

## Leather Restoration Technics

by Phil Karam

After the tour and a cup of coffee and a donut Phil commenced to regale us with the process that he has developed to restore older Jaguar leather. He used a seat cover from an old S Type provided by Rob Laughton the local representative for leatherique products.



This photo shows Phil discussing the need to remove the dye from the upper surface of the leather to allow re-oiling of the leather to return the suppleness.



In this photo Phil explains the need to clear away the old dye using, in his process, gunwash or a varsol/lacquer thinner solution that is then lightly sanded. This is preceded by a careful removal of any loose dirt on the seat with compressed air.



Once the seat has been cleaned and the dye removed then a number of liberal coatings of leatherique rejuvenating oil is applied to soften the leather. 5 Coats a few days apart is optimum. Leatherique recommends that when using their product the use of Pristine Clean precede the use of the rejuvenating oil to remove embedded dirt and previous layers of dye. These leatherique products are water based.



This photo shows the S type seat where at the top of the photo the leather is hard and original. The next horizontal layer shows the dye removed by Phil's process (medium brown). The next layer toward the bottom shows what the seat looks like with the rejuvenating oil applied (darker brown). The bottom three strips (near Phil's gloved hand) shows the leather with all the treatments above that has been dyed using a small brush (2 coats of water based dye).

**The following list is Phil's guidelines for restoration:**

- Air Blow the cracks and seams
- Remove the old dye with lacquer thinner/gun wash
- Sand with #400 grit paper if necessary
- Apply rejuvenator oil-let sit 48 hours (if extra dry you may need more applications)
- Remove the surface oil with Pristine Clean
- Apply filler in all the cracks (available from leatherique)
- Sand with #600 sandpaper and damp clean with Leatherique cleaning agent
- Apply the first coat of dye with a rag or a brush
- Apply the second coat of dye with a brush
- Buff (by hand)
- Where the seat will come in contact with another such as the rear part of the seat cushion where it goes under the back seat rest apply pledge furniture polish to prevent sticking

**Equipment Needed:**

Safety Glasses; Rags; Very course and Medium Course scouring pads; hand sander; water bottle, a pan for the thinner solution; thinner/gunwash; rejuvenator oil; large paint brush; fingernail scrub brush; air hose; rubber gloves; pristine clean; prepping agent, acrylic brush for dye (artists brush); dye (if you need to match the colour exactly cut a small piece about 1 inch square from under the seat where it has not faded and send it to the dye provider); small cups

**Sources :**

- Parasol Inc [www.parasolinc.com](http://www.parasolinc.com)
- Color Plus [www.colorplus.com](http://www.colorplus.com) read about leather 10 pages
- Leatherique [www.leatheriquecanada.com](http://www.leatheriquecanada.com) pristine clean-rejuvenate-prepping -dye
- [www.leatherique.com](http://www.leatherique.com) download the booklet
- [www.leatherique.org](http://www.leatherique.org)
- video: [www.karamfamily.ca/leather-restoration.html](http://www.karamfamily.ca/leather-restoration.html)



Before



Before



Old dye removed



Old dye removed



old dye removed and crack filler



old dye removed and crack filler



crack filler sanded



sanded plus preping agent added



1<sup>st</sup> coat of leatherique dye added



1<sup>st</sup> coat of dye added



2<sup>nd</sup> Coat



3<sup>rd</sup> coat of dye