

“Mustang How To”

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Everything on your Mustang will always need some attention to keep it running and looking great. One item is the aluminum valve covers that are on my 1978 Mustang II. A few years ago while detailing the engine compartment I had decided to go back to these covers that I had replaced with chrome covers when I first bought the car. Being that they had not been polished in years I blasted them then cleaned and painted them. Once painted, I removed the excess paint on the fins with a scuff wheel and polished the fins. Over the next couple years of use and storage over winter in a non heated shed, the fins on the covers had corroded and pitted. To clean them up I tried something new. Just polishing does not remove the pits and also does not provide a nice shine.

I first used some 320 sandpaper to remove the pitted look on the fins. When it looked good I then used 600 wet/dry paper and wet sanded the fins until they looked smoother. Next was 1200 wet/dry paper and more wet sanding until the fins had a real smooth look. Doing this removes the sand scratches that would otherwise be noticeable. I then used a polishing product called Top Brite Metal Polish. This works great on almost all types of metals. Once polished it has a great shine. It took about three hours of sanding and polishing but the end result looks fantastic.



Before



After



Night and day



Top Brite Metal Polish

Note: Top Brite can be found at most swap meets.