

# Restoring the Aluminum Hood for 9N292

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Really a lot of work on these first produced tractors. The hood as I got it had been repaired and polished, but when I began trying to get it together, I found it just would not fit the dash properly. So, among other things I had to fabricate a new rear bolt pattern plate and do some pretty complex welding.

Here are some photos:

Hood with dog legs in place before any serious machining. The tabs seen here still required milling to flatten and drill and tap for the grill. The grill required drilling to match tabs and to properly fit for width. Quite a bit of work and trial fitting to get right.



The rear section of the hood needed to be completely replaced as it was oriented in a cocked manner that prevented it from mounting without a large gap on one side. I used a flat plate of 1/8" 5000 Aluminum sheet that I cut and drilled to match the dash.

In order to fit this to the hood I had to cut away the majority of the hood rear section and cut this to match the cutaway portion of the rear hood. I used the dash mounted in place on the hood using a pair of 1-5/8" unistrut sections with 1/8" plates bolted to the bottom edge of the hood and the battery surface of the dash. It required exact centering that I accomplished using a string from the front center of the hood to the steering post and a square to align it with the center bolt hole attaching the dash to the transmission top plate. A very tedious job.



The result of the welding. I had to take a slim section out of the left side of the hood to make it properly square as can be seen in this photo. That was a real scary part, and I cannot explain why it was necessary, but it was.



First fitting after grinding and sanding the welds, everything lined up pretty well, and the attachment tabs on the dog legs ended up where they should although some material needs to be added for the lower attachment hole to be drilled properly. The upper hole works fine.



A view from the right rear side.

The radiator is fitted to ensure the cap centers and is reasonably spaced above the hood.



I wanted to get all this work done before splitting the tractor to do the required mechanical work. Having it on the dolly with the axle out allows an easier job of fitting it all together.



A view from the front.

This shows the detail of the grill, the edges fit inside the leading edge of the dog legs. I was lucky in that the angles of the arms match the angle of the hood, just as seen in the photo of Henry Ford at the introduction on the 9N. Lots of these aluminum hood tractors seem to have these grill arms that are flatter than the hood angle.