



CUSTOMER SERVICES BULLETIN

REPAIRING SURFACE DAMAGE IN GELCOAT

Surface damage, scratches, crazing or star cracks in gelcoat can be easily repaired from the top surface. Crazing or star cracks are caused by localized stress, minimum impact damage and/or old age. To repair the damage, the following is required:

1. The surface around the area should be free of all dirt, oil and wax. This can be done with acetone or lacquer thinner.
2. V-groove the cracks using a grinder or sanding wheel with an 80 grit disc. The V-groove can be feathered back slightly to enable the new gelcoat to achieve a good bonding surface.
3. Start with a gelcoat of the appropriate colour to match the surface being repaired. You can use a stock gelcoat if it matches, or you may blend appropriate colour pigments to achieve the colour match.
4. Thicken the gelcoat with cabosil filler to a non-slumping consistency (2 parts gelcoat:1 part cabosil approx.). Homogenously blend the M.E.K.P. catalyst according to gelcoat label instructions at an amount to be applied within 15 minutes. Press or trowel the gelcoat putty into the V-groove using a plastic spreader or putty knife.
5. If the area is only scratched, chipped or scuffed, simply sand out the area using 180 grit sandpaper and apply the gelcoat putty as above.
6. Once the gelcoat putty has cured (2-4 hours approx.), sand the area in progression using 180 grit to get the area smooth, and then wet sand starting with 320 grit wet/dry sandpaper and working up to 600 grit to polish the area.
7. Finish off by applying Fiber-Tek Aqua-Buff 1000 and Aqua-Buff 2000 to bring the surface to a like-new finish. Please see Fiber-Tek Aqua-Buff product use sheet for more information.

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