

Fork Polish

By Nick Pearson



Ok I thought long and hard about how to repair the pitted and corroded lower forks on my bike, I even posted a few threads in the forum but nothing helped. So I decided to take matters into my own hands. The supplies you will need are one can of aircraft paint remover (I found it at Walmart it is in a blue can along with all the paint stripper), you will need several sheets of sanding paper in 220 320 400 600 and 1500 grit I used 2000 but I think 1500 would be good enough the 2000 didn't seem like it did much so I'm

recommending 1500 and some good metal polish, the polish I used I got from a guy at work that makes it but any GOOD polish should work. I started by removing the front fender, then covered the wheel, brake rotor and spokes and sprayed a good coat of the aircraft paint remover on the fork, I let it sit for about 20 minutes then wiped it clean with a rag, this will help break through the clear coat and aid in the sanding process. I then tore off a piece of 220 sand paper (about 4"x4") and started sanding I used the 220 to get rid of all the dark spots in the finish I used this 220 for quite a while until the fork was completely smooth then worked my way up in grit. The 220 got most of the roughness out of the fork. I then proceeded to use 320 to remove the rest of the aluminum finish, stepping up



in grit every fourth or fifth piece I wore out, I then concentrated on using the 600 grit, I spent most of my time after the finish was removed with the 600 this got the fork down to the bare metal and I could see the potential for a good shine. I finished off by using 2000 grit to remove any minor scratches. I then used a rag wrapped around my index finger dipped it in the polish and applied a liberal coat to the fork, I rubbed the polish until it turned black then wiped off with another rag I repeated this step four or five times to get a nice shine in the forks. I'm sure the more coats of polish you apply the more shine you will achieve. All together this probably took about 4-5 hours for both forks and it is a lot cheaper than removing the forks and sending them off to be chromed. This can also be applied to the upper triple tree and rotor