



Dr. Detail

by Wayne Dzien

Show Off the 'Shoes'

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One of the most significant, single areas that calls attention to your Fiero, be it positive or negative, are the wheels and tires. If they aren't detailed, all of the hard work you put into cleaning the body, interior and engine are gone. It's like your Fiero is a tuxedo and your un-detailed wheels and tires are a pair of "brown shoes". Doesn't work! In order to overcome this problem I would like to share the following with you.

Well, it doesn't matter if you have stock Fiero or aftermarket wheels and a new set of tires since the ones that would have been on an '84 would be twenty six years old. I don't know too many people who drive on the originals unless you're an over the top collector.

So consider the following: examine your wheels and tires. If your ride is a daily driver, it should have a good amount of dirt, grime and that horrible stuff we call brake dust. I hate this stuff since I had an Indy Pace Car Fiero that had white wheels. If you drove a couple of miles you had this brown/black film all over the wheels. Not a pretty site and likewise what it can do to the tires.

The cost effective/cheap way to correct brake dust is to use Simple Green. This inexpensive emulsifier does an excellent job and can take years of neglect off of your rims and tires.

How to use Simple Green: if your wife doesn't have an empty one at home, bum five bucks from her and go the Wal-Mart and buy a spray bottle - that way you can keep the \$3.50 change! Take your garden hose and wet down one wheel and tire. I don't recommend attempting doing them all at once. Use the SPRAY setting as opposed to the stream (you want more of a broad, even coverage) and apply a good amount of this product to your wheel and tire. Let it soak in for about five minutes and then take a small scuff pad/sponge and, with a little elbow grease, remove as much of the gunk as possible. Use your garden hose and rinse the wheel and tire. You may have to do this a few times depending on how good or bad your wheel and tires are, however, there will be improvement.

If you have raised letter tires, white walls or red line tires, to make them pop apply a small amount of Westley's Bleche-Wite to a sponge and apply away. You can either wipe it off in a few minutes or scrub it with a medium bristle brush. This methodology has worked very well for me for years and I recommend that you give it a try. You then can rinse the tire and either let it dry on its own or dry it with a towel. By the way, this stuff can also be applied to black walls and does an excellent job.

By this time your wheels and tires should be looking good. The next step that I would suggest is to put some kind of protectant on the wheels and tires. I would suggest that you do the wheels first and with that in mind I would like to suggest that you apply a good wax to your stock, after market chrome, or polished rims. I have had a great deal of success using Meguiar's Hi Tech Yellow Wax. Use an old white sock to apply the wax to the wheel, let it set up for a few minutes and wipe it off with a micro fiber rag. The look and protection will amaze you. Caution, do not apply any wax of any kind to a diamond pattern wheel. If you do, you will have a difficult time removing the same. I did this once to the stock black rims on my '88 and had to use a tooth brush to get rid of it. With this type of wheel you can apply any quick detailer to a micro fiber rag and wipe it around the wheel. This method will produce the desired result.

The last step will be to detail your tires with a tire protectant. You have many products in this area to choose from and depending on how wet looking you want it to be. In my opinion, too wet looks ridiculous, however, what ever floats your boat! I will, however, recommend that you use that old brand favorite, Armor All. Now, I know what you're going to say that it's too messy and hard to apply. Well, do I have news for you: they came out with Armor All Tire Foam about a year or two ago and I have been using this on all my rides. You spray this onto the tire as well as the top of the tire to complete the "Look" and either let it dry by itself or, as I would suggest, take another white sock (old and used, of course) and spread it evenly on the side wall and tire top. When it dries you will be amazed. People will think that you sprang for a new set of tires.

Now, for you NIFE members who would like to spend a little more money and try some new tire and wheel products, please note the following Meguiar's offerings:

- Hot Rims All Wheel Cleaner -\$6.49
- Hot Rims Aluminum Wheel Cleaner - \$6.99
- Hot Rims Chrome Wheel Cleaner - \$6.99

- Hot Shine Tire Gel Kit - \$9.99
- NXT Generation Insane Shine Tire Spray - \$6.99
- Gold Class All Wheel Cleaner - \$7.99

Folks, I have not used any of the above Meguiar's products but would like to hear from you if you used them and your opinion of how good, bad or indifferent they work. With that in mind, please drop me a line at fierofans2@comcast.net.

I hope that some of my tips and suggestions have made a positive improvement with your Fiero and that you just feel better about how your Fiero looks, and, if on the cruise/show circuit, are getting compliments from fellow Fiero members and the public at large. See you at Fierorama and if you got some questions, ask me. I'm the old guy with the hot yellow Fiero with red line tires.