

GREAT LAKES AERO PRODUCTS, INC.

915 KEARSLEY PARK BLVD. - FLINT, MI. 48503

**CLEANING AND POLISHING
TRANSPARENT PLASTIC**

Plastics have many advantages over glass for aircraft use, but they lack the surface hardness of glass, and care must be exercised while servicing the aircraft to avoid scratching or otherwise damaging the surface.

a. Cleaning. Clean the plastic by washing with plenty of water and mild soap, using a clean, soft, grit-free cloth, sponge, or bare hands. Do not use gasoline, alcohol, benzene, acetone, carbon tetrachloride, fire extinguisher or deicing fluids, lacquer thinners, or window cleaning sprays because they will soften the plastic and cause crazing.

b. Plastics should not be rubbed with a dry cloth since this is likely to cause scratches, and also build up an electrostatic charge which attracts dust particles to the surface. If after removing dirt and grease no great amount of scratching is visible, finish the plastic with a good grade of commercial wax. Apply the wax in a thin even coat and bring to a high polish by rubbing lightly with a soft cloth.

c. Polishing. Do not attempt hand polishing or buffing until the surface is clean. A soft, open-type cotton or flannel buffing wheel is suggested. Minor scratches may be removed by vigorously rubbing the affected area by hand, using a soft clean cloth dampened with a mixture of turpentine and chalk, or by applying automobile cleanser with a damp cloth. Remove the cleaner and polish with a soft, dry cloth. Acrylic and cellulose acetate plastics are thermoplastic. Friction created by buffing or polishing too long in one spot can generate sufficient heat to soften the surface. This will produce visual distortion and is to be guarded against.

From AC 43.13-1B

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