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MARK MAYNARD

Cream cuts through the fog that dims headlights

November 8, 2008



I was doing some online shopping to replace the hazy headlight lenses on my 1992 Camry, when I received a news release from Mothers car-care products for a plastic-lens-clearing cream.

Original lens replacements cost \$100 or more, so \$9 for an 8-ounce bottle of Mother's PowerPlastic seemed well worth a try. Hazy, yellowed headlight covers and lenses affect just about every model, from Mercedes to Dodge Neons.

PowerPlastic is a blend of oxidation-inhibiting polymers, UV shields and an ultra-fine polish. It works on headlight covers, signal lenses, taillights, convertible top windows and more. The cream can be used on a cloth by hand, but save your arm and use it with a buffer or Mothers PowerBall, a drill-powered buffer. Even with the buffer, it's a good upper-body workout, but worth it.

The PowerBall buffing improved the plastic clarity enough that I didn't need replacements. And nighttime visibility was improved.

Then I got a little carried away with the PowerBall and started using the PowerPlastic on a variety of surfaces in the house, including the plastic shower surround. And the PowerMetal polish is great and gentle on dingy bathroom-sink fixtures and it will remove rust stains in the sink.

Information: Mothers.com.

Wet-look wax finish

Meguiar's claims its NXT Generation Tech Wax 2.0 glides on and wipes off effortlessly, leaving deep, vibrant color and a wet-look shine. Its trick ingredient is "Hydrophobic Polymer Technology," which is said to provide relentless water beading and protection against oxidation, corrosion, ultraviolet rays and surface degradation.

The water-fearing "hydrophobic" recipe has synthetic polymers that increase surface tension and create a barrier so water will bead up and roll off. The finish is said to be dramatically slick with fewer and taller water beads when rinsed and more protection from dust, dirt and contaminants.

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An 18-ounce bottle of liquid wax or the 11-ounce paste is \$17.99, not including shipping, at meguiars.com.

Battery store

Many drivers are familiar with Interstate batteries for automotive uses, but the company has moved into San Diego with a bigger presence.

The Interstate All Battery Center has recently opened at 9345 Cabot Drive in the Miramar area. The store goes beyond automotive batteries to offer more than 13,000 types of batteries to power just about anything, including laptops, cameras, boats and hearing aids.

The company vows to meet all customer needs even if it has to find it or build it, said Justin Darland, director of franchise development.

Interior deodorizer

As the summer cruise season cools off and show cars are driven less, consider a little deodorant for your pride and joy.

The Bagball Sports Bag Deodorizer is ideal for stinky gym bags, but the ball with an adjustable vent system also keeps car, boat and RV interiors fresh smelling.

Inside the Bagball is a biodegradable fiber element that is impregnated with a nontoxic, odor-neutralizing compound of natural oils. The slightest movement of the Bagball releases the compounds as a dry vapor that seeks eliminates odors by natural oxidation. The venting system allows a little or a lot of control.

The Bagball retails for about \$10 with a choice of five scents, including citrus and ocean breeze. Find Bagballs at Big 5 Sports and major sporting goods retailers.

Information: bagballs.com or (866) 350-8170.

Car-club rewards

Eagle One car-care products wants to give back to a few special clubs that have made significant contributions through the year.

Car clubs entering Eagle One's 16th annual Golden Rule Awards have an opportunity to win a \$1,500 grand prize donated to a charity of their choice. Three runners-up will receive a \$500 cash contribution to a charity of their choice.

Awards will be given to the car club judged to have performed the most compassionate achievement during 2008. Winners will be selected in four regions – West, Midwest, East and South.

In addition to the cash donations from Eagle One and co-sponsor Valvoline, winners will receive a supply of products and motor oil for fund-raising purposes and a custom-designed trophy.

Deadline for entries is Dec. 31. Winners will be notified by Feb. 10.

Information and entry forms: eagleone.com or (818) 501-1445.

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