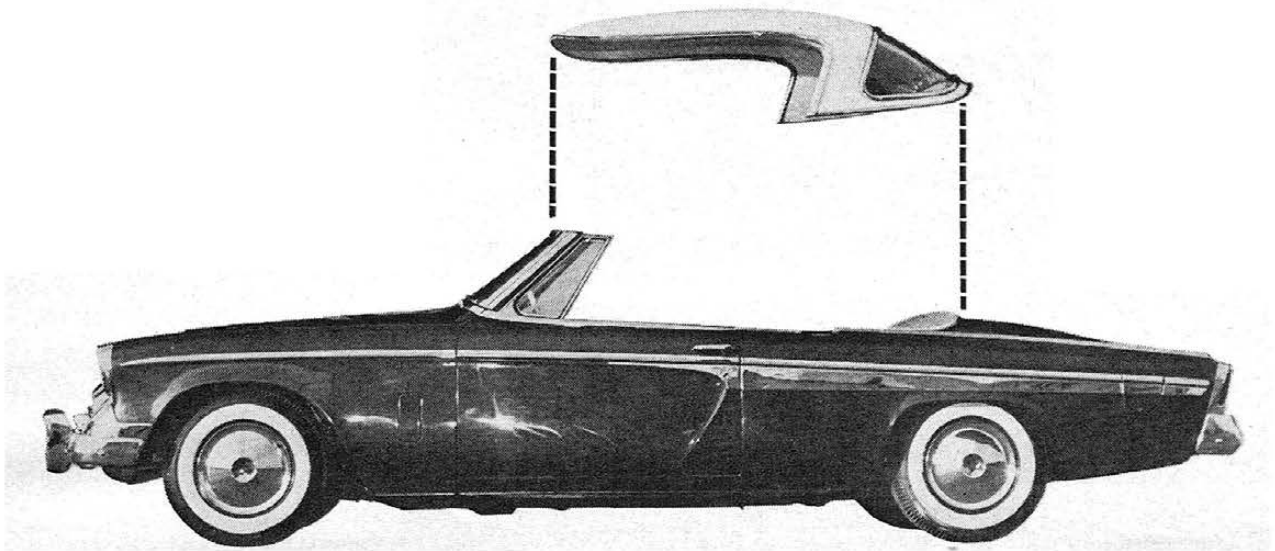
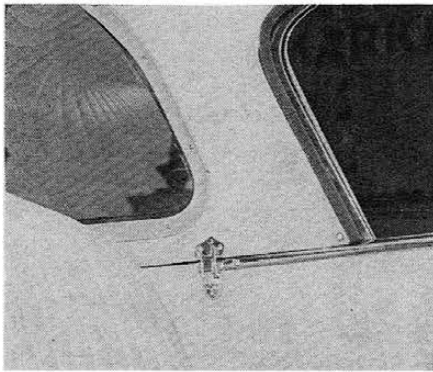


# REMOVABLE HARDTOP STUDE



*New meaning given to the term "hardtop convertible" with The Sahara*

Photos by Dean Moon



Fasteners inside at rear hold top, reportedly without vibration, on pegs built into side body panels by Stude mechanics.

**H**ARDTOPS have replaced the convertible as the car most often identified with the sporty look. The idea is that the body type offers the breezy looks of the soft top with the comfort and safety of a coupe. Some people have gone so far as to use the words "hardtop convertible," an inaccurate description.

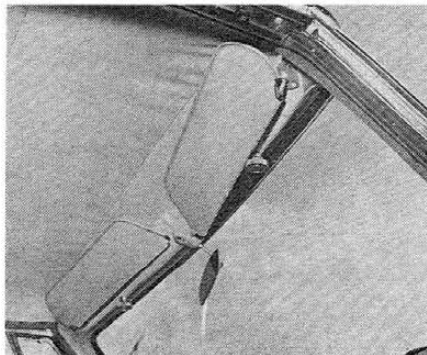
However, Belmont San Chez, an enterprising Studebaker dealer in Los Angeles, has given *hardtop convertible* a new meaning. Called "The Sahara," the car is a hardtop that is honestly convertible. By loosening a few fittings fore and aft, the top can be easily lifted away by two persons.

The idea was first suggested three years ago, but not until now, with the aid of Chuck Porter, has it been put into effect. San Chez's staff quotes "about \$500" for the job, which includes cutting off the original top and reworking it. It is claimed that the installation is as free of rattles and drafts, as when the top was a permanent part of the car. The job, as far as San Chez is concerned, is available only through his dealership. However, it is conceivable that other dealers and custom shops will take up the idea in answer to demand. •

Original top is separated from body at the beltline, mounts securely on fittings.



Forward fittings are located above the windshield, unscrew to release the top.



Overhead shot with top removed accents the low-to-the-road lines of '55 Stude.

