



Dr. Detail

by Wayne Dzien

To Beam, Or Not To Beam, That Is The ?

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The new rage in the car community is having great looking headlights lens that enable you to see better and avoid hitting large animate, and/or inanimate objects that may appear in your path when driving in your ride at night. OK, that's the premise of the article that I'm writing on January 23, 2011, with five (5) degrees outside, about two hours before the Bears/Packers title game that conflicts with the last day of the Barrett-Jackson collector auction and a day before my birthday, in which I will turn 39, again.

I went online to the great folks at Meguiar's to see what they have to offer to clean up the aforementioned. They have a super, all in one, "Headlight Restoration Kit", item number G1900 for \$24.99. Their headlight and clear plastic kit that is touted to bring like-new clarity to cloudy, scratched, oxidized and yellowed, uncoated plastic surfaces. Great, however, the Fiero has clear glass lenses with a sealed beam. Hey, how do you folks like my technical acumen? In addition, we have "flip" headlights that provide an additional level of protection. That being said, you can save the \$24.99 plus shipping and clean them up great with my absolute favorite Meguiar's product, NXT Generation Tech Wax 2.0. Apply the wax to the headlight lens using a clean white sock after cleaning the lenses with soap and water, and buff to your heart's content!

When I was on the Meguiar's web site I came across a bunch of 'new' 2010 products (they need an update for 2011) in addition to the \$24.99 Headlights Restoration Kit. They are:

1. PlastX Clear Plastic Cleaner & Polish, Product # G12310 for \$7.99 - It is to be used to bring back optical clarity to both rigid and flexible clear plastics.
2. Clear Coat Safe Polishing Compound, Product # G18110 - Removes light scratches and hazing.
3. Clear Coat Safe Rubbing Compound, Product # G18010 - Big time cleaner and scratch remover, but if you opt to use this, be very careful. When I was a kid working on my dad's 64 Ford Fairlane I used a rubbing compound too aggressively and went through the paint to the metal. This didn't look good on a white car!
4. Gold Class Carnauba plus Premium Liquid Wax, Product # G7016 473 - Claims to remove fine swirls but leaves your paint brilliantly reflective. I may give this a try and compare it to the Tech Wax 2.0 and provide my opinion.
5. Gold Class Carnauba Plus Premium Paste Wax, Product # G7014J - I have not used this product and therefore cannot provide comment.
6. Gold Class Rich Leather Cleaner, Product # G 17914 - Premium cleaner that "nourishes" leather. Don't use it on your cloth seats.
7. Gold Class Rich Leather Cleaner/Conditioner Spray, Product # G10916 - Similar to the prior product that may be easier to use however, watch out for the potential overspray. Real bad on your windshield!
8. Gold Class Rich Leather Cleaner/Conditions Wipes, Product # G10900 - Sounds great for a quick cleaning or last minute car show detailing.
9. Natural Shine Protectant, Product # G4116 - This interesting product supposedly restores natural color and shine to vinyl, rubber and plastic and is non-greasy. I'm going to purchase this product for this year's car show season.
10. Odor Eliminator, Product # G2316 - Instantly removes difficult odors, smoke, spoiled food, child and pet accidents and more. Ever stick your head into a nice, old car's interior only to be repelled by toxic fumes and that suggest that you found Jimmy Hoffa?
11. Quick Interior Detailer, Product # G13616 - Spray on, wipe off detailer to quickly clean and enhance all interior surfaces. Not to be used on your steering wheel, gas & break/clutch pedals or other surfaces that you use to operate your vehicle.

Well, that's enough new products from last year that I'm sure I will be testing in 2011.

Finally, have you ever hear that awful sound, “CLICK, CLICK, CLICK”? No, it’s not Big Ben, it’s your starter telling you that your batter is dead or in the process of dying. My old battery tender of seven (7) years went on to battery charger heaven and Marsha and I went online to AutoSport and purchased the absolutely best, quickest and most impressive battery charger. It’s the AutoSport 2-10-20 Battery Charger. This beauty is for all 12-volt lead acid batteries as well as the Optima battery on one of my show cars. This product can be used for 2 Amp charges for small batteries (motorcycles, lawn tractors), as well as topping off large car batteries. In addition, it has an excellent 10Amp charge that makes, what used to take eight hours of charging with my prior charger, only 30 minutes of charging. And if you totally screw up, it has a 20 Amp power charge that can bring back an almost dead battery in about an hour. It’s the ultimate and safe battery charger and costs about \$70.00; and it is worth every penny.