

SHOP TALK

VOLUME 1

CHAPTER 4

When we left off last we were fixing major rust damage on the cabinets of a fire truck. We had fixed the worst case problem by welding in a new piece. So what we had left to fix was the dividing rail of the cabinets and the inside. We also have a problem of rust with the front of the cabinet but it was no where near as bad as the back piece.



Dividing Rail (rust damage)



Inside front cabinet damage.



Front cabinet damage.

None of these problems were very big and not much damage to the apparent material of the truck. The first thing we chose to work on is the dividing rail. We took a disc grinder and ground out all the rust down to the bare metal. After we removed all the rust we filled in the low spots with weld. We used a .035 wire welder and made small weld areas until able to build up all the low spots. Once this was archived we took the disc grinder and ground the material flat.



We did the same thing with the front of the cabinet. The small hole was ground out and welded up. Then we purchased panel plates cut to size. The front piece was a 304 stainless 2B finish 1/16 thick. After trimming the plate to size we riveted the plate in place.



On the inside of the cabinet we took the same approach. We ground and welded the bad spots, and then we used aluminum diamond plate which we had precut to size and then riveted it into place.





Prior to putting in the aluminum diamond plate and stainless sheet we used an etching primer to protect the bare material. The diamond plate did a good job of covering the steel plate that we welded in the back in the last issue of “Shop Talk”. The truck is now ready to send off to the body and paint shop where they can do there magic and finish the truck.

Written By Darrell Gilbert © 2006