



# Mercedes W123 Front Seat Back Netting Repair

The bungee cord that supports the seat back netting is usually deteriorated to the point of not functioning. Fortunately, this is a 5 minute repair job that requires minimal tools and materials to restore to new condition.

Written By: Wes Brown



## INTRODUCTION

This guide will walk you through the following steps:

- 1) Removal of the seat back
- 2) Removal of the plastic netting trim
- 3) Removal of the original bungee
- 4) Details on cutting a new bungee cord
- 5) Installation of new bungee cord
- 6) Re-installation

### TOOLS:

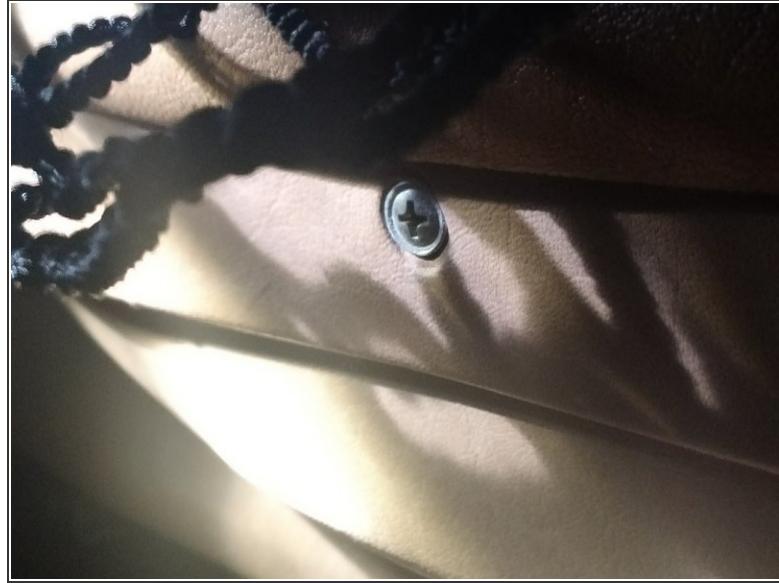
- [Phillips #1 Screwdriver](#) (1)

### PARTS:

- [Bungee cord](#) (1)
- [Zip Ties](#) (2)

*thin/low profile will be best*

## Step 1 — Remove Seat Back



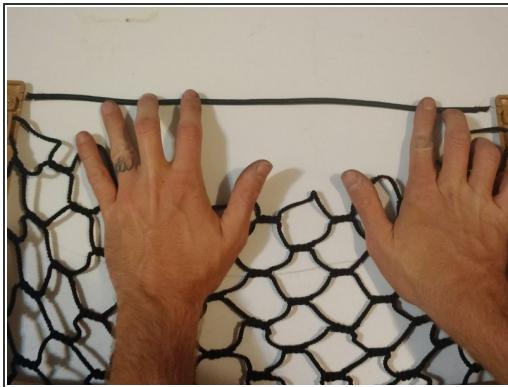
- Start by turning the seat angle adjusting knob clockwise so that the seat is leaning all the way forward. This is necessary for clearance.
- Using a phillips head screwdriver, loosen the single screw holding the seat back at the bottom of the seat.
- Remove the seat back by sliding it downwards towards the floor. Once it is approximately 50-70% down, it should clear its tracks with enough space to facilitate removal by pulling down and towards the rear seat. It should come out very easily.

## Step 2 — Disassemble Seat Back



- Unscrew the two phillips head screws on the back of the seat back. These hold the plastic netting trim into place.
- Once the screws are removed, the plastic trim is still retained by a system of clips. To loosen the clips, slide the trim "up" to relieve all but the two bottom center clips, then left/right to relieve the bottom center clips. At this point, the plastic trim is free of the seat back.
- Now, remove the old bungee from its retaining clips. It should come out quite easily. Remove the old bungee from the seat back netting.

## Step 3 — Replace Bungee



- Procure some bungee cord. You will want ~4 mm bungee cord which can be bought online or at some home improvement stores. In my case, I was able to salvage some from a kayak deck rigging kit.
- Cut the bungee cord to length. Approximately 16 inches seems to be a good length. You want the bungee to be slightly taught in the natural resting position. A good rule of thumb is that it should be just short of the width between its mounting points.
- The old bungee cord used crimped metal to retain the bungee in its clips. I didn't have this readily available, so I melted the ends of the bungee slightly to mushroom the ends out a little bit, then installed a thin zip tie to accomplish the same thing.
- You will have to stretch the bungee to clip it in to the other side, and this will temporarily deform the plastic trim until it is reinstalled into the seat back.

## Step 4 — Reassemble Seat Back and Reinstall



- Remember the trick about how the clips go--we're doing it in reverse now. First engage the bottom center clips (shown top in this image) in their top most position, then engage the side clips by pushing the plastic trim piece down.
- Don't forget to reinstall the two phillips head screws that retain the trim piece.
- With the seat in the car still all the way forward, you should be able to easily engage the seat back into its tracks, pushing it up until you can engage the screw at the bottom. Enjoy your restored seat back netting!

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.