



# Dr. Detail

by Wayne Dzien

## **Cabin Fever Cure**

It's March 26, 2011, a typical Saturday afternoon at the Dzien household that is devoid of any significant car activity since it has been, and continues to be, too darn cold to do anything in an un-heated garage. The winter of 2010/2011 has not been pleasant with too much cold weather; to say nothing of the 100 year snow storm we all had to shovel through. Oh what I wouldn't give for a hot July day/night with Billy Idol belting out, "Hot In The City"! in the background. Well, members, today still may be cold; however, we've got to think positive and think Spring! It has arrived, but boy, it sure does feel like February! Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will all be basking in balmy May sunshine.

We all love our Fieros and since October, when I put my '88 GT down for its long winter nap, I have been waiting for a good opportunity to take her out and have a blast. Oh yeah, I had to put my t-tops on for the long hibernation, but will take them off and put them in the trunk the first chance I can get to take her out and get rid of all that STA-BIL in the gas.

That being said, we have a few things that we all should consider doing to our rides to get them in shape for the 2011 road trip/car show/cruise night season. These tips go for both "daily driver" and "babied" Fieros of any year. The first thing you want to do is find a warm, dry place to start the cleaning/detailing process. If you have a garage or can get in one for a few hours, you can get your Fiero into shape. Or, if Spring has truly arrived, enjoy your tasks outside.

Step One - Wash your car by hand or take it through a touch-less car wash. Marsha and I like the touch-less ones since they do a better than average job in cleaning the under carriage. They use a de-emulsifying agent that cuts through the accumulation of road salt, mud and who knows what to get the body ready for the next step. If you don't want to spend the six bucks, you can do the same thing with your garden hose and a very small amount of clear dish detergent. Yes I know, you're not supposed to use this stuff but it works great (contains mild degreasers) and I have been doing it for decades with my daily drivers with no adverse results.

Step Two - Clay Bar your ride. Now, I have been telling you for some time the great results that I have had by using either the Meguiar's or Mother's Clay Bar Kits. These companies can't make it any easier for you to get all of the junk off of your car's paint. Please, go spend the money and get her done. You won't regret it!

Step Three - Use a "Polish/Wax" that you like to make your newly clay barred car look like new. By now, you should all know that I use Meguiar's Tech Wax 2.0. This stuff really works and you know to apply it with clean white socks (used of course or you are in trouble!) and buff it off with a clean micro fiber towel to get the maximum results with as little work as possible.

Step Four - Take the incomplete mess to a detailer since you need professional help! Just kidding! Haul out your vacuum cleaner, remove the car mats and start getting all that winter-time, caked-on stuff from your carpet. Once you get the bad stuff off you can use Tough Stuff on your carpet, bucket seats (either cloth or leather) and bring your interior to look as good as your car's body. Oh yes, the floor mats, either hose them off with your garden hose or soak them in your bathtub. Then clean them with your favorite dish soap and scrub them with a medium bristle brush until you get all the soap off and let dry.

Step 5 - Engine: later in the season I will devote a complete article to this important area but for now, take some Simple Green, some hot water, a white sock and go over as much of it as you can easily reach to get rid of the majority of the salt and sand that was provided complements of the Illinois toll road authority and you should be good.

Step 6 - Wheels and Tires: lots of water, Simple Green, a small sponge to get into your wheels and a medium bristle brush and go to town on them. Remember, the more you put into it, the more you will get in return for nice looking tires and wheels. If you want to go over the top, when you are done cleaning, put some Armor All on and step back and take a look at your handiwork.

Step 7 - Glass: use your favorite glass cleaner product with as little ammonia as possible, some black and white newspaper and you won't know where the dirt and streaks went.

The above steps will help spiff up your Fiero so it will turn heads when you drive it and make it the bell of the ball at upcoming cruise nights/car shows and other NIFE sponsored events. See you there.

*Wayne 'Redline' Dzien, NIFE Member*

*fierofans2@comcast.net*