

Helpful Info, Hints and Tips

- ◆ Color-Flex will dry either darker or lighter than the color you see in the bottle depending on the color you've chosen. So, be sure to test the color by applying it to an inconspicuous area on the item before applying it to the *entire* item. Apply a few coats and allow them to completely dry. It's always a good to do this in the same kind of light where the item will normally be. (Example: Auto color test in direct sunlight, Furniture under incandescent or fluorescent lighting.)
- ◆ Since the color you ordered may not be exactly the same as what you are trying to match (but if it's close), we recommend that you lightly blend the surrounding area. This painter's trick allows your eye to be fooled into seeing one consistent color. Keep in mind, color tends to look a bit more intense when applied to a small surface. We recommend blending an area at least 12" around the repaired area.
- ◆ Ideal working temperature is between 75- 85 degrees. If working outdoors in cooler temperatures, warm the item that you are going to repair with a blow dryer. If your repair is in a vehicle, turn on the heater and warm up the inside so that the surface you're going to repair will be warm. DO NOT allow your vehicle to run in a closed in area like your garage without opening the large garage door.
- ◆ On an 80 degree day, Magic Mender repair compound & Color-Flex dry to the touch in about 10-15 minutes, and cure completely in 24 hours. You can accelerate this time by using a blow dryer, but do not let the heat get closer than 18 inches to the surface. Allowing the heat closer than this will result in the surface cracking.
- ◆ If your fiber or foam filling is missing, you can use a small piece of cotton as a filler, before you add your sub-patch.
- ◆ If your Color-Flex seems thick after it has been stored, you can add a little rubbing alcohol to it. DO NOT mix Color-Flex with any other coatings or paint! Color-Flex is a specialty product and adding anything other than water or rubbing alcohol will turn it into something resembling mush.

Step 1: Cleaning and Preparing the Surface

If your leather is dry, before you attempt any repairs, we suggest that you first give it a good cleaning and conditioning. Allow the conditioner to penetrate for at least 24 hours. Repeat this process again if more absorption is required. It may be helpful to first sand the dry areas with 320 grit sandpaper (not included with kit) to open up the pores and to smooth any previous coating that has dried out and cracked.

It is very important that the surface you are going to repair is clean so that you will have proper adhesion.

Supplies you'll need for cleaning:

Any liquid hand dish washing detergent or Lexol-pH Leather Cleaner, 2 washcloths, 1 medium size towel, 1 bucket filled with luke-warm water (never use hot).

Cleaning:

Wet both wash cloths in the bucket of water and wring them out, leaving them as damp as you would if you were going to wash your face with soap and water.

Put a couple of small drops of dish washing detergent on the damp cloth, then begin to wash the area with the washcloth as if bathing. Don't forget to clean any stitch lines. Rinse the cleaning cloth and repeat this step until the surface looks reasonably clean. After bathing the area, use the other wash cloth to rinse the area. Wipe over the area you've cleaned, and towel it dry. Make sure the surface is completely dry.



Preparation:

Make sure that there area is free of any loose threads or debris of any kind. If you have loose threads, simply push them back into the opening of the damaged area, or cut them off. Open one of the alcohol pads (included with kit) and wipe over the area that you are going to repair, just as if you were cleaning it. Allow to dry. This will make sure that there is no residue left from previous conditioners or cleaners.

Proceed to Step 2

Step 2: Applying Repair Compound (repair compound will NOT work on seams, they must be sewn by an upholsterer)

Cracks, Scratches, Wear Spots, Cuts

Take the spreading tool that came with your kit, and spread a thin layer of repair compound over the damaged area, over lapping about 1/2" of the surrounding area. Try to smooth out the repair compound as much as possible. You can wet the tip of your finger with water to smooth out the edges. Just don't use too much water, or it will dilute it. It doesn't have to be perfect, but the smoother you apply it now, the easier it will be to smooth out when it is dry. Allow to completely dry. Generally it takes about 10-15 minutes. You can accelerate this time by using a blow dryer, but don't let the heat get closer than 12- 18 inches from the surface. Allowing the heat closer than this will result in cracking. Wipe the excess compound off of the spreading tool between each application. This will insure that the spreading tool will glide smoothly over the surface each time. If you feel that the damaged area has been filled enough, then proceed to Step 3, otherwise repeat this procedure until you are satisfied with the surface level of the repair.

Large Cuts, Burn Holes, Repairs That Are Deep & Burns That Have Gone Completely Through (holes up to 1" diameter). These require a sub-patch. The reason for using a sub-patch is to give the surface a stable backing and to give the repair compound a surface to adhere to.

Trim off any ragged edges. Cut a piece of sub-patch material (the white mesh fabric that is included with your kit) a little larger than the actual repair, rounding the edges. Position the sub-patch on the underside of the repair (on item's with a backing, simply slide it into the hole and place in position). In some cases, it might be a little difficult to slide the sub-patch into and under the hole. You can use the spreading tool to help work the sub-patch in and smooth it out. Using the tip of the glue bottle, spread a small amount of glue between the sub-patch and the leather or vinyl. DO NOT fill the void areas with adhesive. This area will be filled with repair compound. Allow to *completely* dry. Once it is dry, follow the instructions above for repairing cracks, scratches. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** When using the sub-patch, Step 2 - Applying the Repair Compound- usually needs to be repeated 2-5 times to completely fill the voided area. By layering the repair compound in this way, you will obtain a much stronger repair and it takes less time for it to dry. DO NOT just apply a glob of repair compound and expect it to dry, it won't.

Proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: Smooth out the repair after it's dry

If you need to smooth out the surface, simply open a new Alcohol Pad and wipe over the surface until it is smooth. Be sure that the Alcohol Pad is wet so that it doesn't drag across the repair. If it dries out, use a new one. Be careful with this step because the alcohol pad can actually remove the repair if you wipe over it more than a couple of times. If needed, you can also use "600" grit sandpaper to very lightly sand the surface. If you have purchased the optional "Spray Grain", you would apply it now. Follow the instructions on the bottle. If you decide that your repair needs to be smoother or textured more, all of these steps can be performed again after you apply the Color-Flex, . If you are now satisfied with the surface of your repair. **Proceed to Step 4.**

Step 4: Applying Color-Flex

Before you apply Color-Flex, and between coats, make sure there are no particles from the sanding on your item. If little particles show up after you apply the Color-Flex, simply allow the coating to completely dry, then take the sandpaper and lightly sand them off, then apply another light coat. For maximum flexibility and coverage, Color-Flex should be applied in several light coats - NOT ONE THICK COAT! A heavy application could result in cracking and flaking. Your first coat should look rather unfinished with areas not completely covered. Your second or third coat will fill in these areas and will cover completely. Each additional thin coat that you apply will cover better than the one before it. (Shades of red will require more coats than other colors to completely cover). When coating an item that has stitching, try not to apply too much Color-Flex on the thread, or you may lose the stitched effect. Drying Time: Color-Flex dries to the touch in 10 - 15 minutes, at room temperature, and completely cures in 24 hours. You can use the item that has been repaired within 2 hours, just be extra careful with it. This also applies to seating surfaces. Clear Coat: If you have purchased a Clear Coat, it will be your final coat. You apply it using the technique as above.

Brush on Method

Brushing Color-Flex is similar to painting with Latex paint. Be sure to mask off the surrounding areas to protect them. Don't mask just a small area around the repair area, this will result in an obvious repair line. Try to mask off at seams or separation areas in the item. It is very important to first shake the bottle of Color-Flex for about 1 minute, then carefully remove the cap from the bottle and pour a small amount of Color-Flex into the Styrofoam palette that came with your kit. Recap the bottle of Color-Flex so that it won't dry up. Take the foam applicator and dip it into the palette of Color-Flex, wetting only about the first 1/2 inch. Wipe the excess on the edge of the palette. Begin brushing the Color-Flex on your repair in smooth even strokes. Apply only a thin coat, not attempting to achieve good color coverage. Avoid re-brushing partially dry areas. Allow your first coat to completely dry (about 15-20 minutes) before you apply your second coat, it should feel smooth to the touch and not tacky if it is dry. Don't be alarmed if the color is streaked, additional coats will even out the color. Apply a second coat in the same manner as the first. You will notice that the second coat is a different color when it is applied, this is normal, it will change color as it dries. The second coat should cover your repair, but if it doesn't, simply apply a third coat, or as many coats as necessary. Be sure to blend in the surrounding area. The color will then blend with the rest of the item, making the repair less noticeable.

Spray Finish (if you purchased an optional sprayer)

The fine mist sprayer is used for your final coat. It is not necessary to spray on a final coat but it does help in hiding any streaking that may occur when using the foam brush.

Carefully pour some Color-Flex into the sprayer bottle and attach the spray tip. Practice spraying on a brown paper bag before you spray your repair. Keep the sprayer pointed about 12-18 inches away from the area you are going to spray. Gently press on the sprayer tip and at the same time, move the sprayer in a back and forth motion so that the color is dispersed in an even pattern over the area. The spray pattern is round and produces fine misty spray droplets, so you need this back and forth movement to cover the area. Don't try to brush or smooth out the droplets, they're normal. They will blend in with the surrounding area as they dry. If you don't move the sprayer back and forth, you'll only cover the round area and that's not what you want. You can pump the spray tip several times, just be sure not to apply too much to the same area. The idea is to apply a light mist coat that will blend the area, not cover it.

Step 5: Conditioning

Allow the Color-Flex to completely dry then apply leather or vinyl conditioner on the entire area. **DO NOT** use any cleaners or conditioners that contain ammonia or solvent of any kind on your repaired area.

Step 6: Clean Up

If you find that you have over-spray on anything, if it is still wet, you can simply wipe it off. If it has dried you can try using an alcohol pad to remove it. If this does not work, you will need to use Lacquer Thinner (not supplied in kit.) Wash foam brushes in warm water and liquid soap.

If you've purchased the optional sprayer, you'll need to clean it after you have finished your repair. Carefully unscrew the sprayer and take it off the plastic bottle. Rinse the bottle and the spray tip with warm water, then pour a little soapy water (liquid dish soap & water) into the bottle. Re-attach the sprayer tip and shake the bottle for about a minute. Now spray the soapy solution until there is no color remaining in the spray tip. Empty the soapy solution and fill with clear water and spray again until there is no soapy solution remaining in the spray tip. This cleans all the Color-Flex from inside the sprayer, so you can use it again.

If you should happen to run into any difficulties while making your repair, please don't hesitate to contact us at : Support@MagicMender.com