

# Hinge Pillar Reinforcement Sectioning

## Front Inner Hinge Pillar

### Removal

**IMPORTANT:** Sectioning of the inner reinforcement panel can only take place with outer door frame replacement or sectioning procedures. Sectioning the outer door frame at the front hinge pillar requires a 25 mm (1 in) offset from the inner reinforcement sectioning joint. The inner reinforcement can serve as a backing plate for outer panel sectioning (Figs. 2-17).

1. Visually inspect and restore as much of the damage as possible to factory specifications.
2. Remove all related panels and components.
3. Position all wiring out of the way to prevent damage to vehicle.
4. Remove all sealers and anti-corrosion materials as necessary.
5. On the original reinforcement panels measure from the large wiring harness hole in the pillar and mark a horizontal line (Fig. 2-18).
6. Cut the inner reinforcement along this line for sectioning.
7. Locate and mark all factory welds. Note the number and location of welds for installation of the service part.
8. Drill out all factory welds as necessary.
9. Remove the damaged section of the inner reinforcement.

**IMPORTANT:** Note locations of the sound-deadening foam for installation.

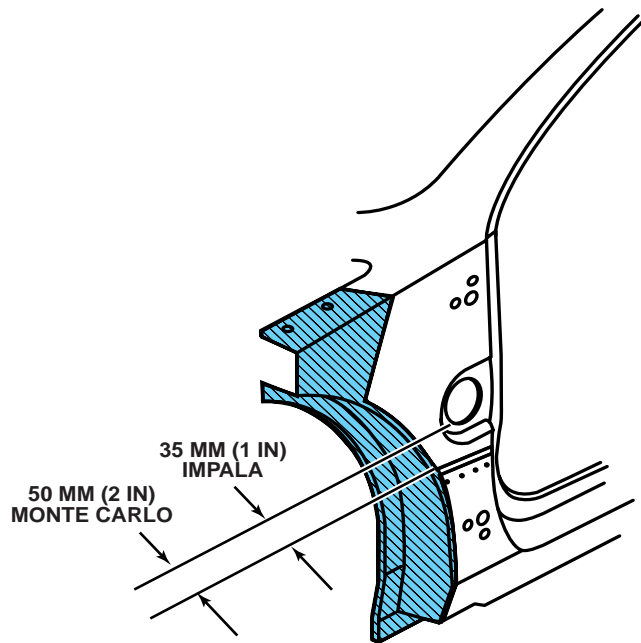


Fig. 2-17 — Remove Outer Hinge Pillar

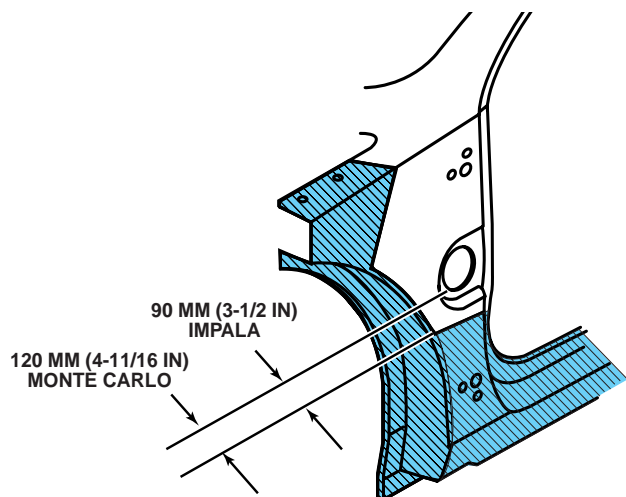
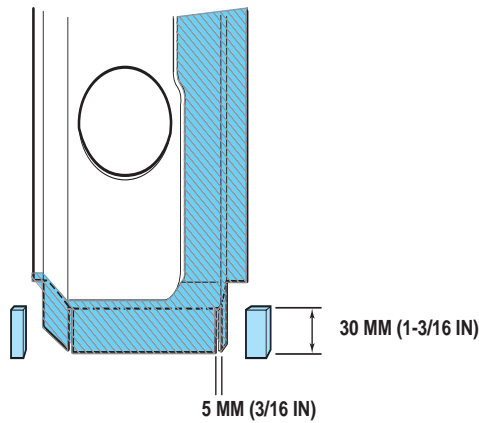
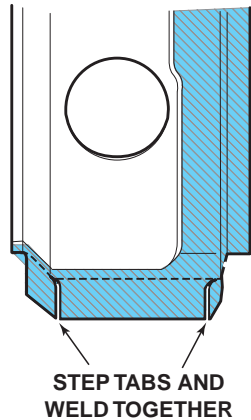


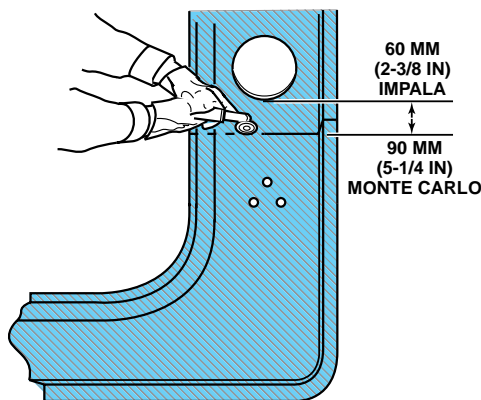
Fig. 2-18 — Measure Inner Hinge Pillar Reinforcement



**Fig. 2-19 — Cut Tabs on Original Pillar**



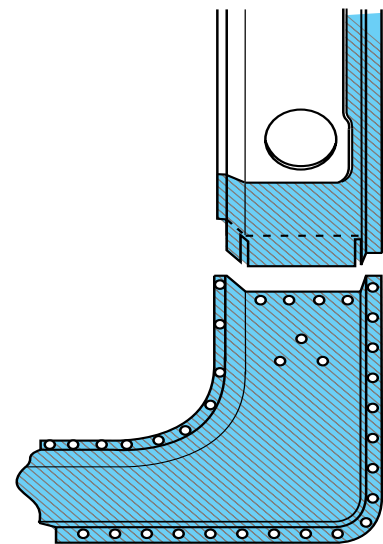
**Fig. 2-20 — Step Tabs Inward**



**Fig. 2-21 — Cut Hinge Pillar Reinforcement Service Panel**

## Installation

1. Cut and remove 30 mm (1-3/16 in) from the flanges on either side of the remaining section of the original hinge pillar to create a 30 mm (1-3/16 in) flange (Fig. 2-19).
2. Cut 5 mm (3/16 in) wide gaps in the bottom corners.
3. Step the tabs inward to allow the door frame inner reinforcement service section to fit over the original inner reinforcement (Fig. 2-20).
4. Weld the tabs together along the edges.
5. On the service, part measure down from the large wiring harness hole in the hinge pillar and mark a horizontal line (Fig. 2-21).
6. Cut the hinge pillar along this line.
7. Drill 8 mm (5/16 in) plug weld holes as necessary in the locations noted from the original panel (Fig. 2-22).
8. Drill plug weld holes along the sectioning cut of the service part.
9. Prepare mating surfaces and position the service section over the stepped tab on the original inner reinforcement.
10. Dimensionally, check and make sure the door hinge bolt holes are properly located.



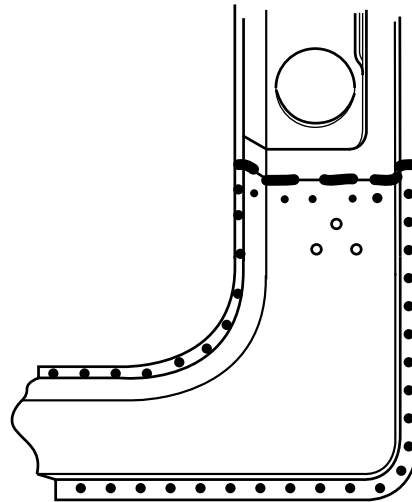
**Fig. 2-22 — Drill Modified Service Panel**

11. Plug weld accordingly.
12. Stitch weld along the entire joint (Fig. 2-23).  
Make 25 mm (1 in) welds along the seam with 25 mm (1 in) gaps between, then go back and complete the stitch weld. This will create a solid joint with minimal heat distortion.
13. Clean and prepare welded surfaces.

**IMPORTANT:** Prior to refinishing, refer to the publication GM4901M-D-2000 "GM Approved Refinish Materials" for recommended products. Do not combine paint systems. Refer to paint manufacturer's recommendations.

**IMPORTANT:** Apply the sound-deadening foam in the locations noted from the removal process.

14. Prime with two-part catalyzed primer.
15. Apply sealers and anti-corrosion materials as necessary.
16. Install all related panels and components.



**Fig. 2-23 — Stitch Weld**