

# YOU CAN DO IT EASY UPGRADES

by Randy Irwin

## 1955-72 RETRACTABLE SHOULDER HARNESS 3-POINT SEAT BELTS



### Randy Irwin - Technical Writer

Randy has been involved in the Chevy parts business for over 25 years. He is a wizard at creating, making and modifying custom parts for Chevys.

Remember when a car actually came without seat belts? It wasn't until the mid-1950's that US car makers began offering seat belts. These days the first thing you install to make your classic safer is a set of lap seat belts. Installing seats belts can be done at home in the driveway with simple hand tools and will give you huge peace of mind when driving your classic down the road. A lap belt will keep you in the seat if you are ever in an accident but a 3-point lap and shoulder belt is the best and safest way to go. Proper anchoring of the upper point has always been a concern of ours, but the manufacturer, Custom Autosound, has engineered special bolt-in hardware to make the installation simple and safe. The colors match the current lap belt colors we stock. This fully retractable seat belt system can be used on a 2-door sedan or wagon, 2-door hardtop or convertible front seat. Anchor systems for 4-door sedans and wagons are not yet available.



35-301

### Parts Needed:

- 35-300 Black Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-301 Red Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-302 Tan Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-304 Green Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-305 Silver Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-306 White Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-307 Brown Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-308 Dark Blue Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-309 Gray Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-310 Turquoise Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-311 Ivory Retractable Seat Belt

### Parts Needed: (continued)

- 35-312 Maroon Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-314 Blue Retractable Seat Belt
- 35-315 Dark Green Retractable Seat Belt

To order parts call 1-800-456-1957 or visit [ClassicChevy.com](http://ClassicChevy.com)

### Tools Needed:

- Electric Drill With 1/2" Drill Bit
- 5/8" Wrench
- 5/8" Socket and Ratchet
- Ruler

### Time Frame:

3-Hours



Photo #1a & 1b & Diagram:

The seat belt retractor bracket bolts to the floor of the car with a 7/16" X 1-1/4" fine thread bolt, lock nut and flat washers. The bracket mounts as close to the inside of the inner quarter panel as you can place it and just forward of the rear seat. Drill a 1/2" hole in the floor in the desired location. Be sure not to drill through the carpet as this will destroy the pile. Cut the hole in the carpet with a razor knife.

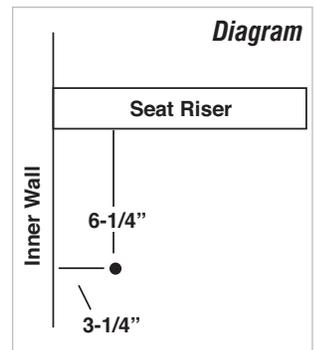
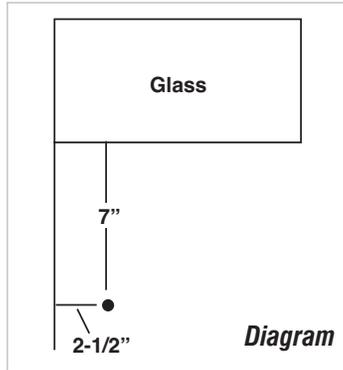
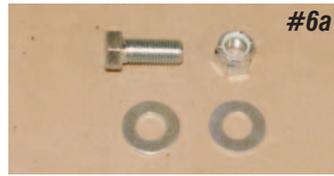


Photo #2a & 2b: The 7/16" bolt and small flat washer pass through the bracket and floorboard. Install the large flat washer and lock nut on the bottom side of the floor and tighten.



**Photo #3a & 3b & Diagram:**

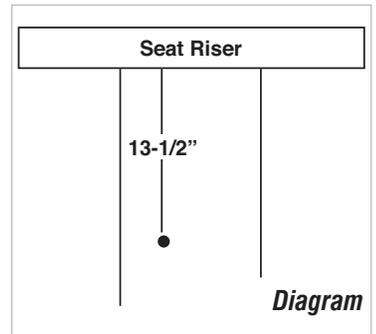
The upper seat belt slide attaches to the upper inner quarter panel on a hardtop or convertible. The hardtop/convertible bracket measures 1" X 2" with a 7/16" hole in the center. Drill a 1/2" hole in the inner quarter panel skin 7" down from the top edge and 2-1/2" back from the door jam.



**Photo #6a, 6b & 6c:** The seat belt retractor and the end of the seat belt are held to the floor bracket with a 7/16" X 1" bolt with two flat washers and a lock nut. Mount the retractor to the rear hole on the bracket and the end of the seat belt to the forward hole.



**Photo #4a & 4b:** The upper seat belt slide has a 7/16" X 1" bolt that passes through the inner quarter panel and bolts solid to the 1" X 2" bracket. Tighten the bolt and install the plastic cover. The cover can be painted to match the interior if so desired.



**Photo #7 & Diagram:** The clasp end of the seat belt anchors to the driveshaft tunnel. Drill a 1/2" hole 13" forward of the rear seat riser and half way up the driveshaft tunnel.



**Photo #5a & 5b:** On a 2-door sedan, wagon or Nomad, there is a slot in the forward quarter glass body channel metal. To access the channel, the vertical fuzzy channel must be temporarily removed. The upper seat belt anchor bracket can be fed through the slot in the body. Drill a 1/2" hole 5" up from the base of the quarter window for the anchor bolt and upper belt mounting point. The bolt will thread into the bracket that is trapped in the body.



**Photo #8a & 8b:** The end of the seat belt is held to the driveshaft tunnel with a 1/2" X 1" bolt, a large and small washer and a lock nut.



**Photo #9a & 9b:** The seat belt retractor keeps the long part of the seat belt gathered up and the clasp end will lie on the front seat neatly. The retractor has an internal clutch just like your late model car that will engage in the event of a sudden stop or crash.

**Photo #10:** With the shoulder harness installed in your classic you and your front seat passengers will feel far safer taking the car for a cruise or on a long trip. The retractors will keep the belt gathered up leaving your interior nice and neat!  
Good Luck! ▼