

By Tom Comerro

Photography courtesy of the manufacturers



## HMM PRODUCT TEST: KOUL TOOLS SURSEAT MINI

**If a master cylinder is tired, we pull it out, rebuild it and simply reinstall.**

Job done, right? Not necessarily so, especially if we've overlooked the condition of the flared tubing ends of the steel or stainless steel hydraulic lines. Subtle imperfections can lead to frustrating leaks, but they can be overcome with the aid of the line of Surseat Line Lappers from Koul Tools.

Koul Tools developed its line lappers as a means of solving the leaky fitting conundrum, by using a practice employed on engine valves for more than 100 years as inspiration.

Each of the lappers — whether the P-37 (ideal for stainless lines) or the P-45 (for use with steel double-flared lines) — come in kit form that includes collets for 3/16- and 1/2-inch tubes, and collets for 3/16- and 1/4-inch threaded brake fittings, as well as 37- and 45-degree lapping heads finished with diamond dust for providing a superior mating surface.

We had the opportunity to test the Surseat Mini tools while performing some winter maintenance to the braking system on a vintage car. After removing one of the brake lines, we noticed the flared ends were coated with surface corrosion. Having clamped each end into the tool, we needed only a little effort via simple wrist action to provide a stunningly smooth surface as advertised. The diamond dust lapping also revealed that one end of a brake line was slightly warped, which might have gone unnoticed until it turned into a leak later on; instead, we were able to tend to it proactively. At \$60 each, this simple, easy-to-use device is an affordable

maintenance tool, whether you are rebuilding a system or installing a new one. — *Matthew Litwin*

**Cost: Kit P-37, \$60; Kit P-45, \$60**

**Contact: Koul Tools, LLC, 928-854-6706, [www.koultools.com](http://www.koultools.com)**

## OLDS STRIPES

**The Olds 4-4-2 was adorned with stripes and decals during the**

muscle-car era, and Phoenix Graphix now has several options

available for these models. Common Olds performance

model production option codes included recognizable

digits like W-25, W-30, and W-31 with Y-73, W-29,

W-42 and others. Phoenix has decoded what

is correct for your Oldsmobile and can provide

you the correct OEM-style complete kits that

come with your choice of paint stencils or vinyl

decals. Available for 1967-'75 4-4-2, including

the hard-to-find Colonnade-styled cars. To

update your stripes, check the cowl-tag atop

the driver's side firewall and let Phoenix know

your application. Cost: \$189 and up.

Contact: Phoenix Graphix, 800-941-4550,

[www.phoenixgraphix.com](http://www.phoenixgraphix.com)



## MOPAR MIRROR

**Exterior chrome is usually one of**

the first casualties on any car, whether

it's dents, scratches, pitting, fading or

corrosion. You may have noticed such

damage on your outer driver's side door

mirror. Classic Industries now offers

replacements for the 1966-'72 Chrysler

A-bodies equipped with a vent window

and remote mirror option, and the 1966-

'70 B-body models. The reproduction mirror features

a chrome-plated exterior and includes original-style

interior controls to adjust the mirror angle remotely.

Factory-style mounting and all appropriate hardware

come with the mirror to bring original authenticity to your

restoration. Visit Classic Industries' website for a full list

of applications for part number MD2207. Cost: \$184.99.

Contact: Classic Industries Parts & Accessories,

800-854-1280, [www.classicindustries.com](http://www.classicindustries.com)



## MALIBU MAKEOVER

**The interior details of your car are**

sometimes overlooked, especially the rear shelf

area, which can at times be an afterthought. Dixie

Restoration Depot introduces a plastic rear speaker

shelf for the 1978-'81 two-door Chevy Malibu. The shelf is a direct replacement for the OE hardboard shelf and features the proper cutouts to

accommodate four 4-inch speakers. It comes in black textured plastic and can be painted in a variety of different factory colors. The plastic

replacements should provide a longer life than the original hardboard shelf and will improve sound quality from your speakers. Cost: \$99.95.

Contact: Dixie Restoration Depot, 877-243-4943, [www.dixierestorationdepot.com](http://www.dixierestorationdepot.com)



## COUGAR CLASS

**Owners of the vaunted 1967-'68 Mercury**

Cougar can now upgrade their dash and instrument

panels with Classic Dash's new two-piece, full-

width dash panels. Available with or without air-

conditioning vents, the panels are simple bolt-in

replacements for the factory dash. A wide selection

of Auto Meter gauge styles is available, including the

popular tachometer, speedometer, oil pressure, water

temperature and fuel quantity gauge configuration.

Manufactured from a UV-resistant ABS composite

material, the dash comes in matte black, brushed

aluminum or carbon fiber finish. To see the dash with

different gauge configurations, visit Classic Dash's

interactive website. Cost: \$310 (no gauges);

\$829-\$1,269 (with gauges). Contact: Classic Dash,

866-882-3525, [classicrodash.com](http://classicrodash.com)

## EXPANSION AND OVERFLOW TANKS

**Flex-a-lite now offers a new**

product that serves the dual

function of an expansion tank

as well as an overflow canister

for your car's cooling system.

The aluminum tank brings

several advantages to your

cooling system. It is easy to

check whether there is enough

coolant in the system by visually

inspecting the clear hose

(included), so you don't have to

remove the radiator cap. This

will keep air out of the cooling

system and prevent overheating

or accelerated corrosion. You

can also temporarily raise the tank

during radiator filling, thanks to the use

of a wing-nut mount, making it easier to purge all of the

air out of the cooling system by positioning the tank as

the high point of your cooling system. When used as

an expansion tank, it can draw coolant from the tank

into the radiator as the system cools; when used as an

overflow, the tank will collect any fluid that escapes the

pressurized radiator cap when high temperatures occur.

Available as a 20-oz. or 32-oz. Cost: \$139.95 (20-oz.);

\$149.95 (32-oz.). Contact: Flex-a-lite, 800-851-1510,

[www.flex-a-lite.com](http://www.flex-a-lite.com)



## STREET SMARTS

**If you're looking for a new suspension kit for your GM A-body muscle car**

that will work with your traditional 15-inch wheels, Summit Racing offers the brand-

new Ridetech StreetGrip Suspension System. The improved handling gives you better

cornering and sharper turn-in on twisty roads as well as an improved steering feel.

The system also gives a ride quality comparable to a modern car. Installation is easy,

as there is no cutting, welding, fabrication or modification needed; the Street Grip is a

direct replacement for the factory suspension. Comes with vehicle-specific mono-tube

shocks, Delrin front control-arm bushings, ball joints to reposition the control arms

and a larger-diameter front anti-sway bar to minimize unwanted body roll. Available for

1964-'72 GM A-body, 1967-'81 Camaro/Firebird and 1968-'79 Nova. Cost: \$2,000 and

up. Contact: Summit Racing Equipment, 800-230-3030, [www.summitracing.com](http://www.summitracing.com)

## BUST THE RUST

**Preventing rust from weakening your car's metal**

structure and causing decay is an important task for every

car owner. If you live in a moist and humid region or your

car is subjected to chemicals or salt, the corrosion process

can be accelerated. To combat this, OER has introduced

several new rust-removal and prevention products aimed at

removing, treating and preventing rust. These professional-

grade chemicals are specially formulated to return corroded

surfaces to bare metal, convert existing rust to a paintable

polymer coating and sealing out moisture and oxygen to

stop the spread. Available products include Undercoat

Remover, Metal Prep, Rust Inhibitor, Rust Dissolver, Rust

Converter, Metal Etch, and Corrosion Barrier 77.

Cost: \$14.99-\$44.99. Contact: Original Equipment

Reproduction, [info@oerparts.com](mailto:info@oerparts.com), [www.oerparts.com](http://www.oerparts.com)



## THAT'S A WRAP

**Thermo Tec offers a new carbon-fiber**

exhaust wrap made from pulverized lava rock.

Wrapping the exhaust can help create more

horsepower by enhancing the scavenging effect

and reducing under-hood temperatures. Able to

withstand up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit, this wrap

will not fade or discolor and is pliable for an

easier installation. Available in 1- and

2-inch widths. Cost: \$33 (1-inch);

\$50 (2-inch). Contact: Thermo Tec,

800-274-8437, [www.thermotec.com](http://www.thermotec.com)

