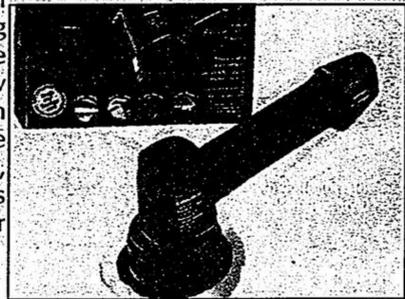


Cordless cleaning power

That old electric buffer sure makes fast work of tired paint. If only it didn't have a cord... you'd be all set. Well, perhaps it's time to join the cordless-tool revolution sweeping the land. In fact, your first purchase can be the handy Simoniz Cordless Polisher kit. Aside from the fact that it's almost impossible for an amateur weekend do-it-yourselfer to damage the paint using an orbital buffer (a rotary buffer takes the skill of a professional detail shop to prevent that from happening), the cordless design means you can quickly get around your pride and joy without the buffer becoming unplugged or the cord becoming tangled or dragged right through a pool of (gulp) water. Can you imagine pulling out of the 'touchless' car wash and asking the gas-station attendant if you can plug-in your old rotary buffer right there beside the cash register? Now you don't have to. You can whip out your new 2,900-orbits-per-minute cordless polisher pretty much anywhere you like, from your camp site to the mall parking lot. ("Hey, honey, you take of things at Home Depot while I wax the car out here, ok?") Each kit contains two 4.8-volt batteries, charger, applicator/polisher bonnets and a scrub brush for hard surfaces such as wheels, or even bathroom tile. The buffer, which retails for \$90, is available at your local Canadian Tire store or online at canadiantire.ca.



By the seat of your pants

If your car seats are subjected to frequent beverage spills and other mishaps of the liquid variety, or you're the outdoorsy type just looking for a way to protect your interior from the elements, the folks at Blue Ribbon Motoring have a neat item for you to seriously consider. They offer a variety of semi-custom Waterproof Sport Seat Covers, which, they claim, are waterproof, dirtproof and, of course, sandproof. The covers are made of nylon-laminated neoprene (sounds complicated, but it's similar to the material used to make divers' wet suits) with a half-inch foam backing for added comfort. You can choose from more than 15 colours, from basic black to a fun floral print called Red Hibiscus. The price for a pair begins at about US \$100. For more information, contact Blue Ribbon at 1-800-874-8888, or visit www.autoanything.com, where you'll find these, plus a variety of other automotive necessities from floor mats to decorative dash trim.

Aging technology

The sign of a great restoration project — whether it's a street rod, classic car, or truck — is the attention paid to subtle details, such as the gauges. After all, a restoration deals with every nut, bolt, wire and piece of trim on or in the vehicle, right? If you've got a project on the go and are looking for a way to keep the original styling of your factory gauges, but want improved — reliable and accurate — performance (hey, you don't have to be doing a full-on restoration to appreciate that), United Speedometer offers a service that should help you out. The company will take your original dials and replace the guts with newer, more accurate electronics. Besides the speedometer, the company can update temperature, fuel and oil gauges as well. United can even refurbish altimeters and voltmeters. Dials are actually reprinted with graphics that match the originals (they don't just use stickers). If your lenses are scratched or discoloured, they'll replace them, too. Each gauge is rust-proofed, inspected and tested, and comes with a 24-month warranty. Check out the full range of products and services at www.speedometer-shop.com, or call 1-800-877-4798.

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