Filler Panels for Window Motor Access Opening

This document will give you some help making filler panels like the one shown below, which I installed on my own car. The last 3 pages can be printed to create templates for the 3 pieces needed to seal the hole. The main filler panel is too large to fit on a single piece of standard paper so it is presented in two halves, but obviously you will tape those together before cutting out your panels. These pieces may not be a perfect fit but I traced them from the panels you see here so they should be pretty close.

These are made from ¼" MDF which can be hard to find but my local Home Depot stocks 2x4' pieces along with the same size pieces of plywood and particle board for small projects. I glued and screwed 2 yellow pine cross-braces, about ½" x ¾", to reduce flexing. Be careful with the brace on the back side as the top edge may interfere with the window. Don't go any higher than I show here and test to be sure the plastic "stop disk" on the glass doesn't bump the brace on the way up and down. Trim the top corner if necessary.

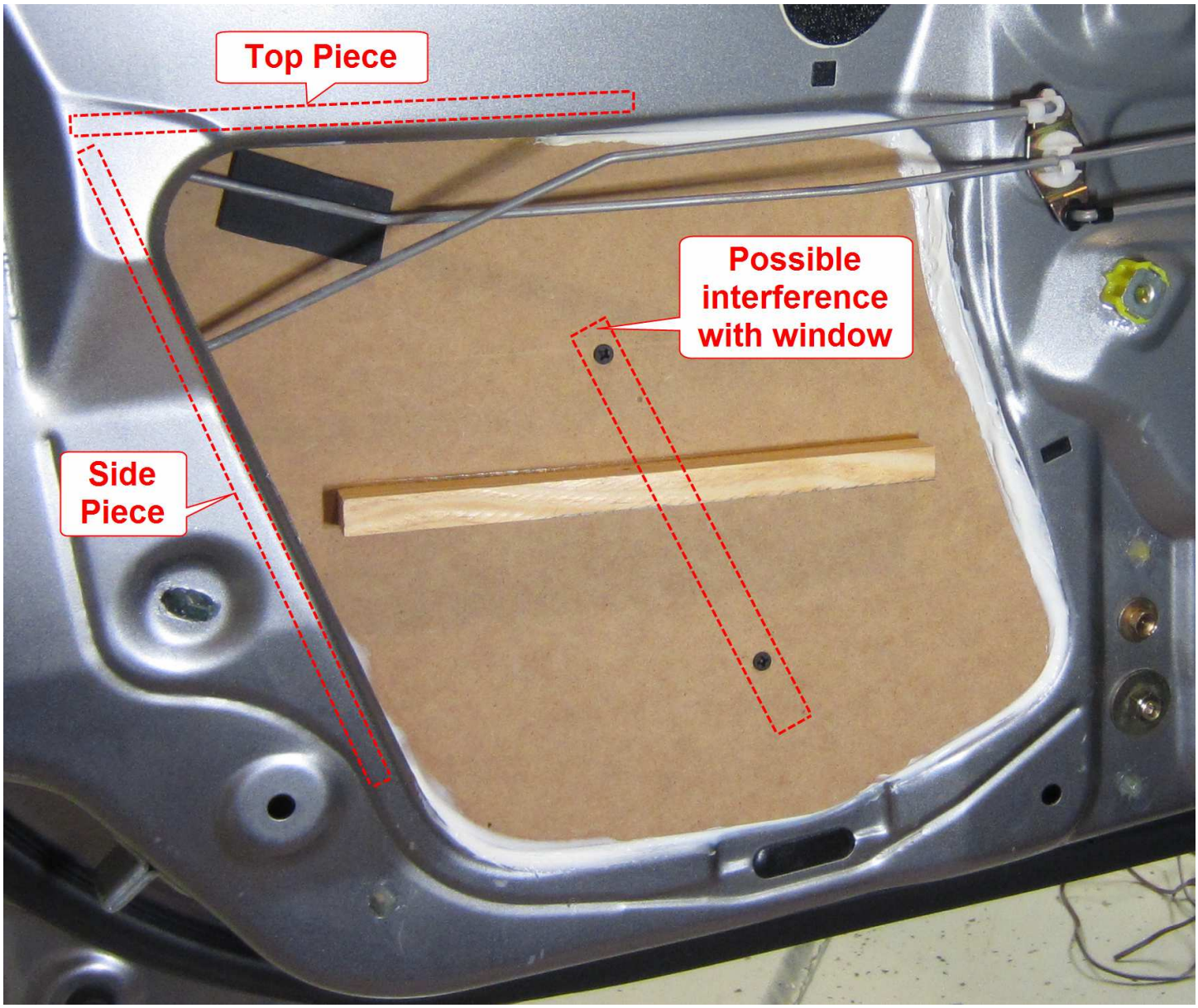

Photo below is a close up of how the Side Piece is mounted and shows the door lock rod going through the slot. I used “Goop” to glue the side and top pieces to the door and clamped them in position until they dried. Goop can be found at Walmart and Home Improvement stores and is marketed under several names, including “Shoe Goop” and “Plumbers Goop”, but it’s the same stuff.

Once those pieces were secure, I then positioned the main panel inside the hole and realized it would be tricky to hold it in place while caulking. So I temporarily placed a 2-foot long piece of 2x2 across the front of the opening and drilled a small hole in the main panel cross bar. This allowed me to put a wire tie around the 2x2 and through the crossbar, tightening it so that the tension held the main panel firmly against the opening.

Then I caulked the corners and edges but only what was accessible from this side of the door, so if I ever need to remove the panel (like to service the window motor) I can cut the silicone caulk with a razor knife to release it. If you caulk the hidden joints (between the main panel and the top and side pieces) you will have a hard time separating them later. You should still caulk the *inside corners* where the MDF panels meet, like you see here, but not the lap joints where they overlap.