

Cheap & Easy Fan Shroud

BY, JON BARRICKLOW, JB CUSTOM FAB., OREGON

After all the smoke clears from the arguments of exactly how much better a Bronco cools with a given fan shroud. I think that just about everyone agrees that getting the air through the radiator instead of swirling around in the engine compartment is preferred. There are many factors that affect the efficiency of cooling systems (I'm not going to go there) but one thing that I can tell you is: If you want your radiator to cool at low RPMs you have to cover as much of the fan with the barrel of the shroud as possible (compare it to making sure that the propeller of your boat is all the way in the water). This article tells how to fabricate your own fan shroud using basic materials.

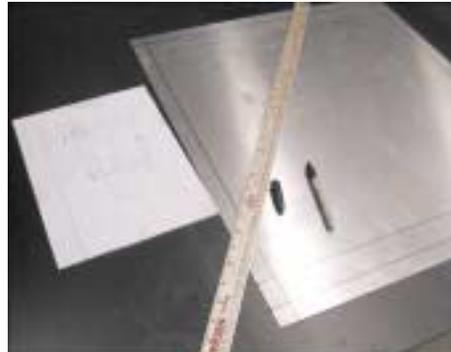
I suggest using .050" 50 aluminum sheet, it's easy to work with and if you want to get fancy, it can be brushed or polished. For a stock EB radiator you will need: 2 pieces: one 21" x 23 1/4" and one 4" x 70" (to be trimmed to smaller size depending on fan size and distance from fan to radiator).



Step 4: Drill 5/16" mounting holes and cut corners of shroud mounting flange to match the flange on the radiator.



Step 1: After removing the radiator, drill out the stock mounting nuts with a 5/16" drill bit.



Step 2: Transfer pattern onto aluminum sheet.



Step 5: cut out notches for stock mounting brackets (if needed).



Step 3a (the cheap method): Cut out corners



Step 3a (the cheap method): Bend into box.



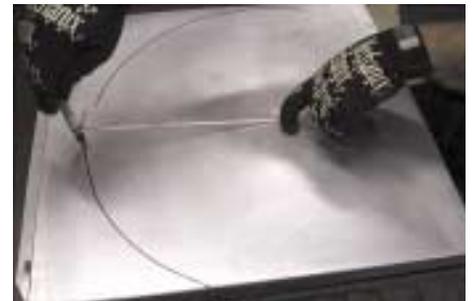
Step 6: With radiator in place mark the center of the fan on the box.



Step 3b (the easy method): Cut out corners



Step 3b (the easy method): Cut out corners



Step 7: Mark box making sure that that the fan will have room to move as the engine torques or the body flexes (1/2 - 3/4" between shroud and the end of the blades).



Step 8: Cut out center of box.



Step 9: After deciding how much of the fan to cover, create the barrel of the shroud by coiling a strip of aluminum to fit the hole in the box.



Step 10: Cut slits in the barrel to allow the barrel to slide over the box.



Step 11a (the cheap method): Attach barrel to box.



Step 11b (the easy method): Attach barrel to box. Yes...that was done with a Ready Welder!



Step 12: close up the air gaps where the barrel is outside of the dimensions of the box, and remove most of the box that is inside of the barrel (so the air can flow through and the fan will not hit the inside of the box).



Step 12: Fancy finish



Step 13: Install using 1/4" stainless bolts with ny-lock nuts.



Step 14: Enjoy!