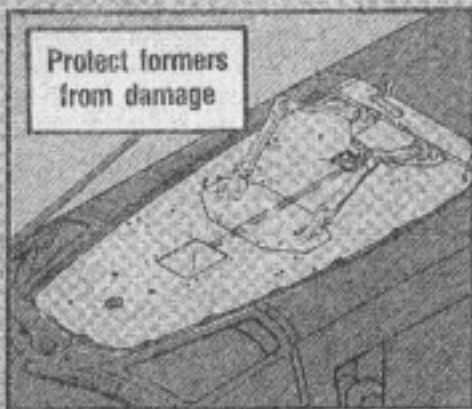


Dear Editor,

Any time the forward transmission cowling was removed on our OH-58's for maintenance or inspections, the formers were damaged by mechanics and inspectors stepping on them.

To solve the problem, I cut two 6-ft long 2x4's into 12-in sections and routed a narrow groove into one side of each section. The grooves are 1/4-in wide and 1/2-in deep. After smoothing the corners, I painted each section red.



Now, when the forward cowling is removed for maintenance or inspections, we slip these red, grooved sections over the formers on the cabin roof before climbing up top. We've eliminated about 90 percent of the repair time and maintenance cost for damaged formers. Our maintenance officer has included the fix in our unit's maintenance SOP.

SFC Jerry D. Lay
Ft Hood, TX