

**TEST YOUR COLOR  
BEFORE DECIDING IT DOESN'T MATCH**  
(see inside Hints & Tips)

before you start your repair, this way you'll be familiar with each step as you proceed.

**PLEASE READ**

# Instructions



## Helpful Info, Hints and Tips

- \* Test the color in the same light where the item will normally be.  
**Examples**  
Auto colors: test in direct sunlight.  
Furniture colors: under incandescent or fluorescent lighting.
- \* To test the color, dip the included swab into the bottle of Color Flex. In an inconspicuous area, apply the color in a circular motion, about the size of a quarter or even a bit larger. Be sure to let the color dry completely then apply another coat before determining if it matches. If it's not perfect but close, you can always blend it into the surrounding area.
- \* Color-Flex will dry either darker or lighter than the color you see in the bottle depending on the color you've chosen. Typically, it dries darker.
- \* Because the color you ordered may not be exactly the same as what you are trying to match (but if it's close), we recommend that you lightly blend the surrounding area. This painter's trick allows your eye to be fooled into seeing one consistent color. Keep in mind, color tends to look a bit more intense when applied to a small surface. We recommend blending an area at least 12" around the repaired area.
- \* Ideal outdoor working temperature is between 75-85 degrees. You can accelerate drying time by using a blow dryer. Just don't try to dry the surface too quickly, slowly and evenly is best. Try to keep the blow dryer at least 12" away from the surface. Both Color Flex and our repair compound cure completely in 24 hours.
- \* Don't be afraid to sand scuffed or rough areas to smooth out dry or flaking surfaces before starting your repair. 320 grit sandpaper is suitable for this.
- \* If your fiber or foam filling is missing, you can use a small piece of cotton as a filler, before you add your sub-patch.
- \* If your Color Flex seems thick after it has been stored, you can add a little rubbing alcohol to it. DO NOT mix Color-Flex with any other coatings or paint! Color Flex is a specialty product and adding anything other than Isopropyl/rubbing alcohol will turn it into something resembling mush.

## Included in this kit

- 1 - Bottle of Color-Flex
- 1 - Presto Prep Cleaning Solution
- 1 - Swab for testing color
- 1 - Sponge applicator
- 1 - Clear paint tray
- 1 - Jar of repair compound
- 1 - Application tool
- 2 - (3" x 4") white mesh sub-patch material
- 2 - (3" x 4") 600 grit sand paper
- 1 - Instruction sheet

## Step 1: Cleaning and Preparing the Surface

We cannot stress how *important* it is that the surface you are going to repair is clean so that your repair will have proper adhesion.

If your leather is dry, before you attempt any repairs, we suggest that you first give it a good cleaning and conditioning. Allow the conditioner to penetrate for at least 24 hours. Repeat this process again if more absorption is required. It may be helpful to first sand the dry areas with 320 grit sandpaper (not included with kit) to open up the pores and to smooth any previous coating that has dried out and cracked.

**Supplies you'll need for cleaning:** Any liquid hand dish washing detergent, a couple of wash cloths or micro-fiber towels.

**Cleaning:** Wet both wash cloths in a bucket of warm water and wring them out, leaving them as damp as you would if you were going to wash your face with soap and water.

Put a couple of small drops of dish washing detergent on the damp cloth, then begin to wash the area with the washcloth as if bathing. Don't forget to clean any stitch lines. Rinse the cleaning cloth and repeat this step until the surface looks reasonably clean. After bathing the area, use the other wash cloth to rinse the area. Wipe over the area you've cleaned, and towel dry it. Make sure the surface is completely dry.

### Preparation:

**Extremely Important:** Clean all areas that will be repaired or re-colored with Presto Prep. If properly cleaned, when dry, the surface should not feel sticky or slick. This step insures that there is no residue left from previous conditioners or cleaners.

Next, lightly sand the damaged and surrounding area with the included sandpaper. Clean again to remove debris left behind from sanding.

Make sure that there area is free of any lint, loose threads or debris. If you have loose threads, simply push them back into the opening of the damaged area, or trim them off. **Proceed to Step 2**

## Step 2: Applying Repair Compound (repair compound will NOT work on seams)

### Cracks, Scratches, Wear Spots, Cuts, Pet Claw Scratches and Punctures

For damage caused by pet claws, we recommend adhering the flap of leather, if any, (using a small amount of repair compound as adhesive) to the backing or snip it off before applying the repair compound. Trim any ragged edges with scissors. If the area is really frayed, you can use an electric mustache/beard trimmer to trim off the frayed leather.

Take the application tool (palette knife) that came with your kit, and spread a thin layer of repair compound over the damaged area, over lapping about ½" of the surrounding area. Try to smooth out the repair compound as much as possible. You can wet the tip of your finger with water to smooth out the edges. Just don't use too much water, or it will dilute it. It doesn't have to be perfect, but the smoother you apply it now, the easier it will be to smooth out when it is dry. Allow to completely dry. Generally it takes about 10-15 minutes. You can accelerate this time by using a blow dryer. *Wipe the excess compound off of the application tool between each application. This will insure that the spreading tool will glide smoothly over the surface each time.* It normally takes anywhere between 2-5 applications to completely fill the damage areas. By layering the repair compound in this way, you will obtain a much stronger repair and it takes less time for it to dry. Once you feel that the damaged area has been filled enough, then proceed to Step 3, otherwise repeat this procedure until you are satisfied with the surface level of the repair. **TIP:** It's better to have applied too much repair compound than not enough. If you don't apply enough, you'll still be able to see the damage. If you apply too much, you can easily smooth it out by wiping over the area with Presto Prep or rubbing alcohol.

### Large Cuts, Burn Holes using the Sub-patch Material

Repairs that are deep and burns that have gone completely through (holes up to 2" diameter) require the sub-patch. The reason for using a sub-patch is to give the surface a stable backing and to give the repair compound a surface to adhere to.

Trim ragged edges but do not cut off flaps if there are any. If the damage is a burn, using a razor blade, scrape off any charred areas. Cut a piece of sub-patch material (the mesh fabric that is included with your kit) at least ½ wider than the actual damage, rounding the edges. Position the sub-patch on the underside of the repair (on items with a backing, simply slide it into the hole and place in position). In some cases, it might be a little difficult to slide the sub-patch into and under the hole. You can use the spreading tool to help work the sub-patch in and smooth it out. Using the tip of the spreading tool, spread a small amount of repair compound between the sub-patch and the underside of the leather or vinyl. Allow to completely dry. Once the sub-patch is dry, follow the instructions above for repairing cracks, scratches.

DO NOT just apply a glob of repair compound and expect it to dry, it won't. **Proceed to Step 3.**

## Step 3: Smooth out the repair compound after it's dry

Pour a little Presto Prep on a folded paper towel and wipe over the surface just as if you were sanding it with sandpaper, until it's smooth. Be sure that the towel is wet enough so that it doesn't drag across the repair. If it dries out, apply more to the towel. You can also use Presto Prep on your finger. Presto Prep is no stronger than rubbing alcohol, but if your skin is sensitive you might want to wear vinyl gloves. Be careful with this step because the alcohol or Presto Prep can actually start to remove the repair if you wipe over it too many times. Be sure to let the surface dry completely before moving to the next step.

If you have purchased the optional "Spray Grain", you would apply after this step. Follow the instructions on the bottle. If you decide that your repair needs to be smoother or textured more, all of these steps can be performed again after you apply the Color Flex. If you are now satisfied with the surface of your repair.

**Proceed to Step 4.**

## Step 4: Applying Color Flex

Before you apply Color Flex, and between coats, make sure there are no particles on your item. If little particles show up after you apply the Color Flex, simply allow the coating to completely dry, then take the sandpaper and lightly sand them off, then apply another light coat. For maximum flexibility and coverage, Color Flex should be applied in several light coats - NOT ONE THICK COAT! A heavy application could result in cracking. Your first coat should look rather unfinished with areas not completely covered. Your second or third coat will fill in these areas and will cover completely. Each additional thin coat that you apply will cover better than the one before it. (Shades of red will require more coats than other colors to completely cover). When coating an item that has stitching, try not to apply too much Color Flex on the thread, or you may lose the stitched effect. Drying Time: Color Flex dries to the touch in 10 - 15 minutes, at room temperature, and completely cures in 24 hours. You can use the item that has been repaired within 2 hours, just be extra careful with it. This also applies to seating surfaces.

Applying Color-Flex is similar to sponge faux painting. You might want to mask off the surrounding areas to protect them. Don't mask just a small area around the repair area, this will result in an obvious repair line. Try to mask off at seams or separation areas in the item.

It is very important to first shake the bottle of Color Flex for about 1 minute to insure that the color at the bottom of the bottle is mixed completely. Then carefully remove the cap from the bottle and pour a small amount into the plastic palette that came with your kit. Recap the bottle of Color Flex so that it won't dry out.

Wet the sponge with warm water and wring it out so that it's just damp, not wet. Dip the damp sponge into the palette of color so that it absorbs a little bit but not too much of the color. Then wipe the area just as if you were painting with a brush. Don't worry if it streaks, that's normal at this point. Apply only a thin coat. Don't try to achieve coverage with one application. Avoid reapplying partially dry areas. Allow your first coat to completely dry (about 15-20 minutes) before you apply your second coat. You can use a blow dryer to accelerate the drying time. If it's completely dry, it should feel smooth to the touch and not tacky.

*Be sure to rinse the sponge between applications* so the color doesn't dry in it while you're waiting for your color to dry on your item.

The second coat goes on a little bit differently. Wet the sponge again with Color Flex, but this time, start dabbing it on the surface moving your hand in a random motion. You may notice that the second coat is a different color when it's applied, this is normal, it will change color as it dries. The second coat should start to cover your repair, but if it doesn't, simply apply as many coats as necessary in the same manner, allowing drying time between coats. Be sure to blend in the surrounding area. The color will then blend with the rest of the item, making the repair less noticeable. By dabbing on the color you avoid streaks and it gives the slight appearance of a texture.

## Step 5: Clean Up

Both repair compound and Color Flex clean up with soap and water. If either has dried you can try using rubbing alcohol to remove it. Wash sponge in warm water and liquid soap before the Color Flex dries in it.

## Step 6: Conditioning - Optional

Allow the Color-Flex to completely dry then apply a conditioner of your choice on the entire area. **DO NOT** use any cleaners or conditioners that contain ammonia or solvent of any kind on your repaired area.

If you should happen to run into any difficulties while making your repair, please don't hesitate to contact us at : [Support@MagicMender.com](mailto:Support@MagicMender.com)