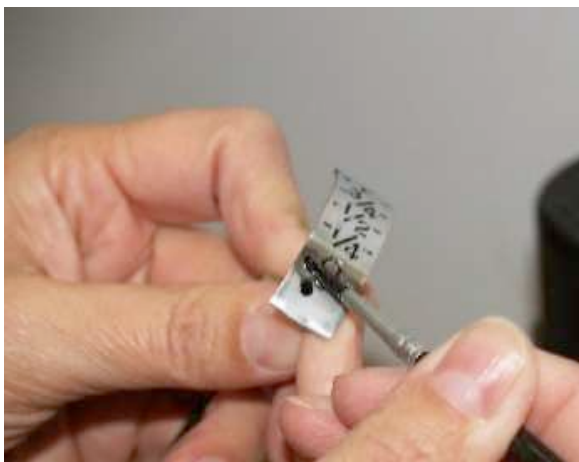


Restoring Fuel Level Indicator

After spending over 80 years inside the gas tank of my 1930 standard coupe, the fuel indicator was looking pretty sad. Paint was missing from the numbers and the overall appearance was dingy and tarnished. I decided to see if I could bring it back to life.

Since the numbers are actually stamped into the indicator, lower than the surrounding surface, I figured I might be able to flow some new paint into the recesses, wait until it dried, and try to rub the paint off the top surface, leaving just the numbers painted. It worked like a champ. Here's what I did.

I gathered up a small artist's brush, a tiny cup, and some fuel proof paint. This is the same model airplane paint recommended to repaint your carburetor. After shaking the paint up for at least a full minute, I squirted some into the small cup.



Getting just a bit of paint on the tip of the brush, I let the paint flow into the recesses of the numbers where they had been chipped or eaten away over the years.

Once the paint had thoroughly dried, I looked around for something to rub the surface with. I decided against a cloth as being too floppy and might actually pull the paint back out of the recesses. I needed something smooth but stiff. A scrap piece of pine, from another project, laying on my work bench caught my eye. A sort of burnishing tool. Perfect!



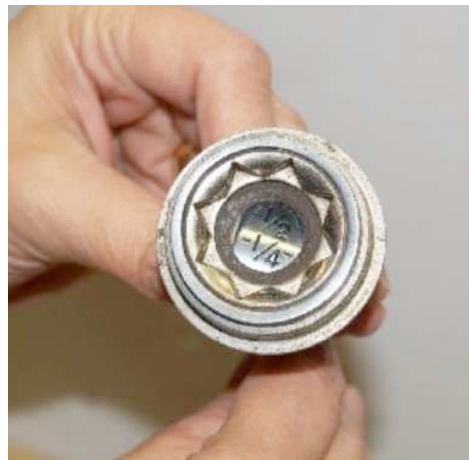
I rubbed it over the now dried paint and it not only took off the unwanted paint around the numbers but it had a sort of polishing effect on the metal as well.



Whatever the surface of the indicator is plated with, it came right back, shiny as new and the numbers looked terrific (the lovely hands belong to my wife. I'm manning the camera.)

This is going to look great, even behind the old, original bezel.

After cleaning and polishing the inner and outer rings as best I could, my gas gauge is



ready to be reinstalled in the fuel tank and give another 80 plus years of service.

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