



## DETAILERS PARADISE Car Care Institute

### Machine Polishing: Tips & Techniques

Here are some guidelines for working with polishes\* and pads. Feel free to mix and match as you become more familiar with each product's traits. Following are the four colors of Paradise Pads, listed from most abrasive to least, along with each pad's most common use:

Yellow pad: Heavy oxidation or swirls

Orange pad: Light oxidation or swirls

White pad: Minor swirls, hazing and slight imperfections

Black pad: Very light cleaning & liquid wax application

1. You will need approximately 1-2 oz of polish per car, depending on the condition of your paint and the particular polish you use. Always shake your polish well. While spinning the pad by hand, apply a thin bead of polish from the center of the pad to the edge. Place the pad face down on the paint and smush the polish around in order to evenly cover your pad with polish.
2. Starting your project on the hood is a good way to get a feel for the polishing process. Both the Porter-Cable (PC) and the Cyclo oscillate in small motions, so move the tool in larger sweeping motions. Be careful not to bang the cord on the car as you work. If available, use a Monkey Tail on your cord to avoid damage to your paint. Try not to put any pressure on the PC or Cyclo. Let the weight of the machine do the work. The pad should vibrate and spin. If the pad stops spinning, you are pushing down too hard.
3. It is best to start with roughly a 2' by 2' section. Work the area until it seems like the polish is starting to dry. Buff off with a high quality, plush, buffing microfiber cloth and check your work. You should be able to see some tiny spider-webbing. This indicates that you are using the right pad and polish and that you are not cutting too deep.
4. If you start by using one of the more aggressive pad/polish combinations, you may find your finish will look slightly hazy when you are done. This is normal and will be resolved by following with a softer pad and lighter polish. Paint with heavy oxidation or swirls will require this two-step process.
5. To remove any hazing left by your first step, you will want to use a less abrasive combination as your second step- perhaps a white pad a very light polish. Repeat steps 1-3. When you are done, your paint should be free of swirls and imperfections.

*\*Although liquid wax application with a machine follows a similar process, these tips & techniques are specific to the use of abrasive polishes.*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us here at Detailers Paradise. We can be reached by phone at: 303-722-5107. We can be reached by email at: [customerservice@detailersparadise.com](mailto:customerservice@detailersparadise.com).*