

Repair Stories: Do-It-Yourself or Hire a Pro for your Porche Leather?

Written by Chris Repp

Saturday, 31 October 2009 15:15 - Last Updated Thursday, 12 November 2009 12:51

As a leather repairman, It may make sense that I try to talk folks out of repairing their own leather damage so they pay me to do it. Instead, I have found that talking through each customer situation helps me build trust with them and find the best solution for their situation. Sometimes the damages are simple enough to repair that a do-it-yourself option is actually your best option. For instance, minor scuffs or scratches on a black leather car seat can certainly be repaired with a good touch-up kit and the right instruction. Also, If the customer is at least a little "handy" and enjoys repair projects they can learn the skills and techniques for minor repairs. On the other hand, even when I offer a do-it-yourself solution some customers are not interested and would rather pay me for a professional job. I am open to either option.

For example, I recently did some restoration work on the front seats of a Porche. Bruce in Annapolis is an avid Porche owner and somewhat handy guy. He said he had gone onto a Porche message board, received a kit solution recommendation from someone there, and use the kit. In fact, when the discoloration on the seat was minor he said that the kit was a good solution (though the color was a little off). But he reached a point where he no longer felt the kit was helping and he hired me. He payed me to come to his work in Annapolis and I did the work for him in about 2 hours. Here are some pictures of the work:

Repair Stories: Do-It-Yourself or Hire a Pro for your Porche Leather?

Written by Chris Repp

Saturday, 31 October 2009 15:15 - Last Updated Thursday, 12 November 2009 12:51



Here is Bruce's Porche drivers

seat before the repairs. The dirty, cracking leather, especially on the backrest bolster to the right of the picture, was his main concern.

Repair Stories: Do-It-Yourself or Hire a Pro for your Porche Leather?

Written by Chris Repp

Saturday, 31 October 2009 15:15 - Last Updated Thursday, 12 November 2009 12:51

Repair Stories: Do-It-Yourself or Hire a Pro for your Porche Leather?

Written by Chris Repp

Saturday, 31 October 2009 15:15 - Last Updated Thursday, 12 November 2009 12:51



Here is a picture from during

the process of repairing the leather.

I put it here just to show that sometimes the

more complicated process of professional

repair is a bit much for the average

Repair Stories: Do-It-Yourself or Hire a Pro for your Porche Leather?

Written by Chris Repp

Saturday, 31 October 2009 15:15 - Last Updated Thursday, 12 November 2009 12:51

consumer. In this example I am using a

heat-cured leather repair compound to fill

the cracking in the bolster. Then I will sand,

re-apply the compound, re-sand, clean,

match and apply color then finally apply

a clear topcoat.

Repair Stories: Do-It-Yourself or Hire a Pro for your Porche Leather?

Written by Chris Repp

Saturday, 31 October 2009 15:15 - Last Updated Thursday, 12 November 2009 12:51



Here is the completed leather repair.

Not a great picture, but you can see

the clean, smooth bolster. Such result

would be difficult with an average leather

touch-up kit. Again, I find that encouraging

Repair Stories: Do-It-Yourself or Hire a Pro for your Porche Leather?

Written by Chris Repp

Saturday, 31 October 2009 15:15 - Last Updated Thursday, 12 November 2009 12:51

people toward do-it-yourself kits is sometimes

appropriate. But not always.