



Rocky Mountain Westy Door Pocket Installation Instructions



Congratulations! You've just purchased the **strongest** Vanagon door panel pockets on the market! Please read through these directions before starting your installation in order to familiarize yourself with the process. Installation of RMW map pockets is fairly straightforward however there are a couple steps that need to be followed closely and in sequence so that you won't be making unnecessary work for yourself. Please wear appropriate safety equipment when working on your van (safety glasses, gloves, etc.) and be extremely careful when using sharp implements. Above all, take your time and have fun with it: what a great opportunity to get closer with your Vanagon!

Tool list:

- Upholstery fork tool
- Philips screwdriver
- Flathead screwdriver (smaller and larger)
- Needle nose pliers
- Xacto pen knife or alternate pointy sharp blade (Careful!)
- Drill w/1/8" bit

- Marker with a sharp point
- A right-angle pick
- Wiring tools to extend speaker wires

STEP 1: Open the box (duh) Verify that you received two door panel pockets in the color of your choice, an installation hardware packet and these instructions.



STEP 2: Remove your factory door panels You will need a Phillips screwdriver, a small pick, and upholstery fork tool or clip tool. The factory door clips break easily if you're not careful in the removal process. Further, as the NEWEST of our Vanagons is 26 years old at this point, it's easy to damage the door panel. Take your time with this process.

The first step in removing the panel is to remove the grab handle, the door handle insert and bezel, the window crank and the rear vent in the lower rear corner. These processes are outlined in the [Bentley manual](#).

Use your panel removal tool to start to remove the door panel and release the clips from the door. It's easiest to start in the lower rear corner where the vent was removed. Use your panel tool to get as close as possible to the clip and apply a little bit of leverage. Be careful NOT to pry on the door panel away from the vicinity of the clip – you WILL break your door panel! You'll feel each clip pop

and release as you work around the perimeter of the door panel. If you have speakers, you'll need to detach the speaker wires when they become accessible.

Repeat for the other door. Remove the factory plastic map pocket (if equipped).

STEP 3: Prepare panels, pockets and workspace for installation You'll need a fair amount of space for this installation. A clean table covered with a non-scratching sheet is ideal. Unpack the RMW door pockets and installation hardware. Set your **passenger side door panel** face (finished side) down on your workspace. We're now ready to begin.

STEP 4: You need to remove three of the factory door clips (labelled 1,2,3 in the pictures). The easiest way to remove them is with a pair of needle-nose pliers but you can use your fingers as well. Here's the trick: grab the back side of the clip and tilt *slightly* while rotating it. You're looking for a flat side in the round head of the clip. The clip will rotate out of the door panel once this flat side is at the edge of the hole. See accompanying pictures for detail. Be gentle with this operation as it is very easy to tear the factory door panel. Be patient!





We'll call this clip #1. It's located at the lower front of the door panel.

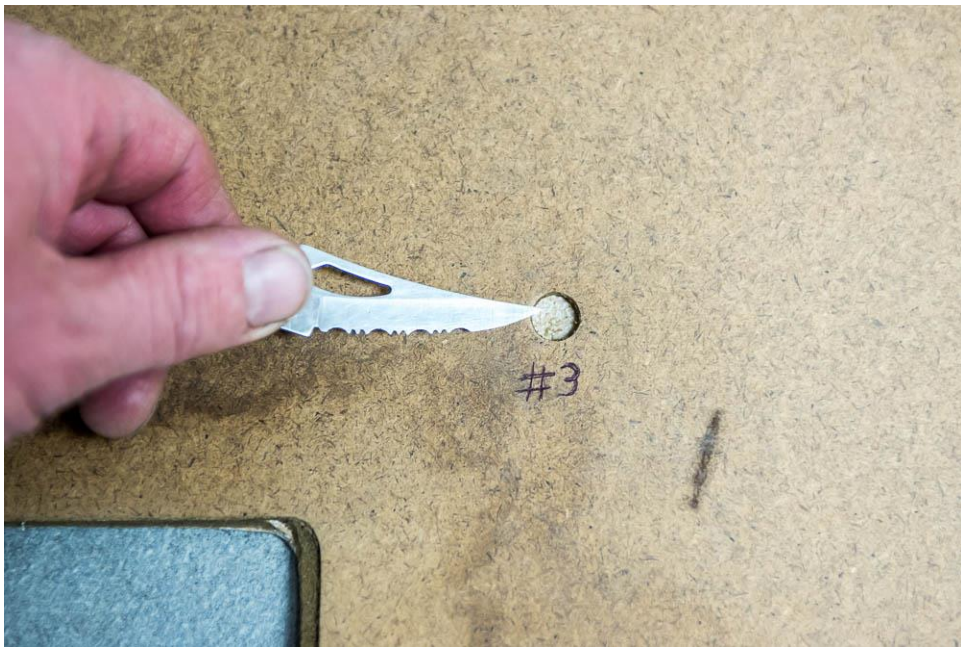


Here are clips #2 and #3. They're located along the bottom of the door panel near where the sliding vent was (you DID remove the vent, didn't you?).



STEP 5: Cut out vinyl from holes #1 and #3 Take an exacto knife or other precision cutting blade and ***carefully*** cut out the vinyl from holes #1 and #3. Try and get as clean a cut as possible around the round hole.



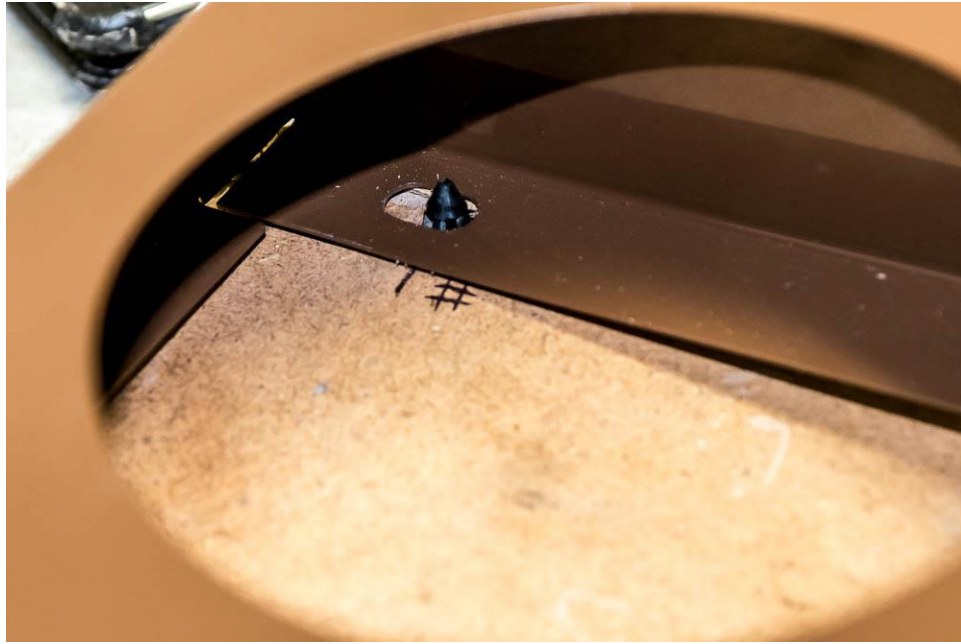




STEP 6: Set up your template First and foremost, verify which panel you have laid before you on the table. If it's your **passenger side** (like we told you to do) then you're good to go. If you're a rebel and decided to do your driver's side first, put it aside and prep your **passenger side** through step 5.

Now, with your **passenger side panel** face down on the worktable in front of you, unpack and find the **driver side door pocket**. Got that? This is important. You'll be using the driver side pocket to make a template for the passenger side panel and vice versa on the other side (passenger side pocket for the driver side panel).

Set the driver side pocket on the back (exposed board) passenger side door panel in approximately the location where it will sit on the finished side of the panel. Center the large hole in the rear of the metal pocket over hole #3 and the large hole in the front of the pocket (in the speaker hole) over the #1 hole. Take two of the plastic clips you removed from these holes and insert them from the finished side of the panel up through the holes in the pocket. This centers the pocket and positions it ready to mark the remaining holes for drilling.



STEP 7: Mark holes for drilling your door panel Now you're ready to mark the four holes for the installation hardware. Our demonstration panel had been exposed to moisture and was warped – yours may be too. It's important for the final fit of the pocket that it be as tight as possible against the panel while you mark the holes for drilling. We applied a gentle downward pressure on the pocket and it deformed the panel enough to make accurate marks. You can break your panel if you press too hard – please use caution.

Apply ample pressure (just enough to straighten a warped panel) to the pocket and use a right-angle pick (or something similar) to mark your panel for the remaining four attachment holes. Look at the pictures below for the locations of these holes.





Here's an alternate method if you're having trouble making an accurate mark on the bottom two mounting holes. Mark a line on the panel along the bottom of the pocket. Mark the two hole locations above the holes in the pocket. Remove the pocket and measure from the bottom edge to the center of each hole. Then measure the same distance from the line you made on your panel and mark the hole. Reinstall the pocket to verify your marks. See the picture below for reference.



STEP 8: Drill your mounting holes Once you're confident that your marks are accurate it's time to drill. Take your drill and 1/8" bit and make your holes. We find it's easiest to press and rotate the bit against the panel (or use a centerpunch) to provide a divot to keep the drill aligned to your mark. Be conscious of what's on the other side of the panel—**don't drill into your table!** Take your time and hit your marks. Your patience will be rewarded with a clean installation.

STEP 9: Check your work Check your work thus far by removing the driver side pocket and setting it aside. Flip the passenger door panel so the finished side is up. Unpack the passenger side metal pocket and lay it in position on the door panel. Do all your holes line up with the holes in the pocket? If not, find out why and make it right. Don't be tempted to assemble the pocket onto the panel: we still need to use this pocket to make the template for the other panel.



STEP 10: Repeat for the other side You know the drill (so to speak). Repeat steps three through nine, only this time using your **driver side door panel** and **passenger side door pocket** to make your template. Got that? Check that you're using the right components. **Driver side panel and passenger side pocket.**

STEP 11: Mount your pockets! After you have both panels prepared it's finally time to mount your door pockets! Match the sides (driver to driver, passenger to passenger) and lay the panel finished side up. Find your drill holes and make sure the vinyl (or cloth for you GL folks) is clear from the hole (using your sharp blade, if necessary). Place the pocket in position. If you still have the two panel clips in the larger two mounting holes (#1 and #3) please remove them now.

Open the installation hardware kit that came with your pockets. Remove four female and four male pieces of the tube nut fasteners (the small black ones). The goal here is to insert the female portion (the one with the hole in it) of the tube nut through the metal hole in the pocket and down through the holes you drilled in the panel. Take a male counterpart (with the exposed threads), reach under the panel from the backside and screw the male into the female. This can be tricky, especially if you didn't quite get your hole completely free of vinyl (or cloth). This process can feel like you need six hands and four eyeballs. Keep at it, you can do it!

Once you have all four tube nut fasteners mated, use a small flat blade screwdriver to cinch them tight from the back side. Move to the other door panel and install the pocket. What about the last two holes you ask? Those will be addressed when we re-install the door panels.



STEP 12: Reinstall the door panels Take one of the panel clips you removed way back at the beginning of this project and, from the back side of the panel, twist it back into hole #2. You now need to lengthen your speaker wires approximately 3-4" in order to install the speakers in your fancy new pockets. Do so now, we'll wait..... Got that finished? Great!

Installation of the door panel is the reverse of removal. Hold the panel up to the door and align the panel clips. Push directly over the clips and they'll pop into the door shell. Reattach the gab handle, window winder, door handle bits, etc.

Now it's time to install the remaining hardware from the hardware packet. Take out two of the push pin clips and slide them into the large holes in the metal door pocket. Here's where it can get a little tricky. The pins seat by direct (as in straight) pressure through the metal pocket, through the door panel and finally through the metal door shell. It can be tough to get a straight push on the pin. We've found that a small block of wood used as a pushblock can be a huge help.

Installing your speaker is the last step in the door pocket installation process. Because there are so many speaker mounting configurations, we opted not to drill speaker mounting holes in the metal pocket. It is however a simple task. Hold your speaker against the speaker hole, mark your mounting positions, remove the speaker, drill the pocket for your mounting screws, attach your speaker wires and mount your speaker.

STEP 13: Enjoy the fruits of your labors! We know you'll appreciate the much needed extra storage that RMW's pockets provide. Now get out there and enjoy your Vanagon!

This is a newer product. We are open to feedback on these instructions. If you have any questions, please send an email to Mike@RMWesty.com. I am happy to work through the process with you and take the time to answer any questions.

Thank you for your support and thanks for your continued business!