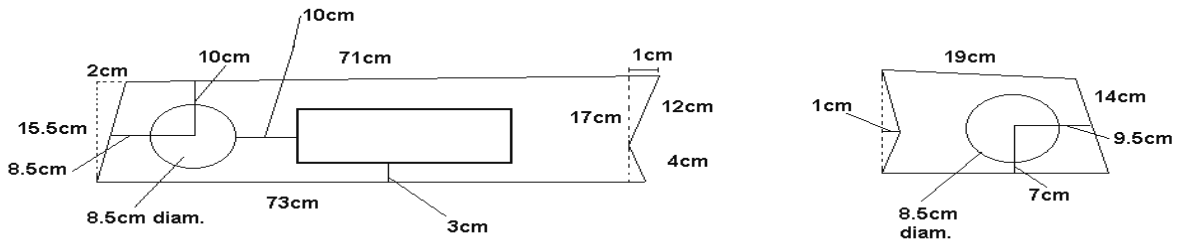


DIY Dash

Haven't got a dash but want one, but no money? Here's a plan to make your own. Click on the image to save it to your hard drive then just print off.



Scott Beavis supplied the following instructions for the great dash he made for his Mini. (see image below)



Here's how Scott made his.

First make a template out of cardboard slightly larger than needed. Place the template over the wood you're going to use for the dash and mark the wood carefully. I made it quite easily from a flat sheet of 9mm plywood. MDF would also do. Then plane it to size. When the overall size is correct, fit it in and sit in the car and mark out your

preferred position for gauges etc. (or you can do this on your template first if preferred) Drill holes using a hole saw and sand it all smooth. Cover in vinyl. I used Carbon Fibre effect vinyl, bought at a mini show. Beware of using glue under the vinyl, as it may show through as ridges. I attached my dash into the car by having two long M8 threaded rods going from the dash back to the bulkhead. I then spin wing-nuts on the ends on this side of the dash. Quick release for access to wiring. A glove box can be made by fixing a strong cardboard box behind the dash to contain items placed through the glove hole. The dash board looks much better and is much cheaper than the ones you can buy.

Fitting dashboard to car:

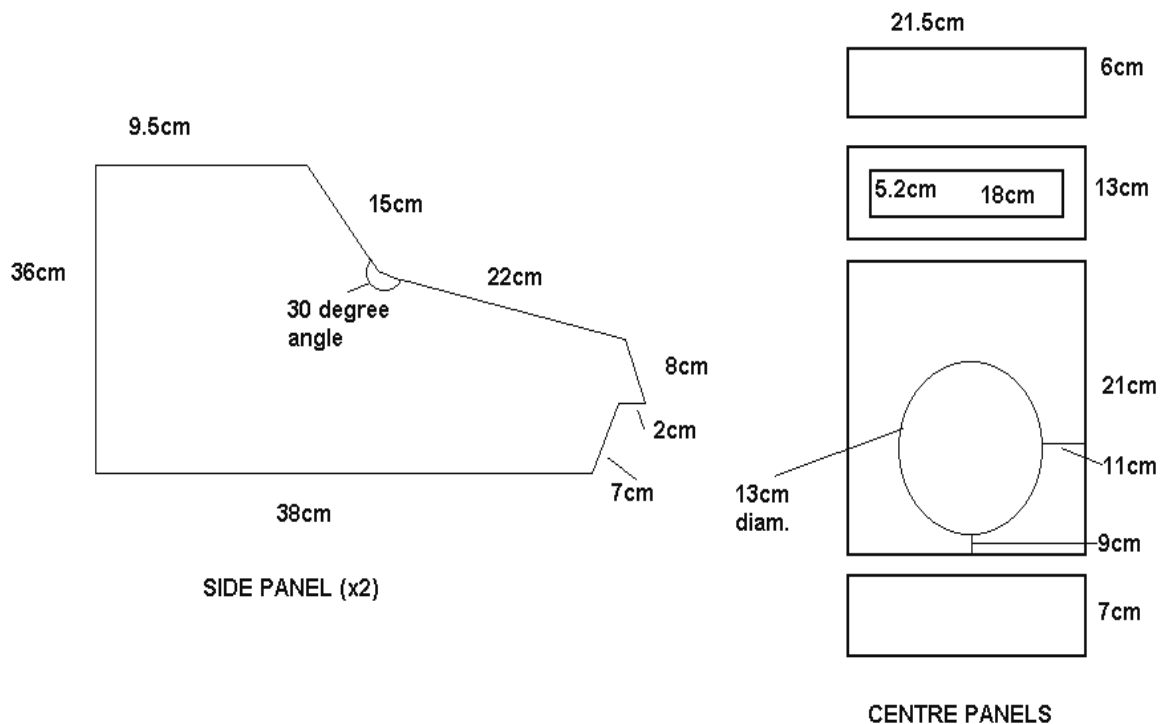
There are several possibilities:

You can make some nice little sheet metal brackets and screw them onto the upper and lower rail and then screw the dashboard from the front with 4 or 6 screws onto those brackets.

On my last Mini I had the dashboard secured with a few little pieces of sheet metal which were only bend over the upper and lower rail. It works.

DIY Centre Console

Click on the image to save to your hard drive and print off.



If you managed to make either of the dash's above, you'll now be a dab hand at using the saw and electric drill. So why not make this centre console to match?

If you've already got a dash, but not a console, then have a go at this baby.

Again, make a template out of cardboard and then lay it over your sheet of wood. Use either plywood, MDF or even your Gran's old wardrobe doors.

Mark around the template and the holes for whatever you want to fit in the console, ie:

radio, heater switch panel, and of course the gearstick!

Join one side piece to the front, (use wood glue and then small tacks or screws, if you use the latter then remember to countersink your holes so that the screw heads don't stick thru the final covering), then the other side piece, and finally the centre panels. You may need to shave off some of the console for a better fit, but don't make it too big.

Now you can either cover the whole thing with vinyl, or that lovely plastic paint, or if you're really weird fur fabric!

I can't remember who did the center console and dash plans, but if you would like to have your name under them, please mail me and it will be done!

Dash/Interior Makeover

To liven up a dull, clapped out and grotty looking wood dash, that you're too scared to rub down and revarnish, here's the ideal solution for the brave hearted.

Buy a can of spray plastic paint, in any metallic or plain matt or gloss colour that takes your fancy, mask up the dash to avoid spray getting all over your dials and padded dash with masking tape and newspaper, and give it an even coat. Read the can to see how long it takes to dry, and when dry apply another coat until you're satisfied with the finish. Carefully remove the masking tape and Walla! New groovy dash. You can also use the plastic paint on other interior furniture such as door and window handles, gear knob, handbrake, infact anything you want colour co-ordinated. Just don't get too carried away!