

A less expensive method of repairing a chrome-plated grill

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Old car grills and bumper bars often show varying degrees of degradation with that brown coloured deterioration called rust. If left too long, it can certainly become a big and expensive problem to repair. If tackled early though, anyone with a modicum of hand-craft skills can arrest the problem and achieve a reasonably good result for a very modest financial outlay.

This is a photo of the rust problem on the grill from our XK150 Jaguar. In the beginning, I attempted to find a chrome-plating enterprise that could clean up the rust and re-chrome the grill, but nobody wanted to tackle the problem; too complicated and too intricate they all said. Seems they all prefer relatively flat bumper bars.

Well, with the help of several members of the Morgan Club in Perth, I was able to find a way to fix the problem myself.



The **first stage** involved the clean-up of the rusted areas with the use of a thin piece of wood (something akin to a 30cm ruler) to which I super-glued a strip of Norton P240-J emery paper; special in that it had a cotton material (not paper) backing, that when torn, would tear straight. However, it did take a while to do this work, as it does need to be done carefully, in order to prevent unnecessary scratching of the good chrome areas.

The **second stage** involved the use of a degreaser to ensure the metal surfaces were clean. The **third stage** involved the application of a rust surface inhibitor, in order to prevent further rust.

The **fourth stage** involved the application of a special clear hard-surface paint, which after drying, was followed by the **fifth stage**, the application of Kromebrite liquid-chrome-enamel paint from a spray can, with final detail touch up with the help of an artist's brush.

The products for stages 2-4 come in a pack which is called POR15 Stop Rust Kit, manufactured in the USA but available in Australia. Although the resulting chrome colour is slightly foggy compared with an actual chrome-plated surface, when the chrome enamel paint is applied to areas that are not on the leading edges of the grill, it is hard to see any significant difference.

The key issue with this kind of repair work is to get in early, and not to wait until it becomes a major issue. The arresting of the rusting process and the sealing of the affected areas with the special hard-surface paint has clearly demonstrated to other users, that this process provides a long-term solution to the rust problem on chrome plated areas.

Importantly, this approach enables the task to be completed for a much lower cost than that of conventional electric re-chroming.

