

LTV UNITY MB / FX MODIFICATIONS
REPLACE OEM HIGHPOINT MICROWAVE-CONVECTION OVEN

Project: Our OEM Highpoint microwave-convection oven got extremely hot in the convection mode, and did not perform very well in the microwave mode. We decided to replace it.

Cost: \$135.00 Time: 4 hours

Materials: Amazon: Panasonic Microwave Oven NN-SN686S
Lowes: 6 - #8 1" sheet metal screws
4 - #8 1/8" sheet metal screws
1 - 1/8" x 1" adhesive weather strip tape

Construction:

1. Remove the six (6) small trim bezel screws. Pull the OEM unit back a couple of inches [Photo 1]. Apply masking tape to the wood under the edges of the trim bezel, just outside the six (6) screw holes in the compartment fascia.
 - Note: I did not use masking tape, and in the course of fitting and refitting the microwave and trim bezel created multiple small scratches through the finish, which required stain touchup [Photo 10]. Live and learn.
2. Remove the four (4) small screws holding the trim bezel to the OEM unit, and remove the trim bezel. Remove the OEM unit from its compartment [Photo 2].
3. Make a 1" thick platform from scrap lumber, extending to within 1/2" to 3/4" of the compartment base. The front of the platform should be even with the back edge of the front trim. [Photos 3 & 4] Place the platform in the compartment and the new microwave on the platform, trial fit the trim bezel over the microwave and against the masking tape on the compartment fascia, and push the microwave back until satisfied with the appearance. Carefully remove the trim bezel without moving the microwave. Carefully remove the microwave and platform together, without moving the microwave position on the platform.
 - The OEM oven has a metal structure under it, to raise it for cooling purposes. This base does not work with microwave we selected. In order to use the original trim bezel, the bottom of the compartment had to be raised 1".
 - At this point, you are only checking the fore and aft positioning of the microwave with respect to the trim bezel, not the vertical or horizontal positioning. It is therefore only necessary to make sure the trim bezel is pushed against the compartment fascia.

4. Mark the back of the microwave on the platform. Cut the platform even with the marked back edge of the microwave. Screw a 1" x 2" backstop vertically to the back edge of the platform. [Photos 3 & 4]
 - Note: Others have measured for, and installed, strips of Velcro on the backstop and back of microwave. I elected to forego the Velcro in favor of using larger screws, as detailed below.
5. Fasten the platform into place, using 1 1/2" wood screws. [Photos 3 & 4]
6. Apply 1/8" x 1" adhesive weather strip tape to the sides of the microwave, along the line between the chrome faceplate and the painted side.

Note: The OEM trim bezel is approximately 1/8" wider than the microwave on each side. As a result, without shimming the sides of the bezel do not align with the top and bottom of the bezel [Photo 7].
7. Place the new microwave into position, pushing it back against the rear stop.
8. Trial fit the trim bezel into place on the new microwave, moving the microwave until the holes in the trim bezel are over or close to the holes in the compartment fascia. Replace the OEM screws and fasten the trim bezel to the compartment fascia. Adjust the microwave position for appearance, if necessary. Shim between the microwave and the trim bezel to maintain vertical positioning, if necessary. Using masking tape and duct tape, fasten the trim bezel to the microwave. [Photos 5 & 6]
9. Remove the OEM trim bezel - fascia screws. Pull the microwave out of the compartment, being careful not to disturb the trim bezel positioning. Place the microwave on blocks, and drill four (4) holes in the microwave through the trim bezel holes. Remove the positioning tape(s) and any shim(s).
10. Place the new microwave partially into the compartment and thread the power cord through the hole in the upper sidewall. Push the microwave further into the compartment and fasten the trim bezel to the microwave.
 - Note: I replaced the smaller OEM 1/2" sheet metal screws with #8 1/2" sheet metal screws.
11. Remove the compartment fascia masking tape, and carefully push the microwave and attached trim bezel into place. Install six (6) screws through the trim bezel into the compartment fascia.
 - Note: I replaced the OEM 1/2" screws with #8 1" sheet metal screws. [Photo 8]

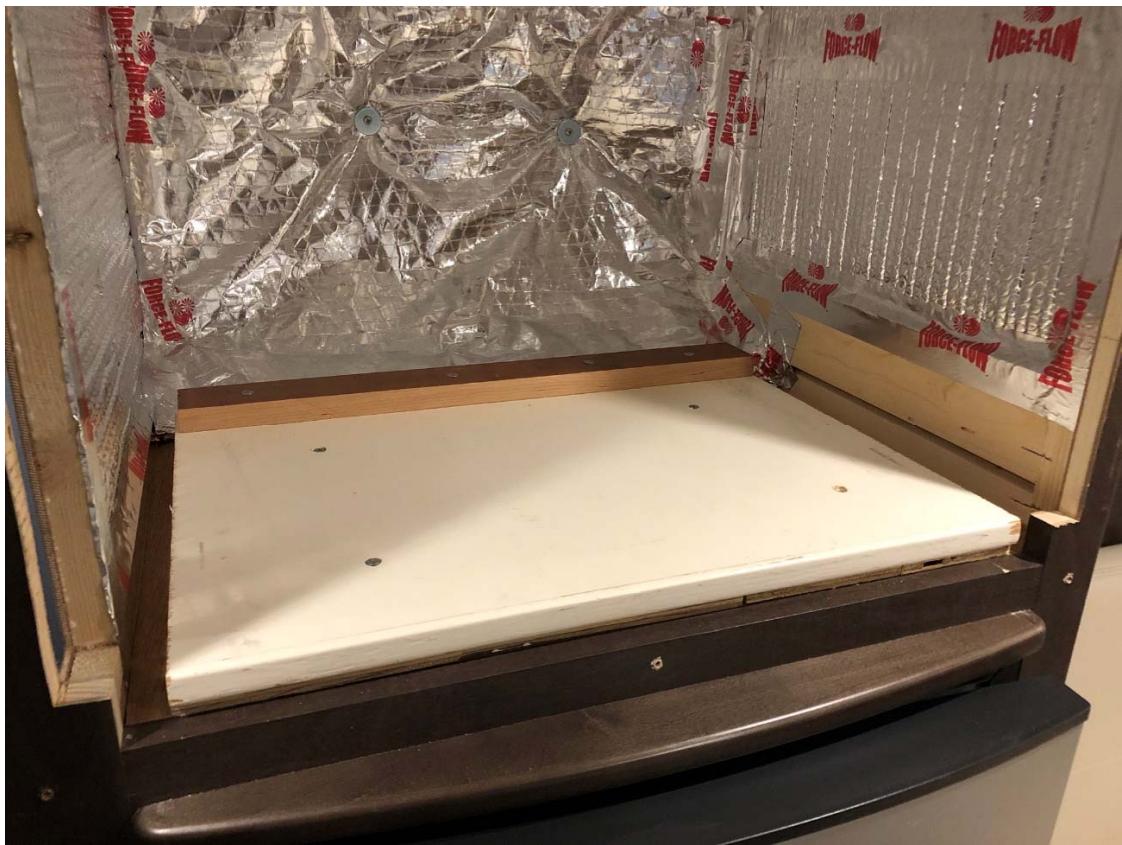
And you're done! [Photos 9 & 10]



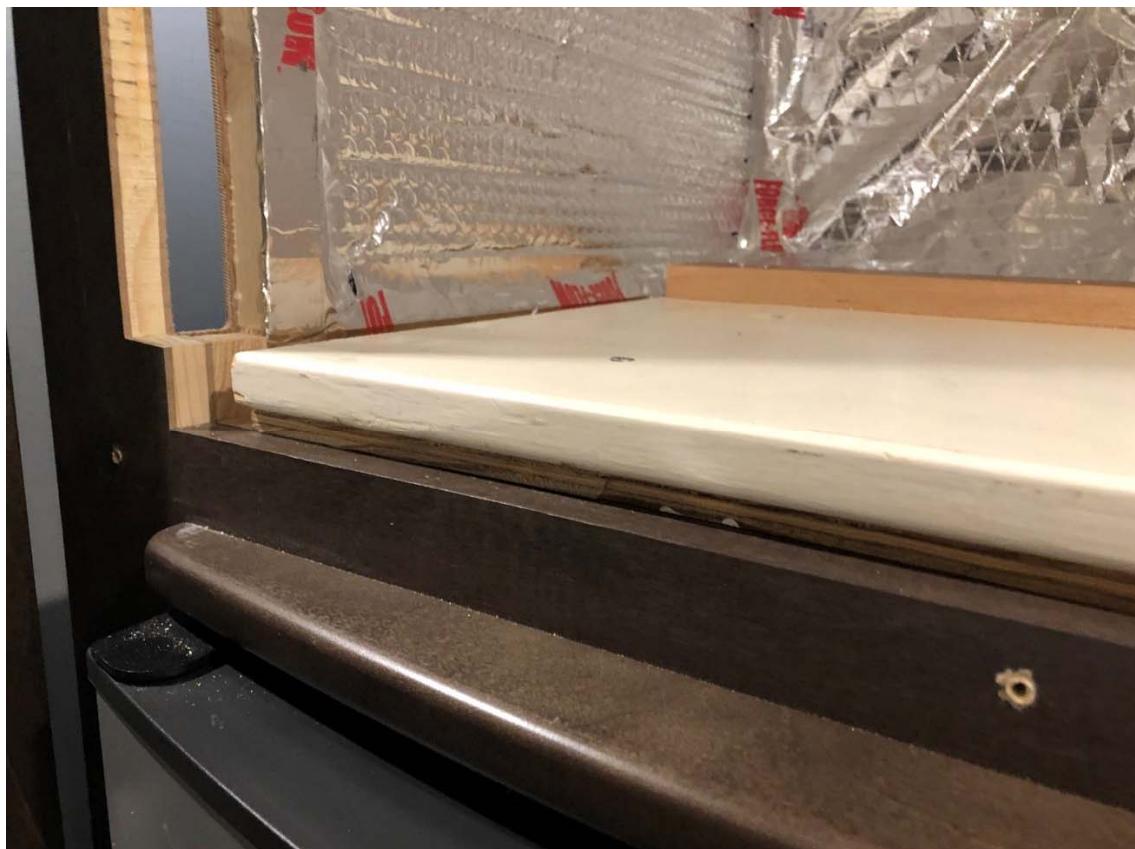
Microwave Replacement Photo 01



Microwave Replacement Photo 02



Microwave Replacement Photo 03



Microwave Replacement Photo 04



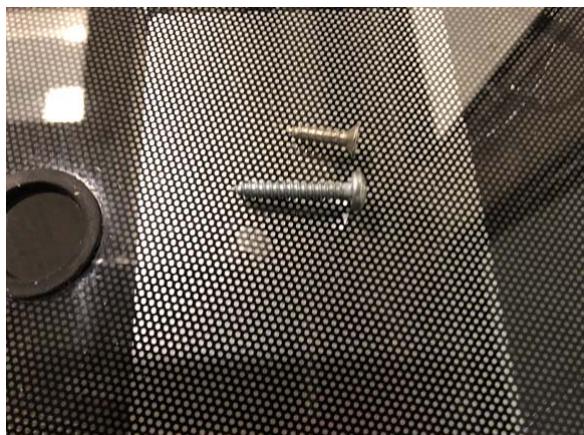
Microwave Replacement Photo 05



Microwave Replacement Photo 06



Microwave Replacement Photo 07



Microwave Replacement Photo 08



Microwave Replacement Photo 09



Microwave Replacement Photo 10