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## GreaseSpot #16 – Repairing Paint Scratches and Surface Corrosion

The purpose of the 'GreaseSpot' is to share ideas and tips on 'two wheel vehicle' maintenance (Bicycle and Motorcycle). Questions, ideas and tips come from our fellow riders, and they can be on most any topic of maintenance. GreaseSpot #15 focused on 'Checking Disc Brake Pads'; if you would like us to resend this GreaseSpot just let us know ([info@greaseninja.com](mailto:info@greaseninja.com)).

### Repairing Paint Scratches on the Body Parts and Panels...

If there is a painted surface anywhere on a motorcycle, sooner or later it will get a light scratch. The scratch doesn't have to be deep enough to penetrate into the substrate material, it still looks bad. These light scratches come out of nowhere and usually we can't remember how they came to be.

Unless you have the skills of a Professional Painter, using 'touch-up' paint can produce very disappointing results; sometimes the repair is more unsightly than the original scratch. The Tip we tried several times was to use a 'Sharpie Marker' that was as close to the paint color as we could find. We found the Sharpie Marker very easy to 'paint' with. It is not always possible to get an exact color match. For example, we found that on the 'Yamaha Galaxy Blue' it required several coats with the darkest blue Sharpie to get it close...not exact but way better (and less expensive) than the original scratch and smearing touch-up paint on the scratch.

A Tip from Jim in Pennsylvania riding a 2014 Suzuki DR650: If the scratch is deep and you feel that paint is the way to go, consider using finger nail polish (also comes in clear). Much less expensive and comes in literally thousands of colors.

### Repairing Light Surface Corrosion...

If your motorcycle is more than a few years old, you may have spotted light surface corrosion on unpainted metal parts and your chrome.

A Tip from Mike in Missouri riding a 1974 HD Glide was to use Aluminum Foil on the corrosion areas. By rubbing a 'wad' of aluminum foil on the corrosion area, the foil became 'black' and the corrosion disappeared. On chrome, we used a bit of water with the foil and rubbed lightly to avoid scratching. We recommend you try the foil on an area that is not 'too visible' to see if it works for you and to perfect your technique. The aluminum foil WILL NOT remove heavy rust or pitting.

We found the aluminum foil technique worked well on our spokes and rims.

If you have an idea on maintenance; please share it with us. If we use it, we will send you a GreaseNinja® Spray Tube Kit or First Aide Starter Kit in appreciation. [www.GreaseNinja.com](http://www.GreaseNinja.com)

Thanks....Earl

