

Aligning Door on 1964 Corvette

Background

I removed the left door on my corvette to replace the weather stripping around the door. It seemed when I reinstalled the door, it never properly aligned. I marked the hinges before I removed the door by drilling a small hole in each hinge and the door. In the meantime, I had had the car repainted and was hoping the painter would realign the door, but that did not happen.

Process

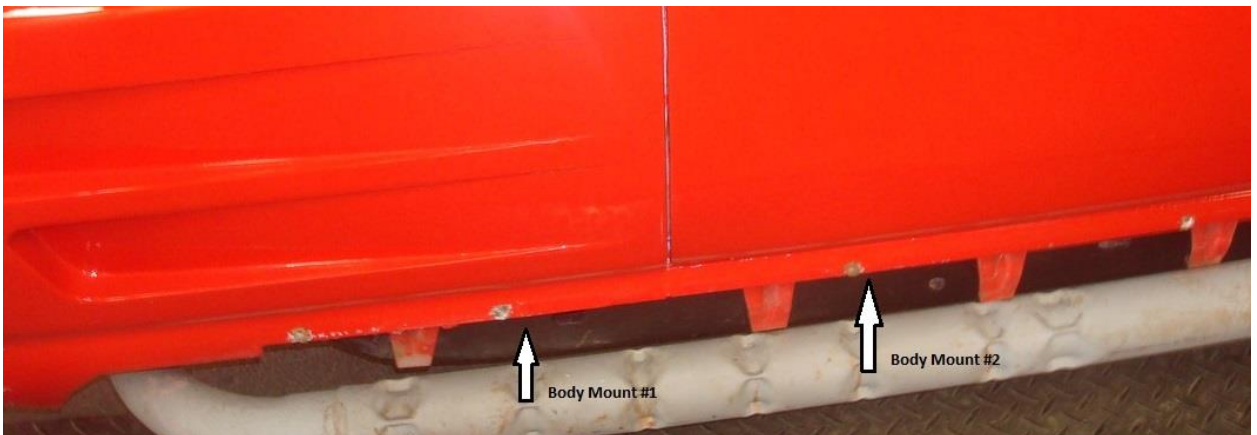
I took the car to Joe Eyl's house to have him guide me on getting the door aligned. See where the rear of the door seems to be lower than the rear quarter panel. It's difficult to see, but the distance between the 2 arrows, shows the improper alignment.

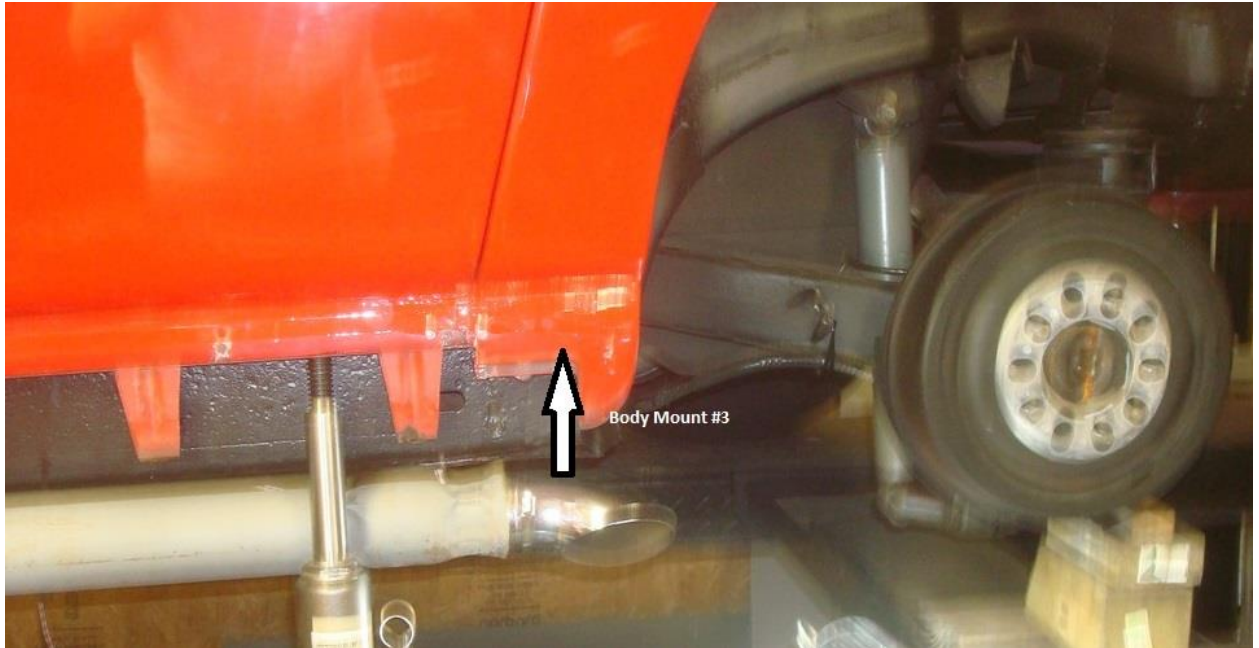


I assume that we would just reposition the hinges that I had previously worked on. Joe looked at the gap at the front edge of the door and determined that approach would not work. Since that gap was pretty well aligned, raising the door on the hinges would make that gap uneven.



So we were going to re-shim the front half of the car where the body mounts to the frame. Along one side of the car there are 4 body mounts on my car. One just in front of the firewall, second one toward the front of the door, third mount in front of rear wheel opening, and last one behind rear wheel.





In effect we are positioning the front of the car along with the door to point up higher to align with the rear fender. We will use body shims to accomplish this.



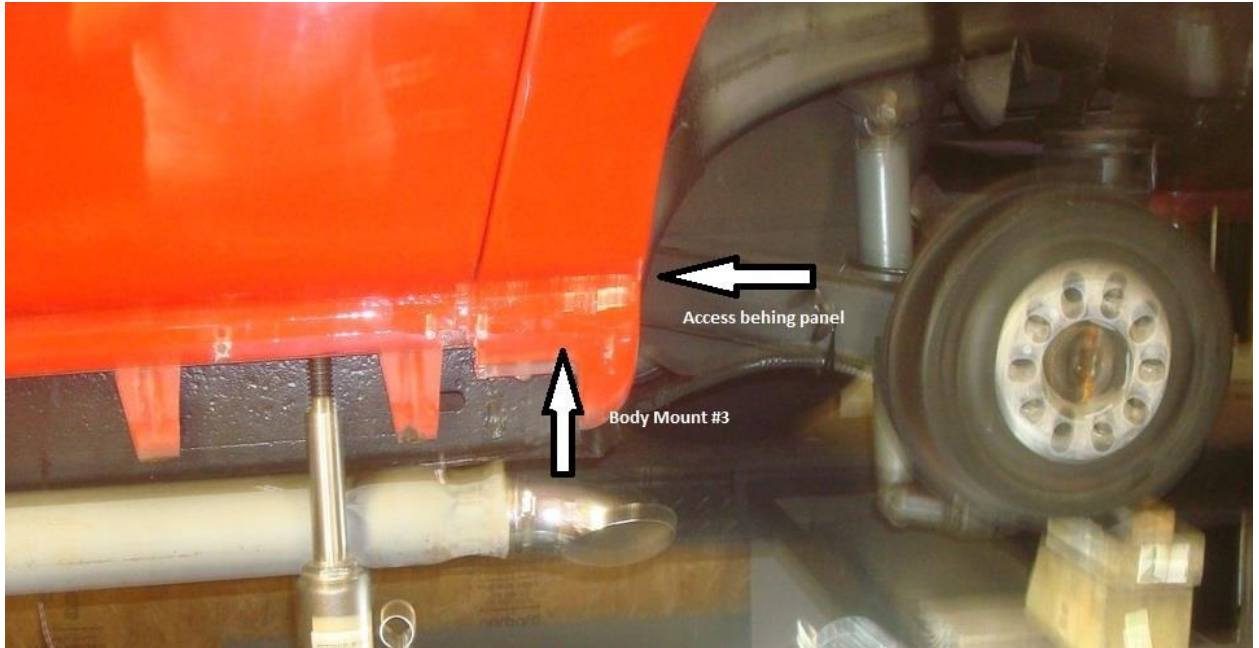
Joe directed me with the number or thickness of shims to raise the car at Body Mount 1 and 2. We raised both of these positions approximately 3/8 of an inch and I removed one thin shim at Body Mount 3.





There is very little space between the body mount bracket and the body of the car. We had to remove a splash shield at the front body mount and used a bolt to hold the shims for the second body mount. With a little working, we managed to get the shims in place and slightly tighten them down to see how our alignment was working.

The Number 3 body mount is accessed through a panel within the fender well. We removed one small shim from here to help lower the rear fender to aid in aligning the door.



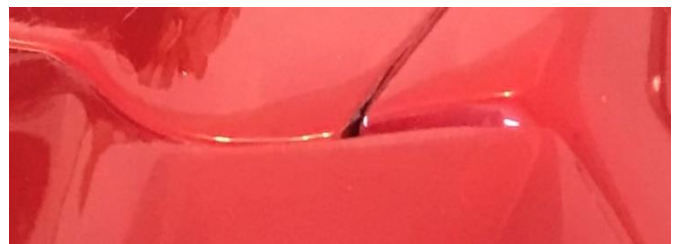
At this time the door was just a little bit low to the fender. So we loosen the bolts holding the door hinges and using wood shims under the door attempted to raise the rear just a little bit. The Door and the rear fender aligned perfect.

Now we needed to adjust the door fastener to match the door. We loosen the striker plate but could not get it high enough to align with the door. We attempted to open the holes in the body to get it to go up more, but this failed. We determined that the plate behind the door jam can only go up and down a limited amount, and this was not sufficient for us to get the door aligned properly. We decided to lower the door just enough to get the door to align with the striker plate. With this, there is a slight misalignment with the door and the rear fender, but well within the tolerances as it came from the factory. It actually matches the same as the other door.

I now have to reinstall the door panel inside and the side pipe covers. Oh yes, put the rear tire back on the car.



Before Aligning Door



After Aligning Door -

Results

I am very pleased with the results and hope to have many good times driving this beautiful car.
I cannot thank Joe enough for his expertise and effort in helping me align these doors.
Our QC NCRS club is very good at helping out each other when needed.

