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Headlamp Reconditioning Tutorial

Equipment needed: DeWalt DW849 Variable speed buffer (or a good corded drill)
Products Needed: 1500 grit Wet/Dry Sand Paper and Sponge Pad
(1000 grit or 400 grit can also be used for heavily oxidized lenses)
Wax Pad and Microfiber Miracle Cloths
ABPCO PlastiX Cleaner and Polish
3" Buffing Pad Kit w/ backing plate
2" Masking Tape



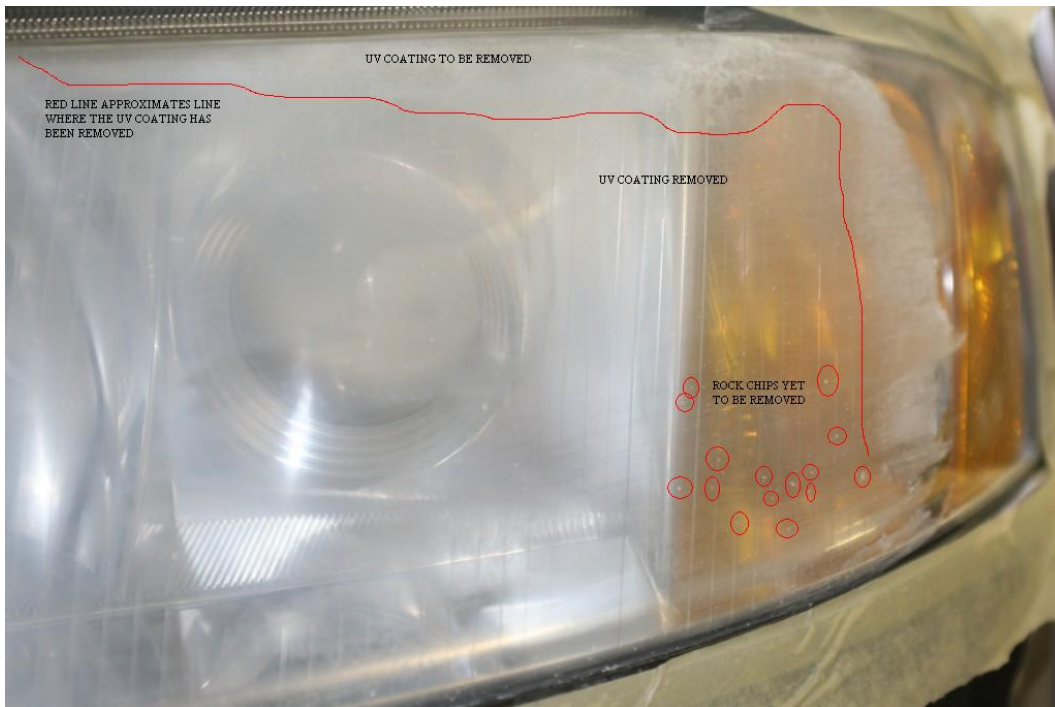
Pic A: Supplies Needed

1. Fill 5 gallon bucket half way with warm water. Put in sheets of sand paper in water, making sure each is separated from the other and that they are fully submerged in the water. Paper cannot be used until they have soaked for 15 minutes.
2. Open hood and tape off all surrounding areas around headlamp. 2" tape is best since it covers enough paint to protect it and also can be used on curved or tapered panels.



Pic B: Wet Sanding

3. Begin by assessing the lens. If the lens is not discolored but cloudy, go to step 4 and polish the lens. If the lens is yellow, begin by wet sanding the lens with sand paper until you remove the entire UV coating from the lens. This coating oxidizes with exposure to the elements and will begin to cloud and yellow. The purpose of this sanding is to remove the coating and expose the fresh plastic under it. Once you break through the coating you will begin to see the edges of it as you sand (see Pic C). Continue sanding until the entire coating has been removed.



Pic C: Work In Progress



Pic D: Polishing the Lens

4. Using the wool pad, begin by applying a quarter-sized amount of polish to the CENTER of the buffer pad. Put the pad on the lens and turn on the polisher feathering the trigger so that nothing splatters. With the speed set at 1200RPM, begin working an area 6 inches by 6 inches. Once that area begins to clear up, move over 4 inches and buff another area. After polishing the lens, remove the tape and use the miracle cloth to wipe down the lens and surrounding bodywork to remove excess polish, pad hair, and drip lines from the wet sanding. Finish by applying a light coat of wax to the lens for added protection. You are now halfway done! Now repeat these steps again on the other side!



Pic E: Before & After