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THE ULTIMATE FINISH

ISSUE 38 SPRING 2024

Your Passion.

Our Coatings.



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1955 CHEVROLET RESTORATION

SUCCESS WITH SYROX

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF COACHING

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Do you have a great story?

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



Your Passion. Our Coatings.

By the time Issue 38 has reached you, Spring will most definitely have sprung, and what better time to showcase our incredible customers.

This issue features spectacular restorations of a 'Top Hot Rod' 1934 Ford Sedan crafted at Elite Kustom Paintworx (page 4-5), and a unique and ravishing red 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air by

Royalz Restorationz (page 10-11). Both have found our Cromax Centari paint system to be the right fit for such projects.

We are always interested in what draws younger people to our industry. Read how a young female entrepreneur learnt from the best, her family, and how she is at the heart of their 3rd newly built bodyshop - MJ Collision Centre.

We reconnect with the talented Airbrush Artist, Ryan Cribbin, to uncover his latest ventures. He has captured attention with life-like celebrity murals at a Queensland Bakery and prop work in blockbuster films. Dive into the full story on pages 16-17.

From an Axalta perspective, Page 12 introduces you to a new-and-improved Sagola 4600 DFT gun, our innovative 1K primer surfacer aerosols (page 18), and we sadly farewell one of our beloved colleagues, Steve Viney.

Finally, cutting-edge bodyshops with advanced technology both in Australia and New Zealand are featured on page 6 (LB Collision Repair Group) and pages 8-9 (Grange Smash Repairs).

If you would like to share your own stories or suggestions with us, please email our team and we will be in touch for inclusion in our 2025 issues.

Enjoy the read and the rest of 2024!

Steven Brett
Managing Director
Axalta Coating Systems



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YOUNG FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR AT THE HEART OF MJ COLLISION CENTRE

MJ Collision Centre, based in Auburn NSW, is not just another automotive bodyshop, but a pillar of enterprising spirit and family support.

As a thriving new shop, you would not expect to see a young, female entrepreneur at the helm, driving operations and making crucial decisions, but 20-year-old Badiah Elkheir is taking the next generation forward at MJ Collision Centre, with her progressive approach to business.

Badiah planned to pursue a business course after leaving school, but instead found herself drawn into the family business. Collaborating closely with her father, Mustapha Elkheir (who owns MJ Auto Repairs, Silverwater, and MJ Collision Care, Bankstown) and learning on the job, Badiah was inspired to open her own bodyshop. "I've grown up around cars, so following in the footsteps of my parents who have devoted their lives to their business, I wanted to be a part of that too," she shares.

"I may be young, but I have learnt from the best! My advice to other young, female entrepreneurs looking to start their own business is to go for it! I did."

"Setting up shop came with many challenges such as finding the right location, sourcing the best equipment, and building a dependable team," said Badiah.



"With careful planning and the guidance of my father, we finally acquired the shop in Auburn in November 2023 and opened our doors to the public in April this year."

Partnering with Axalta was a natural choice and a smooth transition, given that there was already a long-standing relationship with Mustapha and distributor, Spectra Automotive Paints. Badiah installed the waterborne system, Standoblue. "The installation was completed and we're very grateful for Axalta's extensive support and ongoing resources."

Despite facing challenges as a young female entrepreneur in a male dominated industry, Badiah's determination saw her integrate the latest, advanced technology into her business, further setting her shop apart from competitors in the area.

MJ Collision Centre has plans to eventually open a new premises in the city, and expand services to include specialist, custom spray jobs. With a long-term goal to franchise and expand services out-of-state.

**Distributor: Spectra Automotive Paints
Paint System: Standox Standoblue**

Your Passion.
Our Coatings.

1934 FORD SEDAN WINS *Top Hot Rod*

When it comes to turning rusted relics into works of art, Elite Kustom Paintworx in Nerang, Queensland, have built a reputation for exceptional craftsmanship. One of their latest triumphs, the restoration of a 1934 Ford Sedan, saw them transform a hollow shell, in record time, into an automotive masterpiece - a project that would typically take at least two years to complete.

Dave Athans of Elite Kustom Paintworx has created a legacy defined by passion and precision. His journey began in 1996 as a first-year apprentice in spray painting, where his father's influence ignited a love for painting hot rods. Known within the industry for his meticulous attention to detail, Dave quickly gained recognition on the Sydney show car circuit, with his award-winning 1932 Roadster cementing his reputation.

His career took a significant turn with a move to Queensland in 2010, which saw him cross paths with Jason Leadbeater - owner of Elite Kustom Paintworx. Dave joined Jason, and together their impeccable work and unwavering dedication put Elite on the map as the go-to for quality car restorations.



THE COLLABORATION

The project of a 1934 Ford Sedan came to Elite via Cahill Speedshop. An ambitious restoration began when owners John and Kerryn Gall entrusted them with the perfect body for the build, setting the stage for the transformation.



Dave recalls: "When the car arrived in late 2023, we knew this would be no ordinary restoration. The owner had a clear vision: a car that would dominate at shows, particularly in Mackay. Our collaboration with Cahill Speedshop was pivotal. They oversaw the major elements of the build, from the steel work to an in-house engine build, while we focused our expertise on the intricate painting and finishing."



THE PAINT

For this restoration, the Renault Maple Red in Cromax Centari 6000 was chosen, topped off with a sleek flat clear finish. Dave, who has a long-standing partnership with Phil Hughes at Oz Trade Supplies, praised the ease of working with the Cromax brand, highlighting the excellent coverage and premium quality finish provided, the perfect choice to bring the 1934 Ford Sedan to life.



With over \$15,000 worth of paint invested, this project was completed in under twelve months - a vast comparison to the typical timeline of several years for a restoration of this scale.





THE UNVEILING

The 1934 Ford Sedan was unveiled at the Mackay Motor Show earlier this year, which was the first time owner John and wife Kerryn had seen the finished car in person. Their 'Bonnie and Clyde' went on to win 'Top Hot Rod' at the show, which is a testament to Elite Kustom Paintworx' dedication and craftsmanship.



"If I can offer any advice to enthusiasts and professionals in the custom paint and restoration industry, it is to follow your dreams and never give up," concluded Dave. "Passion, perseverance, along with the power of family and community support, is what makes restorations like this so worthwhile."



Distributor: Oz Trade Supplies
Paint System: Cromax Centari

A VISIONARY LEAP INTO THE FUTURE

With New Zealand's LB Collision Repair Group at capacity in its old premises, running out of space, and relying on technology and equipment in desperate need of an update, it was time for owner Carl Henty to hatch a grand plan!

Carl envisioned a new, large-scale workshop, with the aim of keeping the insurance-led panel shop consolidators out of the region. He knew he had to match the insurance-owned panel shops by building a streamlined and efficient operation, all without their deep pockets.



After a long search, Carl secured land in Port Whangārei in an undeveloped area. Building delays, COVID-19 lockdowns and slow global logistics contributed to delaying the start of the project by six months - with installation starting in December 2021 and the new LB facility up and running in May 2022.

The result is one of the most advanced refinishing shops ever built in New Zealand. The all-new LB Collision Repair Group features 2 ThermoFLO spraybooths and a multi-zone Robotic RapidCAT gas infrared arch system. Within the new facility is a dedicated commercial section with four truck working bays, a 17-metre full downdraft commercial truck spray booth with a rapid roller entrance.

Following a 20-year run with his previous paint company, Carl felt it was time for a fresh approach. "We knew the application process for Standoblue would be more efficient than our previous waterborne system, which would enhance overall performance," Carl said.

With knowledge and guidance from Josh Fistonich and the Resene technical team, Carl says the changeover was "seamless and hassle-free."

LB Collision Repair Group has certainly come a long way from when Carl started his apprenticeship under its roof in 1997. Under Carl's ownership since 2005, LB now employs a team of 20.

"I was a keen car enthusiast from the start, and I have loved the trade right the way through," Carl said. "With staff shortages becoming a problem, I just wish more youth would enter this fantastic trade."

Carl says he has played his part by investing heavily in the future of the industry and providing the facilities demanded by the large insurers, and that now it's over to them.

For his part, Carl hopes to increase volumes through LB's commercial division on the path to becoming a market leader, while keeping up with the latest technology, and ensuring his staff are well-resourced and well-rewarded.

Distributor: Resene Automotive & Light Industrial NZ

Paint System: Standox Standoblue



LB COLLISION REPAIR GROUP



COACH'S CORNER

with Robin Taylor

Unleashing the Power of Coaching

From my experience, Coaching in the workplace is a secret recipe for success that can enhance both individual and organisational performance.

Research from BetterUp, a renowned coaching platform, and other sources confirm coaching, if done right, can lead to increased employee engagement and heightened productivity. Essentially, coaching empowers individuals to realise their full potential and shine.

EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT DIVIDE

When visiting shops, I notice that one of the critical challenges facing repairers is the disconnect between employees and management, which often leads to resignations and a loss of productivity and talent. While formal coaching programs are fantastic, incorporating a coaching approach in everyday interactions with your team can yield similarly great results. Think of it as adding a touch of care and attention to your daily routine, making everyone feel valued and heard.

MINDSET: THE MAGIC INGREDIENT

One of the first steps to implementing a successful coaching culture is to overcome how you see things (or people). Sir John Whitmore, in his influential book "Coaching for Performance," emphasises the importance of mindset. Shifting our perspective from seeing someone as a problem to viewing them as capable and resourceful can dramatically alter outcomes. It's like switching from seeing obstacles to seeing opportunities.

"I think this person is a problem."

"I think this person has a problem."

"I think this person is on a learning journey and is capable, resourceful, and full of potential."



Whitmore also introduced the GROW Model, a widely respected coaching framework.

By incorporating the GROW model, even in a flexible manner, I've seen substantial improvements in repair facilities across the country. It encourages thoughtful, open-ended questioning that helps individuals reflect and grow.

In my view, coaching is not just a formal process but should be a daily practice within your workshop. With consistent application, the benefits become evident, unlocking workers' potential and fostering a thriving workforce.

So, why not make coaching your new workplace habit? The Axalta Drivus team are here to help. And with a little bit of effort and a positive mindset, you'll soon see a happier, more productive team ready to tackle any challenge!





Top of the Grange

Grange Smash Repair's brand-spanking new premises in Sydney's Gregory Hills is owner Keven Gilbert's first development and the fruit of more than two decades in the trade.

Beginning his career as a spray painter in 2000, Keven went on to buy his first business in 2012, and now, 12 years on, Keven's new premises stands as the tangible evidence that in this business, it pays to back yourself.

"In December 2020 we got wind of industrial land coming up for sale in Gregory Hills and went a bit gung-ho putting a deposit on it that afternoon while it was still off market," Keven said. The move from Smeaton Grange to a new development was motivated by a desire for greater efficiency and to escape rising leasing costs.

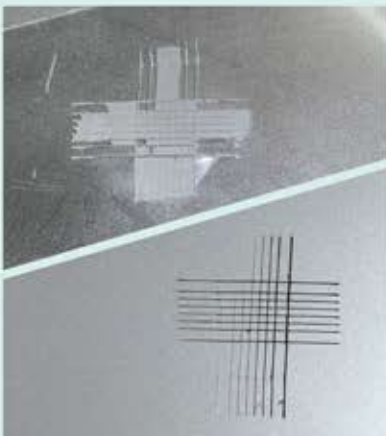
"In the previous shop, I was spending 8 to 10 hours overtime a week just moving cars around," Keven said. "Going forward, I knew the next step had to be my own premises, and I moved heaven and earth to do it."

The standout, says Keven, is a 25-car basement: "So, when we're waiting for parts or authority and the cars are non-drivers, they can be stored out of the way, which makes us more efficient in the top shop."

Beyond enviable parking, the shop is headlined by truck and car booths featuring full dust-extraction, a concealed storeroom for bulky items, a 150sqm mezzanine, and an 80sqm detail studio with showroom style hexagon lighting.



TECH TIPS DEFYING DELAMINATION



When it comes to painting plastic substrates, a smooth, defect-free finish isn't just a stroke of luck - correct preparation and products are crucial to improving adhesion.

Delamination and flaking between the plastic and refinish system can be a frustrating and time-consuming setback, but fear not, we have the do's and don'ts to help you create the perfect finish!

STEP 1

PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION

Firstly, correctly identify the type of plastic substrate you are repairing. Whether it's PPE or PE, knowing your substrate is essential. Always refer to the Technical Data Sheet (TDS) prior to using any plastic primers.

STEP 2

TEMPERING

This step is often overlooked and neglected by refinishers, however, is important to remove mould release agents. For convenience, temper the plastic in the same booth while you are baking another job.



A contract for approximately 200 truck resprays a year with the NSW Rural Fire Service underpinned Keven's investment. "It's great to have that consistency - we average 4, sometimes 6, truck resprays a week. I'm on the tools every day," Keven says.

Alongside typical insurance work, Grange Smash repairs prides itself on a variety of other work including custom trucks, cars for Motorex and Summernats, and a recently restored helicopter.

"I worked with Joe Webb of Bad Image, on a 1985 Long Ranger Bell 206L-3 helicopter, which took 3 days to mask and spray, and 230 hours of preparation including all the airbrush work and clearing it off," Keven said.

As you'd expect, painting a helicopter brought plenty of new challenges, however the new premises ensured that space was not one.

"It's so intricate and there are so many rivets - there are a lot of rivets on a Kenworth, but this was next level!"

While Keven has since been asked to paint more helicopters, his focus remains on growing and expanding the business for years to come.

Distributor: Wallaby Crash Supplies

Paint System: Cromax Centari / Cromax Pro

**1985 Long Ranger Bell
206L-3 helicopter,
Bankstown Airport**



STEP 3

CLEAN AND DRY

Thoroughly clean the plastic part and be sure to dry completely. Pay close attention to problematic areas and divots prone to cleaning agent build-up.

STEP 4

SAND AND PREPARE

Fully sand the plastic part and clean once again to remove all particles. Prepare the plastic using an anti-static cleaner or Sontara anti-static wipes. If available, finish with an anti-static gun such as the IONSTAR to remove remaining static from the bar.

STEP 5

APPLYING PRIMER SURFACER

To avoid delamination, use the correct primer surfacer with the TDS-recommended mixing ratio of hardener and plastic additive.

Apply the primer surfacer to the recommended film build with the correct viscosity and drying time. Ensure the primer surfacer is dried fully before applying the basecoat to enable cross hatching.



SCAN FOR
FURTHER PLASTIC
REPAIR GUIDANCE

REMEDY If delamination or flaking has occurred, strip and start again! Remove all refinish layers from the substrate and follow the recommended procedures to achieve that flawless finish.



Fresh paint of Bel Air

1955 Chevrolet Bel Air restoration by Royalz Restorationz

"With me, it's just all about cars - I don't get into the politics or anything!" said Tony Wilson of Cabarlah, Queensland. Tony, the proud owner of a 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air, radiates his love for custom cars. Even if you haven't heard of Tony's '32 2-door Ford 'CHOODA', a conversation with him reveals his lifelong passion for automotive customisation.

At 64 years old, Tony has built several hot rods, earning two Motorex Super 6s and a pair of Summernats Top 10s for his trophy cabinet. For Tony, the custom scene is more than a hobby; it's a way of life.

The journey of the 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air began in Reno, Nevada, where it featured at Hot August Nights. After being brought to Australia and made compliant, Tony enjoyed driving it for four years. However, a former friend's ill-fated refurbishment left the '55 in a sorry state, leaving Tony in need of someone he could trust to restore this classic beauty.

That's where Royalz Restorationz, based in Capalaba, Queensland came in. Warren 'Wazza' Purcell of Shed 13, a restoration supplies and training business, connected Tony with Luke Williamson, the owner of Royalz. The plan was set, and work began in October 2023, with the goal of unveiling the restored Bel Air at Rockhampton's 2024 Rocky Nats.

"My team poured their hearts and souls into the project" says Luke. "Despite the challenges posed by the car's age, we meticulously stripped it down, undertook body repairs, paintwork and refurbished the brightwork - all within a tight six-month timeframe."

Luke personally applied the paint, using the Cromax system. The basecoat was a rich coppery bronze mixed by Shed 13, topped with a tangerine candy layer. Finally, four coats of 3050 Clear were applied, resulting in a stunning finish. The colour, affectionately nicknamed 'Sorta,' straddles the line between red and orange, capturing attention wherever it goes.

"The Chev guys I hang around with were just so impressed. The response I got about Luke and Royalz has been nothing but positive!" exclaimed Tony.

ROYALZ RESTORATIONZ: A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Luke Williamson, the visionary behind Royalz Restorationz, embarked on this journey after years in the trade. From Cairns to Brisbane, via a stint in Sydney, Luke's passion for automotive craftsmanship led him to open Royalz with his wife, Chelsea, in April 2018.

Initially, the business focused on insurance work and car yard projects, including blackout kits. However, Luke's determination paid off, and Royalz gradually shifted toward its true calling - restorations. Even the challenges posed by COVID-19 couldn't deter them. Luke now operates on a 12 to 18 month lead time for new bookings, a testament to Royalz's reputation.

While Valiant Chargers and Ford Mustangs have become their signature, Royalz's scope extends far beyond. Luke's love for hot rods spans from the '32 Model A Tudor to the '46 and '53 Buicks, not to mention his soft spot for Chevilles and 'Cudas from the pre-'70s era. A quick scroll through @royalzrestorationz on Instagram reveals their diverse portfolio, including Japanese and Euro metal.



"Our partnership with Shed 13 has been pivotal, their heart is in the restoration world and that's where our relationship thrives," Luke said.

"Looking ahead, we aim to leverage our mechanical, auto electrical, and motor trimmer relationships to offer end-to-end project management for customers' builds".

Distributor: Shed 13

Paint System: Cromax Centari

Pictured right: Tony Wilson and Luke Williamson.

Far right: Brandon Venter, Doane Kelly and Mitchell Warnes.





VALE

STEVEN LESLIE VINEY

1960 – 2024



It is with great sadness we advise that Axalta employee, Steve Viney, passed away in February this year after a short battle with cancer.

Steve will be remembered for his technical ability, easy-going nature, helpful all-round attitude to those around him, and more importantly - his love of the Sydney Swans AFL team!

Having started his career with Habib Bros in Austral, Sydney, and progressing to technical representative for Standex, he made substantial contributions throughout his service.

Steve returned to Axalta in 2015 as a CV & Industrial Technical Consultant for NSW/ACT, bringing a background in heavy vehicle refinishing.

He earned the respect of work colleagues, customers, competitors, and just about anyone who crossed his path, and for this he is greatly missed.

The **NEW**

SAGOLA

4600

DFT

Although it may resemble the original 4600 Xtreme model, the NEW Sagola 4600 DFT sets a new standard in terms of efficiency, comfort, and performance. More than just an enhancement, it represents decades of innovation and excellence in the world of spray painting.

- Equipped with Dynamic Flow Technology (DFT™) - which harnesses the ambient air around the aircap, providing a flawless finish even at lower working pressures.
- Incorporates Metal to Metal Technology (M2M™) - with fewer joints and wear parts, this ensures easy maintenance and low costs over time, offering reliability and robustness in every application.
- Enhanced performance - featuring greater fan stability, superior atomisation, and a uniform fan pattern from top to bottom.
- Ensures an even paint distribution - say goodbye to painting defects like shadowing, mottling, and striping.
- Perfect for challenging base colours such as metallics, silvers, and pearls.
- 3-year Sagola warranty offering exceptional value, providing the flexibility to purchase replacement needle/nozzle sets and air caps individually.



Get your Sagola 4600 DFT today from your local Axalta Distributor and discover how small details can make a big difference.

Scan to see the new Sagola 4600 DFT in action!



SAGOLA 
an Ecometer company

The art of protection



Pictured: Sue Weier - Industrial Sales Executive (QLD) and Jon Radler - Managing Director, Amtrade.

With a history dating back over 140 years, the Amtrade Group is a leading independent supplier of chemicals, raw materials and specialty products into the Australian and New Zealand markets. They are the exclusive local distribution partner for Axalta's premium thermoplastic powder coating range "Plascoat".

"Thermoplastic coatings, and particularly Plascoat products, are designed to deliver functional benefits such as corrosion protection, chemical resistance and UV stability," states Jon Adler, Managing Director for the Amtrade Group. They can also be food grade, as is the case with the Plascoat PFA571, which is the market-leading product for potable water in Australia."

By contrast, most thermoset powder coatings have far more limited application, typically being used for cosmetic colour in architectural projects.

Jon and his team have worked on many different projects since taking on the Plascoat product in the early 1990s. The focus has been on corrosion protection for exterior applications such as street furniture, fencing and other steel and aluminium structures.

Two projects really demonstrate the durability of Plascoat's thermoplastic properties.

The first dates back to 1996, when a local coating company in Brisbane won a tender to remove, sand blast, re-coat and re-install fences in Sutton Beach, one of Brisbane's seaside parks. "It had only taken six months for the previously chosen coating technology to corrode completely off the fences," recalls Jon. "As a result, the local council was looking for a more durable solution that would protect against both the extreme UV and salt corrosion. The fences were recoated in Plascoat - and they still look like new today!"

In 2011, Plascoat PPA 571 again had the opportunity to demonstrate its performance, this time on the award-winning Kulripa Bridge in Brisbane.

"Amtrade recommended using Plascoat to protect the handrail support structure from corrosion", explains Jon, "as well as to withstand the tough Australian climate and protect the integrity of a pedestrian bridge that is crossed by hundreds of people each day. It has been extremely pleasing to see the product perform so well on such an iconic, highly visible structure."

The Amtrade Group works closely with its customers to understand their needs, and with suppliers to understand its offerings, in order to deliver timely and effective solutions. When it comes to powder coatings, they are keen to promote the proven benefits of the Plascoat range in preventing corrosion without necessitating costly maintenance programs.

Amtrade and Axalta look forward to growing the Plascoat range in Australia and New Zealand for decades to come.



Plascoat

THERMOPLASTIC POWDER

FEATURES

- **Melts when heated (pre-heating):** Can be re-melted, repaired, recycled
- **No curing process:** Soft when heated, strengthens on cooling
- **Long Molecular chains - Semi Crystalline:** Density ~ 1 g/cm³
- **Functional coating - 1 layer system:** High film build (200 to 1000µm)
- **Technical colour range:** Products Range: Abcite® and Plascoat®



THE SIMPLIC

Syrox has been a game-changer for many bodyshops in Australia since its launch in 2016. This easy-to-use, compact waterborne system offers an economical solution for those hesitant to switch from solvent to water-based systems or seeking simplicity.

At its core, Syrox is a European-formulated waterborne refinishing paint system suitable for any bodyshop looking for a traditional, simple, and economical way of working. The products are easy to apply, using familiar two-coat application methods, and spray like solvent basecoat, but with the benefits of being water-based.

The system is supported by a compact range of undercoats, clear coats, and ancillary products. With access to a global colour database of over 70,000 colour formulas, the Acquire spectrophotometer ensures accurate colour matching.

Syrox stands out with its functional, specially designed bottles that eliminate the need for traditional mixing machines or agitators. It also provides a comprehensive library of easy-to-access videos, all aimed at simplifying the job.



Syrox is technically supported in Australia and New Zealand by a network of distributors.

Check out our customer reviews and our library of short application videos at: syrox.com.au or scan the QR code!



ITY OF SYROX



Spray & Bake Commercial Refinishers OTOROHANGA

Located in the rural town of Otorohanga, on New Zealand's North Island, Spray & Bake Commercial Refinishers has been making waves with its impressive use of Syrox. Over the past two and a half years, this family-owned and run business has completed around 12 stunning metallic truck projects, including a recent Scania respray.

Established in 1965 by Hobo Butcher and now run by his son Paul Butcher, the business offers a wide range of services - from industrial painting to digger maintenance and commercial projects.

Paul and his resolute team staff of ten, have only positive things to say about their experiences with Syrox. "We use it on cars and trucks as it delivers exceptional quality metallic finishes," said Paul.

Recent standout projects completed by Spray & Bake Commercial Refinishers include the painting of metallic boats, and a stunning metallic blue Scania for local company, TD Haulage.

Paul went on to say, "The Scania project highlighted the benefits of waterborne paints, such as their smooth application and impressive, high-quality finish. Our painters also enjoy the ease of application and appearance of Syrox S5000 Clearcoat."

Distributor: Resene Automotive & Light Industrial, NZ



MJ Benton Refinishing Masters QUEANBEYAN WEST

Matthew Benton, owner of MJ Benton Refinishing based in Queanbeyan West, in NSW, is a classic car enthusiast, who's committed to authenticity when it comes to bringing automotive masterpieces back to life.

For Matthew, Syrox has become more than just a tool - but an integral part of his thriving refinishing and restoration business. His process typically includes using wash primer S2000, high-fill primer S3140, and S5000 HS top clearcoat.

"The Syrox system is straightforward and forgiving, which is crucial when you are working on high-value restorations like we do, where precision is paramount. Not only does it provide excellent coverage with reduced shrink-back and a standout, high-gloss finish, I never have to polish at the end - the quality finish really is that good."



Matthew goes on to say, "I have also found using a water-based system is more workable than solvent for the type of jobs I do, allowing for any touch-ups. This is what makes Syrox the far superior product for my business."

Syrox products have transformed the way Matthew and his team approach his restoration and refinishing projects. "In our line of work, the devil is in the detail and Syrox never disappoints when it comes to smooth application and a quality finish that exceeds customer expectations."

Distributor: Pinnacle Paint Supplies





FROM AUTOMOTIVE BLOCK

Nestled in the picturesque Blue Mountains of New South Wales, artist Ryan Cribbin has spun a new web for Cromax, redefining the boundaries of automotive paint.

Since 2002, this talented artist has pursued his passion through freelancing; airbrushing murals on car and bike surfaces and making his mark in the renowned film industry. His exceptional skills in prosthetic makeup and prop airbrushing have even landed him work on blockbuster films shot in Australia including 'Thor: Love and Thunder', 'Fall Guy' and 'Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga'.

The Secret to Ryan's Success

For all of his projects, Ryan swears by the Cromax brand, declaring it "the best brand I have come across in my career; it is my number one go-to". In the fast-paced world of filmmaking, where props are often painted and seen on set the next day, he relies on Cromax Fast Clear.

"The paint lays down really well, has good opacity in the colour, flows nicely through the airbrush, and cures really quickly," he shares.

Cromax's Centari System plays a crucial role in costume creation, ensuring plastic props look realistic as metal armour and weapons, and maintaining the flexibility needed to paint props such as belts without cracking or delamination.

These projects are made possible with the support of Shed 13, who supplies Ryan with Cromax. He praises their extensive knowledge and application advice, highlighting his contact Warren 'Wazza' Purcell, who helped him find a more flexible ratio of Cromax Clear and flexible additive for his prop work.

Ryan Cribbin's journey from airbrushing automobiles to creating props for blockbuster films and stunning murals for local businesses is a testament to his talent. It is an honour to have our products used by an artist who continues to push the boundaries of automotive paint, creating eye-catching masterpieces seen both in person and onscreen.



IVE ARTISTRY TO BUSTER *Brilliance*

Celebrity Murals at Kenilworth Country Bakery

Between film projects, Ryan reserves his time for the most exciting and challenging commissions, like his recent work for Kenilworth Country Bakery in the Sunshine Coast's Hinterland. Known for his stunning celebrity murals painted in 2017, Ryan was asked to create two new masterpieces for the Country Bakery and their new Island Bakery in Bribie Island.

"I love doing portrait jobs," Ryan says. "They're challenging and rewarding, especially given the short timeframe." Dedicating only 4-5 days per project, Ryan skillfully painted fan favourites including Angus Young, Slim Dusty, Pink, Taylor Swift and Snoop Dogg, finishing one face per day.

Captivated by the intricate detail that brings the celebrities to life, visitors are drawn to the bakery. "Customers are incredibly impressed. The murals are a major attraction, sparking excitement and providing a great topic of conversation or photo opportunity for the whole family," says Alicia, Marketing Manager of Kenilworth Bakery.



TWO SUBSTRATES, ONE SOLUTION

with Axalta's NEW 1K Primer Surfacer Aerosols

We have recently launched a range of new 1K Primer Surfacer Aerosols based on innovative technology, in our three brands: Standox, Spies Hecker and Cromax.

Designed to enhance fast working processes, they can be used directly on bare metal and the most common plastic substrates during a collision repair.

These aerosols offer improvements in productivity, particularly where smaller repairs are concerned. The repair process is shortened considerably thanks to a reduction in process steps, simple universal application, and rapid-drying performance.

Available from your local Axalta Distributor!

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE:

- Application directly on all metal and common plastic substrates.
- Outstanding corrosion protection when applied direct to metal.
- Shorter flash-off and drying times when compared to other 1K aerosol primers.
- Easy application thanks to SprayMax technology, with very good sprayability and flow.
- High filling power with easy sanding properties.
- Can be recoated after sanding with both waterborne basecoats, as well as solvent basecoats and topcoats.
- Excellent adhesion and intercoat adhesion.



STANDOX
1K ALLROUND
PRIMER-SURFACER
U3080S
GREY

35
YEARS

Kate Presnell Bodyworks

Servicing the community for over 40 years, Kate Presnell Bodyworks stands as a prominent figure in the Tasmanian collision repair industry. Notably, Kate Presnell, as a young 30-something female owner in a predominantly male dominated industry, garners attention. As the next-generation owner of this thriving family enterprise, Kate is deeply committed to ensuring its continued success, prioritising the well-being and growth of her team, whom she describes as dynamic, quirky and fun!

When asked about her success, Kate asserts: "What we do does not happen by mistake. Details matter. We believe in making a major difference through slow, unnoticed increments, resulting in a level of excellence that sets us apart."

Founded in 1981 by Kate's parents, Gary and Lynn Presnell, Presnell Bodyworks became Kate's responsibility when she purchased the business in 2022, aiming to elevate the family legacy to new heights. With a professional background in human resources and a genuine passion for the repair industry, Kate volunteers her time as a member of the Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce (VACC) Body Repair Division Committee. She was also recently appointed as the Vice Chair on the Tasmanian Automotive Chamber of Commerce (TACC) Executive Committee - dedicated to advancing the automotive industry.

Kate's dedication has not gone unnoticed. In 2019, she received the Rising Star award at a national level with the Paint and Panel Bodyshop awards and was also honoured in the Owner/Manager category at the national Women in Collision awards in 2017, and again in 2022.

Presnell Bodyworks has maintained a steadfast partnership with Spies Hecker for 35 years. While Kate firmly believes in the superiority of their products and wouldn't consider using any other brand, she also emphasises the invaluable business support provided by Axalta.

"We collaborate regularly with the Axalta Drivus team, continually seeking ways to enhance our business comprehensively," she explains. "Their feedback and resources are beneficial as we strive for continuous improvement."





CROMAX
QUICKFILL
PRIMER-SURFACER
PS1504A
GREY



SPIES HECKER
PRIOMAT 1K
UNIVERSAL PRIMER
-SURFACER 4095
GREY

Recognition Awards

35
YEARS

SPIES HECKER

Kate Presnell Bodyworks INVERMAY TAS

30
YEARS

AXALTA

Stuttgart Autos WELSHPOOL WA

25
YEARS

STANDOX

Nick & Alberto Auto Body Repairs OSBORNE PARK WA
Osborne Smash Repairs OSBORNE PARK WA

SPIES HECKER

Mangano Body Repairs WOOLLOONGABBA QLD
Tony Gibson Smash Repairs GOONDIWINDI QLD

CROMAX

Clarke Body Repairs SOMERTON PARK SA

20
YEARS

STANDOX

Betta Body Repairs MOLENDINAR QLD
Brisbane Collision Centre ROCKLEA QLD

AXALTA

Aero Style CLAGIRABA QLD
Moore Trailers PITTSWORTH QLD

15
YEARS

CROMAX

McDermott Aviation COOROY QLD
Precision Body Works SLACKS CREEK QLD

AXALTA

L&J Smash Repairs GUILDFORD NSW

10
YEARS

STANDOX

Fix Auto PORT MELBOURNE VIC
Peter Kittle Collision Repair Centre PARA HILLS WEST SA
Supershine Panel & Paint COLLINGWOOD VIC

SPIES HECKER

Mach 1 Panel & Paint MORNINGTON VIC

CROMAX

Bruno Body Repairs PORTLAND VIC
Carniche Accident Repair Centre OAKLEIGH VIC
Kev's Mobile Sandblasting BOOIE QLD
Pro Mobile Touch Ups UNDERWOOD QLD
Stylefinish Auto Body BRAESIDE VIC

AXALTA

Bucher Municipal MARSDEN PARK NSW



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