Retro 359 Dash Conversion

For Your 379/389



Instrument Panel Kit 01-1510500

$399

Fiberglass dash structure 01-1510501

$1950

A/C cover (lower dash) 01-1503022

$299

What does this kit fit?

This kit is designed for your '87 – '04 (and some '05s) 379 Peterbilt.

It can be fit in newer 379s as well as 389s thru current. There is just a little more work involved.

What is involved in installing this kit?

1. Of course your entire existing dash will be removed. Your best friend during this process will be a roll of masking tape and a sharpie! Maybe even your trusty camera phone!

NOTE: Make sure you label all wires, air lines, etc. since they will all be coming out. This will make your reinstallation process much easier!

2. Your new dash panels still need cut for your gauges, warning light cluster, switches, A/C vents, etc. so you get to lay the dash out however you like. Once you have decided this, you can start cutting the panels. Most of the gauges will take a 2 1/16'' hole saw (or a 2'' hole saw and a de-bur bit). For the rest a dremel tool and/or a jig saw should do the job.

   If you'd rather, we can cut the dash panels to your specifications.

   (Price is on a per job basis)

3. The dash structure will need pre-fit in the truck and bolted in place. The main structure will bolt at the bottom of the windshield and at the bottom of the panels. (Some very simple bracketry may need made here)
   It is not uncommon to have to do a little trimming around the edges or at each end of the dash during this step

4. Next, provided your truck is a '87 – '04 or some '05s you will pre-fit the lower A/C cover portion of the dash.

5. Probably the most ''complex'' and frequently asked about part of this job is the A/C ducting. You will need to complete the ducting to the provided plenum for the defrost vents on top of the dash and to any vents you put in the panels.
   We typically start with some universal 3'' or 4'' rubber HVAC ducting from a local auto parts store or your local hot rod shop. It is usually black with a wire spool inside to help it keep shape (kinda like dryer vent hose)
   This can be used to get from your plenum to your vents in the dash and defrost vents.
   You will likely need to cut and reshape a few of the plenums in the truck to connect the new HVAC ducting. 3M makes some really good products for plastic repair that work wonders for cutting and reshaping your plenums.
   Next we prefer to use thin sheet metal to make small plenums to attach your new ducting behind your individual vents. This can be gotten from your local home supply/hardware store in the HVAC/ducting section. It can be easily cut with tin snips and formed by hand.
   Use a professional strength ducting tape to secure your connections. (pick this up in the same section of your hardware store that you got the sheet metal)

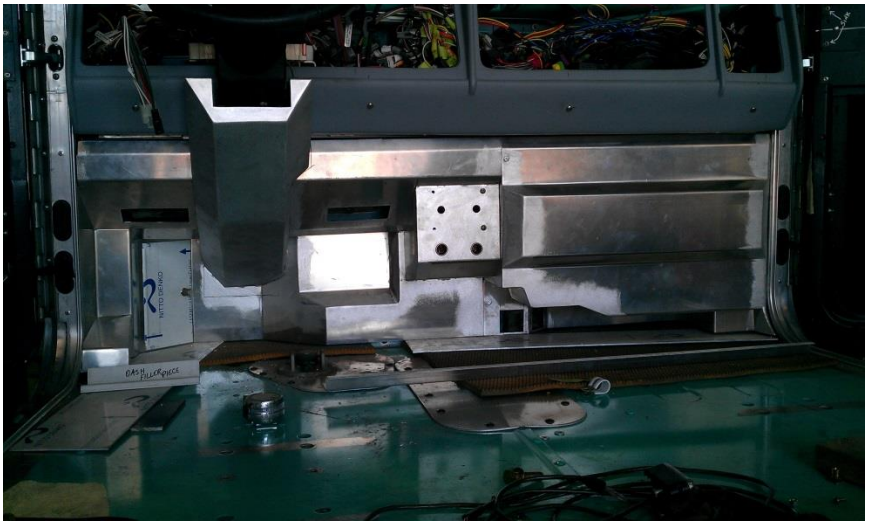
6. Once all this is done, you are ready to take it all back out of the truck and get it painted or vinyled, then do your final install. (this is the part where you'll really appreciate that roll of masking tape and sharpie!!!

What if I have a newer 379 or a 389?

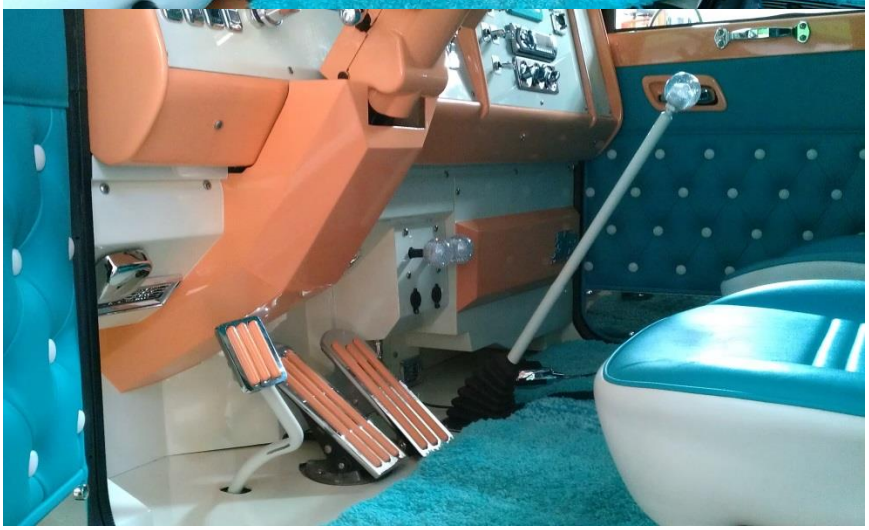
I wish I had a simple answer here but the truth of it is you have a lot bigger job ahead of you. Quite a few changes were made to these trucks affecting the lower dash and unfortunately we don't have another option for the lower dash. This means that the lower dash has to be completely fabricated. Here are a few pictures of what we have done to give you some ideas.







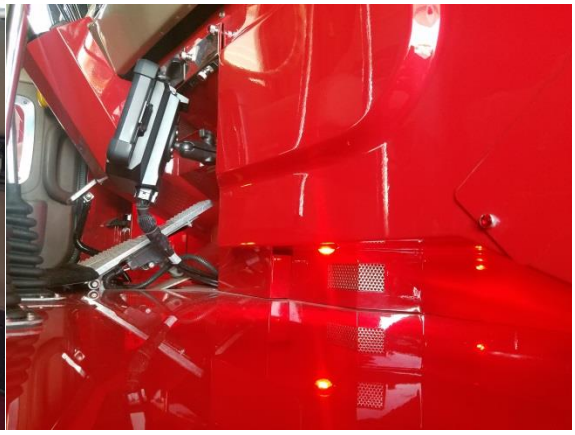

379











Of course the advantage of this is getting a true 1 of a kind interior!!!

My truck is a '05. How do I tell the difference?

Probably the 2 easiest ways to tell are that you will have the more rounded off dash in the newer style trucks and the thresh-holds by the doors will be the wider plastic thresh-holds instead of the narrow metal ones.

Ok so I'm ready to get started. How long does this job take?

For our guys in the shop, we figure about 40 hours for this job in a '04 and older, plus the paint work.
If the truck is a '06 or newer, we add about 40 hours to that for building the lower dash.
In other words between parts, install, fabrication, paint labor and material, you can figure on spending around $8750 for a '04 and older and $12,750 for a '06 and newer.