is inadvertently removed.

6. A circular notch will be needed to clear the main wiring harness on the driver's side (Except early model Ghias). Try to gain a little slack in the wiring harness by pulling it down from the dash area. If you can run the harness straight for a short distance before it turns up, the notch can be smaller and make for an easier fit.

7. Glue the lower section of carpet (That you removed in Step #2) over the channel and trim the carpet for a tight fit against the wheel-well door jamb. This will allow the bottom edge of the panel to rest on the carpet and hide the carpet edge, eliminating the need to have edging sewn on the carpet section.

8. Slide the panel into the C-Channel and, while holding the front end tightly against the wheel-well, drill two holes through each panel flange and into the sheet metal reinforcement bracing of the forward bulkhead. Attach with the trim screws provided. CAUTION! There are brake line hoses and the fuel tank behind the forward bulkhead. Take care to drill only into the bulkhead reinforcement sheet metal.

9. Wire and mount your speakers and grills. Replace the passenger side foot rest plate. On some year models you may need to pull the panels off in order to remove the seats, which also necessitates replacing the seats before Step #8.

## ABS PLASTIC TIPS

We manufacture the SK- series panels from ABS plastic. It is the best material for automotive interiors of the engineered plastic resins. It can be cut and sanded similar to wood and with the same tools. The primary consideration is to prevent scratches and marring the vinyl grain surface.

An electric saber saw, drill and disk sander will make cutting and trimming easy and fast. The precaution in using them is not to take too much material off.

Use masking tape on areas you need to cut or trim. The tape will make a good surface to mark on and will also protect the panel surface from scratches.

DO NOT use a knife for trimming or cutting plastic. The inevitable result is the knife will cut in too deep requiring excessive force to complete the cut which, in turn, will result in a slip either gouging the plastic or personal injury.