



Dr. Detail

by Wayne Dzien

Detailing Product Update 2018

I received a forwarded email from Jim Hallman from NIFE member Rich Pederson asking if Dr. Detail could provide an updated listing of products that I presently use and would recommend. Well, it has been some time since I wrote a detailing article and I gladly accepted the request. With that in mind, please remember that “there are many roads” to the detailing promised land. As you may recall I really like Meguiar’s and Mothers products and have no great desire to try something new since to do it correctly, I would have to strip off the current wax on one of my cars to test a new product; a lot of work that may not produce a good result. That being said, I also asked some of my respected car show buddies to share with me and the NIFE membership non Meguiar’s/Mothers products that they use and would recommend. So, without further ado, here are Dr. Detail’s recommended products:

Meguiar’s/Mothers Clay Bar Systems – I like them both equally and use them once a year on my rides. They both remove with very little effort road tar, surface and embedded contaminants including but not limited to paint over spray, water spots, tree sap, bird droppings, light oxidation, and brake dust. The clay bar should be the first step in detailing your car at the beginning of your spring maintenance routine and start of the car show/cruise night season. After this is completed and your paint is properly prepped, you can move on to either waxing or polishing. Your choice and most NIFE members know my preference is wax.

Application – Use the foam pad provided in each kit and a clean, white sock for the areas around plastic moldings, vinyl, rubber and non-painted or porous areas. Don’t attempt this in direct or hot sun.

Cost:

Meguiar’s \$14.94

Mothers \$16.39

Meguiar’s NXT Tech Wax 2.0/Mothers’ California Gold Pure Brazilian Carnauba Wax - I’m a paint guy and I love the deep and long lasting shine of really nice paint. I guess you can say that I have a significant bias and have for many, many years used Meguiar’s NXT Tech Wax 2.0. For me and hopefully for you, it takes out small surface scratches, swirl marks, evens out the paint, and provides a superior shine that can last an entire season. I have also used the Mothers California Gold in liquid with similar results but keep coming back to Meguiar’s; it even smells great. As noted above, apply after clay barring your ride.

Application – Use the foam pad provided and a clean, white sock for the areas around plastic moldings, vinyl, rubber, and non-painted or porous areas. Don’t attempt this in direct or hot sun.

Cost:

Meguiar’s \$15.29

Mothers \$10.87

Meguiar's Ultimate Liquid Wax – If you don't have a lot of time to dedicate to detailing, this is the type of product you can use to get a superior shine with less physical effort. Use this product after the clay bar process. Apply the liquid wax to your car, let it set for three to five minutes and remove it with a clean microfiber towel. It's like a quick detailer type product, but lasts a lot longer and provides excellent results.

Application – Use the foam pad provided and a clean, white sock for the areas around plastic moldings, vinyl, rubber and non-painted or porous areas. Don't do this in direct sun.

Cost: \$26.95

Meguiar's Mirror Glaze Professional HI-TECH Yellow Wax - This is a paste wax type of product that is not for everyone since it can be difficult and at times unforgiving if you get it on your moldings, etc. I used this once a year with my yellow Fiero and continue to use it on all of my current ride's that have graphics and decals. It seals the graphics in and makes them less likely to crack, peel and in general look aged.

Application – Foam pad and a clean, white sock

Cost: \$17.47

Meguiar's White Wax - Yes, are reading this correctly! Since I have a white car, I purchased and have used this product. To be honest, I saw no discernible difference or improvement in using this product over the Tech Wax 2 or Mothers Pure Brazilian Carnauba Wax.

Application – Foam pad and a clean, white sock

Cost: \$14.59

Meguiar's Scratch X – This product comes in a tube has been around for a long time. It really works in removing light scratches, swirls, oxidation and blemishes. The results are astounding for small spot areas, however, don't use it on something that obviously needs painting.

Application – Use either a foam pad (not provided by Meguiar's) or a clean, white sock. Best results are achieved when done in the shade or in the garage.

Cost: \$7.47

Meguiar's Ultimate Black Plastic Restorer – I like an even, not too shiny look on exterior plastic, vinyl and rubber trim like bumpers, moldings, door handles, door mirrors and windshield cowlings. You don't use too much of it; just work it into the area in question so that it's evenly applied. You will like that it makes black trim look new. A word of caution: be sure to shake it up for a minute or two before using to get superior results.

Application – a clean, white sock since you have to be precise in applying it.

Cost: \$6.49

Meguiar's Gold Class Rich Leather – For those of us who are lucky enough to have a leather interior you can use this great product. It comes in a container with a pump to clean and condition your interior. When used on a regular basis it will keep your all of your leather

surfaces looking new.

Application – Use a clean, white sock; don't put too much on it. Work it in covering the area evenly. After you wait a few minutes, go over the area with a clean microfiber towel that will complete the process and remove any product that did not get absorbed.

Cost: \$6.27

Mothers Leather Tech - I use this as a “Quick Detailer” type product to punch up my leather interiors after I have initially used the Meguiar's leather cleaner/conditioner. The foam is very easy to use and produces an excellent result. I have not encountered any adverse chemical reaction between using both Mothers and Meguiar's.

Application – Use a clean, white sock and pump out some of the foam from the container and go to town.

Cost: \$19.16

Mothers California Gold Showtime Instant Detailer – I love this stuff and use it at every show I do. You don't have to wash your car to use this. However, I would have a heart attack if I didn't first wipe the car down with a moist microfiber towel to address the dust. You can spray it on sections of your ride however, I would strongly suggest that you apply it to a microfiber towel and then do your car. This really makes a difference and elevates the look of your car.

Application – microfiber towel and wipe down your car. You will need to apply this several times on the towel to complete the entire car.

Cost: \$9.17

ArmorAll Tire Foam Protectant – This is another product that I love and use at every show. I use the original formula as opposed to their extreme tire shine offerings. As a preference, I like my tires black but not shiny and the original formula will even out the black on your tires and make them look new. It also comes in a formula that provides a glossy black finish if that is the look that you prefer.

Application – You can spray the foam directly on your tires and then work it in with a foam pad or in my case a clean, white sock. Don't get alarmed that your tires initially will have a white haze since after you work it in it will dry black.

Comment – For those of us that go to judged shows, you can also do the tread of the tires. If you don't, you can lose points. In addition, once it dries into the tires it will not come off or splatter onto your rocker panels and undercarriage.

Cost: \$5.32

Pricing Comment – I went online and used numbers that were provided by WalMart. Shop around and be cost effective. The vast majority of car detailing material I purchase at Farm & Fleet. All items should be available at most auto supply shops that carry detailing items.

Now here are some recommended products by a car show friend of mine, Rick G., my best car show buddy of 20 years who is the original owner of a 1999 Pontiac Trans Am, 30th Anniversary T-top car with 7,000 miles on the clock. This car is in better than new condition and has been a consistent car show winner. Rick suggests the following products:

Products from Chemical Guys – Clay Luber, Extreme Depth X Seal, Black Light Polish, Leather Cleaner and Speed Wipe - Rick has used the above cleaners/detailing products for many years with excellent results. The Clay Luber comes with a clay bar and spray similar to Meguiar's and Mothers systems and works well. His car is as smooth as glass and has a shine that looks a foot deep; not bad on a white car!

Extreme Depth X - Is a liquid carnauba wax that lasts a long time (one car show season) and does an excellent job protecting the paint from road tar, brake dust, industrial fallout, bird droppings, and tree sap. It is my understanding that Rick alternates between Extreme Depth X and Black Light liquid polish.

Speed Wipe - Is a great quick detailer for car shows and cruise nights that is the equivalent to Mothers California Gold Showtime Instant Detailer.

Leather Cleaner – Rick has used this product for years on his unforgiving white leather interior. It makes all of the leather surfaces new and resists dust and dirt.

Application – Foam pad or a clean, white sock for any of the Chemical Guys items above.

Cost:

Clay Luber \$20.00

Extreme Depth X Seal \$20.00

Black Light Polish \$25.00

Speed Wipe (Quick Detailer) \$20.00

Leather Cleaner \$10.00

If you are interested in the above items, please visit the Chemical Guys website located at (<http://chemicalguys.com>) for more information.

Zaino Perfect Tire Shine – This product does not make the tires look too glossy and does not come off when you drive your car. It is not greasy and leaves a nice, balanced shine. It can also be used for rubber and non-porous plastic. In my opinion, it is just as good as the original formula ArmorAll Tire Foam Protectant.

Application – Foam pad or a clean, white sock

Cost: \$12.00

Here are some recommended products from another car show friend of mine, John S, who is the proud owner of a light yellow with black vinyl top 1969 XR7 Cougar (428) as well as a 1964 dark blue, first generation Pontiac GTO. Both of these cars are breathtaking and I would encourage you to check them out at an upcoming cruise night or car show. John suggests the following products:

Pinnacle Advanced Finishing Polish - Since neither of John's rides have basecoat-clearcoat he has to be very careful detailing them. That being said, he uses this polish with a foam pad by hand and at times with a mechanical buffer. Extreme care must be used not to burn the paint with the buffer; however, the results are great. In addition, once a year he uses **Pinnacle Sovereign Wax** and applies it by hand to enhance and provide the required paint protection for these beautiful rides.

Cost:

Pinnacle Advances Polish \$20.00

Pinnacle Sovereign Wax \$20.00

Quick Detailer – John uses good old H2O with a microfiber towel at cruise and car shows with excellent results.

Finally here are some recommended product from yet another car show friend of mine, Rich H, the owner of a Polo Green with tan leather interior 1994 Corvette Coupe. Rich's ride looks as if it just came out of a showroom and the depth of his car's paint is beyond words. I'm not a Polo Green fan; however, I really like this one that sets the bar for green C4's. Rich suggests the following products:

The Treatment – Heavy Duty Silicone Car Wax – Rich has been using this wax since 1973 and has no reason to change since the results on his dark green C4 speak for themselves. This is a liquid cleaner-wax prepared with special cleaning agents along with durable silicones that give a super shine with ease.

Application – Foam pad, mechanical buffing machine or a clean, white sock.

Cost: \$7.99

All of my buddies who have provided their valuable input, as well as myself, use wheel cleaning brushes (both soft bristle and microfiber chenille), Simple Green in cleaning our engine compartments, microfiber cleaning mitts and towels, short and long cotton swabs, and various sizes of brushes (bristle and microfiber) to help in the detailing process. One of my not-a-secret-anymore favorite go-to products is a Swiffer, which is used from interior to engine dusting.

When it comes to glass, no one product can be suggested. Many come with vinegar, ammonia, or citrus, and then whatever other additives manufacturers can think of. Depending on the age and condition of the glass, it will just be trial and error to get a cleaner that will leave them streak free.

In conclusion, the detailing process should be a labor of love as opposed to being a time consuming, unpleasant and dirty task. Hope this information will help all who read it in making their Fiero look great whether a daily driver, weekend cruiser, or appreciating, future collectible car.

Wayne "Red Line" Dzien

AKA "Dr. Detail"