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 **How to do a Relic Guitar: Photo Tutorial 56k dont even try it..**

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Luthier's Corner Discussion on instrument building, repair, and materials.



2/8	WARNER THEATRE	WASHINGTON DC
2/9	ORPHEUM THEATRE	BOSTON, MA
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3/1-3	THE TABERNACLE	ATLANTA, GA
3/4	SOUL KITCHEN	MOBILE, AL
3/7	TENNESSEE THEATRE	KNOXVILLE, TN

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41

 03-04-2007, 02:46 PM



funkasaurus 

Resident Disc Golfer

Join Date: Apr 2001
Location: Los Angeles

 **Supporting Member**

Awesome thread! Thanks for taking the time and effort to share your hard-earned knowledge with us.

Subscribed.

Funk is its own reward

G&L L-2000 | Lakland Skyline JO4 | Fender MIM Jazz | TBC JT-400JJ | MTD Kingston Active | MTD Kingston Fretless

 quote

42

 03-04-2007, 03:14 PM



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TalkBass Store

[ibanezcollector](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007

Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



Ok told ya we were going to get cracking on this since its my day off..

Well the next phase is to begin de-glossing the body. I like my relics to not be shiney, So we got to do something about this gloss finish. Break out the 0000ga and a few beers.. This is going to take a while.

Here is a picture of the body pre gloss removal, too shiney for sure.



Ok remember this stuff gets everywhere so if you have sensitive skin wear a long sleeve shirt and jeans. Just begin wiping the guitar over and over in random fashions, you dont have to press hard but you do have to get a even pressure. Get your arms ready for a workout.



After a few swipes you will see that mirror finish is now GONE.. Now when you first start you will get some finish swirls which can be seen in this picture, the more you do it they will slowly disappear until just a flat smooth finish is left.



Here is a small video, in this video I am trying to get the reflection of my chandelier in the body, as I move from a part still factory gloss to a part I have deglossed you can see the reflections disappear as well.

<http://www.ibanezpodxt.com/RelicTuto...ossremoval.wmv>

Ok now here is a shot of the back completely done, there is still all the dust and debris on the body those are not scratches.



Hey were making some progress now 😊 Its starting to take some shape..







Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

Last edited by ibanezcollector : 03-04-2007 at 03:17 PM.

 quote

#43

 03-04-2007, 03:19 PM

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2005
Location: Sheffield, UK

Hope you don't mind me adding a tip:

when using steel wool, KEEP IT AWAY FROM YOUR PICKUPS!!!!!!

You won't believe how long it took me to clean off all the steel wool that was magnetically attached to my pickups. 🏠

Fender MIM jazz with Series/parallel switching
Custom Thunderbird

Fender MIM Club member #27



#44

03-04-2007, 03:34 PM

Registered User

Join Date: Mar 2006
Location: Lansing Michigan



★ Supporting Member

Happens to the best of us..

oh and subscribed.

Gigs: [The Death Cheaters](#) / [Project 5](#) / [621 Open Mic](#) / [Riverview Church Ish](#)

Me: Myspace

Various Jazz and Musicman Basses. Epifani and Aguilar Cabs. Ampeg SVT3Pro for now.



#45

03-04-2007, 03:57 PM

Registered User

Join Date: Mar 2004
Location: Northwest, Indiana



very cool thread

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#46

03-04-2007, 04:34 PM



[Wolfehollow](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Jan 2003

★ Gold Supporting Member

subscribed

quote

#47

03-04-2007, 04:40 PM

[TehRoflCopter](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Oct 2006

Location: Massachusetts



I am now planning to buy and relic an SX. Subscribed. Great thread!

Lakland Owner's Club Member #3

I hate GAS.

quote

#48

03-04-2007, 04:43 PM



[jucas](#)

Un*****ed User

Join Date: Dec 2003

Location: Edmonton, Alberta

★ Supporting Member

Thanks. Makes me think about doing something to my strat's neck.

-Chris

quote

#49

03-04-2007, 05:22 PM

[ibanezcollector](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007

Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



ok this is the last thing im doing tonight my arms are killing me..

To simulate "Natural Wear"

Natural wear is not rough like a ding or a dent its removed from years of friction. well were going to do it in about a hour. LOL

Things needed:

Sandpaper 150, 220, 320, 400, 600, 800

Ok the first thing is to get a idea where you would put natural wear. On most guitars an obvious wear mark would be the forearm contour. So grab the 150 and begin slowly sanding, it will be easier to remove on the edges than on the flat area of the guitar.. **DO NOT USE GIANT STROKES** or you will create more work than is already needed. Keep it simple. Try to find a picture you like and try to emulate it. You want to not go totally down to bare wood. Just to the sanding sealer. If you go thru it, Not a big deal.



Once you decide that it looks ok your going to be stuck with some serious scratch marks in the paint like so.. Not to good looking. You can see I went thru a little of the sanding sealer towards the edges. No biggie.



Take some water and use it for a lubricant for the wet sanding. Start with 220 and slowly work your way up to the 800. When your wetsanding it will look funky like this picture, all kind of gunk in it.



In this pic I just got done using the 320 as you can see the scratch marks are fading quickly..



After 400 grit..



And finally after the 600 and 800 we got no marks what so ever smooth as the rest of the body.



I will be doing more natural wear to the body some time tommorrow when I get off work.. But right now my arms are killing me..

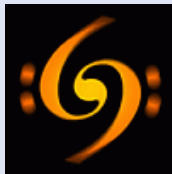
Were starting to show some age 😊

Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

Last edited by ibanezcollector : 03-04-2007 at 05:24 PM.

#50

03-04-2007, 05:32 PM



[saxnbass](#) 

Recently Converted Fender-holic

Join Date: Mar 2006

Location: Italy



 Supporting Member

I've always wondered about the finish wear.

Can you do this inside? I've heard that you have to do it outside because of toxic fumes or something like that.

Eric

MIA J(CM#60)

EBMM 1994 Sterling(CM#71)

MIM Fretless J(CM#32)

CIJ '54 RI P

EBS Amps(CM#1)

Fender JAM CM#5

Domo-Kun Tribe Pasuta Banbutsunoreichou

 quote

#51

03-04-2007, 05:40 PM

[ibanezcollector](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007

Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



Sax im inside.. Ive got no fume issues.. then again were not doing anything major either..

Ok this is how it sits right now.

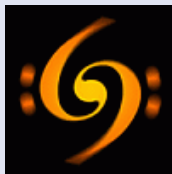


Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

quote

#52

03-04-2007, 05:53 PM



[saxnbass](#)

Recently Converted Fender-holic

Join Date: Mar 2006

Location: Italy



Supporting Member

What about the little particles of stuff that get sanded off (both using sandpaper and steel wool)?

Eric

MIA J(CM#60)

EBMM 1994 Sterling(CM#71)

MIM Fretless J(CM#32)

CIJ '54 RI P

EBS Amps(CM#1)

Fender JAM CM#5

Domo-Kun Tribe Pasuta Banbutsunoreichou

quote

53

03-04-2007, 08:26 PM

[spudmaster34](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Nov 2005

Location: north of chicago

looks good, I might do something like this...

yamaha club member #1

Quote:

Originally Posted by **MammaryVest**

what's this about a twelve step program!!! I always though for bass it would be a twelve Half-Step program.

just in case ctbass&birdsong is reading this, HAPPY EASTER

quote

54

03-04-2007, 08:31 PM

[ibanezcollector](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007

Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



well if your concerned with the particles as I probably should be LOL you could wear a respirator.

Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

quote

[ibanezcollector](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007

Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA

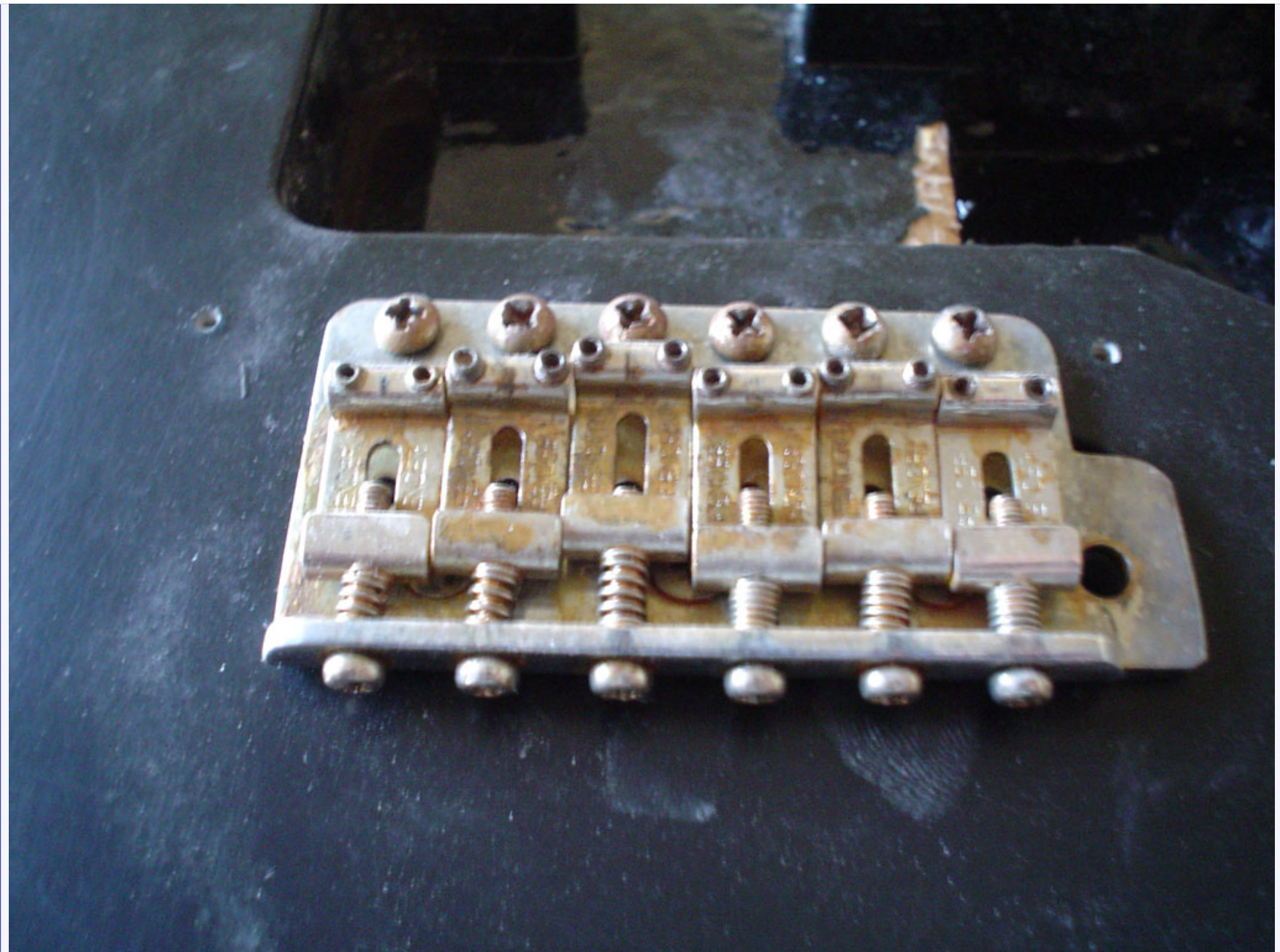


ok little update. Using the steps above for creating natural wear I put another spot on the back by the tummy contour. This also is a major natural wear spot on guitars since the finish is much thinner there than on the flat surfaces.





Also if you remember from the earliest of posts when I had the parts all layed out, that the bridge was already reliced from a earlier project. Well 10 hrs or so in the mixture of salt brine and vinegar we now have a really reliced bridge, since were doing a heavy relic on this one its going to look fantastic. **I should probably wipe down the dust and debris before taking pictures LOL**



If anyone wants to donate a better camera feel free LOL 😊

Stay tuned the funs just beginning

Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

56

03-05-2007, 02:32 PM

[thedonutman](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2005
Location: Sheffield, UK

With all the rust on the bridge, can it still intonate properly etc?

Fender MIM jazz with Series/parallel switching
Custom Thunderbird

Fender MIM Club member #27

 quote

57

03-05-2007, 02:34 PM



[stubi19](#) 

Yeah, I know it should have a Y instead of an I

Join Date: Nov 2001
Location: Corsicana, Texas

 Supporting Member

Quote:

Originally Posted by **thedonutman** 
With all the rust on the bridge, can it still intonate properly etc?

I don't see why it wouldn't. You can still turn the screw and move the saddles. At least that's what I think...

 quote

58

03-05-2007, 02:39 PM

[ibanezcollector](#) 

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007
Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



yes it intonates and functions 100% the same.. No changes in anything but appearance.

Stay tuned the best part is going to get started tonight.. So if your feeling creative this is the part to let your imagination run wild.

Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

 quote

59

03-05-2007, 03:17 PM



seanm ●

You can call me Sean.

Join Date: Feb 2004
Location: Ottawa, Canada



★ Supporting Member

Are you going to round all the screw heads when you install for the "authentic look" 😊

Looking good so far!

Fender MIM Club member #8, no #9!

[The Truthful Few](#)

quote

#60

03-05-2007, 05:08 PM

[ibanezcollector](#) ●

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007
Location: Cleveland OH Armpit of the USA



ok here we go.. Body dings and dents..

**Now this is totally up to you on how you want it to look. Also there is a certain art to this, I recommend people find a picture of a worn/vintage instrument and try to replicate it. **

Ok first thing lets intruduce the tools of the trade at this point. First up we have our heat gun.



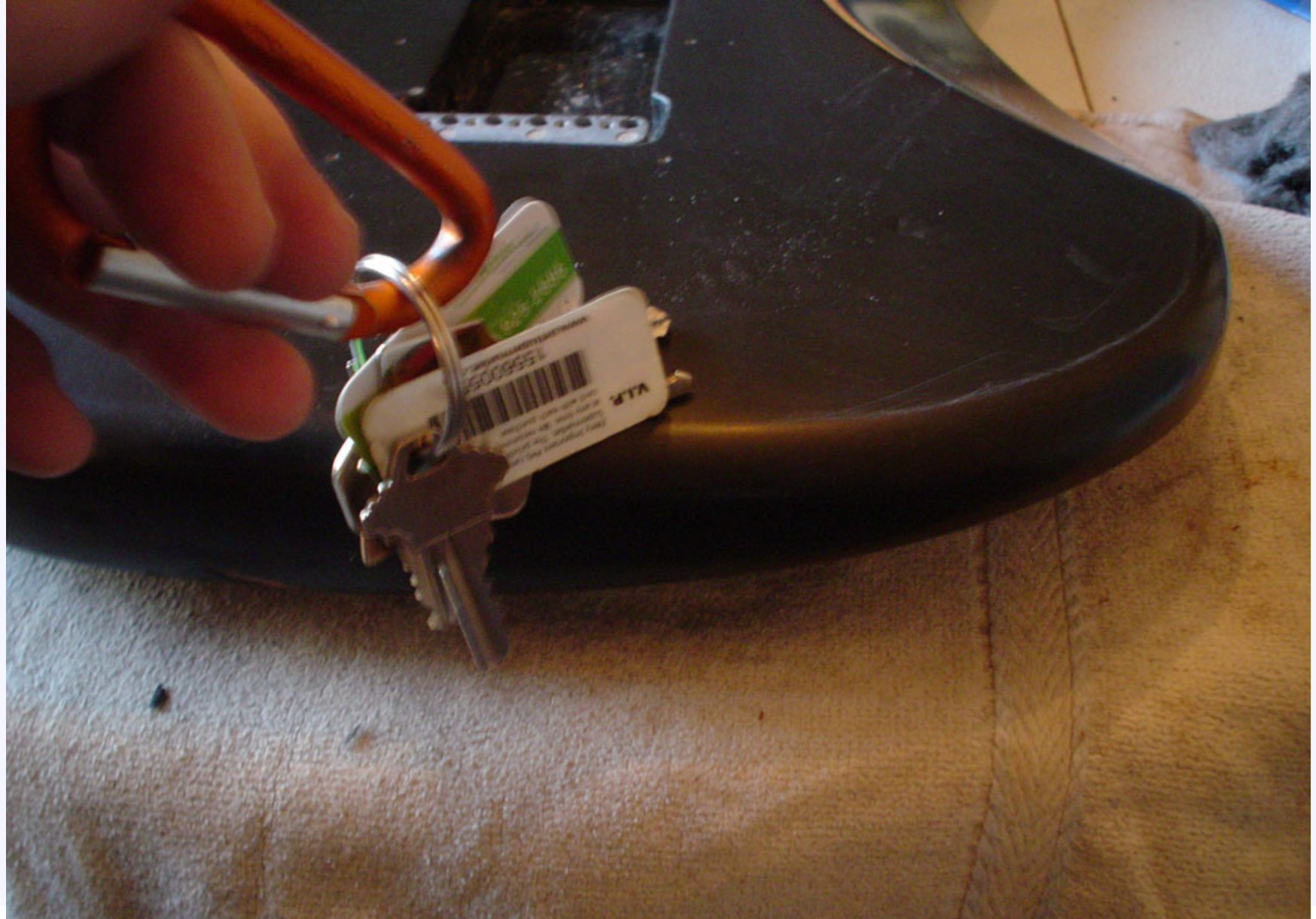


Next up is the 4 tools I use for all my relic bodys. A pair of jewelers screwdrivers(flat and phillips), a hobby knife, and a set of keys.





To simulate light bumps and bruises, take a set of keys and hit the body. Pretty simple one would think. BUT ITS NOT SO EASY. You do not want to lay into the body like your trying to kill someone. Just light and simple whacks. Were trying to make dents and dings, not take paint off.



As you can see now, we got plenty of wounds, make up a story how this one is from dropping your guitar on stage when opening for the Stones, and this was when ya were drunk with "inset name here" and knocked your amp over LOL..



Now here is where it gets tricky. My main tool is the very small jewelers flat head screwdriver. First you need to heat the body up, now im not talking to the point paint is bubbling, im just talking adding a little heat to make the paint soft. You do not need to have the heat gun right up against the paint. I usually keep it a minimum of 3-4" away. Turn the heat gun off and put it somewhere safely.

Now pick up the jewelers screwdriver and begin taking the paint off, this is essentially a small paint scraper with control. And begin simulating the wear patterns you liked in that picture, or what you think would look cool.



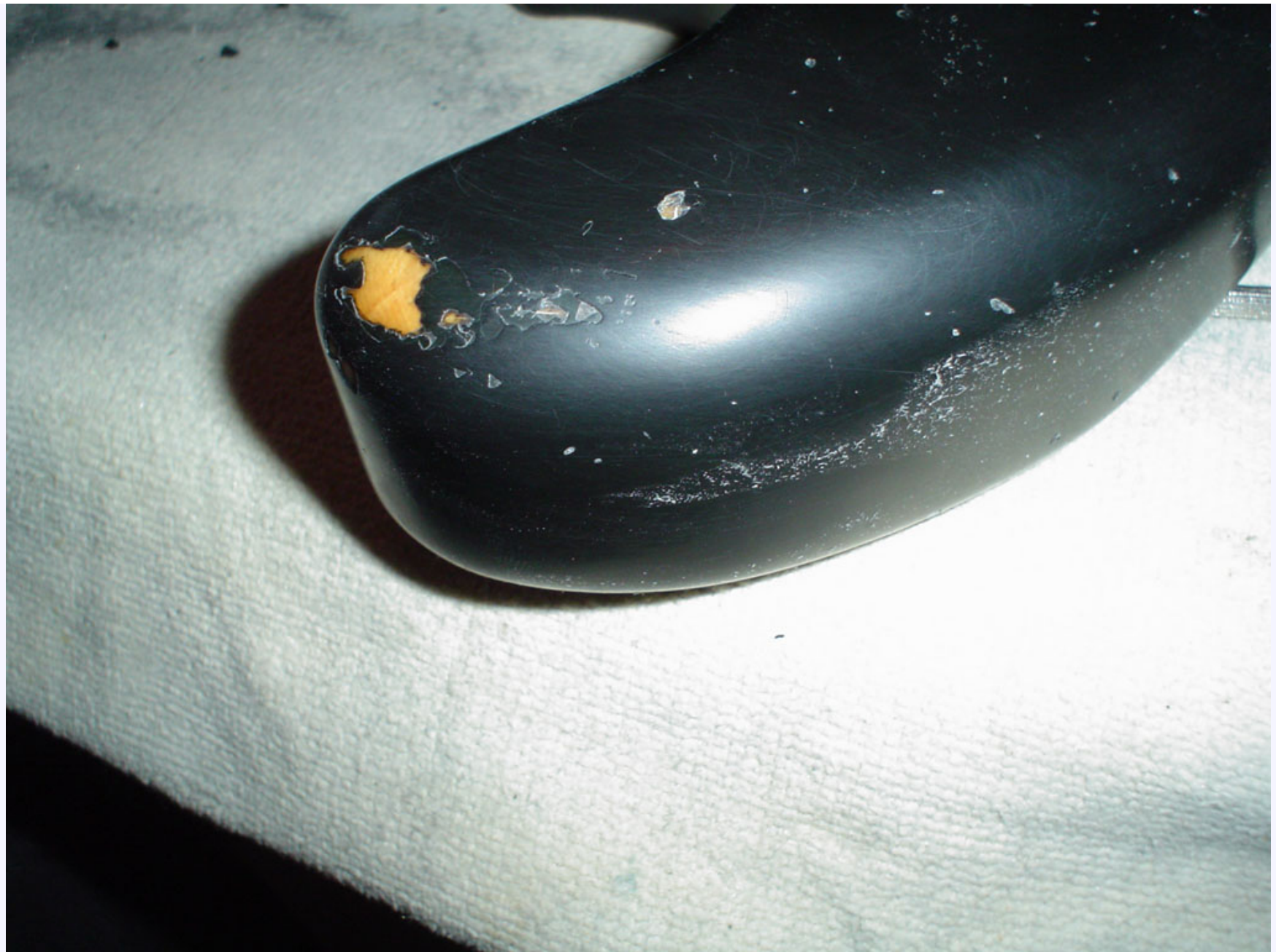
I CAN NOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH. A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY..

This step is entirely up to you, this is where the magic happens or a disaster starts. There is no science to it, there is no perfect way, its something that just has to be practiced over and over again. After a few relics you will learn from your mistakes and you will learn what to do if something came out the way you intended. ITS A ARTFORM, its not about draggin it behind your truck, you are removing paint a couple millimeters at a time.. Use different techniques and angles, come from the right, come from the left. Straight up and down, poke it, use a skipping motion, etc etc.. BE CREATIVE..Think outside the box, if it looks to thought out, it will be apparent.

After the paint has been removed to the way you like it, bust out that 0000ga steel wool and rub the area down. This will remove some rough edges and make it blend a little smoother with the finish.



You do not always have to go thru to the wood. Like here in this picture depending on the angle of the Jewelers Flat head screwdriver, you can use it to go to the wood, or just scrape across the clear coat.



Sorry for the bad picture I had to wipe it down with something to get the dust off, and black is probably not the best color to do a tutorial with. But here is a shot of the work I have done on the back so far.





Another shot of not going thru the color coat, just thru the clear.. This is all dependent on the angle.



There is not much I can say to make this part easier I wish there was.. Now knowing that the paint is being taken of one little piece at a time. How long do you think it took me to do this..



Take your time, have fun, and BE CREATIVE.. ok im going back to work..

Everyday things change but basically remain the same.

Last edited by ibanezcollector : 03-05-2007 at 05:14 PM.

 quote

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