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Alcantara Steering Wheel Re-Wrap For \$80.00

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DIY: Do It Yourself

Post here to share or improve your wrench turning skills! All BMW E46 DIY tips, tales, and projects discussed inside. Learn to work on your car and know the right BMW parts you will need!



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05-01-2008, 11:34 AM

#1

coby1

Just Road Miles



Join Date: May 2006
Location: Georgia
Posts: 705
My Ride: 325i sport pkg
[View My Garage](#)

Alcantara Steering Wheel Re-Wrap For \$80.00

Before you read this thread it is meant for the cheap/more time than money type person(this process took about 5hrs not including the 2hrs it took me to type this damn thread)and of course its for someone that has an worn out alcantara [wheel](#) and wants to try to make it new and purrry again..

Start by purchasing Alcantara or durasuede on Ebay you will need about 1 1/2yards just because of the length of pattern(you will have a lot leftover)you can find deals for odd size pieces.I had originally bought some blackish grey about a year ago just for the purpose of Re-Wrapping my wheel/But then i replaced my leather shift boot with blk durasuede and liked the color better so i went with black durasuede instead(i used the grey alcantara for a pattern and sent it to a seamstress to cut and sew the pattern out of Durasuede)When you get the fabric you need to make a pattern.

The pattern was the part i had to figure out i was trying to freehand it with no success then i figured out a trick - i used tape(a rednecks friend)start by removing your [steering wheel](#) <http://www.my330i.com/mod23.php> then take masking tape (small 1" and large 2") and start putting it on your wheel start with the small(1" tape) and "split" the seam in half one length of tape on one side one on the other(view pictures its kinda hard to explain)



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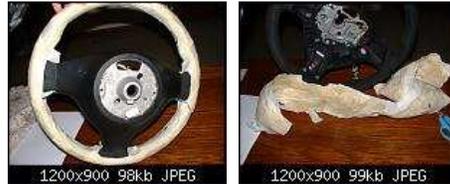


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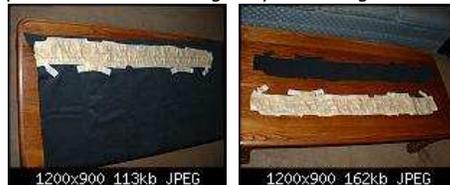
tape up the whole wheel following the stitched seam



then carefully peel off the tape (cut the tape pattern at the bottom of the wheel(just like the original fabric you can see a seam where it was sewn together)the tape will be sticky but will un-stick pretty [easy](#) .



Make sure to keep the tape pattern from getting stuck together. straighten the pattern and put on top of your fabric(the pattern should be about 43" long) i had to add about 1" to the length of the top portion of my pattern(found out after my first cut pattern was too short//somehow the tape pattern lost some length by not being able to stretch it out(too easy to tear)



cut your pattern(leave extra length at the ends so it can be sewn together) and then dry fit it to your wheel (use a large needle to connect the ends together) and then use rubber bands or tape to keep different areas down while you are checking pattern



(what you want to check for is for over lapping of fabric where the inner edges come together/you dont want overlap you want edges to just barely meet/ or barely not meet is best/trim if needed when you get a good fit.you then need to make a drawing of the pattern so the seamstress knows what you want done.I had measured the length of the stitches on my wheel beforehand and how far from the edge they were//What you need to do is to have the seamstress to sew a stitch along the edge of pattern(there is just a few points that dont need it shown on my drawing)



the stitches that run along the edge need to be long enough so you can hook the "laceing"thread through them// I measured the stitches to be 3/16th long & about 2/16th from the edge of pattern (make sure they use a strong leather type thread and have them give you some to lace the pattern) Dont even think about doing the M3 color stitch it would be way to hard to do(when you lace this thing up some stitching will look perfect /some stitches will not be so even /so color stitches will magnify any imperfections)get the pattern sewn(make sure the connect point is tightly sewn.then dry fit it to your wheel line it up and then use the rubber bands to hold it in place (it makes easy-er to sew and keeps it lined up)



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Now comes the real pain in the A\$\$ part sewing it together(took me about 3hrs)To lace it up i started on the backside (the 9:00 position)wrap the "ears around from the front and start lacing the ends together (you dont have to be fancy with this its on the backside and you wont see it anyway and go from there and work towards the top portion of wheel



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(i started in that direction to allow for a learning curve you wont see the top inner edge and any mistakes wont show the bottom part of the wheel you will see the stitching so you need to make it perfect)//i used a long needle for most of this process and had to use a hook needle for the tight parts(make sure to use a long piece of thread so you dont run out in the middle of your pattern. as far as the stitching goes when you look at your wheel it looks like its sewn together in an xxxxxx type stitch but it is really one thread that is sewn in a zig zag type pattern and when the seam is pulled tight it looks like the xxxx This is another part thats hard to explain when the 2 edges of the cover meet together the edge stitches will look like ===== what you want to do is hook one of the seams and jump one stitch and work back n forth skipping a stitch on both edges it will give you the crisscross look like this /\V\V\V\V\ you need to keep your thread from getting tangled while doing this so take your time also you dont really have to worry about keeping the threads tight they stay together what i did was loosely sew like 3 or 4 /\V\ then pull it tight and it would stay put



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1200x900 108kb JPEG

when finished everything looks allmost perfect except for the 9:00 and 3:00 position you can see it looks a bit loose(it is hard to make it perfect due to the shape/and how you have to wrap it around the back and sew it) You should be able to correct this by glueing the the area under this to make it smooth(i think the original cover was done this way)I didnt do this yet because my cover below this was still in good shape and i didnt want to mess it up(just in case this process did not work)it will be easy to correct i may do it later or not but anyway here are some pictures of finished product



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1200x900 151kb JPEG



1080x492 48kb JPEG



1200x900 134kb JPEG

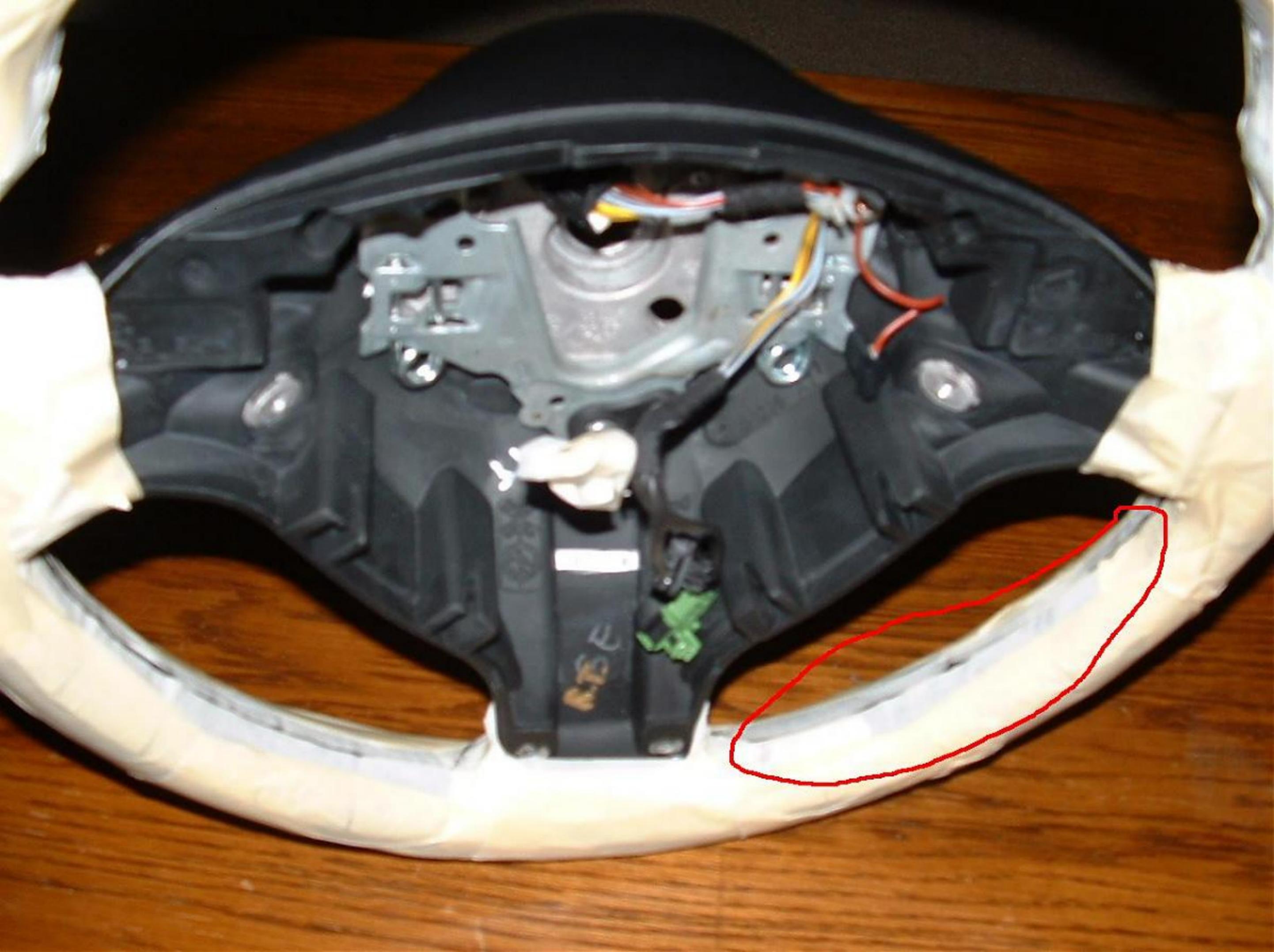
// call me crazy call me cheap but all in all i think it looks pretty good and the price was right.. :D



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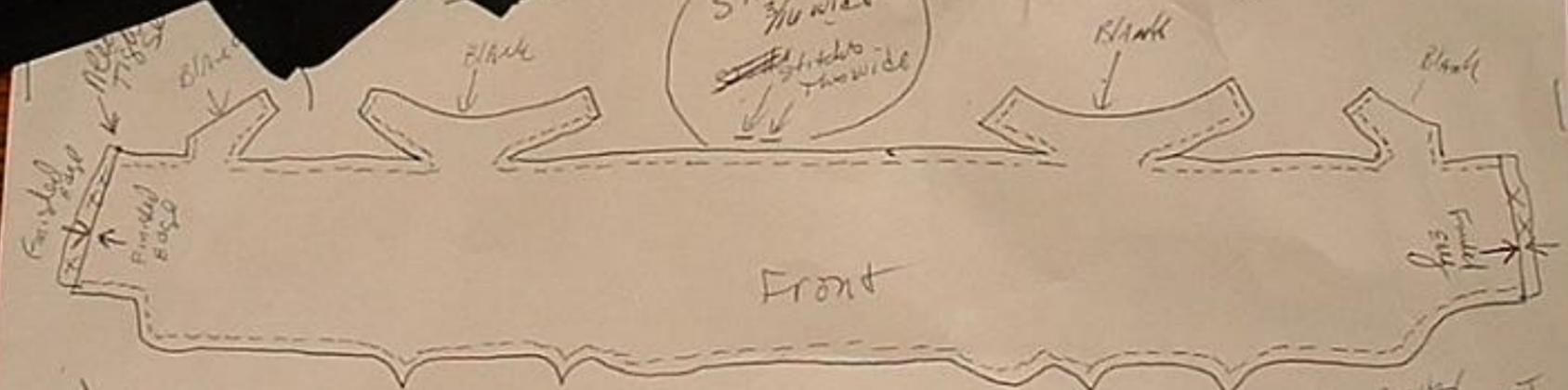




STITCHES 7/6 FROM EACH EDGE

STITCHES 7/6 WIDE

Any questions please email ~~me~~



Make Arrows for sew together

This line is to make one side will fit snug

The thread used to lace this pattern is not thicker than normal like leather

The BOMBS STITCH IS ALMOST LIKE NORMAL SIZE THREAD























SEWING MACHINE
STITCHES ON BOTH
SIDES OF LEATHER
SEAMS

HAND STITCH
(ZIG-ZAG) BETWEEN
MACHINE STITCHES

