

Concours preparation

Sheldon is treated to a good wash and wax

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The Autobrite-Direct Foam Lance & Super Snow Foam is simply awesome – it is the best fun you will ever have washing your car!



Collinite 476S (£17.50 inc VAT) and 915 Marque D'Elegance (£25 inc VAT) paste wax – both highly recommended



Before...



...after. Fantastic!

The detailing bug has well and truly bitten. As you may already know, I am a bit of a concours fanatic, so it seemed only fair for me to test the latest in concours products. First up is Collinite Wax. Collinite has been a favorite in the US for almost 70 years. The reason for this is that it is such a hard-wearing wax that beads water for months on end. Because of this, we thought it would be perfect to test on *MiniWorld's* Sheldon, as he is kept outside in all weathers and is driven regularly.

Before I could apply the wax, however, Sheldon needed a good wash. For this task, I used the Autobrite-Direct Foam lance with Super Snow Foam. This is a super-thick high-foam, neutral cleaner that contains a blend of detergents to remove traffic film, grease, insects and dirt. This was then mixed with Meguiar's Gold Class shampoo to create a foam cocktail! The lance connects to a pressure washer and allows you to soak the car in a thick layer of shaving foam-like suds. This is not only immense

fun (you have got to have a go of one of these!), but it also allows you to clean a large amount of the dirt away without having to touch the car. This minimises the chances of putting swirls and scratches into the paintwork.

The foam was left on the car for five minutes, then rinsed off. Next, Sheldon was washed with the 'two-bucket method', using a lambswool wash mitt for the bodywork

and a microfibre wash mitt for the wheels and arches. The 'two-bucket method' is where you have two buckets, one with shampoo and one with plain rinsing water. When you wash, you dunk your wash mitt into the shampoo solution and wash a panel of the car. You then put it into your rinsing bucket and rinse out all the dirt particles. Then you go back to the shampoo bucket and redo this process. This will help minimise contamination of the shampoo bucket and wash mitt.

"Beads water like crazy"

Sheldon was then dried, using microfibre waffle-weave cloths. Next he was 'clayed', using Meguiar's Quick Clay to remove any surface contaminants.

Next, the wax was applied by hand with a foam applicator. I used the 476S on most of the Mini, as this is Collinite's top hard-wearing wax. However,

I was itching to try Collinite's 915 Marque D'Elegance wax as well, so the bonnet was used as the test bed for this.

I must say, I noticed that the colour looked slightly richer with the 915 – this is probably due to the higher carnuba content in this top-of-the-line wax.

The key to using both these waxes is to apply a thin layer. If you do, it will be easy to remove and will leave a beautiful shine. After the wax had dried to a haze, it was removed with a clean microfibre cloth and buffed to a high lustre. The result? A tough wax that is terrific value for money and beads water like crazy – highly recommended!

Sheldon

Model: 1990 Racing Green LE reshelled into Heritage shell number one
Engine: 998 bored +0.020-inch to 1014cc, built by Rob Walker Engineering
Interior: Newton Commercial Mk2 black vinyl seats, door cards, black carpet, Custom Consoles dashboard

Paul's contact list

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» **Autobrite-Direct Foam Lance & Super Snow Foam**
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The Autobrite-Direct Foam Lance. Very impressive!



THIS MONTH I BOUGHT CHARLES!

The Charles wet or dry vac with powerful 1200W two-stage motor, comes with safety float valve for wet use and big filters and disposable dust bags for dry use. The standard kit has aluminium (non-rusting) tubes and two floor nozzles – one for wet work and a combination nozzle for carpets and hard floors (perfect for my garage!). Add three smaller tools to this and you have everything you need to get the interior of your Mini up to top concours standard.



Charles: the professional detailer's favourite vacuum cleaner

