

It's strange how the austere look of the 1950s is now the in look of the 1970s. In the early 50s cars were produced with little chrome—the result of high demand and short supply following World War II. Window rubber in those days didn't have the chrome garnishing strip that became the rage in nearly every car produced. Then, earlier this decade, standard cars started to be produced without the chrome strips in the window rubber again and it wasn't long before the neat look for customizers was to have no-chrome whatsoever on a car.

Enter the California Look for Bugs that started in 1975, one of the main requirements is no chrome. If you have a standard Beetle produced since 1971, then it came from the factory without chrome strips in the windows. However, all other Beetles have the chrome. The solution has been to either just leave the chrome strip out or paint it black. Now there is a much more satisfactory solution.

The Old Volks Home in North Hollywood, Calif. has been producing replacement window rubber for vintage VWs without the chrome strip for some time. Now, with the increased interest in the California Look, they have introduced the same style replacement rubber for all years of Beetles. The Old Volks Home rubber is made in California and is claimed to be of better quality than the original German rubber as it is manufactured to withstand American weather and smog! It is also claimed to have qualities that prevent it from rotting, cracking or drying out.

The photos show you how easy it is to remove the glass from the Bug and replace it with new rubber. Removing the windshield is a lot more difficult than the side and rear windows as the old rubber has to be cut away and the windshield breaks easily if overstressed. It might be wise to have a shop replace the windshield in your car while you can replace the other three windows with the help of a friend in a short time.

For pricing information and further details refer to the Old Volks Home ad in this issue or write to The Old Volks Home Inc., Dept. HVW, P.O. Box 4643A, North Hollywood, CA 91607. ●

WINDOW RUBBER REPLACEMENT





STEP 1, involves pushing the window out with the help of a foot. Bob Raucher, President of The Old Volks Home holds the glass while his right hand man, Cliff Crate pushes.



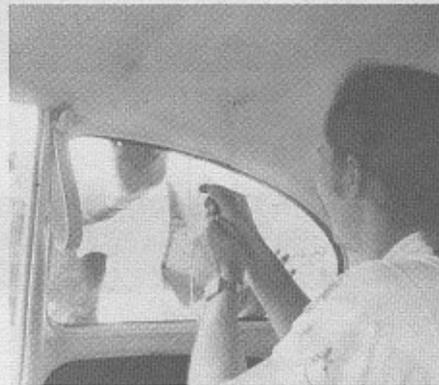
STEP 2, liberally coat the new rubber with Armor All, or a similar rubber lubricant. This helps keep the rubber alive longer as well as making the installation easier.



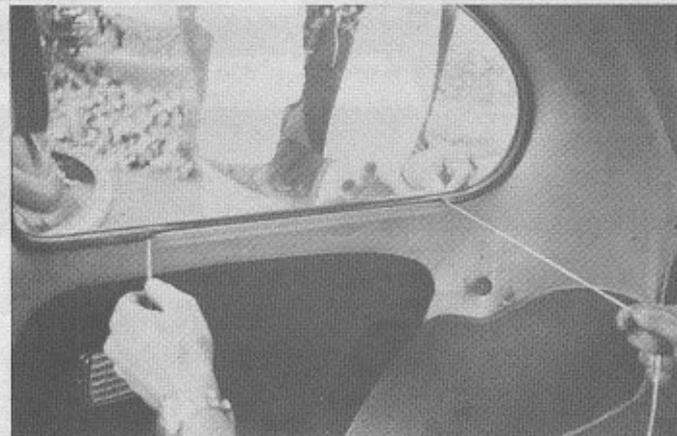
STEP 3, place the new window rubber onto the glass, making sure it is on the correct way and in the correct groove.



STEP 4, slip a long piece of strong, thin string around the window rubber, in the groove that will hold the glass in the window frame.



STEP 5, the window, with rubber attached, is placed in position in the window opening and the string is pulled from the inside.



STEP 6, as the person inside pulls the string gently, the window is pushed into place from the outside. Make sure that the rubber gasket is pulled evenly over the bodywork. The most difficult spots are the corners and the bottom where the two strings meet. If the string pulls out without the rubber slipping into place, the whole process has to be restarted.



ABOVE, the preceding six steps show how the two side windows are replaced in a Bug. The rear window is done in the same manner, though it is a little more difficult because of being bigger. The front windshield, however, has to be treated much more carefully as it is weaker. To begin with, the old rubber gasket has to be cut away with a knife so that the windshield can be lifted out without force. Replacing it is done in much the same way, but far more carefully.