

Tools needed

Ladder

Floor jack

2x4 for supporting the slide out or something similar

Step bit

Center punch

Drill bits

8" or longer ¼" drill bit

Drill press

7' long 2" wide straight edge or similar or even a straight 1x2 wood

2 - 1x4 pieces for spacers

Hand drill

Hand tools: tape measure, pencil, square, hammer, various sockets

Materials

Purchased from Metal Mart but even Mueller

1 pc. - 8' 6" - 2" x 2" 11 gauge steel to be cut later

1 pc. - 7' 6" - 2" x 2" 11 gauge steel to be cut later

All this was purchased from Lowes

1 - Can of flat or satin black spray paint (Krylon dries way faster than rustolium)

4 - 5/16" x 2" stainless steel bolts

4 - 5/16" Lock nuts - stainless steel

4 - 5/16" regular flat washer - stainless steel

4 - 5/16" Fender washer - stainless steel

4 - 5/16 x 1.5" Neoprene washers

4 - 5/16 x ¾" Neoprene washers

4 - 3/4" Plastic plugs

8 - 9/16" Plastic plugs

8 - #12 x 1" self-drilling Sheet metal screws

1 - 6" long x 1/4" carriage bolt and nut to use to pull the bow out.

This is how I did the mod and by no means the only way to do this so if you have a better way then please do so and share it. Also you do this at your own risk and I assume no liability for this mod. It worked great for me and I'm very pleased with the outcome.

This is going to sound like a lot of steps but it should only take a few hours to do this mod if you have everything you need, especially a good drill press with an adjustable vice mounted to it. I lightly supported the slide out with a few pieces of 2x4 and a floor jack when installing the mod and I also taped a piece of paper over the slide out switch so I wouldn't accidentally try to move the slide with the cribbing under the slide. Good luck and here you go.

Lightly support slide out and cover the switch or pull the fuse. Make contact with the jack and an extra 1/8" to 1/4" will do. Just enough to support it.

Start by spacing your straight edge from the fascia trim on the slide out with the 1x4 scraps and mark the location with a pencil from floor to ceiling.

Either remove the ceiling trim and cut and reinstall later or mark it and cut it with a reciprocating sonic saw.

Using a hand drill and a small 1/16" bit or similar and drill a series of holes in the lauan paneling to locate the header 1x3. Do not drill through the header! Just use the small bit as a probe. Drill the holes inside the pencil marks so they will be hidden with the steel columns later. You will hit a void above and below the header so you know where the header is. Mark the header precisely with a pencil.

After you have marked the location of the header make a mark 1/2" down from the top mark and 1/2" up from the bottom mark. These will be the marks you will measure to for drilling the steel column.

Measure the steel column from floor to ceiling. I made mine an 1/8" short to make it easier to install it and used a wedge under it to make it tight to the ceiling when drilling and installing it later.

Measure the marks you made for the header from the ceiling then mark the column with the measurements. Also mark two holes at the top and bottom 9/16" up from bottom and 9/16" down from ceiling and 9/16" in from both sides.

Use a center punch to mark all the holes then install a 1/4" bit into the drill press.

Using the drill press drill all 6 holes all the way through the steel column with the 1/4" bit.

Using the step bit drill the 2 top and 2 bottom holes out to 9/16" from the face side. These holes will be used to get the sheet metal screws in and the plastic plugs to cover the fasteners.

Next dry fit the column to the wall tight to the ceiling and install 1 self-tapping screw to the bottom and top to hold it in place.

Using a long 1/4" drill bit carefully drill the two holes through the header and all the way through to the outside.

Remove the column.

Using a 5/16" bit ream the two holes through the header and wall and also the back side of the column.

Using the step bit drill the front two holes to 3/4" for the plastic plugs and to get the nuts and socket in there.

Sand, clean and paint the column and set it aside to dry. Krylon only takes an hour to dry.

Mount the column to the top and bottom with the self-tappers and install the plastic plugs.

You may have to run the 5/16 bit through the wall and column again to help insert the bolts.

You might need to take a long 5/16 or 1/4" bolt and nut and use it to pull the bow out so you can install one of the lock nuts inside the column then remove the long bolt and install the second nut.

Install the plastic plugs and there you have it. While you're at it, lube the slide like the Lippert video shows and I even lubed all 4 roller axles from outside and inside and vacuumed any junk that was under the carpet flap on the inside. The slide is noticeably smoother.

I think my next mod is to install some 4" or 6" wide aluminum strips under the slide out where the rollers are. I think it would protect the bottom from wear and very slightly lift the slide up a fraction of an inch.











