

Know the hazards of repainting

Anyone who has ever been through the ordeal of repainting or touching up a damaged section of a car knows that the biggest problem is obtaining a perfect color match. There are many reasons for this, but the most common reason, is the difficulty of formulating an exact match of the original paint. Although computers are now used to measure specific paint components, the simple fact

remains that pigments vary from batch to batch. Consequently, a perfect match can never be guaranteed.

Old wax a problem

Even if a car owner retains a quantity of the original paint, there is still a major problem to be tackled. Usually, the paint finish on any vehicle more than six months old has begun to fade and has slightly altered from its original

tone. This is caused by accumulated layers of old wax, road dirt and atmospheric pollutants which have dried the surface of the paint and prevented it from breathing.

To reduce the risk of fading and color alteration, car owners should be scrupulous about removing old wax before applying a new coat. In addition, a regular car washing schedule should be adopted and maintained. But that can take time.

Many drivers who lack the time to perform such maintenance services are turning to professional care. Professionals offer a service which effectively does away with waxing and yet provides maximum paint protection. The process they have developed involves the application of a specially formulated paint additive which permeates the paint finish down to the prime coat. The compound surrounds each paint molecule with a bonded-on high gloss shield that protects yet allows breathing action. The key benefit of this process is that it prevents paint from fading by locking in its color and maintaining its fresh and vibrant tone. As a result, if the time ever comes to match color for repainting, the task is a great deal easier.

Under some circumstances, the idea of repainting a car is a relatively unpleasant ordeal. But, proper care and maintenance of a car's finish can prevent real disappointment if the time comes.



Driving for the Winter Olympics



AUTO FACTS

(NC)—CALGARY, Alta. — As official supplier of transportation to the Calgary Olympics, General Motors of Canada wanted to make sure of two essential things.

One, ensure that the volunteers — some 1,200 of them — knew as much as possible about their vehicles before taking them out on the road.

And two, ensure that the vehicles STAYED on the road, mechanically fit at all times.

To accomplish the first each volunteer was given an intensive one-day, GM-sponsored training course last summer.

This allowed them to familiarize themselves with the mechanical and safety aspects of the various vehicles they would be driving and to sharpen their awareness of the necessity for the safe handling of each one.

To satisfy the second requirement — an absolute necessity — two Calgary General Motors of Canada dealers and one in Canmore were brought into the picture.

Shaganappi Motors and GSL Chevrolet/Oldsmobile/Cadillac in Calgary and Can-Bow Motors in Canmore assigned several employees to assist the Transportation Committee of OCO'88.

Daily inspections were carried out on the fleet and any repairs required were

undertaken immediately.

The dealerships agreed to keep their doors open 24 hours a day during February to handle all service needs and GM of Canada's Parts Distribution Centre in Edmonton, which had already stocked extra parts, went on 24-hour call.

When the Olympics conclude, all volunteers and OCO'88 staff will have a chance to buy the vehicles, at very attractive prices, but before they do, GM personnel will inspect them all again to ensure they are ready to make the transition to what will seem a rather humdrum existence.

After all, once an auto or truck has been involved as an integral part of the world's most famous sports competition, rubbing upholstery with the world's elite, carrying the kids to piano lessons or making the weekly grocery run might seem a little mundane.

But never mind, they'll still have the Olympic identification on their bodies somewhere, to remind them of the 1988 Calgary Olympics.

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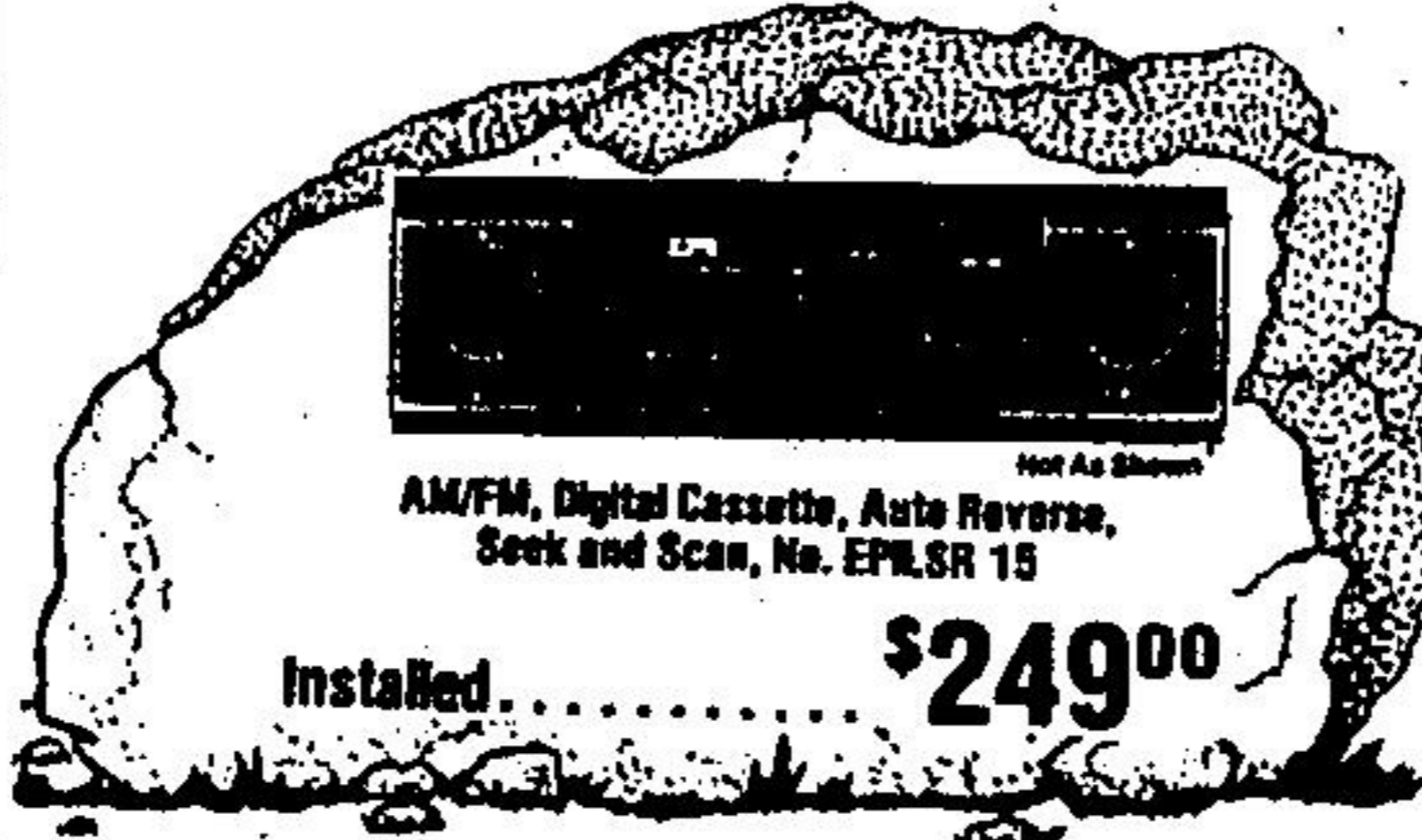
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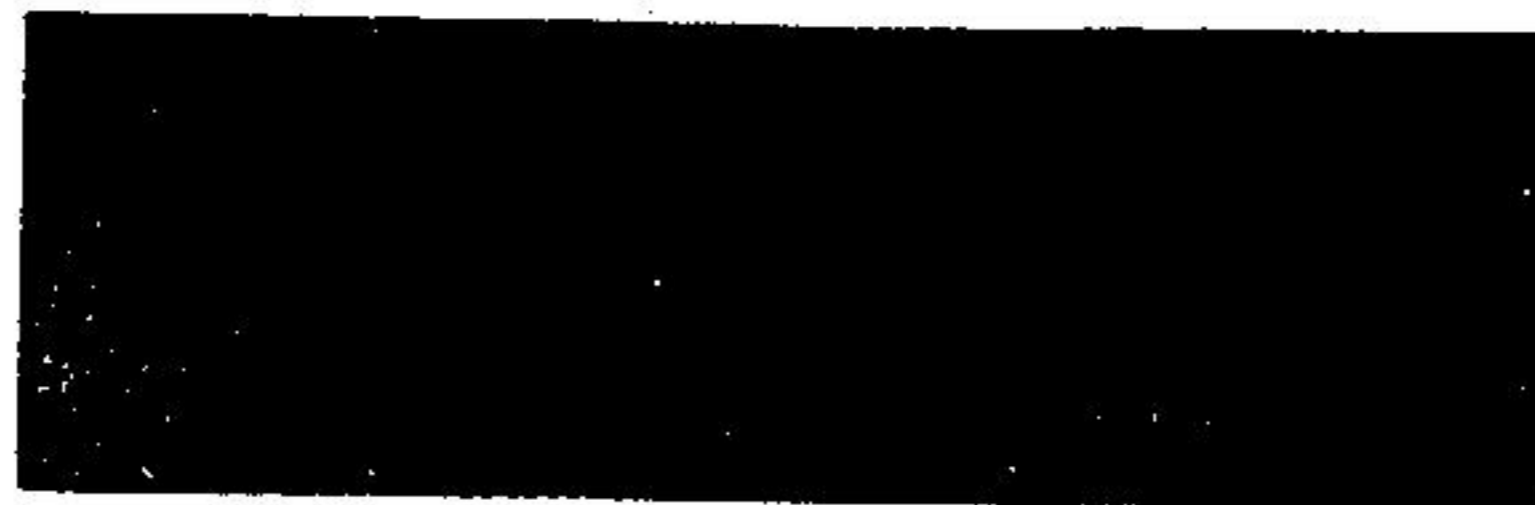
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