bmzero 03-17-2008 09:32 AM

King Ranch Seats in 1997 F350

I have been looking for an earlier model Powerstroke for a while now. I finally bought one that was almost what I wanted, but the OEM cloth seats were worn pretty badly. I have always wanted to do a crew cab seat swap, so this seemed like a good vehicle to try that on.



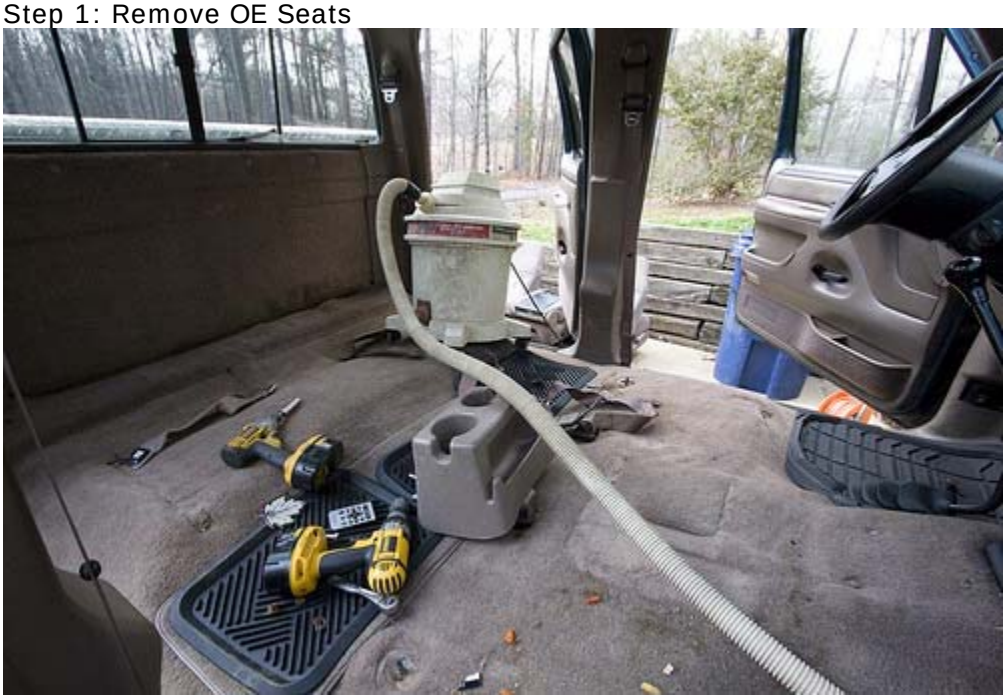
WITH HELP FROM MY DAD, we started on what we thought to be a massive undertaking.

I picked up all three King Ranch seats and console from a salvage yard in Griffin, GA (almost 4 hour drive from home) for a good deal ($800). I found the seats on Car-Part.com--Used Auto Parts Market.

OEM seats (driver's side is crap). This one isn't bad.



Step 1: Remove OE Seats



I never realized how much room is in a crew cab. I think you could play a game of tackle football in there without the seats in.

Step 2: Remove Cheetos

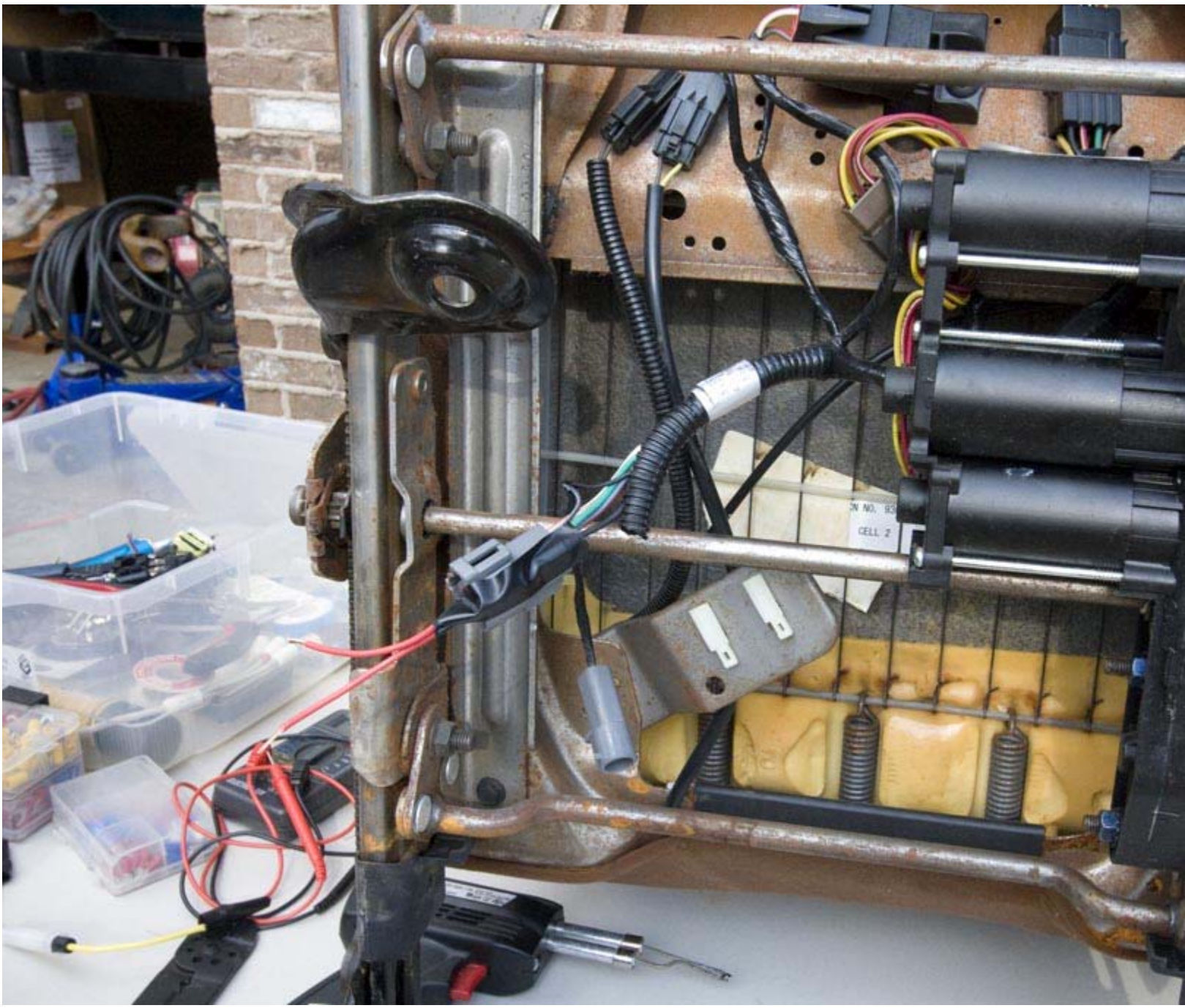


Wow, there's a lot of junk under the seats (and capet) of a 11 year old truck.

bmzero

Continued

Step 3: Determine the correct wires to tap into for electric seat functions. My dad still thinks he's an electrician, so this



Step 4: Notch new seat bracket so that I can lay it flat. Where the seats mount in the '97 is a flat surface, well at least v
floor. Cutting a triangular notch out of the bracket allowed me to lay it flat.



Step 5: Flatten Bracket. Then, weld. This was necessary on both front mounts on both front seats.



Next step: Remove Carpet, and clean like the dickens. I also took this opportunity to add some sound deadening materi
off").



I'm leaving out all of the tedious parts where we marked and drilled holes for the seats to mount to the floorboard. Anyo

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Still more

Finished Product:





Overall, I'm completely blown away with what a difference this made in my truck. I loved driving it before, but I enjoy it

Next Step:



I'm going to try to cover this dash piece in the same leather (albeit much thinner) as what's used in the seats. And while unrealistic) I would like to get the King Ranch logo burned (branded) into that leather. I know that may be impossible, b

BlindViper

03-17-2008 10:50 AM

Wow nice work I see you like your dewalt cordless impact too. They are the best thing since sliced bread :)

bmzero

03-17-2008 04:03 PM

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **BlindViper** (Post 1535510)
> *Wow nice work I see you like your dewalt cordless impact too. They are the best thing since sliced bread :)*

Yeah, probably the best tool, for the money, I've ever bought.

Thanks for the compliment.

AZStang

03-19-2008 02:46 PM

What an incredible transformation! I can't believe you got them for $800! My truck came new with aftermarket captains chairs in the front and they are shot. The estimates I got to rebuild and recover them in leather were over $2,000 for front and back. I need to find some salvage ones I guess. What year are yours from? Did any of the mounting holes line up? How did you fill the holes in the carpet where the old seats were?

Thanks,
Shawn

psu927

03-19-2008 04:00 PM

did you paint the door panels brown? How about the head liner? Also, did the seats have heat in them? That is one sweet truck. Exactly what I want.

psu927 03-19-2008 04:01 PM

btw doesn't look like it would work with a stick, correct?

91diesel 03-19-2008 04:21 PM

20 years old? you meant to say 11? :D Very nice job, though. I like the new seats. By stick you mean manual transmission, psu? It is a manual. I wonder, is it tight around the shifter area?

bmzero 03-20-2008 07:30 AM

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **AZStang** (Post 1537318)
> *What an incredible transformation! I can't believe you got them for $800! My truck came new with aftermarket captains chairs in the front and they are shot. The estimates I got to rebuild and recover them in leather were over $2,000 for front and back. I need to find some salvage ones I guess. What year are yours from? Did any of the mounting holes line up? How did you fill the holes in the carpet where the old seats were?*
>
> *Thanks,*
> *Shawn*

Thanks. These came from an '04. None of the mounting holes lined up, but other than the bracket modifications shown above, there was no major modification needed. Well, I take that back. I used the highly precise body molding "ball pin hammer" to clearance the middle runner for the rear seat. There is a little rise in the floor pan where the middle mount needs to go. Still, not a major ordeal.

I didn't bother filling in the holes in the carpet. You can't even see them unless you're looking.

bmzero 03-20-2008 07:31 AM

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **psu927** (Post 1537371)
> *did you paint the door panels brown? How about the head liner? Also, did the seats have heat in them? That is one sweet truck. Exactly what I want.*

No, the rest of the interior is stock. The seats do have heat in them (and memory actually), but I only hooked up power to the adjustment motors. I don't particularly care for the heating switch mount location. I hit the switch several times in my other SD's on the way in and didn't notice it until my butt was on fire. Then, the damage was done.

bmzero 03-20-2008 07:34 AM

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **91diesel** (Post 1537386)
> *20 years old? you meant to say 11? :D Very nice job, though. I like the new seats. By stick you mean manual transmission, psu? It is a manual. I wonder, is it tight around the shifter area?*

Wow, I don't know where 20 came from. Thanks for the catch. Original post edited. :lol:

Yes, it's a manual. Where I mounted the console right now, it shifts fine, but if I have an over-size cup in the cup holder it comes real close. I'm going to scoot it back a few inches to make some more room. Other than that, it's perfect. The console just mounts directly to the floor pan with two self tapping screws. It's no trouble to move back.

SlopeTruck

03-20-2008 12:22 PM

I used power Explorer buckets and a Dodge center console and it's way better then the stock seat BUT would love to pirate the seats out of my brothers King Ranch. Nice job and incredible price!!!

7.3addict

03-20-2008 03:06 PM

wow! that looks professional. Thats something i've always wanted to do but the cost is what has been holdin me back. Again nice work!!!

bmzero

03-21-2008 07:11 AM

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **7.3addict** (Post 1538049)
> *but the cost is what has been holdin me back.*

I thought the same thing, but I just went to car-part.com and searched for seats for a Super Duty and called all of the people listing King Ranch seats. Most places were $1000 (PER SEAT!!!). It just so happens that the place I bought mine from cut me a package deal for $1000 for all three and the console. It was worth the 4 hour drive. When I got there one of the mounting brackets was bent pretty badly. She knocked $200 off of the price. That's where the $800 came from. We actually had to cut a piece out of the seat frame, straighten it, and weld it back in to get it perfect. We spent about two hours straightening the brackets for that one seat (the small rear seat), but it was worth it in the long run saving another $200.

Thanks again for the compliments.

psu927

03-24-2008 04:31 PM

are your door panels a brownish color? In the pics it looks like they are don't you think? Or is it just playing tricks on me and is the actual gray?

gnxtc2

03-24-2008 06:53 PM

How did you mount the seats? Did you drill new holes or used some type of adapter plate to line up to the stock holes. Any pics of the mounting means?

Billy T.
gnxtc2@aol.com

bmzero 03-25-2008 07:15 AM

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **gnxtc2** (Post 1541189)
> *How did you mount the seats? Did you drill new holes or used some type of adapter plate to line up to the stock holes. Any pics of the mounting means?*

Due to the Super Duty seats sitting a little higher than the OE seats, using an adapter would have caused the seats to sit higher than I wanted.

Place the new seats (with uncut brackets) into the cab area once all OE seats and carpet was removed. Be sure the seat it not slid all the way to the front or rear. I chose a neutral position. From that you can get an idea of where you want them to sit. It just so happened for me that where I wanted them to sit would work great once I flattened the mounting brackets. That's why I cut the triangles out of them. Then, lay them flat and weld. Next, I placed them back into the cab and marked the holes with a Sharpie. I then drilled out those holes. Put the seats back in and bolt to the floor.

We just ran some 7/16" bolts through the floor and secured with lock nuts. This would be impossible with one person, so make sure you have someone in the cab to help you. You could go one step further and just tack the bolts to the floor from the under side of the truck, but I am hoping these seats never come back out again, so it wasn't that big of a deal to me. Plus, they're much less permanent this way if for some strange reason I needed to go back to OE seats.

I didn't take any pictures of the mounts, because there's just really nothing to see. Just a bolt through the floor. :icon_wink:

bmzero 03-25-2008 10:24 AM

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **psu927** (Post 1541111)
> *are your door panels a brownish color? In the pics it looks like they are don't you think? Or is it just playing tricks on me and is the actual gray?*

The OE interior is brown/tan.

BlindViper 03-25-2008 12:12 PM

You might want to ad something on the bottom side to keep the bolts from pulling threw in a accident.

CHRI7S 03-25-2008 12:17 PM

Nice Find & Write-up! I hope to be doing this in my OBS someday. Probably just gray leather though (gray interior...:icon_rolleyes:)

bmzero 03-26-2008 07:24 AM

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **BlindViper** (Post 1541684)
> *You might want to ad something on the bottom side to keep the bolts from pulling threw in a accident.*

Correct me if I'm wrong, but the force from an accident will be applied to the seat belts, which are still attached in their OEM location. The only force applied to the seats would have to come in a side impact, at which point nothing is going to hold the seats to the body. Also, there is probably more surface area covered by the Grade 8 washers (under the Grade 8 bolts) than the stock mounts cover.

Please don't take that the wrong way though. I appreciate any feedback on this project, even if it is negative. That's the only way we can all learn, myself included.

All times are GMT -5. The time now is 10:12 PM.

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