

In January my XC90 was hit by broadside whilst I was entering a parking lot.

Other than being pushed sideways, the Volvo's frame was undamaged, but the sheet metal cladding and doors were fairly well dented. Airbags were deployed and the crash data recorder shut down the engine. I replaced the airbags (\$300) and had to restore the default values to the crash data recorder before the engine would start. This took 6 weeks to figure out and execute.

I did not intend to begin the body work until I could get the engine running. I wrote an article about that experience, which is attached to this email. (See article: *Post-Crash Volvo XC90 Fuel Pump Reactivation*)

Most folks would total the car, but I decided it was a good way to spend my social isolation time.

The doors were removed and bent sheet metal cut way to determine damage extent.

Several trips to area LKQ salvage yards were required to secure replacement doors and replacement sheet metal. Many 6-hour days were required to affect the precision cuts to existing and donor cladding to butt and fit the donor body cladding to the remaining cladding and frame attachment points.

Soon, I shall fire up the MIG welder and spot weld the donor cladding in place. I'd repaired the welder, which was given to me, and it'd been in the garage waiting for a project.

Once the body panel is in place, miracle putty (a/k/a Bondo) will be applied to smooth the joints, then primed and painted.

I paid \$80 each for doors and \$50 for the body panel which I cut from a donor vehicle. To remove the donor body panel, each spot weld had to be carefully cut to free the panel from the vehicle frame. Next, I'll paint and fit the doors to complete the project.

This restoration required some new tools, hydraulic body/frame cylinders to straighten bent cladding (\$250), spot weld cutters (\$50), a pneumatic sheet metal saw (\$20) and pneumatic body sander (\$30).

I've {saved} a thousand dollars or so on this project and have learned quite a bit.

These projects are my salvation as real work and critical thinking are required.

Here are some photos.



Wheel Well



Hydraulic Body Tools



Body Panel



Final Fit



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He'll respond to Volvo questions in an easy to understand manner.