

## **Hemmings Caribbean Cruise February 2011**

### **Detailing Cheat Sheet By Kate Sullivan**

#### *Tool Kit*

- Basics
  - Buckets, wash mitts, sponges, cloths
- Advanced
  - Cotton swabs, toothpicks, old toothbrushes, bamboo skewers, clean paintbrushes, clay bar, commercial cleaners
- New additions
  - Spray bottles for homemade concoctions
  - Microfiber towels

#### *Exterior*

##### *Brass and Copper*

- Tarnish Remover
  - Dip a cloth in warmed vinegar, then in salt
    - ♣ Rub onto brass with circular motion
- Stain Remover Paste
  - Dissolve 1 teaspoon salt in 1 cup vinegar; mix in enough flour to make a paste
    - ♣ Rub on brass; let sit 15min to 1 hour
    - ♣ Rinse off with more vinegar
- Polish
  - Squirt ketchup onto a rag and polish normally
- Protect
  - Wipe down with olive oil
- Do not use acidic cleaners on brass-PLATED parts

##### *Chrome*

- Cleaning
  - Clean using a sudsy mix of water and dishwashing liquid
- Stain Remover
  - Make a paste of equal parts vinegar and baking soda
    - ♣ Rub onto chrome, let sit for 15min, then buff off
- Rust Remover
  - Crumple up a piece of aluminum foil, shiny side out, and rub it on chrome to remove rust

- Polishing
  - Use plain white toothpaste – no gels, whiteners, or fresheners – to polish chrome
    - ♣ Rub onto chrome and buff off as with commercial polish
- Chrome wipes
  - Dry out a box of baby wipes
  - Put back in box
  - Soak in ½c vegetable oil

These can also be used to protect your brass fixtures, vinyl, or tires. Just pull a wipe out of the box and gently wipe over the surface you want to protect.

### *Glass*

- Cleaning
  - Mix ¼c of white vinegar into 1 liter of warm water
    - ♣ Can also add ½c ammonia and 1T dish detergent if desired
  - Spray on and squeegee off
- Buffing
  - Use a clean microfiber cloth
    - ♣ Buff horizontally on the outside, vertically on the inside
      - This allows you to see which side any streaks are on
  - Don't use newspaper – modern soy ink leaves streaks
- Scratches
  - Coat small scratches with plain white toothpaste
    - ♣ Let harden
      - Wipe off with soft cloth, working only in the direction of the scratch
  - Deeper scratches
    - ♣ Mix dry mustard with vinegar to make a thick paste
      - Slather into scratch
        - Let dry
          - ♣ Buff off with soft cloth, working only in the direction of the scratch

These tricks also work on glass lenses over gauges, or on your headlight lenses.

### *Plastic*

- Cleaning
  - Mix 1/4c of white vinegar into 1 liter of warm water
- Defogging
  - Make a paste of 1T baking soda and 1T plain white toothpaste
    - ♣ Buff on with toothbrush or sponge
    - ♣ Wipe off with vinegar-moistened cloth
- Protecting
  - Use those chrome-polish oil wipes or a light coating of vegetable oil

### *Radiator*

- Wash from the inside of the engine bay out to force out bug carcasses
- Finish the job with canned air

### *Wire Wheels*

- Use a microfiber “finger” duster or sponge to grab dirt from between spokes

### *Interior*

#### *Air Freshener*

- For stubborn odors, use an onion
  - Cut in half, place on dish in enclosed car
    - ♣ Leave for 2 days
    - ♣ Remove onion and air out car for another 2 days
- Equal parts vinegar and lemon juice
  - Set in an open dish for a day or two
    - ♣ When liquid is gone, smell should be too
- Baking soda sachets
  - Fold up a dryer sheet and fill with baking soda, then seal
  - Leave under seats, in luggage compartment

### *Upholstery*

Since you spend a lot of time on the seats of your car, you'll need to know how to clean the upholstery. Using seat covers and brushing the seats off with a soft-bristle brush after driving can help eliminate debris and stains, but accidents still happen. Be prepared with an arsenal of spot-cleaning tips and tricks.

## *Cloth*

- 2 1/4c hot tap water mixed with 1/4c dish detergent
  - Beat until foamy
  - Dip clean cloth into mixture and gently rub onto upholstery
  - Lightly scrub problem areas with old, clean toothbrush
  - Wipe away dirty suds
  - Wipe all surfaces down with clean cloth dipped in fresh water
  - Blot away all excess moisture with microfiber cloths

These same tricks work to clean a fabric convertible top.

## *Leather*

- Always test first
- Cleaning
  - Lather moisturizing soap (such as Dove) onto soft cloth
    - ♣ Wipe into leather, being careful not to get it too wet
    - ♣ Do NOT rinse off – the moisturizers help condition leather
- Stains
  - Make a paste of 1 part lemon juice and 1 part cream of tartar
    - ♣ Work paste into spot, let sit for 15-30min, then wipe clean
- Scuffs
  - Touch up with eyebrow pencil or shoe polish
- Conditioning
  - Leather needs to be maintained to stay supple
    - ♣ Try saddle dressing from a tack store
    - ♣ Homemade leather dressing
      - Mix 1 part white vinegar with 2 parts linseed oil in a jar
        - Shake to mix well, then apply with soft cloth
        - Let sit overnight
        - Buff out
    - ♣ Mayonnaise can condition leather in an emergency
      - Rub a thin layer onto upholstery
      - Buff out REALLY well

## *Vinyl*

- Cleaning
  - Mix dish detergent with water to make a sudsy blend
    - ♣ Wipe on
    - ♣ Wipe off with towel dipped in clean water
    - ♣ Buff dry
- Scuffs
  - Use a Mr Clean Magic Eraser
    - ♣ Gently stroke in direction of scuff
  - Crayons
    - ♣ Fill in scuffs with a crayon, using soft strokes
      - If you decide to restore the vinyl later, you can remove the crayon wax by scraping it gently with a razorblade
- Protecting
  - In a spray bottle, mix 1/4c vinegar, 1 liter water, and several drops baby oil
    - ♣ Use to clean and condition at the same time – just spray on and wipe any excess off
  - Those chrome wipes we made also work to protect vinyl – just rub on

This same mixture works wonderfully on vinyl tops, too, and can keep your tires looking fantastic.

## *Wood and Woodgrain Trim*

- Cleaning
  - Mix equal parts vegetable oil and white vinegar, plus a few drops of lemon juice
    - ♣ Rub onto wood surfaces to clean and polish at the same time
- Scratches
  - Crack open a walnut and rub onto the scratch
    - ♣ Work in the direction of the scratch
    - ♣ Follow up by polishing

- Veneer
  - A thin layer of split wood applied to a non-wooden surface, usually metal
    - ♣ Can usually be cleaned and polished just like wood
  - The glue can soften, letting the veneer blister and crack
    - ♣ Put wax paper on surface, then smooth cardboard
    - ♣ Use an iron on medium; press and check every few minutes, until you see bubble flatten
    - ♣ Weight down surface overnight.

### *Carpet*

- Cleaning
  - Always spot-treat
  - Always test first
  - Shaving cream
    - ♣ Spray on – do not rub in
      - Let sit for 15min
      - Blot up with a cloth moistened with vinegar
  - Brake cleaner
    - ♣ Same chemical used by dry cleaners
      - Make sure the brake cleaner you're about to use lists "hexane" as its sole ingredient – cheap brake cleaners with other ingredients won't work and could damage your carpet
    - ♣ Dab on a clean cloth, blot on stain (never apply directly)
      - Blot with a cloth dipped in soapy water, then one dipped in fresh water
      - Blot dry
  - Grease spots
    - ♣ Sprinkle cornstarch on fresh grease spots
      - Let sit ½ hour
        - Vacuum up
    - ♣ If there's still a stain
      - Mix 1/4c each salt, borax, and vinegar
        - Rub into stain
        - Let sit, then vacuum
        - Blot with vinegar solution