

product profile

SPIES HECKER - SHINES WITH STARLIGHT

In 21st century refinishing, ultraviolet (UV) technology has set new standards in terms of drying times. With its high yield, cost-effectiveness and suitability across a variety of different substrates, UV is assured of its place as the technology of the future.

At a demo held in early May for Spies Hecker body shop customers, the Spies Hecker technical team put its newly launched Starlight UV system into action.

According to Paul da Costa, Spies Hecker technical consultant, all were impressed by the system, "in particular, the reduced time taken from the start to the finish of the repair. Our UV products are among the highest technology products in the refinish market and by using the complete Starlight UV system; refinishers will now be able to repair minor damage in the shortest time possible."

Modern paints that dry and crosslink with UV radiation are becoming increasingly popular, mostly due to their eco-friendly profile and Spies Hecker's development of a complete three-stage application UV system (putty, primer-surfacer and clear coat) backed by a Flash UV lamp, is the brand's answer to this growing refinishing trend.

Paul estimates that using the Starlight UV system (from body filler to topcoat) takes about 35 minutes for the entire small repair process.

UV Starlight Putty 9100 is a mono-cure UV product which can be applied to a maximum of 1 000 microns and can only cure by means of exposure to intense UV Flash radiation - 20 - 30 flashes per repair area. Easily dispensed from a handy tube, this stopper does not require the addition of a peroxide hardener before use and provided it is not exposed to UV light, it has an indefinite pot life.

The repair area is then dry-sanded before being overcoated with Spies Hecker's UV Starlight 9000 primer/surfacer.

Like the putty, UV Starlight 9000 primer/surfacer is a mono-cure UV product meaning that it can only be dried through exposure to intense UV radiation. With a solids content of 99.3%, it has a volatile organic compound content of almost zero. It doesn't require the pre-addition of a hardener or thinner and can simply be stirred and poured into the spray gun. Correctly handled and stored, it has an indefinite pot life and surplus paint can be returned to the can or left in the spray gun for the remainder of the day.

UV Starlight 9000 is applied in 1.5 coats without any inter-coat flash-off time and achieves the desired thickness of 60 - 90 microns.

Once the transition or repair area has been prepped using a 3M Trizact P3000



Paul da Costa, Spies Hecker Technical Consultant, kitted up for a Starlight UV system repair

abrasive disc, it's time to apply UV Starlight Clear Coat 9200. This clear should be mixed only with the UV Starlight Clear Hardener specified and must be applied in one working spray pass within the parameters of the area under repair.

"This advanced new UV technology and flash system offers a huge productivity advantage to body shops processing small repairs," says Paul da Costa. "Typically, when using low bake or infrared drying devices to carry out such repairs, there is a great deal of costly wasted time and energy taken up by the vehicle in the body shop."

All products in the Starlight UV System are now available. For more information contact either your distributor or Spies Hecker directly on + 27 (0) 11 861 0300.



When using UV technology, in addition to prior training, using the correct protective gear is essential.

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