



DR. COLORCHIP™

AUTOMOTIVE PAINT CHIP REPAIR SYSTEMS

OPERATIONS MANUAL





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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Dr.ColorChip family of independent operators. You're no doubt ready to get out and start using our very unique automotive touch-up painting system. This niche industry is a huge one, and one that offers very little real competition. With a little experience you'll soon have success and painting techniques and you'll be on the road very shortly making vehicles look great!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MANUAL IS CONFIDENTIAL AND FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

Our paint system is very different, in that the paints and the finishing chemicals are formulated to work together to produce the best possible touch-up results short of a complete body shop makeover. Once you see the type of work currently being done in the field, and the types of operators that are doing the work, you'll soon understand why both this paint system and YOU will be so competitive. You have a technologically superior paint system in your hands- what you do with it and how you operate will be a direct reflection of your income. Carefully read through this manual, and re-read it a few weeks after you've begun painting. It's written from a foundation of experience that will help you avoid making mistakes we've made in the field. After working our way through thousands of cars and hundreds of car dealership managers, we've seen pretty much all the good, and the bad. The following tips and guidelines will help you get started on the right road to success and more importantly keep you there once you've begun.

PAINTS & CHEMICALS

Our unique painting system utilizes a number of proprietary chemicals to produce the high-quality results and expedient processes that allow you to be so competitive among other operators. The paints dry very fast, usually within a minute or so. As mentioned above, the paints are formulated to work in combination with the finishing blender, Sealact™. These are authentic, top-of-the-line automotive paints. Special chemicals are added to them that..



...interact with the blending solution. This interaction, in essence, softens the paint so that the excess may be removed easily. The Sealact is not thinner- if so; it would simply remove all the paint entirely, not to mention potentially ruining the clear coat finish on the car. This blending solution also leaves behind a brilliant finish that often brings dull surfaces back to life.

Never use any other chemicals in combination with this process as you may permanently damage the car's finish. Also, never use any other automotive paints with this process- they won't work. If you absolutely need to use a color other than those provided, contact us and we'll get it to you. Or simply skip the car if possible - time is money

USE CAUTION

All paint products contain petroleum distillates, which can cause skin irritations, blindness if in contact with the eyes, and sickness or even death if ingested. It's best to wear gloves when handling the paints and chemicals. This may be a bit awkward at first, but you'll get used to them. The gloves will not only keep the chemicals from contacting your skin, but you'll also go home with clean fingernails at night! It's easier to remove any paint from your skin with a rag immediately after touching it, though it will generally come off with soap and water at the end of the day as well.



SAFETY FIRST

- Avoid getting any of the components in your eyes.
- Always be sure the lids are on tight before shaking them.
- Close the flip-top on the chemical solutions before shaking them as well to keep any from flying into your eyes or all over your work.
- Be conscious of the open containers around you. It's easy to leave a jar open and forget about it, and even easier to knock it over later.
- The quick-drying properties will also allow the paint to thicken and become unusable if left open for an extended period.

Use common sense when handling any chemicals to avoid injury and excess product waste.

Examples of PPE below:



NITRILE GLOVES



EYE PROTECTION



OVERALLS



SAFETY SHOES

THE 'TOOLS'

There are only a few necessary items needed to perform the work. Obviously, use only the paints and solutions provided, as they are the means to this whole operation. It's also suggested to use items similar to those suggested below, which are included in the system.

The Sealact™ Blending solution

The Sealact chemical formulation has been created to work in conjunction with the speciality automotive paints, and for you to complete the task of turning a shotgun-blasted car into a saleable vehicle in minutes. **Shake the jug to mix thoroughly** and fill a couple 8oz flip-top bottles that are provided with the system. This is what you'll be using every day, so be sure you have enough to last you through the week. Running out of this solution is not an option if you plan on painting cars. Always keep enough quantity on hand in case of any spills or other losses. **The chemicals will separate quickly in the bottle, so be sure to consistently shake it while in use.**

Lint Free Cloth

Use soft Lint free cloth towels for blending and removing excess paint. We'll put a pack into each system and they can also be folded in half or cut smaller if you wish.

Squeegees

Squeegees are provided in your system to quickly treat heavily road rashed areas. A squeegee can be used after literally pouring a bit of paint on an area. Simply drag the squeegee across the chips and you will see a level, fine layer of paint filling the chips. This is a quick and efficient way to cover a large damaged area quickly.

MicroFiber Towels

Use these colored polyester towels to buff the Sealact blending solution off the car. Do not apply the Sealact to these towels directly. Remember- use lint free cloth to apply the solutions and remove paint; use microfiber towels to buff off solutions' residue. Avoid dropping the microfiber on the ground and keep it from touching the other rags, as they will pick up debris and lint, creating small scratches when wiped over the car. Do not wash them with other fabrics. Hand-wash them with soap and water and let air-dry. Replace frequently.

Microbrushes

These are great for applying and leaving paint on small chips, door edges and tight spots where a regular paint brush may put too much paint on the surface. Some people like to use them for much of their work by applying the paint, then quickly smearing the paint with their finger across the chip. This is an effective way to layer paint across a chip in addition to saving paint, though it may take a bit longer. Use the application that best suits you and go with it!

THE PAINTING

There are all sorts of variables that will make this more challenging- primarily extreme hot and cold weather conditions that affect your comfort levels- but all in all, doing the work itself is the least challenging when you have the right tools to work with. You'll get better at matching colours and doing touch-up on tricky spots over time, but once you master the basics, all the other aspects will fall into place.

Doing the work - This section is brief since you'll gain your knowledge by actually doing the work during training. Just keep a few important things in mind when painting:

Vehicle Prep - Wipe the area down with Prep Solution using a microfiber towel. Don't grind any dust into the surface; lightly wipe the to the bottom on the hood, constantly turning the towel to use clean areas. Make sure the surface is dry when you go over it. Avoid using regular rags, as they might leave hairline scratches, and larger ones if there's significant debris on the car. The car is now prepped and ready to paint.

Match the Color - It doesn't have to be absolutely exact each time, but it should blend in enough that the color doesn't stand out against the car. You should have enough colors to match most cars. You will occasionally have to blend another color in the small white mixing cups to get a better match. (Tip: add a few drops of acetone when mixing colors to help them blend better.)

Blending will seem difficult at first, but figuring out which colors to use will get easier over time. If you can't match the color close enough then skip it. Again, time is money.

Painting - Shake the plastic bottle thoroughly until the steel balls flow freely. Open the lid slowly, letting the excess paint flow back into the jar. You may want to use the brush and wipe any excess paint from the lid, as it will dry out quickly. Dip the brush into the paint and dab it on the chips. Wipe any excess streaks off. Apply the paint in thin layers over chips. Usually a dab and a brush stroke is enough. Excessive paint will take longer to dry and will wipe off with the blender if not completely dry. If you need to apply a second coat, move on to other chips and come back after it's dry. Most chips only need a quick dab and a swipe to effectively be covered. You're not filling the chips to become flush with the surface- you're just applying colour so the chips blend in with the finish. (Tip: over time, and especially in hot weather, the paint may thicken somewhat. Simply add a small squirt of acetone, replace cap & cover with a rag to prevent excess from leaking out, and shake. This will thin the paints and extend the shelf life.) Once dry, apply enough of the pink finishing blender- the Sealact™- on a rag to make it moist, and gently rub over the paint blobs you've created. Don't wipe too hard at first or you may pull the paint out of the chip.

The more you rub with the blender, the more the paint will begin to melt away, leaving just the paint in the chip. Buff with microfiber towel immediately afterward, working in small areas at a time. All chips are different and some may be more difficult than others. When the chip won't hold any paint, which will happen on occasion, you may need to use a small brush and simply leave the paint on entirely. It's a quick learning curve you'll soon master to the point of knowing how to address each situation. Sometimes you'll have cars with hoods that appear shotgun blasted. The front will be excessively speckled with hundreds or thousands of tiny chips. In this case, it's usually best to fold a t-shirt rag over a couple times, lay it over the opening of the paint jar, and quickly flip the bottle upside down to get a small amount of paint on it. Quickly smear the paint across the hood until the rag begins to stick. Reapply paint until coverage is achieved. Remove as usual, working with small areas at a time. Larger chips won't be filled by the process, so go back and paint them as needed afterward. Speed is important - but don't push it until you find your groove. You'll get faster with time, so it's better to focus on quality initially. However, don't fret all day on deciding what color to use. Try one, if it doesn't work, try another. Stand back a few feet from the car and look at what needs paint. Don't squint your eyeballs at every minute mark on the car. It doesn't have to be perfect. The dealers are not in love with the cars, they just want them to look better. Make it look good, but don't become a raving perfectionist. Save this for when you do the occasional 'customer car.' They are the ones who will demand perfection.

Addressing Scratches

Many dealerships will ask you to fix scratches in addition to regular touch-up work. Over half of these scratches will require body shop work if they want it to look good. Many managers will say 'do what you can with it.' Sometimes you can use a thin brush and

leave a hairline paint streak through the scratch, it may be necessary to thin the paint with acetone considerably, and then lightly apply the paint in the scratch with a small brush. Deeper scratches down to the metal are easier to fix than light ones since they will usually hold the paint. There are a few ways to address the thinner scratches, depending on your experience with rubbing compounds and buffing agents.

A simple way to remove many light scratches and scuffs is to apply some fine cutting compound with a soft cotton towel or polishing cloth and rub it on, wait a few moments, and buff it off with a microfiber towel. Occasionally, the scratches might be slightly deeper and might require removal using an electric machine to assist you. An orbital or high-speed buffer will produce even better results, though you'll need access to electricity, or cordless machines are the best option which will slow the whole process down. Using the correct compounding and finish mop heads will enhance the finish.

Important- you can damage a cars paint surface if you don't know what you're doing with rubbing compounds, so get instruction or stay away from this type of work. We don't recommend using them until you know their limitations- it's an art perfected over time. The same principle applies to the method of wet sanding. A sanding block and 2000 grit paper when used in conjunction with compounds can reduce or eliminate scratches. It can also wreck a surface when used improperly, so again, get some guidance before trying it.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Paint

The paints and bottles they come in will require ongoing maintenance to ensure they function properly. Over time, and when exposed to heat, the paint will begin to thicken. If it is not thinned out on a regular basis, it will eventually gel to the point of becoming unusable. To thin them, you'll need to purchase some acetone, available at most hardware stores for a few dollars a bottle. Do not use paint thinner or anything else! Pour the acetone into one of the 8oz flip-top bottles supplied with the paint system. Make sure to keep the cap on tightly and check for leaks. A leaky bottle will ruin the toolbox, paint caps, etc.

You may need to thin the paints from time to time while using them. Squirt a few drops into the bottle when the paint begins to thicken. Replace the cap on the paint, cover the cap with a small rag and shake it. The rag is used just in case any small drops of paint or thinner might be present as we obviously don't want to get any in your eyes.

Get into the habit of shaking the bottles from side to side and not back and forth toward your face. With many paints, you can perform this quick task as you use them, though you want to make sure you do this at least every other week to all the paints to keep them from going hard.

Do this before you begin!

One final important task to maintain your paints, make sure that the flip top lids are clicked back after using your paints, this will stop them leaking while you might be on the move and drying out. **Once they dry they become hard to pop open and use.**

Micro Brushes

Brushes are disposable items, though one trick will extend their usefulness. Fill a few bottles about a third full with acetone. Label them 'white', 'dark' and maybe one called 'silver'. Red may be another good option and after using just clean the tips and allow to dry, then you can re-used

CONCLUSION

Should you have any questions please email,

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