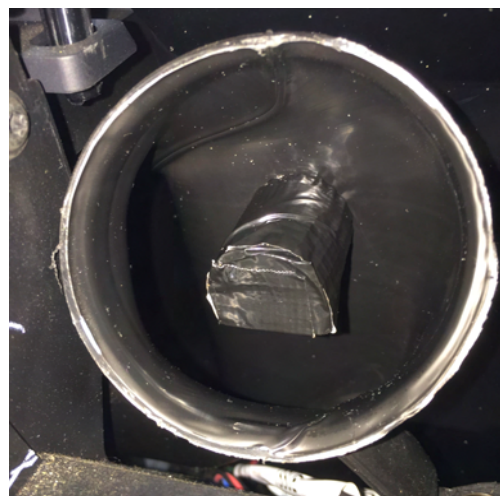


Cubby box chiller for less than £1

After I found my bar of Galaxy chocolate melted in my centre cubby box , I thought I couldn't justify the cost of the LR fridge mod. A bit of lateral thinking came up with the following alternative mod which is dirt cheap.

The aircon feeds to the rear vents behind the cubby box and if I could direct some of that cold air into the cubby box, it would keep my chocolate cool. All you need to do is drill a hole in the rear vent ducting lined up with a hole in the cubby box back wall and connect with a suitable connector. I used a MK conduit adaptor from B&Q suitably modified to allow it to "scoop" air from the ducting and direct it into the cubby box. I was originally going to tap into both the left and right rear vent ducting but ended up only doing one. You can see the pilot hole for the second one which I never fitted in the lower left photo below.



Details of the mod as follows:-

Remove the cup holder behind the gearstick/knob by pulling it firmly upwards.

Remove the two screws holding the plastic "water shedder" tray and remove tray.

If you have the fore & aft auto gear change, pull the gear knob firmly upwards to remove.

Grip the centre consul either side of where the cup holders were and pull firmly upwards. The whole centre section forward of the cup holder area can then be moved to one side.

Unscrew the two torx bolts holding the cubby box lid in place.



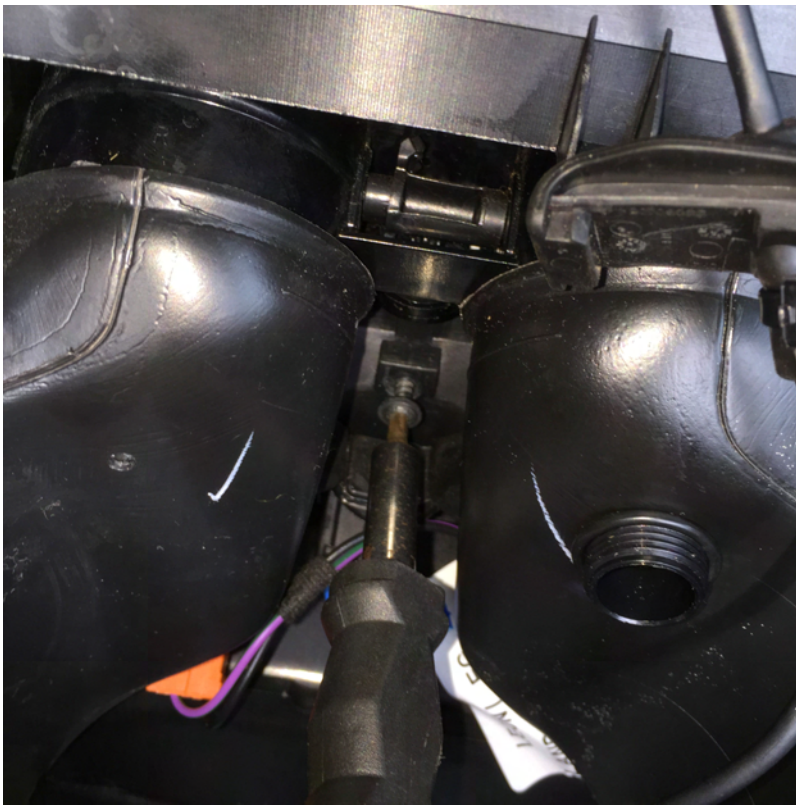
Pull off the two plastic covers and pull the lid hinge upwards to separate it. Put it to one side but be careful not to stretch the USB lead if fitted.

Remove two torx screws on the front edge of the cubby box



Grip either side of the cubby box and pull firmly upwards. It needs quite a pull! You now have access to the back of the rear vent panel.

Remove the torx screw between the vent ducting

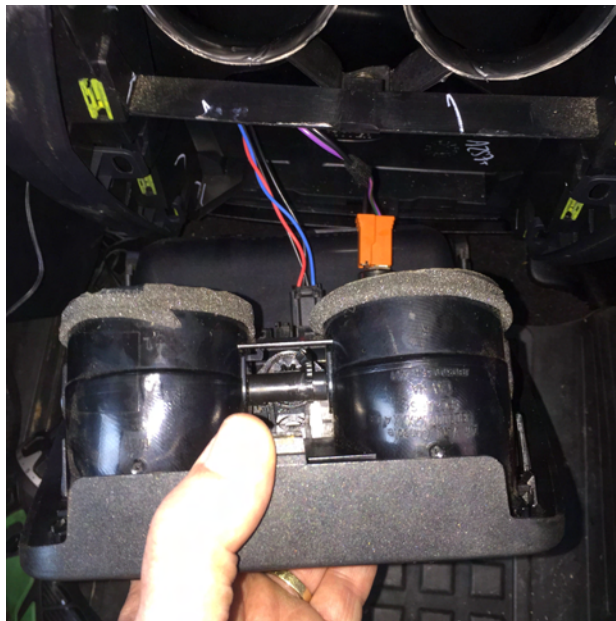


From the rear seat, pull off the rotatable vents at the back of the cubby box. They need a bit of tweaking, maybe with a flat screwdriver, but be prepared for some bits to come apart.



Pull out the cup holder tray below the rear power supply/aux feed panel

Grip the bottom of the power supply/aux feed panel and pull firmly rearwards. There is also a clip at the top of the rear panel which may require some persuasion to separate. This should now give you access to the inside of the ducting.



You then drill two aligning holes, one in the HVAC ducting and another in the back of the cubby box. Start with a 3mm pilot hole before using a 20mm drill. **Important note:-** The holes have to be far enough down the ducting to avoid the new "air-scoop" interfering with the vent louvre mechanism when the vent panel is re-fitted.

You will see from the photos that I placed an O ring on the air-scoop threads between the ducting and the cubby box liner. You then need to replace the cubby box and secure the air-scoop adaptor with the threaded ring-nut.

Re-assemble everything else and job done.

I did think of trying to tap into the air conditioning system upstream of the mixer unit to ensure a better source of cold air but that would have been much more of a dockyard job with no guarantee of a better result.

Obviously, if you have the heating going full blast in the winter, and depending on your air distribution settings, then warm air will be fed into the cubby box but I consider this mod to be useful only in the summer. It won't perform nearly as well as a powered fridge but certainly stops the chocolate melting and keeps a drink cool....and it only cost 79p !

This mod could be improved by insulating the box but I couldn't think of how best to do it.