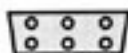
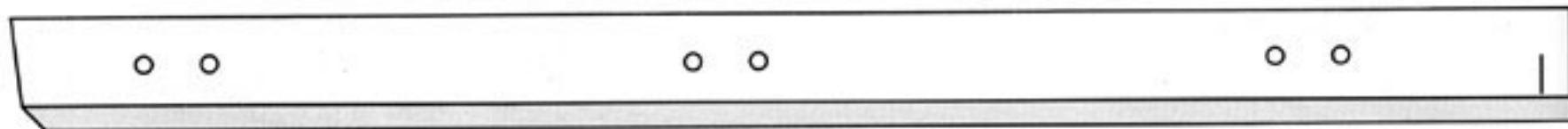


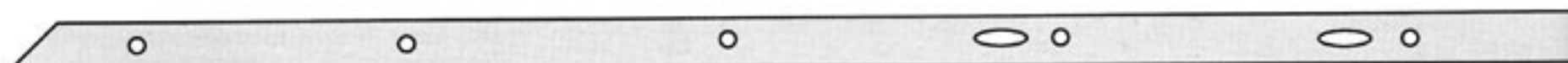
1955-57 Two-dr Hardtop Flipper Diagram, Left



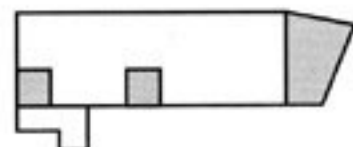
P/N 36-76



P/N 05-60



P/N 05-29



P/N 05-43



P/N 09-44

36-76 - Installs on forward flipper tab that closes and opens flipper. Square openings go inboard.

05-60 - Glues to forward inner edge outer flipper. Relief in rubber fits roll in flipper.

05-29 - Fits on top of flipper between flipper and underside of top. Cut angle at forward edge corresponds with angle on top of flipper. Rolled edge overhangs top of flipper to outside.

05-43 - Attaches to very front of flipper up inside flipper after flipper is installed on car. Held by glue and forward-most flipper attaching screw. Open side faces inboard and forward lower flap lays against windshield pillar.

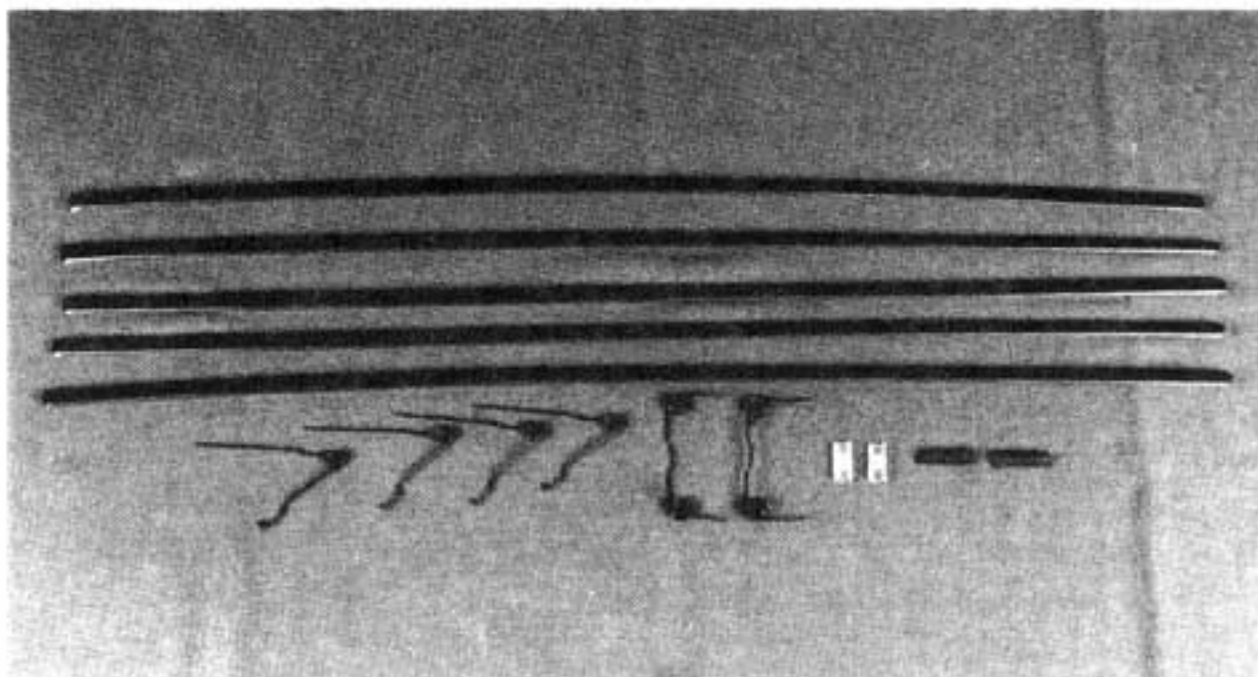
09-44 - Attaches to very rear of flipper up inside flipper opening after flipper is installed on the car. Held in place by the rear-most flipper screw. Upper tab faces in with opening in tab facing out.

" THIS ARTICLE IS INTENDED FOR YOUR REFERENCE ONLY.

ACTUAL PARTS, YEARS AND BODY STYLES CONTAINED

IN THIS ARTICLE MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM YOUR APPLICATION. "

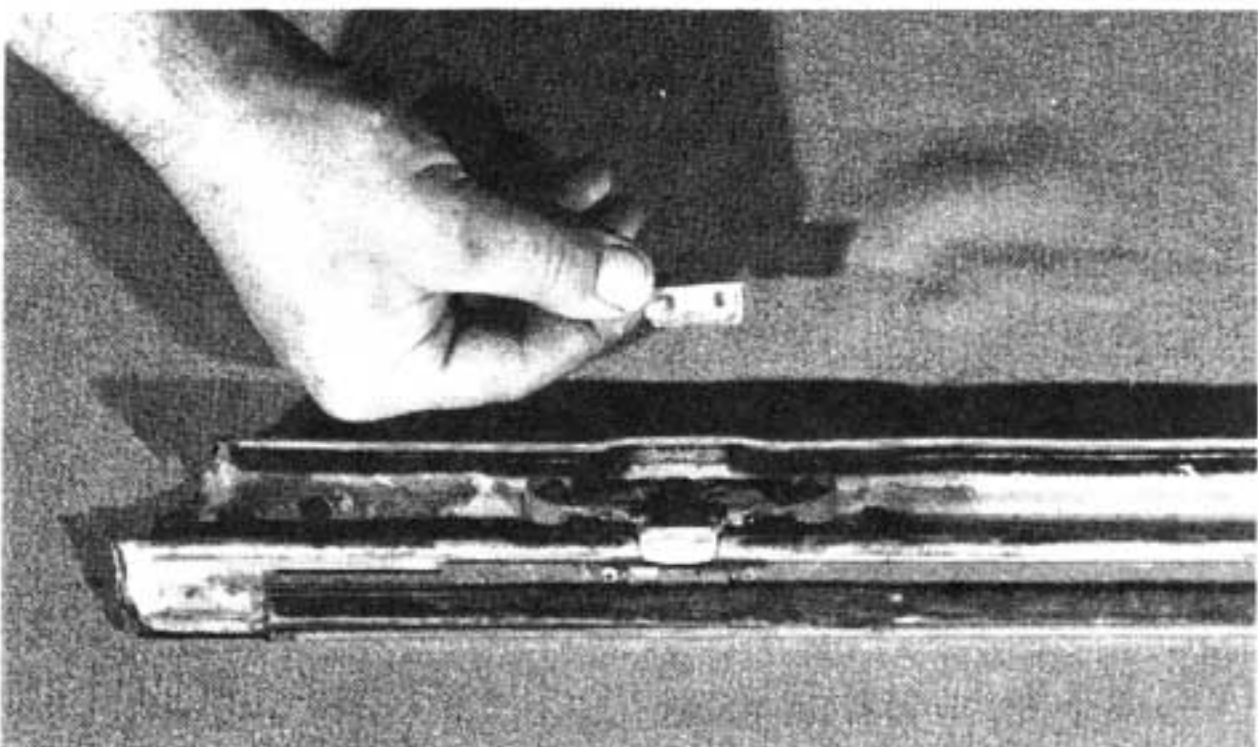
Have you found any NOS Hardtop flippers lately? (If you have, just contact us at Headquarters.) A set of nice looking, well functioning 2-door Hardtop flippers are not easy to come by. With Sport Coupes being so popular, these are in great demand. Because of the way that the flippers work mechanically, many of the flippers found on many Classics have stopped functioning long ago.



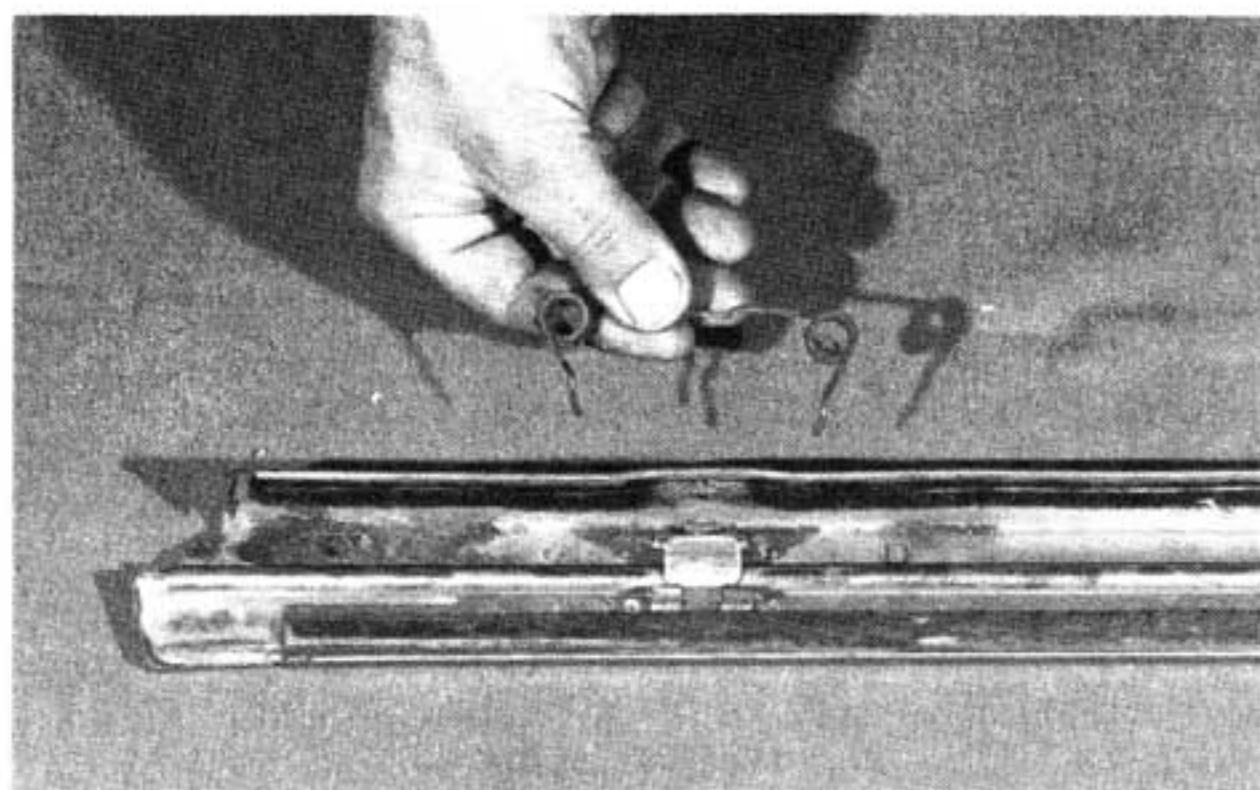
This article will explain how to completely restore a set of Hardtop flippers. It will explain how to install new springs, install new whisker strip, install new nylon "bumpers", recondition the metal, lubricate the hinges, etc. The Club now has available Part #36-39, which is our flipper repair kit.

This kit includes a complete set of springs, five pieces of whisker strip (one extra piece), a pair of forward flipper anti-chafe bumpers, and a pair of nylon "bumpers". The last items (anti-chafe bumpers and nylon bumpers) cannot be found anywhere else but at Classic Chevy. The whisker strip provided in the kit, it not identical to the original, but the article will explain how to use the whisker strip and make it look like the original. Although most flippers have two springs per side, there are many flippers which have three springs on each flipper. We believe that the 1955 flippers had three springs and the 1956 and 1957 flippers had two springs.

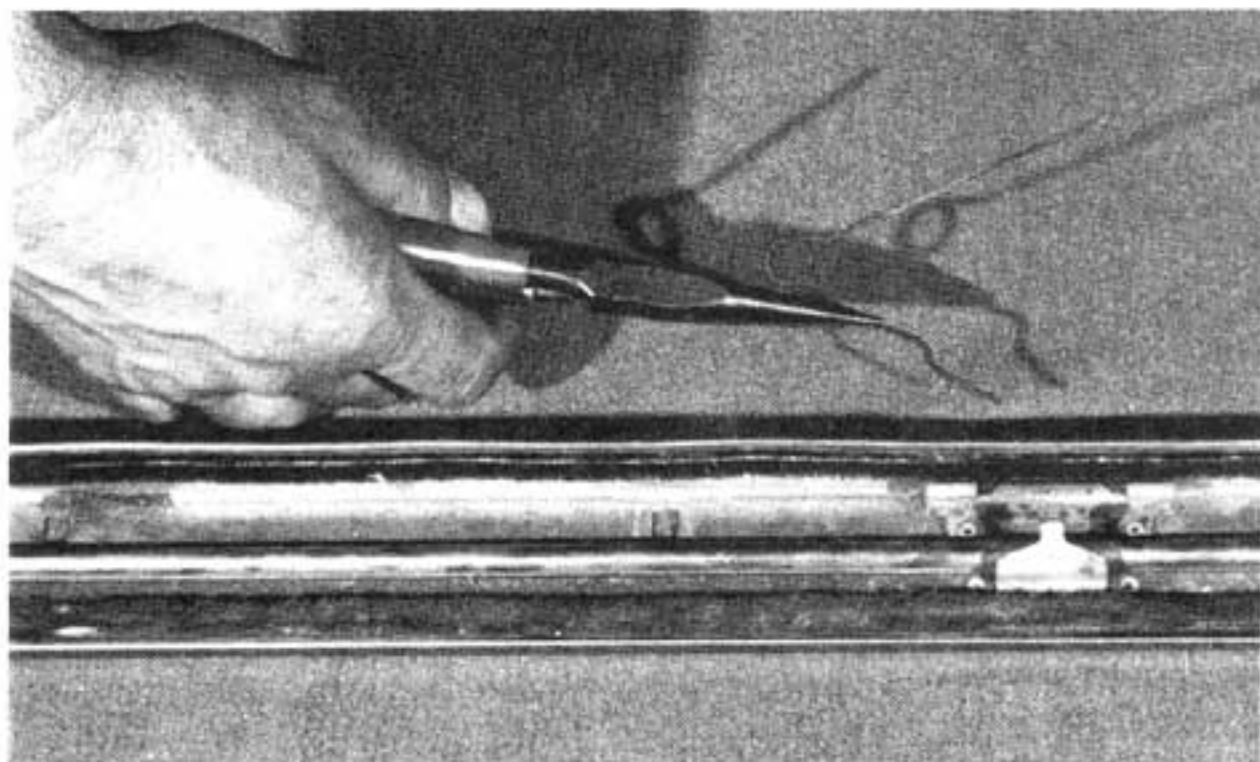
The restoration of a set of Hardtop flippers is not the easiest task and it takes a little bit of time to do the complete restoration. But with some time and patience, an extremely nice pair of Hardtop flippers can be produced. Obviously, it is a lot easier if the stainless of the flippers that you are repairing is in good condition. This is why we suggest starting with the very best set of flippers that you can.



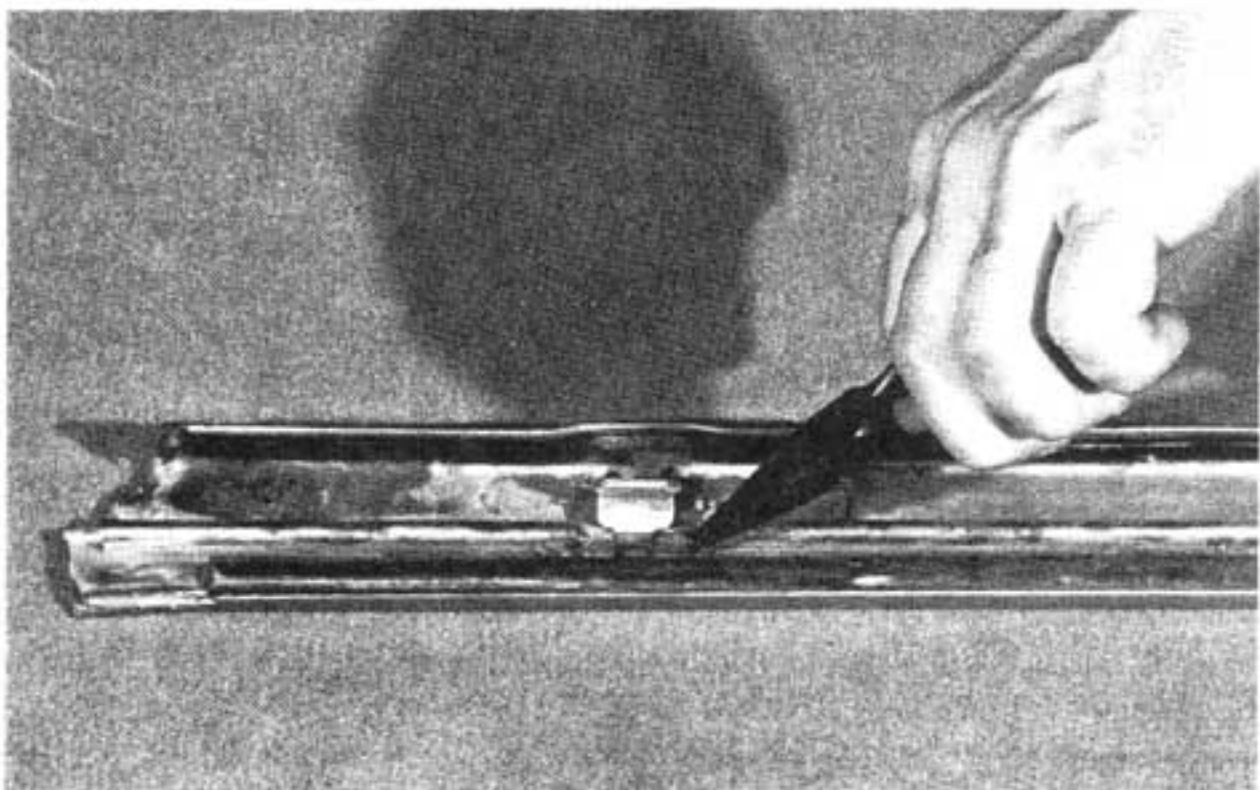
1. Remove the flipper. (For specific information on the removal and reinstallation of the Hardtop flipper, see the Tech Article in the Restoration section pg 17.) 2. Squeeze the nylon bumper together to remove it from the metal tab which acts as the flipper closer. Note that the holes in the nylon bumper will match up with the metal nubs on the closer.



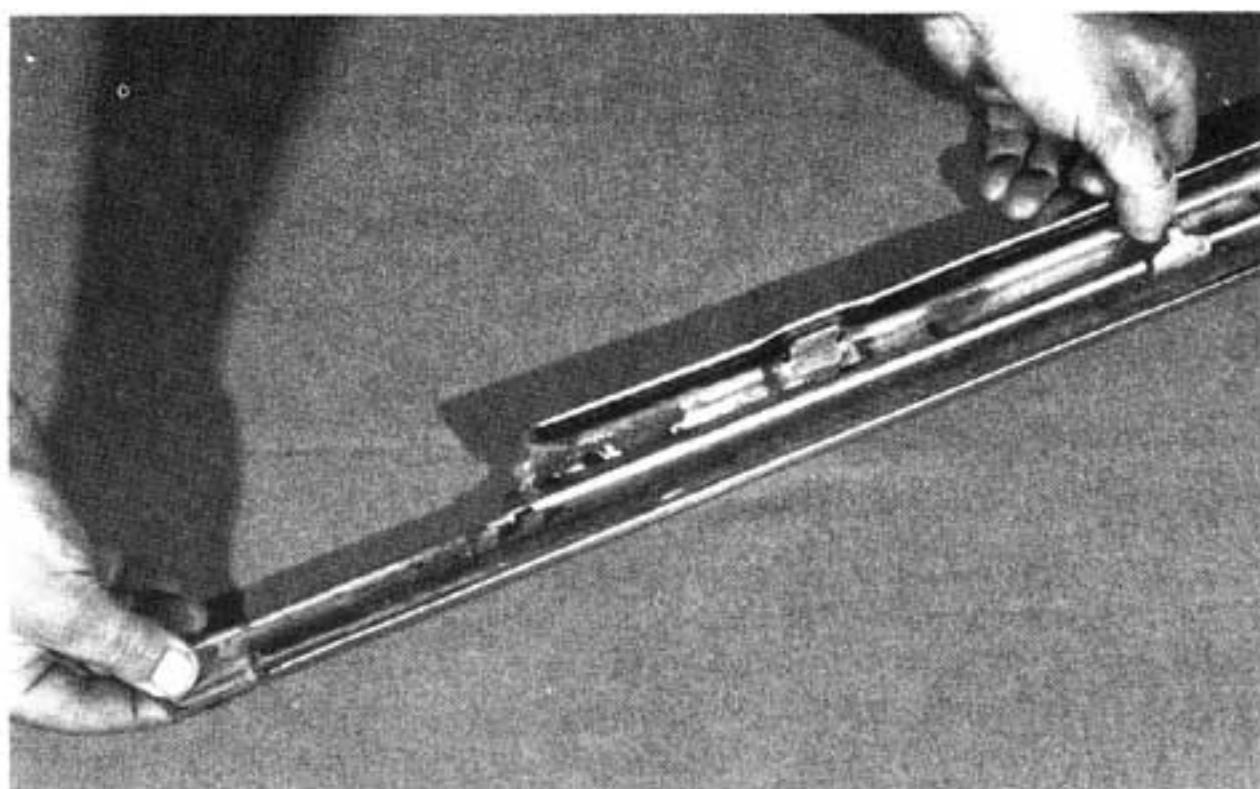
3. Using a pair of needle-nosed pliers, slip the two ends of the double-coil spring out from under the retaining tabs on the closer hinge. Remove the spring from the assembly.



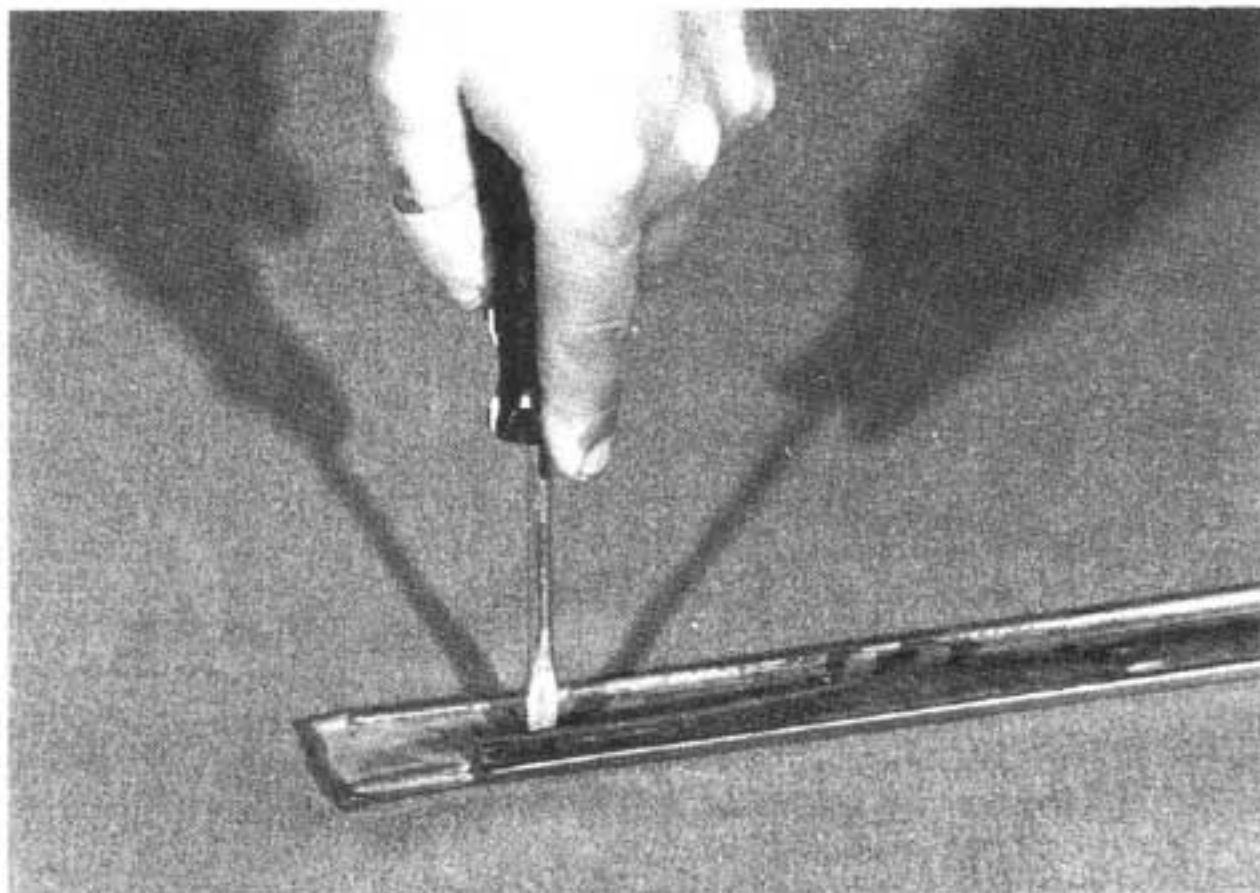
4. Using a pair of regular pliers, straighten the bent end of the single-coil spring. Before removing the spring, notice the orientation of the spring with respect to the double-coil spring. The single-coil spring end should face the double-coil spring. 5. Slide the entire single-coil spring out of the flipper. The one end of the spring is held in position in two locations, and the other end of the spring is held in place at one location. If the flipper that you are working on has three springs, remove the third spring in the same manner as you remove the second spring.



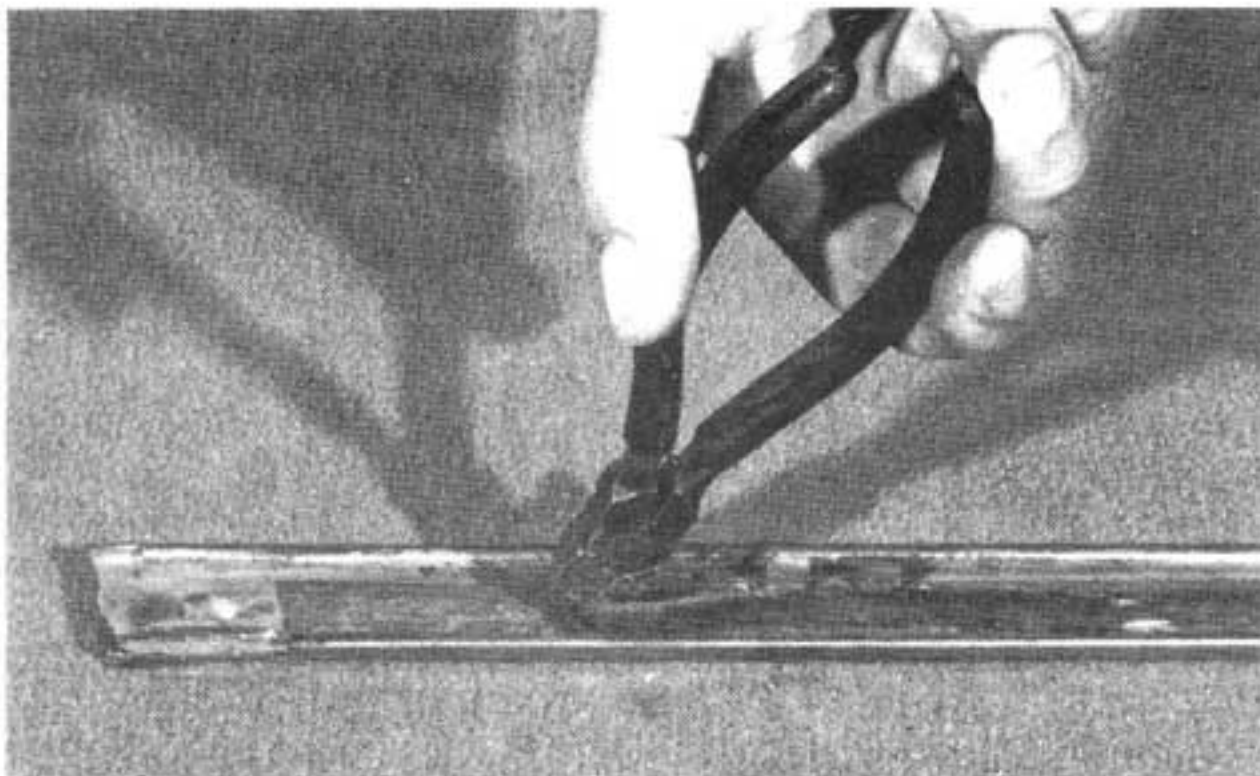
6. In the front end of the flipper, the two main halves of the flipper are secured together with a pin in the closing assembly. The end of this pin is usually bent slightly so that it will not work itself out of the assembly. Straighten this pin with a pair of pliers. 7. Slide the retaining pin out of the closing assembly.



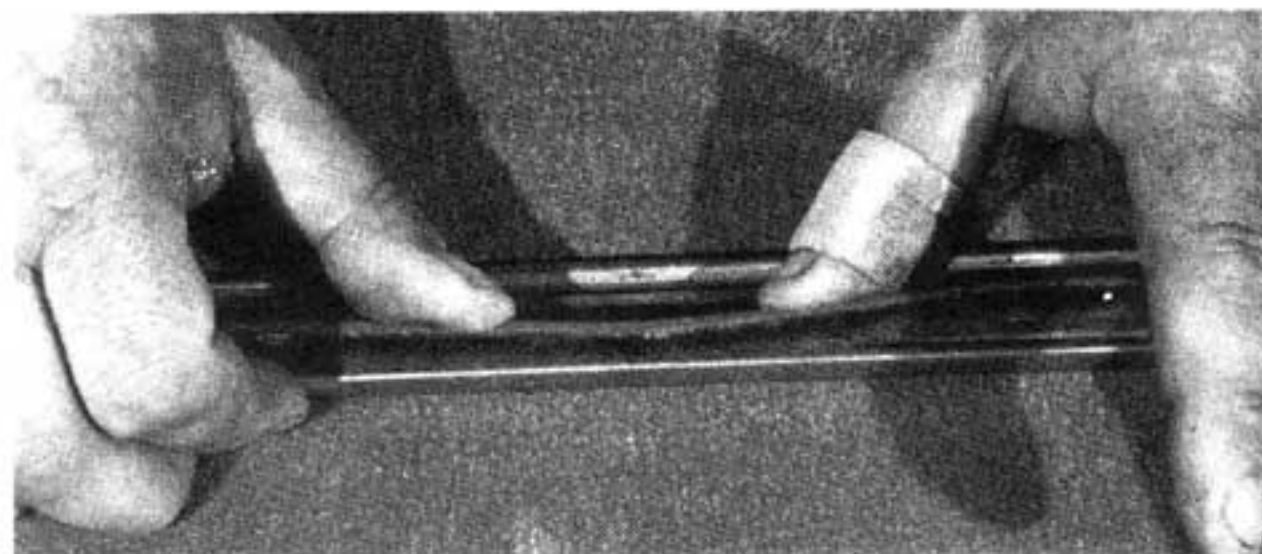
8. At this point, the two halves of the flipper assembly can be taken apart by sliding one end out of the other end. **9.** You will notice that one part of the flipper is essentially flat and the second part of the flipper has a 90-degree bend. These will be referred to as the "flat part" and the "90-degree bend part." We suggest starting with the flat part of the flipper since it is the easier of the two. This will allow you to have some practice for the more difficult half of the flipper.



10. Using a flat-bladed screw driver, start bending the whisker strip up away from the stainless steel. Don't use too much pressure. We cannot emphasize enough that taking time and using a lot of patience in this step of the restoration is very important. A set of nice flippers are not easily replaced.



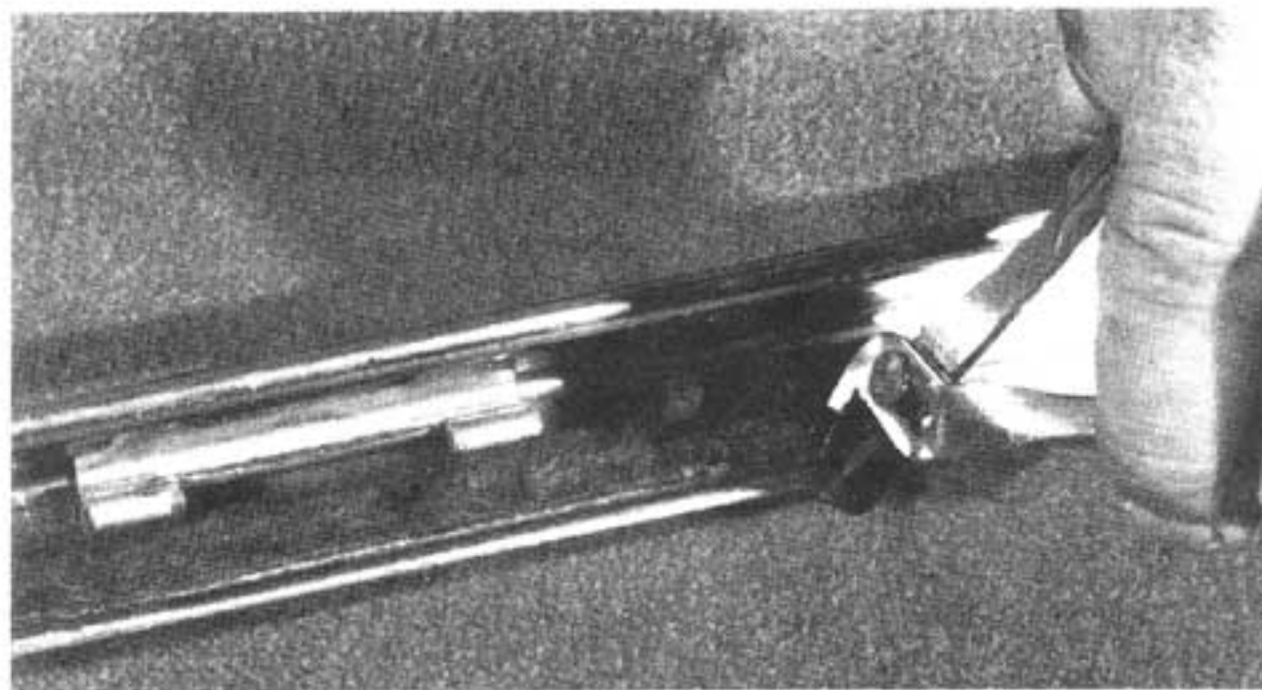
11. Using a pair of diagonal cutters, grab the end of the whisker strip and gently pull the whisker strip out from under the pinched lip of the stainless edge of the flipper. **12.** Once the end of the whisker strip is started, grab the bead that was under the lip and begin to "roll" it out from under the lip. The rustier the whisker strip, the harder it is to remove.



13. If the whisker strip is not rusted, you can "walk" the screw driver under a section of the flat stainless assembly and then pull a complete section of whisker strip out from under the stainless lip with your bare hands. Either of these two methods can be used to remove the old whisker strip. **14.** At this point, you will notice that there is a metal strip which is riveted to the stainless steel of the flat flipper assembly. Since this metal is not made out of stainless, this strip will rust and needs to be cleaned at this time. Some kind of wire brush or rotary wire brush can be used to clean up this metal strip. We suggest that you use some kind of metal conditioner, such as Du Pont's Part #5717S, to help dissolve away the rust and to clean up this metal strip. After using the metal prep, make sure to rinse the assembly several times with water. **15.** Clean the complete stainless assembly with 3M's Adhesive Cleaner, Part #08984, (CCCI Part #49-5). The edge of the stainless flipper assembly which acts as the hinge should be thoroughly cleaned of any residue or dirt. Any material left on this hinge or abrasion in the stainless will only act to hinder the opening and closing of the flipper.

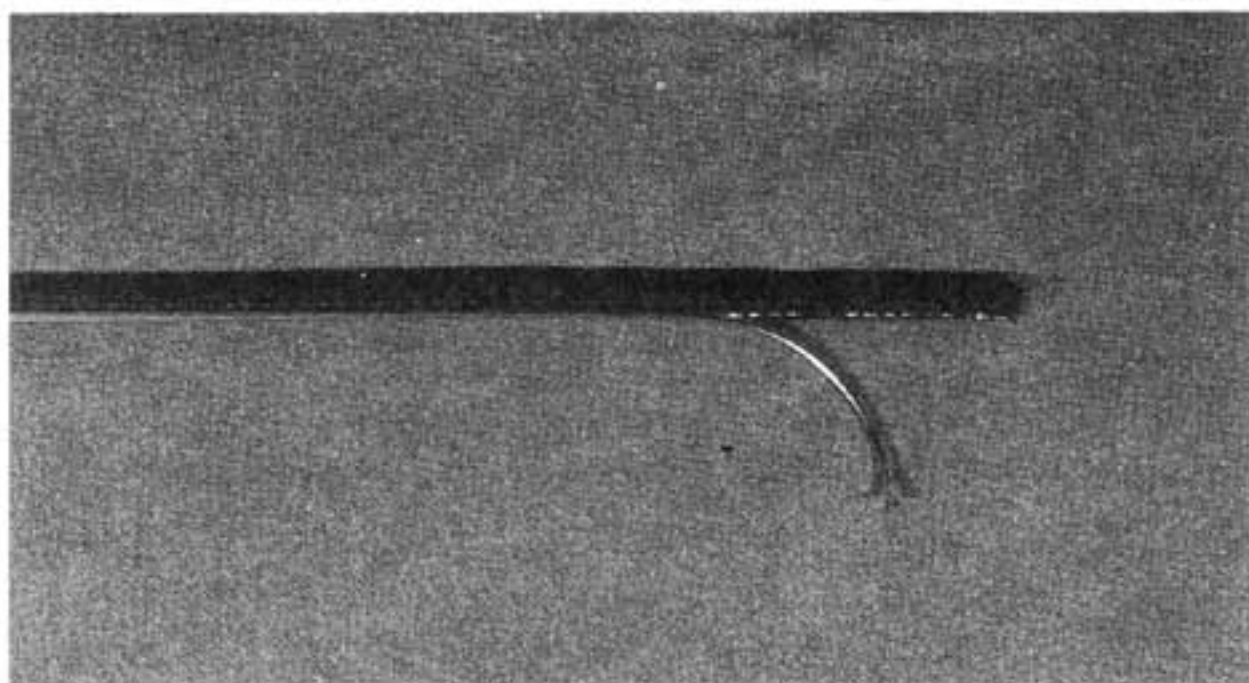


16. Using some masking tape, mask the stainless steel so that only the non-stainless steel metal strip and brackets will show. **17.** The metal strip and brackets should be sprayed with a light, clear coat to protect the metal and to help prevent rust. VHT Clear, SP-115 (CCCI Part #30-62) is a good product for this purpose. **18.** At this point, the stainless steel flat part of the assembly can be laid aside temporarily.

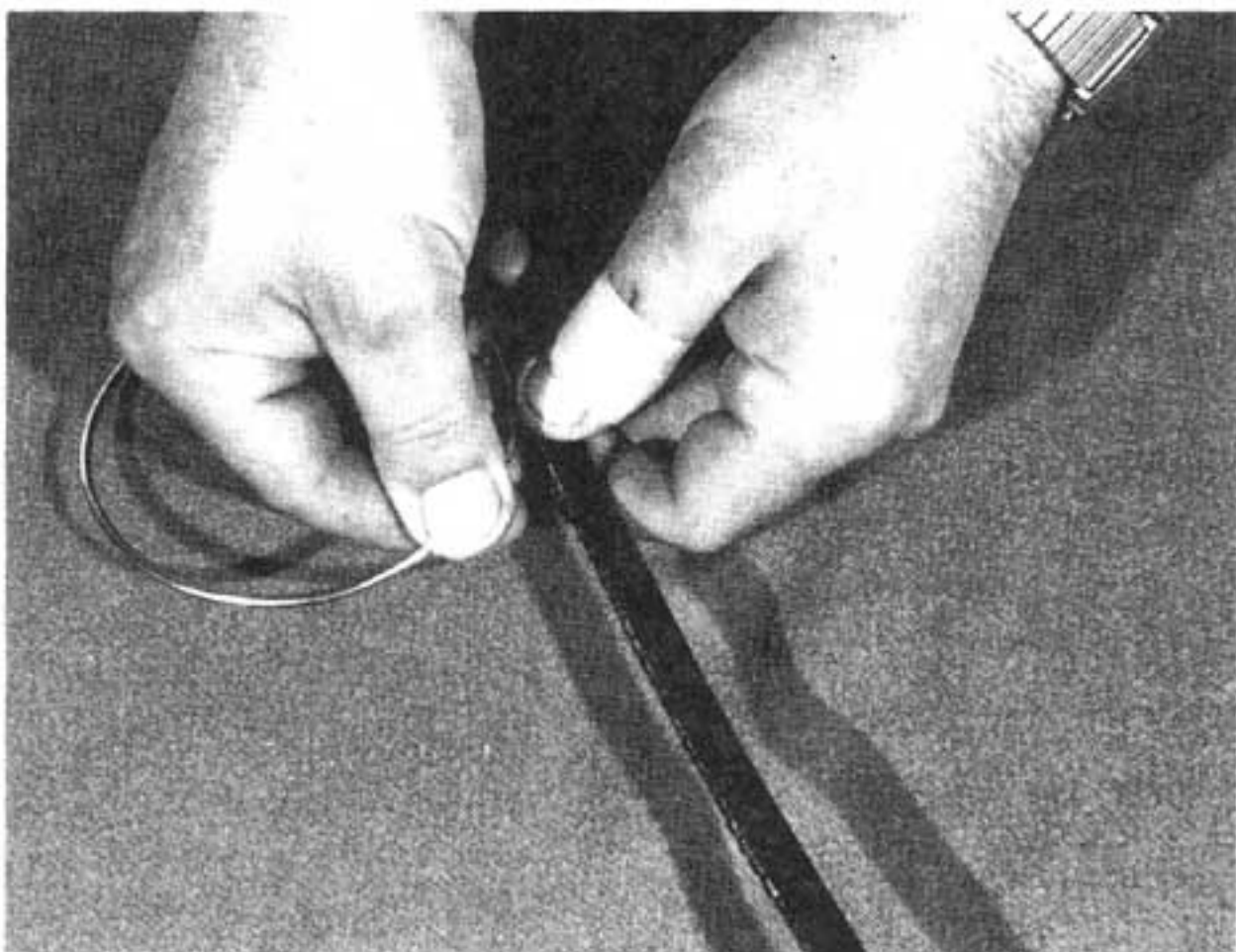


19. Be careful in removing the whisker strip from the 90-degree piece of the flipper. You will not use the flat-bladed screw driver in the same manner as you did for the flat piece. A pair of diagonal cutters can be used to "roll" the old whisker strip out from under the stainless steel lip which retains the whisker strip. If by some chance the old whisker strip bead tears off and remains under the lip, you will need to remove

the bead in some way. We suggest using a very small pair of channel lock pliers with a piece of rubber vacuum hose on one of the jaws. This will help protect the stainless as you pry the lip of the stainless up. By working the lip of the stainless steel, you can little by little remove the old whisker strip bead from under the lip. If you do use a screw driver, use extreme care because the stainless steel can easily be damaged at this location. **20.** After removing the whisker strip, clean the complete assembly with metal prep and then rinse thoroughly with water. Clean the entire stainless assembly with 3M's Adhesive Cleaner, again being very thorough of the edge that makes the flipper hinge. **21.** Mask off the stainless steel so that the spring brackets can be sprayed with a clear coat of VHT. **22.** If you are able, the stainless could be buffed at this stage. This is one of the steps that will help make these flippers look like new.



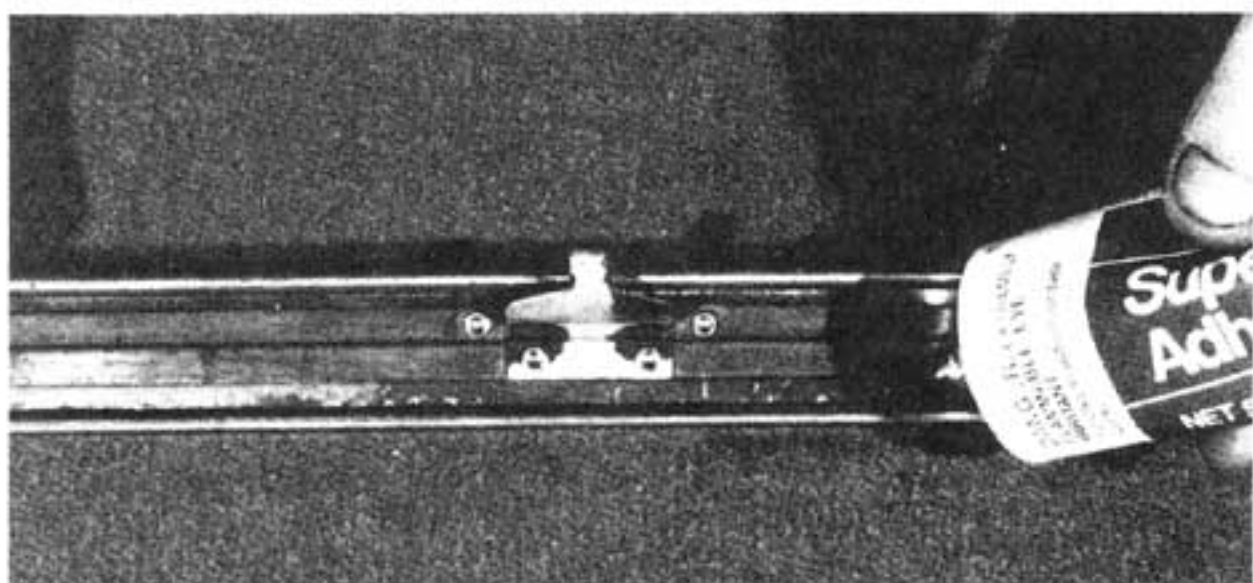
23. Whisker strip exactly like the original is not produced, but the whisker strip provided in the kit can be altered to be as good or better than the original. By removing the chrome beads from the whisker strip, the one edge of the whisker strip can be flattened such that it will fit under the stainless retaining lip. If you had an original whisker strip, the stainless lip would have to be pried up then the whisker strip installed, and then the stainless lip crimped to hold the bead into position. These steps are not required in the installation of the whisker strip that is available.



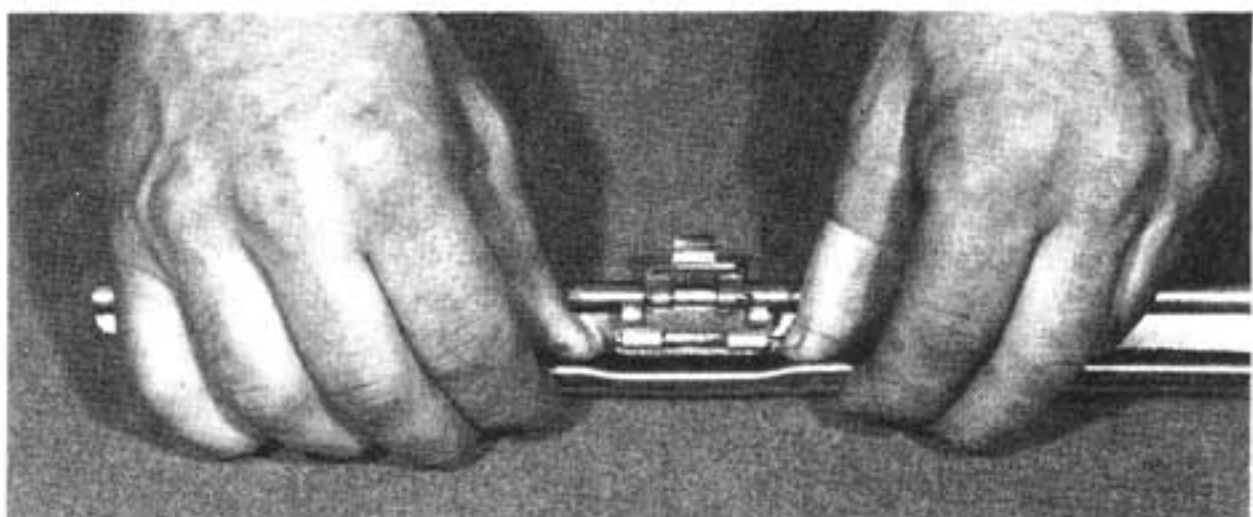
24. Start removing the chrome bead from one end by rolling it out of the whisker strip using a pair of diagonal cutters. Work very slowly, because you can wreck the whisker strip very fast if you are not careful. After the chrome bead is started, you can continue to pull the chrome bead away from the whisker strip. Make sure to hold the body of the whisker strip in place and pull the chrome bead away from it. (Don't do the opposite or the whisker strip can be wrecked.) Hold the whisker strip body firmly with the thumb at the exact location where the bead is being removed from the whisker strip. **25.** You may end up with a slight curve in the whisker strip, but this can be straightened out very easily against a straight edge such as the flat stainless flipper piece.



26. The metal edge of the whisker strip that contained the chrome bead must be flattened out. A vice can be used to squeeze this edge. The entire length of the whisker strip should be flattened out. **27.** Cut the whisker strip to the exact length that is required. The length of the whisker strip will exactly match the lip under which it is installed. **28.** Fit the whisker strip under the lip of the flat piece of the flipper assembly. Make sure that the whisker strip will fit under the lip. If there is a location that the whisker strip will not go under the lip, either flatten the whisker strip out more or pry the lip of the stainless up slightly at that location. **29.** Be very careful how you remove the whisker strip from under the lip. **30.** Using some 3M Adhesive Cleaner, clean the back side of the whisker strip.

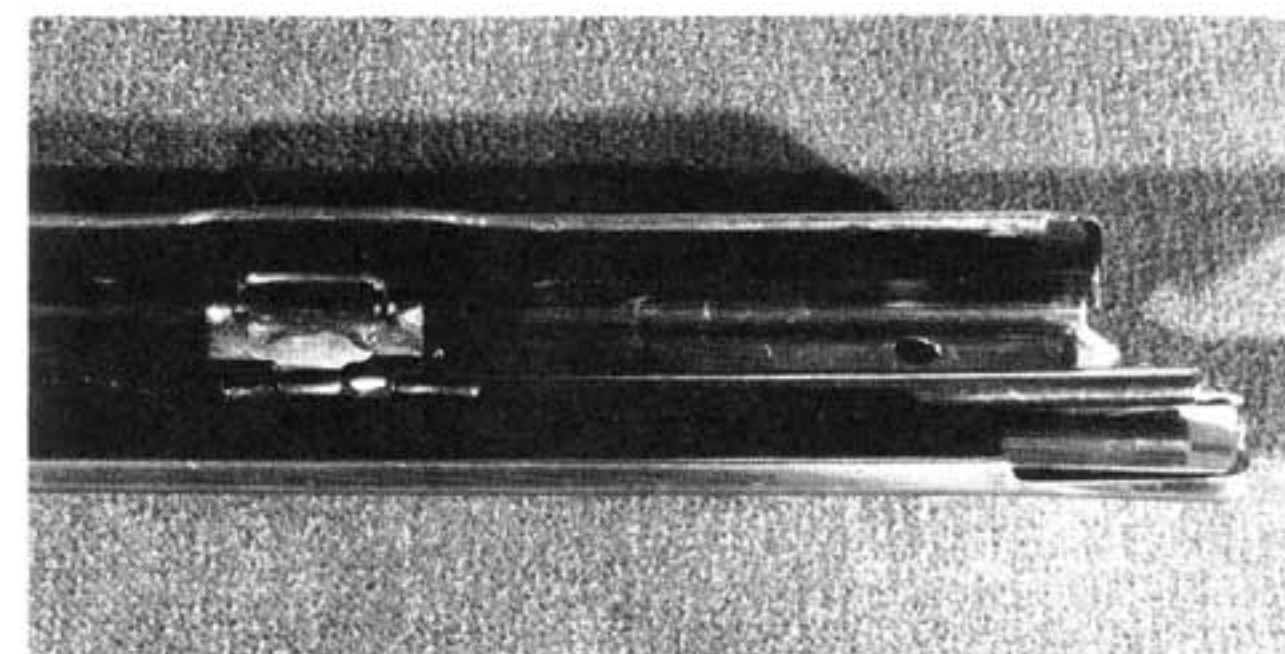


31. We recommend using 3M's Super Weatherstrip Adhesive, Part #08008 (CCCI Part #49-6). On the stainless steel/metal strip area, lay a thin bead of adhesive along the area to be glued. Make sure that the adhesive is at the lip so that some of the adhesive will be pushed under the lip with the whisker strip. **32.** Do not allow any time to pass, get the whisker strip in place, working it under the lip with your thumbs. This is one of the few times where you will not apply a thin coat of adhesive to both items and then place them together, only the flipper will get a bead of adhesive. **33.** Carefully recheck to make sure that the edge of the whisker strip is under the lip of the stainless steel. Continue to press the whisker strip under the lip and flat against the stainless steel as the adhesive dries. If the whisker strip tends to lift up, a couple clothes pins might be used to hold it in place. We found that the clothes pins would bend over the whiskers just slightly and might leave an imprint.

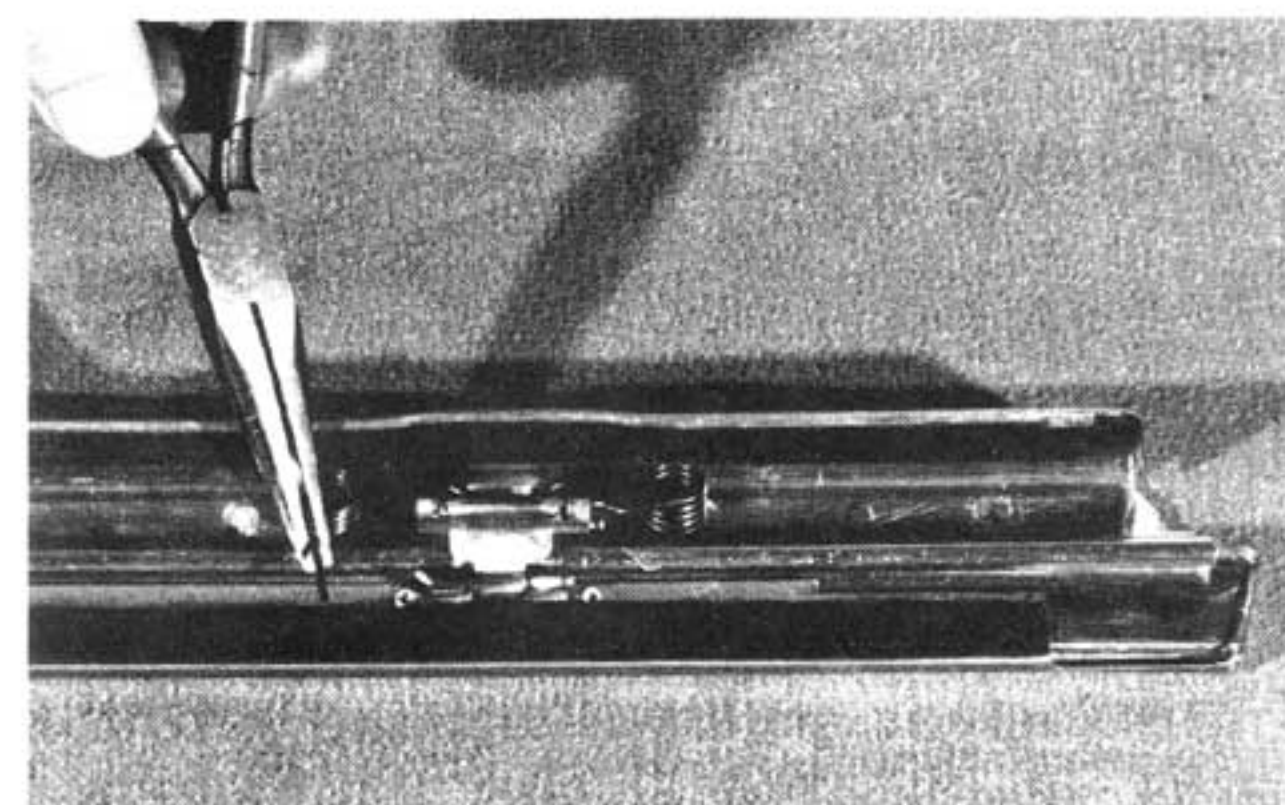


34. The very same procedure should be followed for the installation of the whisker strip on the 90-degree stainless steel flipper assembly. There is a 1 1/4-inch long dip in the whisker strip that needs to be formed as the installation with the adhesive is made.

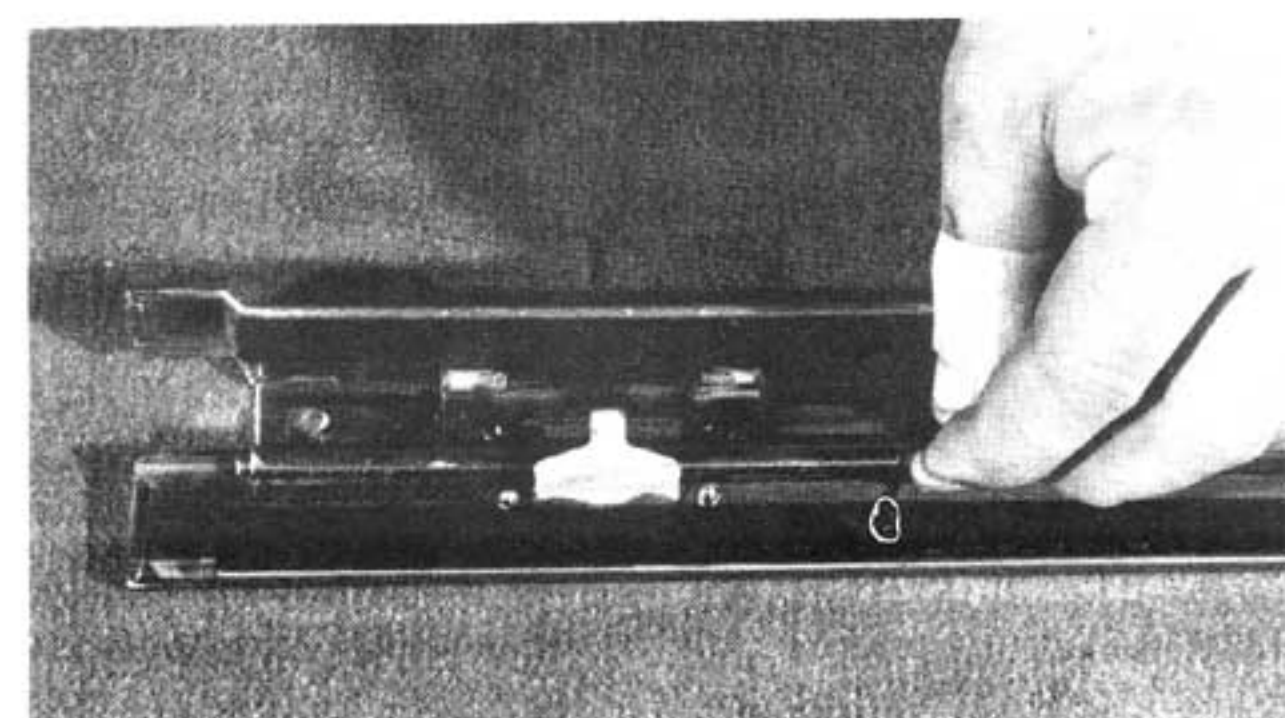
35. After the adhesive is fairly dry, clean up any mess with Adhesive Cleaner. **36.** Some kind of lube should be used on the stainless steel edges that will form the hinge. This could be a product such as Gunk's, Aerosol White Lithium Grease, or VHT's Spray Engine Assembly Lube. If the lube that you use is quite runny, you will need to wipe the excess off as you continue the assembly and restoration. **37.** Slide the two halves of the flipper assembly together such that the hinge is formed.



38. Reinstall the retaining pin for the flipper "closer." The head of the pin is towards the closest end of the flipper. **39.** Rebend the end of the pin slightly, such that the pin will not slide out of the bracket.



40. Install a brand new double-coil spring. The wire between the two sets of coils lays against the stainless steel. This leaves the two free ends of the spring clear of the stainless steel such that they can be installed into the spring retaining bracket. **41.** Using a pair of needle-nosed pliers, install the two ends of the spring into the hinge bracket assembly. **42.** The short end of the single-coiled spring may be bent too much to allow installation. If so, straighten the bend slightly such that the single-coil spring can be installed. **43.** The coiled end of the spring will face the double-coil spring at the end of the flipper. Start the straight end of the single-coil spring through the first bracket retainer of the 90-degree stainless steel part of the flipper.



44. Slide the coiled end of the spring such that the two ends of the spring will go through their respective bracket retainers.

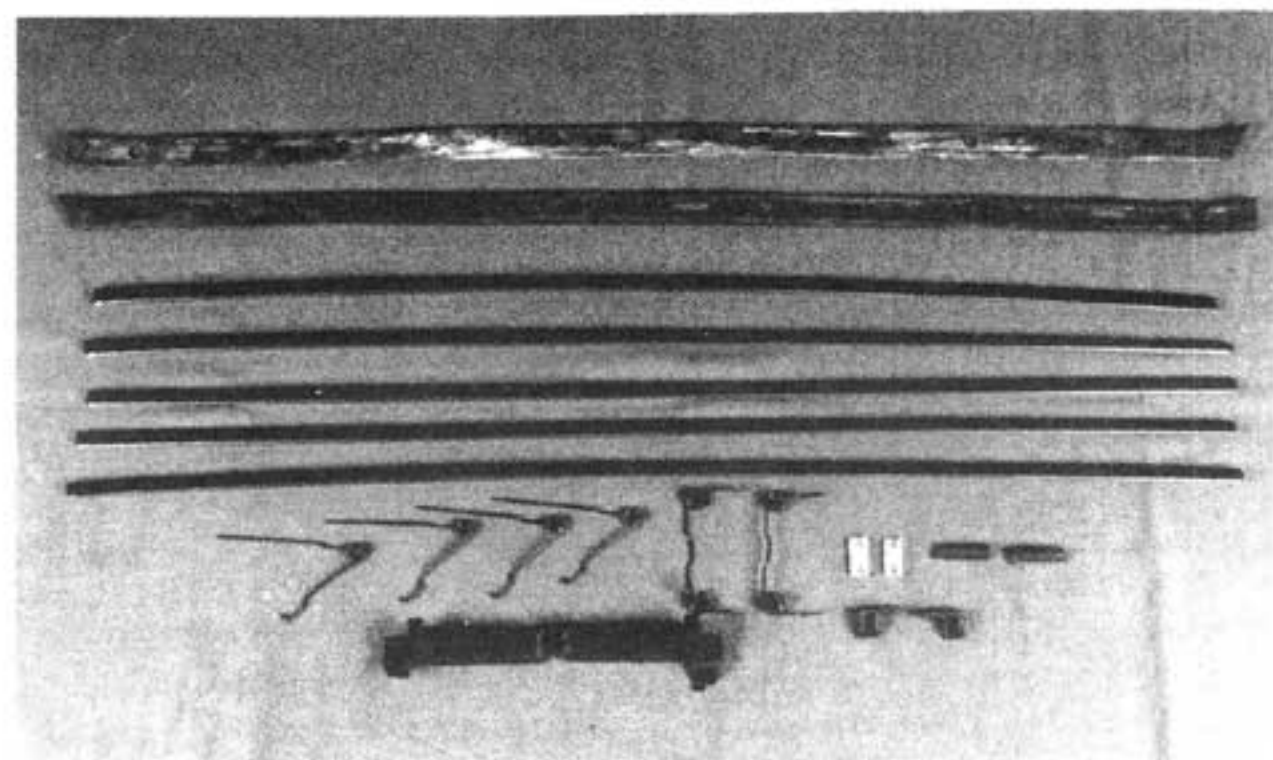
45. Rebend the short end of the spring slightly such that the spring will not tend to slide out. Although a needle-nosed set of pliers was used for photographic purposes, a regular set of pliers is probably better. **46.** If you have a flipper which has the third spring, install the third spring just as the second spring was installed.



47. Install the brand new nylon bumper over the metal tab that acts as the closer for the flipper.



48. Using a small amount of 3M's Weatherstrip Adhesive, install the new forward flipper anti-chafe bumper. This rubber bumper helps protect the chrome of the vent window assembly. (If your kit does not contain a pair of these, they will be sent to you first-class mail as soon as we get them. These bumpers can be installed after the flippers have been reinstalled on the Coupe.) The restored flippers should not only look great, but should work great. **49.** Reinstall the flipper onto the Hardtop.



If you would like to replace the rubber items on the flipper assembly, pictured above is Part #36-40, which is Classic Chevy's new Hardtop Flipper Repair/Rubber Seals Kit, which contains not only a set of Hardtop flipper springs, a pair of nylon bumpers, a pair of forward flipper anti-chafe bumpers, and five pieces of whisker strip; but it also contains a pair of Hardtop windlace seals (Part #5-29), a pair of flipper rear rubber bumpers (Part #9-44), and a pair of Hardtop front corner vent pillar seals (Part #5-43). This kit will sell for \$55, which is a 10 percent savings.

