



The Know-How page is to do with owning a Citroen. If your car's clunking, grinding, acting strangely, if you don't know how to tackle any job, large or small, have any questions about the right fittings for a particular year, want to know where to get work done – any question at all – contact the editor. Don't keep your questions and information to yourself, let the whole club benefit.

Some mention has been made of two-part polyurethane paints for restoration. Where and how would these paints be used, and do they have any special advantages or disadvantages?

To answer your last question first – the advantage of this type of paint is its extreme toughness, imperviousness to corrosion/acid, and deep gloss. Its only real disadvantage is its cost, which is about \$15 for two litres (one litre of colour, one of catalyst). It is not, therefore, practical for refinishing a whole car, but is excellent for specific applications, such as chassis and suspension components (head and shoulders above 'chassis black'), wheels, engine bay (particularly good because of its imperviousness to battery acid and brake fluid), and inside the boot, where paintwork is subjected to scuffing and chipping.

Application is by spray, preferably, although brush may be used. Technique is similar to spray enamel (i.e. tack coat, thirty minutes wait, then full finish coat) and no rubbing out is necessary as it dries to a full gloss. It may be thinned for application, but this is not usually necessary. If recoating is desired, it should be done within 36 hours, otherwise a light sanding should be given. It may be applied over any type of surface/paint, provided that it is sound. The following information was supplied by Brolite Pty.Ltd.

As the polyurethane is a two component product, prior to application, the components are mixed in the prescribed proportions and set aside for the preliminary reaction to take place (30 minutes at least). The pigmented bases shall be well stirred before mixing with the catalyst, to ensure the whole media is distributed evenly in suspension.

The catalysed mixture is stable for 8 hours at normal temperatures. The material is stable when it remains liquid. This liquidity is referred to as 'pot life'. When pot life has been exceeded, the admixed materials become viscous and harden to a solid state, slowly. High temperatures reduce the pot life, low temperatures extend it.

Strict attention therefore, should be paid to the thorough cleansing of application equipment (brushes, spray apparatus, material lines, pressure pots) after each usage. Hardened Polyurethane cannot be removed from spray equipment or brushes by wash thinners like the conventional coating. When apparatus is left for any length of time, care in attention to all equipment must precede such breaks.