

COLLECTOR'S EDITION — ENGLISH DON

IRON HORSE

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TESTED METAL RESCUE RUST REMOVER BATH

WORKSHOP HERO DELIVERS

Time heals all wounds – except if you are restoring vintage motorcycles. Time will inflict more wounds on your prized possession to be. While parts can be replaced, the greatest satisfaction in restoration comes from bringing back a bike to its former glory with as much of the original bits intact and in place. Rust is all too often a common enemy in defacing and destroying more than its fair share of parts.

In my quest to bring back a 35 year old bike, I had my fair share of rusted parts to deal with – especially since the bike had spent the last year under some 4 feet of snow. I had pitted chrome, a gas tank full of 22 year old gas and flakes of rust as well a pretty good collection of iron coated components. The first thought is to get right at the rust with abrasives – grind, sand and blast away at the stuff until it is gone. The problem is, the part you were trying to save may also be gone since abrasives (grinders for ex-

ample..) tend to not be real picky about what metal they remove.

A little research on the web quickly showed me the usual approaches (media blasting etc), chemical baths (acids), some home remedies and also one demonstration that had me scratching my head. When I first saw the Metal Rescue videos, I felt like I was up at 3 AM watching some other miracle cleaner being advertised. The Metal Rescue clips showed very attractive girls dipping their hands and a variety of rusty components in a clear solution and removing it hours later looking like new. Obviously too good to be true and yet another incarnation of the sideshow miracle elixir, right? Still, it looked genuine enough to warrant some more research and lo and behold a real company showed up behind the product.

Metal Rescue is part of the Workshop Hero line of products offered up by Armor Protective Packaging that has been around since 1979. No shady 800 numbers but a real business with

some impressive testimonials. Of course seeing is believing, so a few calls were made and before we knew it we had a 5 gallon drum of Metal Rescue to play with.

Metal Rescue is a clear liquid with no real strong chemical smell to it. It is clear as water when you start (put some in a Mason jar for a buddy to de-rust some bolts and he may think you're bringing him some moonshine but that's another story). Since it is a water based solution – handling it requires no special protective gear such as masks or gloves. Spill a drop or two on your shirt and it won't dissolve in front of your eyes. Better yet – handling parts in and out of the bath can easily be done bare handed without any worries. As Workshop Hero will tell you "Metal Rescue works by using a water-based, safe synthetic molecule that is attracted specifically to iron oxide (i.e. rust). Metal Rescue™ removes the iron oxide and holds it in solution, leaving the base part and other materials safely unaffected". The instructions for use are pretty

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basic as well: remove the part, submerge it completely in the Metal Rescue Bath and check back later.

Chrome is always one of the worst problems with rust infestations. You typically end up taking it to a shop to have it blasted and redipped. Not a budget solution for your basic garage restorer. My bike had a variety of chrome fenders, rails and levers that showed significant degrees of rust. Sure there was some pitting but the good thing about 35 yr old chrome is that back then they still did it right with multiple layers. I didn't mind a vintage used look but I sure didn't want a rusted old junky look. We started with a rear chrome rack. With no special prep, the rack was dipped into a large plastic storage container filled with Metal Rescue. The only real things to watch out for here is that you submerge the part completely and then you have a cover of some sort since the solution will evaporate. You want to conserve as much of the solution as possible since it is good for multiple uses. The first time you try Metal Rescue you are tempted to sit there and hope to see the rust falling off - don't waste your time. It's like waiting for water to boil - things go faster if you

“Metal Rescue takes the grinder out of your hand and leaves the metal on the bike”

don't watch. After a standard 24 hour bath, I removed the lid of the container and was simply amazed by what I saw. What you see in our 'after' pics is the piece exactly how it came out of the Metal Rescue bath - no polishing or re-touching. Just simply reach in and lift it out, dry it off and you are good to go. The Metal Rescue lifted every single spec of rust off that rack in the 24 hours that it was submerged. Truly the stuff you have to see to believe - this really lived up to its on-line reputation.

The next pieces we tested included a kick start lever, a pair of headers, fenders, a gas tank, and a center stand. Each time the results were the same. A 24 hour bath in Metal Rescue removed all of the exposed rust. The shots of the iron brake pedal show you exactly how precise the solution works: removing only the rust and leaving the paint that was not affected on the piece. This makes Metal Rescue a great option for cleaning out rusty gas tanks and not having to worry about damaging your paint job on the outside. As we immersed more and more pieces in the bath, the solution became a murky dark liquid. This is due to the rust molecules remaining suspended in the liquid (plus we managed to get some nice deposits in there from inside the headers). All that does not stop Metal Rescue from continuing its attack on rust. As you can see from the images of the large

sprocket (not from my bike...), we recreated one of their semi-dip tests and the solution was still working perfectly. According to the folks at Workshop Hero, a gallon of Metal Rescue will remove about a half pound of dry rust. That is equivalent to removing rust from approximately 300 pounds of moderately rusted steel.

We get to test out a variety of products, gadgets and gear here at Iron Horse and I was highly skeptical that a product advertised with such stellar results would actually live up to its promise in the average Joe's garage. Rest assured that Workshop Hero's Metal Rescue did just that and more. Many a night friends would be amazed to see the condition of the pieces as they were removed from the Metal Rescue Bath. It also meant that they showed up the next night with a piece from their own bike to dump it in the bath. Be it a handful of nuts and bolts or a complete set of covers - the Metal Rescue Bath always had something soaking in it - probably the best testimonial to its effectiveness. The Workshop Hero tagline is "Taking the work out of your workshop" and when it comes to rust removal they've certainly nailed it.

For more information please see www.workshophero.com. Workshop Hero™ is also looking for professional motorcycle retail distributors and any interested parties should contact the company through the website.

