

Nailing Down Those Nefarious Nagging Nits

By Rick "Dr. Detail" Morris

We all have them, those little nits on our cars that just drive you nuts until you do something about them. This month, we are going to take a look at how to deal with some of them so we can all feel a little more smug about how our cars look.

Wax on the Taillights – This is probably the one that most people complain about, since it is one of the easiest to see. At depending on the wax you use, you can end up with some significant deposits of white powder that seems to get worse every time you wax your car. One way to tackle this problem is to get an old toothbrush and spend a significant amount of time scrubbing around each and every raised letter on the taillights (it's surprising how much lettering is on a taillight, isn't it?). This always seemed like a lot of work to me, so I found a somewhat better solution.

Dampen a washcloth and put a very small amount of whatever wax you use on the cloth. Go over the entire taillight, being sure to scrub thoroughly around all the lettering on the light. Without waiting for the wax to dry, take another damp washcloth and scrub all the new wax off, and then polish with a dry towel. The reason this works is that new wax acts as a solvent for the old wax and tends to clean it up. If this doesn't work, you can still go back to the toothbrush method.

Dust in the Air Vents – If your car spends the day parked in the company parking lot, your air vents and all the little cracks and crevices will undoubtedly accumulate some dust as time goes on. At some time, you may have gone the Q-Tip route and spent most of a Saturday cleaning all these spaces. One trip down that road is usually enough for anyone. An easier solution is to find either a very small feather duster or a small (one inch wide or less), natural bristle paint brush that has bristles that are at least two inches long. Either of these tools will let you get into almost every tiny crevice in the car without making you spend all day doing it.

Wiper Arms and Guard – After a few months, the windshield wiper arms will start to fade and turn a fairly unattractive gray instead of the nice dark black they were when they were new. A little Vinylex is just the ticket for making them look like new again. Spray a very small amount of Vinylex on a washcloth and then wipe down the wiper arms and the black plastic strip on the bottom of the car's windshield. Let the Vinylex dry for at least half an hour and then wipe the wiper arms and windshield strip with a damp washcloth and then polish with a dry towel. This only takes a few minutes and will make a noticeable difference in how the whole windshield area looks.



November Fun Run to Nashville

How far is it from Trafalgar to Nashville, Indiana and its delightful shops? My Rand McNally atlas shows a distance of 19 miles. So, why did my odometer show a total of 63 miles on November 17 at the end of the Road Run? Was I lost? No. Did I forget to zero it after the fuel fill up? No. A-ha-aaaaa. Here's the reason..... The Road Run was setup by none other than the infamous Jim Barrick, the Baron of Brown County kinks and curves!

As an occasional "connector road", we were directed over short sections of some of Jim's prior wonderful roads, but to the delight of everyone, it appeared that Jim had convinced the county highway crews to pave about 40 miles of the twistiest hilly roads in the county, just for this Road Run. The roads were soooooo smoooooth and the scenery was beautiful. Some favorite sections were on Hoover Road and Valley Branch Road.

And St. Rt. 135 was also newly paved in the vicinity of Story, IN. At this quaint intersection, the Inn and Restaurant looked busy, and a group of six horsemen were tying up their mounts after a ride through the trails of the Hoosier National Forest. When we all arrived at Nashville, we had some refreshments at The Ordinary Restaurant before taking on the bustling crowd of holiday shoppers. It was a top down kind of day, and a shirt sleeves and credit card experience among the shops of Nashville. Did you at least buy your navigator some fudge or an elephant ear?

Don't forget the Barrick Formula: To go 19 miles, you must drive 63 miles on some of the most scenic roads in the state. Thanks Jim, for another memorable set of "Miata roads".



With the fall colors at their best, Indy Miata club members get ready to roll.