

Fitting tips for Eriba caravan replacement canvas (later types)

These instructions are intended to assist you with the fitting process but we can accept no liability for damage caused to your new canvas through clumsy or rough treatment while fitting.

This is a time-consuming job which will require two helpers. Read through all the instructions before you start, though some details may not be relevant to your particular Eriba.

Removing the old canvas:

Lower edge:

The lower edge of the canvas is secured by the stainless steel band which is screwed round the edge of the roof opening. The lower edge of the canvas has a soft neoprene cord stitched into it which is clamped in place by this band.

Unscrew the catches which hold the pop-top closed.

Carefully pull out the rubber strip which hides the screws holding the metal band in place.

Remove all the screws, and the metal trim will come off in two halves.

Remember which half is which so the screw holes will line up later.

Observe how the canvas is positioned, coming down the outside of the lip of the caravan roof then back up, with the neoprene cord sitting on top of the lip of the roof.

Top edge:

This is trickier. As you will see on your new canvas, the top of the fabric has a length of hard neoprene cord stitched into it. This is held in place within a cast aluminium profile similar to an awning rail which has a short flared section at one point, and this is where you need to start pulling the top corded edge of the canvas out.

In theory it should be possible, with assistance, to pull the whole canvas round a little at a time, taking the top edge out through the flared section.

However in practice it will probably be stuck and won't slide round, so you may need to just pull it out (taking care not to damage the aluminium profile) or even cut it.

Fitting the new canvas:

This should be the reverse of the removal process but it isn't easy.

Top edge:

Start by liberally spraying the inside of the aluminium profile and the top edge of the canvas with a clear silicon lubricant spray.

Hold the canvas so that the vents are correctly centred at the ends and sides of the caravan.

Feed a little of the top edge into the flared part of the aluminium profile.

Turn the whole canvas a little at a time, working it round. Once you have turned the canvas a full 360 degrees feeding the top edge into place as you do so it will be secured in place.

This is not easy and can require 3 people, two to turn the canvas and one to feed the top edge in.

Lower edge:

Place the lower edge of the canvas in position, the same way as the old one.

Trap the neoprene cord against the top edge of the lip of the caravan roof using the metal band, and screw the band in place. The screw holes should all line up with their original positions.

Again, this is not as easy as it sounds, especially at the corners.

It is sometimes necessary to use a large G-clamp to pull the corners down, but if you do this, protect the caravan headlining by using a piece of wood and a cloth under the clamp. Your helpers may just be able to pull the metal band downwards while you put the screws in to secure it.

Replace the rubber cover-strip by curling it and pushing it into place a little at a time, then finally re-fit the catches.