

FIX A LENS— MAKE A BUCK

If you've quoted a price on replacing a taillight lens lately, you probably had to revive your customer afterwards. The cost of the lens, less labor, is enough to send even the heartiest souls into prolonged shock.

Maybe you ought to think about fixing some of those lenses instead of just replacing them. You can charge the customer for the repair—as well as for removing and replacing it—and still save him money in most cases.

Easy-to-use repair kits are now available which allow you to repair most lenses. Even without all the broken—and usually missing—pieces, you can repair and reform a lens.

Available in colors to match clear, amber, or red plastics, these kits use an epoxy to glue the major pieces together, and then reconstruct whatever's missing. If you've ever tried to reconstruct a broken lens by making each and every little sliver of plastic fit into place, you know it's an impossible task.

You'll usually find that even if the pieces won't stick to one another, they'll sure stick to you.

These kits are available in small retail packages or as larger professional kits, capable of doing many repairs.

A FEW CAUTIONS

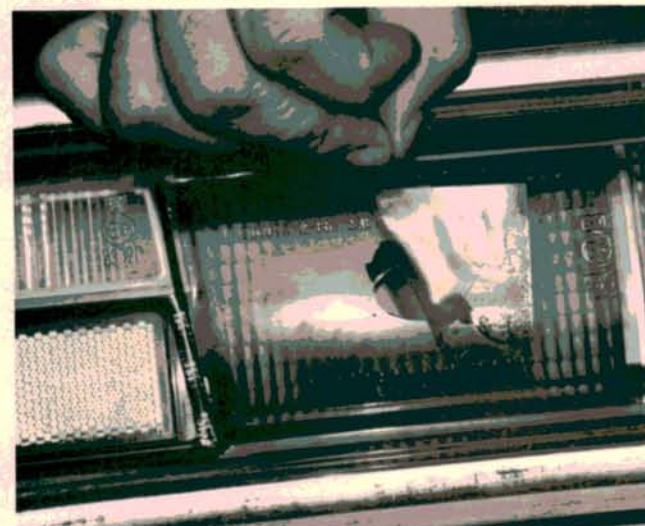
Before we deal with specifics, it'll help to keep a few cautions in mind:

- Please use the product carefully. It can cause skin or eye irritation.
- Make sure the lens and any pieces to be used are clean and dry.
- Avoid temperature extremes. The epoxy is designed for use at room temperature. Pot life of the mixed epoxy is about 8 minutes at this temperature. Pot life is shorter at higher temperatures and longer as the temperature goes down. Temperature is so important to the epoxy, that it may refuse to cure at all below 60 degrees F.

If the tubes are stored in a cold place, make sure to warm them, in a warm water bath if necessary. Also make sure that the lens to be repaired is also allowed to warm.



Here's a prime candidate. The lens has been punctured. The plastic that used to fill that hole is nothing but plastic dust and slivers. We've cleaned the lens with glass cleaner and allowed it to dry.



Apply the molding film to the lens. Cut a piece of this backer from the sheet provided. Make sure it covers the hole completely. If the lens is dirty or wet, the film will not stick well and it will give you a sloppy job.



Syringes are supplied with the kit. Each is calibrated to allow proper proportions of resin and hardener to be mixed. First measure an amount of hardener. Add the same amount of resin and mix thoroughly for about a minute.



Place the lens face down on a clean, flat surface. The molding film we applied will provide support for the epoxy. We're going to inject epoxy into the back of the lens and allow it to reconstruct the missing plastic.



When you finish mixing the epoxy, install the end cap on the syringe. For those one-piece, glued-together lenses, add an extension tube from the kit before removing the syringe stopper. This will allow you to squirt the epoxy through a bulb hole.



Once the epoxy has dried to the touch (usually 30 to 60 minutes), you can remove the backing film. Although dry to the touch, the epoxy will continue to cure for 24 hours. However, if you're careful, you can install the lens now.

Available from:

Bostik
Write in No. 200

Flex-Hesive
Write in No. 201

Loctite
Write in No. 202

Roberk
Write in No. 203