

By Tom Comerro and Matthew Litwin



HMM PRODUCT TEST: Metal Rescue

It's easy to be skeptical when testing new products. As an example, we've seen more than one liquid form of de-rusting agent enter our building; after awhile, you stop feeling like a kid on Christmas morning when a new one comes in. That changed when we tested Metal Rescue from Armor Protective Packaging.

According to the company, water-based Metal Rescue does not remove chrome, nickel, powdercoating or paint on metal parts that also feature rust (unless the rust has wiggled its way behind the paint, of course). As an added bonus, it's nontoxic, non-corrosive and non-flammable; it's also biodegradable and is

easy to dispose of. It has a minimal aroma, and what you can smell is pleasant—it's great for indoor use.

Following directions, we gave our intake manifold a quick bath in a cleaning solution to remove as much grime as possible. Once dry, we submerged half of it in two gallons of Metal Rescue. Directions stated that light rust would be eliminated within 10 minutes to a half-hour, but we can tell you that we saw direct results within the first 10 minutes, without affecting the paint. After an hour, all but the heaviest rust had vanished—and we didn't have to brush or rinse the manifold to see the results. Less than 12 hours left the once-rusty metal looking like new.

Although we have yet to test its non-metal limits, Metal Rescue is touted as safe to use on metal parts that also feature wood, glass, rubber, vinyl and plastic, but the company recommends that you test it on a small hidden area before full submersion. Currently, Metal Rescue is available in 1 quart, 1 gallon and 5 gallon containers online.

Cost: \$25, 1 gallon size

Contact: Metal Rescue, 800-365-1117, www.metalrescue.com



Suspension Upgrade

Metco Motorsports offers new suspension upgrades for most popular GM and Ford applications. Pictured are the GM A-body upper and lower rear control arms. The lower arms are CNC-machined from 6061-T6511 billet aluminum for strength and a precision fit. They are designed as a direct replacement for the factory control arms, but offer the benefits of stronger billet design and polyurethane bushings. The upper arm is comprised of a precision-machined aluminum block, housing a threaded steel pinion, a heavy-duty zinc-plated adjuster and a precision-welded and powder-coated clevis. These control arms offer in-car adjustability and an increase in strength. Call for other applications and pricing. Cost: \$270 (lower arms); \$325 (upper arms). Contact: Metco Motorsports, 864-332-5929, www.metcomotorsports.com

Interchangeable Towing

Premier Trailer Towing Products has released a new interchangeable trailer ball system: Ball Swappers. With three available post diameters, and ratings up to 12,000 pounds, (Class V), there are solutions to fit any application. Tool-free exchange of trailer ball sizes is one of the many advantages; durability is another key feature, since using the highest quality materials along with precision heat treating allows these trailer balls to have a Class V rating. The 2 $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch ball is rated for 12,000 pounds.; the 2-inch is rated at 10,000 pounds. Three different shank sizes are available: $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch for light duty (3,500 pounds), along with 1-inch and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch shanks for heavy-duty towing. Thanks to their manufacture, Ball Swappers will not suffer the corrosive tendencies that lead to problems with other switching components. They're available as individual components or as kits. Cost: \$235 (kit). Contact: Premier Trailer Towing Products, 507-402-5499, www.premiertrailertowingproducts.com

