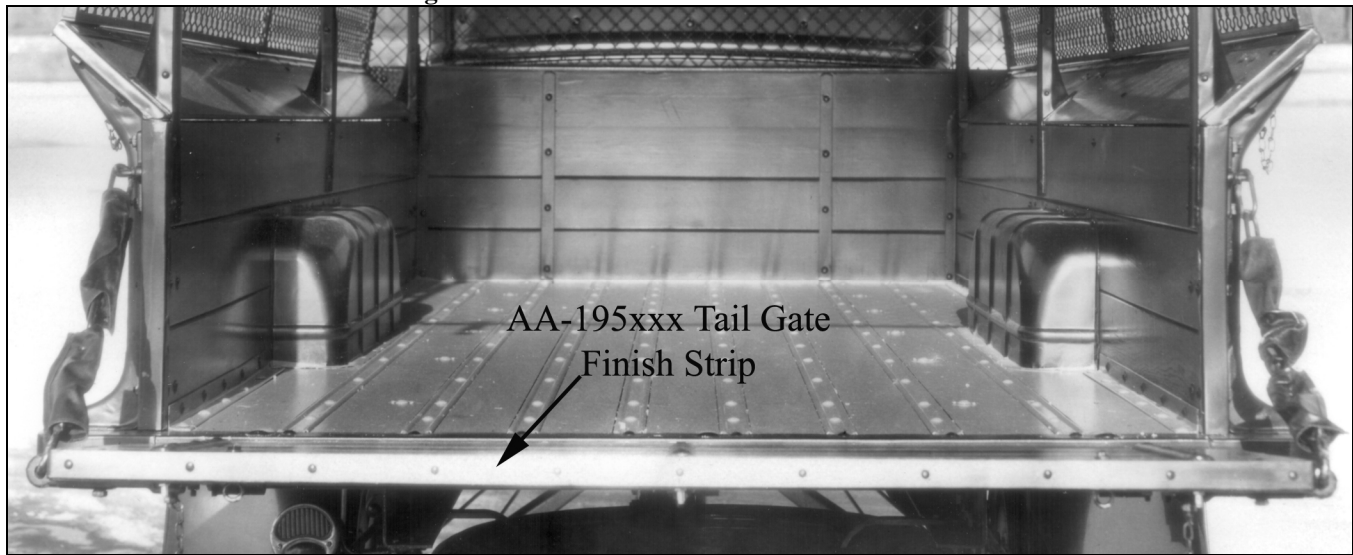


AA TRUCK TALK – THE 195-A & 197-A EXPRESS BODIES - update

By Neil Wilson of Boulder, Colorado – April 2012

Figure 1 – From Ford Archive Photo 8267 1-7-31



The following is an update of the above subject article which was published in the April 2005 newsletter.

The design and attachment of the tail gate finish strip (part number not known) is being changed based on an original example provided by Bud Valerius. The above photograph (figure 1) was the only information available at the time the 2005 article was published.

This tail gate finish strip covers the top and side edges of the tail gate. It is 1/8" x 1-1/4" strap metal. The edges of the strap metal are rounded (not squared off). So, a stock item can be bought for making a reproduction. Figure 2 shows a reproduction finish strip (top right side).

The finished tail gate assembly (ship lapped boards installed into the embossed metal panel) is slightly thicker than 1-1/4". So, the finish strip fits nicely on the edges with no overhang for cargo to catch on.

The finish strip is one piece which is bent at 90 degrees to run down both sides. I made mine to fit my original tail gate metal panel and it is 56-5/16" across the top (inside measurement). If I was to make another, I would probably cut, weld, and grind the two corners since it was hard to make the 90 degree bends nice and square using a vise, heat, and hammer.

There are nineteen (19) #12 x 1-1/2" oval head, slotted wood screws used to hold the finish strip to the tail gate edges. I am assuming the screws are oval head and not flat head based on the above photograph and the fact that oval head screws are used on the front finish strip and on the flare.

There are four screws on each side and eleven across the top. All screw holes are countersunk and centered across the 1-1/4" width.

The locations of the attachment screws are important so that they do not interfere with tail gate hinge carriage bolts and miss the areas on the side where the boards are ship lapped. Thus the screws have solid wood to hold to.

The top-center hole is 28-1/2" from one end (inside measurement). This is off center so that this wood screw misses the center hinge top carriage bolt. The screw holes are spaced 5-

1/2" from the center hole except for the screw holes on each end which are 15/16" from the end (inside dimension).

The finish strip sides are 15-7/16" long (inside dimension) which should be the bottom edge of the tail gate. The first counter sunk hole is 1-5/16" from the top (inside dimension). The other three holes are spaced at 4-1/2", 4", and 4-1/2".

All screw hole placement is based on Bud's original finish strip.

Figure 2 – Reproduction Finish Strip

