Headlight polishing instructions

If your headlights are faded, oxidized or have tons of rock chips there are lots of ways to handle it. Basically headlight lenses are made of pretty tough Lexan but over time from stones and UV light they become more opaque than clear. I have seen some cool kits in a few catalogs and basically they are buffing wheels that you mount on a cordless drill and buff out your lens. Many of these work fine especially if they come with some buffing compound but you need to be careful with these as to not burn the lens. The cheapest way to get results is to run to your local auto parts store and buy a few grades of wet or dry sand paper and go to work. I did our cover car with great results as you can see below.

What I did was taped off the areas I did not want to scratch then started with some wet 1000 grit sanding in only one direction in this case right to left then after about 2 minutes of that I felt that most scratches were gone to I started to use the 1500 for 1 minute then finally the 2000 grit for a silky smooth finish. After that I played around with some waxes and polishes I had in the garage listed below to bring out that last bit of luster. This is no different than treating some surface scratching on your paint, it will work for that too! This is what I did but different methods or materials will often yield similar results. The important thing is to have nice clear shinny lenses so all the light can get out!

Used:

Wetsand 3M wetordry 1000

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Turtle wax rubbing compound

meguiars plastx(works great!)

meguiars polish

meguiars wax/cleaner

left is before right is after