

SPORTS & EXOTIC WORKSHOP

GARAGE GEAR

BY TOM COMERRO

HS&EC PRODUCT TEST

ONE-MAN BRAKE FLUID BLEEDER



Manually bleeding the brakes is an acceptable method for the home mechanic, but it is not the most desirable approach. Any debris that has entered the master cylinder ends up being pushed through the entire system, possibly creating a future failure of a wheel cylinder or caliper. Most professional repair shops use a power bleeder that is operated by compressed air. They first suck all of the old fluid out of the master cylinder and replace it with fresh hydraulic oil before starting the procedure. These units are costly, cumbersome to use, and require multiple adapters for specific cars. A power bleeder also requires a compressed air source.

Realizing that there must be a better way, we got very excited when we stumbled upon this vacuum bleeder. Reasonably priced, the unit uses a hand pump to suck the air and old fluid from the brake lines. The kit also includes a bottle that sits in the master

cylinder to keep the reservoir filled with clean, fresh hydraulic oil.

The procedure is very simple. After sucking out and replacing the master cylinder fluid, pump the handle a few times to create a vacuum and, starting at the wheel farthest from the master cylinder, attach the clear flexible line to the bleeder screw and crack it open. When you see clean fluid coming through, close a valve on the tool and tighten the bleeder screw.

We suspect that this product might not hold up to the rigors of a professional shop with daily use, but it is certainly easy and convenient for an enthusiast working at home. Cost: \$89.99.

—Matt Litwin

Contact:

Griot's Garage
800-345-5789
www.griotsgarage.com

NO TOUCH CAR COVER

The Touchless Car Cover is a new design in car covers that addresses the various shortcomings of traditional car covers such as smudging, dust trapping, poor cleanliness and storage. It serves as a drive-in and drive-out cover that offers access to the car from either side while the cover is in place. The TCC can be used indoors or out, and has a high rated UV coating and waterproofing. Especially useful after you've washed your car, as a normal cover can trap moisture, and an uncovered car will collect dust. The TCC will allow you to cover the car without either problem becoming a factor. Cost: \$299.

Contact:

Touchless Car Cover
877-882-4110
www.touchlesscarcover.com



BRIGHT LIGHTS, BLUE MAGIC

Blue Magic introduces their new headlamp lens restorer. As the plastic lens gets older, wear and discoloration can cause the headlamps to look foggy or hazy to other drivers as well as affecting your own night vision, to the point that it's hard to tell if your lamps are on. Apply restoring liquid to the exterior of the faded or off-color lenses and then buff it off to eliminate haze and restore optical clarity. The restorer is an ideal alternative to spending hundreds of dollars on new headlamps and/or lens covers. Cost: \$6.99.

Contact:

Blue Magic
888-522-2746
www.bluemagicusa.com

WINTER STORAGE

As the end of the car show season approaches, it is nearly time to store your car for the winter, and it's possible that mice and other critters may choose your car to hibernate in. While there, they may chew the wiring and leave a nasty mess to deal with. Northern Explorer has come up with their new Store it Right mouse pouches that will repel rodents. Each pouch repels for 30 days with maximum effectiveness without harsh chemicals, and they are EPA approved. Best of all, the odor is pleasant, a pine or cedar-type scent that is not overpowering, which is a drawback of many repellents. As a result, your car will be rodent free and smelling nice for springtime. Cost: \$17.

Contact:

Northern Explorer
888-681-1443
www.northernexplorer.com

