

Next Best Thing To A New Paint Job

"You can get an extra \$1,000 for a shiny combine over a dull one," says Jim Deardorff, president of Superior Coatings, about a product called Kleen Kote that stops rust and restores old paint.

Deardorff is a paint specialist who has also developed a black light paint process (Vol. 24, No. 1) and a new sandblast media that uses walnut shells (Vol. 26, No. 3).

Kleen Kote is a spray-on product which he says not only adds years to a paint job, but can add dollars to vehicles and equipment at trade-in or auction time.

"My biggest sales so far have been to shine up equipment for auctions," he notes.

While Kleen Kote shines up a paint surface, the micro-emulsion cleaner also gets into surface cracks, cleans them out and fills them in.

"Two of the major causes of paint failure are the salts from roads and sulfates from diesel exhaust," says Deardorff. "Detergents used to get grease and oils off are pretty aggressive and can really tear paint up. With Kleen Kote, the contaminants never get a chance to bond with the paint, and you don't need detergents."

Deardorff says Kleen Kote cuts corrosion as well. Corrosion begins when moisture migrates through cracks in the paint surface to the underlying metal. In cold climates, the process is speeded up as moisture drawn into micro cracks freezes and expands to make the cracks bigger, allowing in more moisture. By cleaning out dust and dirt and sealing the cracks, moisture is kept away from the metal.

"If you apply it twice a year, you will keep the moisture from getting into the paint," says Deardorff.

While he advises getting the surface as clean as possible in preparation, the product can be sprayed over dust. If sprayed on thick enough, it will migrate through the dust to saturate the paint.

Once the paint is saturated it can be left as is, leaving the surface with a smoky or foggy look. If a glossy surface is desired, Deardorff suggests wiping it with a damp rag before it dries.

"I recommend using a high volume, low pressure spray gun with only about 10 lbs. air pressure at the nozzle for larger applications," he says. "That will gently lay it on the surface. If you use a hand pump or Hudson-type spray gun, use a wet rag to wipe it on for a good coat."

Deardorff suggests the new product is es-



Kleen Kote shines up painted surfaces. It also cleans out and fills surface cracks.

pecially valuable when used on farm equipment. Fertilizer, chemical and manure spreaders/applicators are especially subject to corrosion. He says a layer of Kleen Kote will cut corrosion in half.

The basic ingredient in Kleen Kote is a concentrated industrial product from Progressives Industry. Deardorff sells it in concentrated form or mixes it with water and other additives depending on final uses. He recommends a 15:1 mix for general use and 20:1 mix for general maintenance for combines and tractors. For high corrosion potential vehicles, like feed trucks and fertilizer spreaders, he markets an 8:1 product with a corrosion inhibitor added. He does recommend a pretreatment with Chlo-Rid, a salt remover agent, before applying Kleen Kote to farm, fertilizer or road equipment.

"I put it on a car in December, ran it all the way through the winter without washing," says Deardorff. "In March, I ran it through the car wash on just the rinse cycle, and it came out shiny."

Kleen Kote is available from Superior Coatings for \$35/ gal. in its concentrated form. It is also available by the quart, gallon or bulk amounts in solution. A gallon of 15:1 solution is enough to treat a combine at a cost of \$20 plus shipping. A quart of the same at \$10 would be enough for a mid-sized tractor.

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Brush-On Electrical Tape

Brush-on liquid electrical "tape" is superior to tape on a roll because it forms a tighter seal against dirt and moisture and it won't work loose due to vibration, according to the manufacturer, North American Oil.

"It dries in 5 min. and can't unravel. It's ideal when working in tight places," says company president Cal Yudin.

He says the product is especially useful on battery terminals, especially in cold weather areas where moisture is drawn in by the electrical system. Brush-On Electrical Tape is great for boat trailers and underground irrigation systems, too.

"People even use it to repair vinyl above-ground swimming pools, to coat bleached boat upholstery (it's easy to thin it), and for coating screws to keep them from shaking loose," he says. "This product is made from liquefied PVC chips."

It also comes in a variety of colors, allow-



Brush-on liquid electrical "tape" forms a tight seal against dirt and moisture, and it won't work loose due to vibration.

ing the user to match color-coded electrical wires. The retail price ranges from \$3.99 to \$5.99 and it's available in most automotive and hardware stores.

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Farmer "Recycles" School House

When Dale Flohaug went to school in a one-room school house as a young boy, he never dreamed he'd spend hundreds of hours in the building later in life. But that's what happened because he uses the tiny one-room white school house, which is about the size of a single car garage, as his farm shop. The school's annex, which once served as the cloak, boot and wood room, sits a short distance away and now houses lubricants and miscellaneous tools.

Flohaug's father, Clarence, moved the buildings to his farm in the 1960's when the school closed.

The elder Flohaug also made sure that the original windows, lighting and interior siding remained intact. He put strong wire mesh over the windows to protect the glass, attaching hooks through the mesh to hold tools and small parts.

Dale and his wife Gail have added their own creative touches to make the shop even more workable.

• On one side of the shop an old clothes washer cabinet houses the arc welder. The top surface is plate steel with edging made from worn combine rasp bars. "We made this to save space, and with the heavy top and sides, we could hit it with a maul and not do any damage," says Dale.

• "Changing big truck or wagon tires was always a problem for one man," says Dale, "and we're always concerned about safety. That's why we mounted a bead breaker to the frame of the shop. It gives one person extra leverage and it's a lot safer than doing this with a maul and bar."

• "Plastic tool bins are good, but metal ones are better because they don't crack and break," says Dale. "My dad made these bins 40 years ago from cups that were riveted on a grain belt. They're still in perfect condition today."

• Gail Flohaug doesn't do as much canning as she used to, but her jars and lids are put to good use. By mounting the lids to the underside of shelves, she and the hired help don't have to spend as much time looking for odd size nuts and bolts.

Says Dale, "I started my education in this building more than 40 years ago, and I'm still learning how to do a better job repairing things today. I guess it's only right that we can preserve this 'learning' heritage and have the building serve us as a great farm shop."

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One-room school house is now a farm shop.



Bead breaker mounts to frame of shop.



Old clothes washer cabinet houses Flohaug's arc welder.



Metal bins were made from elevator cups.



Home-built platform rests on top of air-powered auto lift and allows Meffert to work on ATV's and lawn mowers, etc.



Small Machine Lift Platform

Lloyd Meffert, Hettick, Ill., bought an air-powered auto lift from Harbor Freight Tools (www.harborfreight.com; ph 800 444-3353) and then built a platform for it to work on ATV's, lawn mowers and other machines.

He made the 6-ft. long platform out of 1-in. sq. tubing with 10-in. legs in each corner and a drive-on ramp at an end. Plywood run-

ners for the tires go down either side.

The platform simply rests on top of the lift arm so it can be removed easily when not being used.

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