



DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Aniline Restoration Kits

Summary

- 1) Work area
 - 2) Vacuum
 - 3) Surface Prep
 - 4) Dye stain
 - 5) Colour Restoration Cream
 - 6) Optional: Topcoat (Sold separately)
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1) Work area

Lay down drop sheets to protect your work area and ensure good ventilation.

2) Vacuum

Vacuum to remove pet hair, dust and loose particles.

3) Surface Prep

Spray Spot & Prep (No.4) on one area at a time. A scrubbing brush can be used to agitate into the grain. Use a cloth to wipe away dirt and grime from the leather using moderately firm pressure. There may be little to no sign of soiling on the cloth. Continue cleaning regardless. Work fast as unfinished and porous leathers absorb liquids quickly and the cleaner flashes off quickly. Repeat until all areas are thoroughly clean and free of soiling, oils, silicones, waxes and emollients. Apply extra cleaner and scrubbing on greasy areas. The aim is to remove grease from the surface as its not possible to remove it from the inner structure.

Note: If the coatings on your leather are inferior, old, compromised or worn, there may be some coatings disturbance (colour coming off onto the cloth). Whilst minimising colour removal is desirable, a thorough clean is essential for optimal adhesion of the Colour Cream.

Optional: Smooth rough areas

Whilst it's not necessary to sand all areas, if there are areas that are rough to touch, smooth them by sanding with 800 grit sandpaper. The aim is to remove any loose or flaking coatings, smooth surface irregularities, and keys the surface to promote a good bond between the substrate and new coatings. When done, wipe over to remove dust.

4) Dye Stain

Colour test

Test in an inconspicuous place (between cushions, low on the back, underneath or inside (handbags or inside zippered cushions), apply a small spot then allow to dry. If the colour is too dark or intense, it can be diluted with water and/or IPA. For most applications, dilution is not necessary.

If you think that the colour is not intense enough, apply a second application and allow drying. Next, apply 2 coats of Colour Restoration Cream, (No.32) over the test spot with drying between coats. Allow 24 hours drying or force dry with a hair dryer. This test shows the final colour result. If the colour needs adjustment to suit your leather, blend in other colours (sold separately) to achieve the right colour for your job.

Application method

Aniline Dye Stain (No.29) can be applied with a sponge, spray gun, airbrush or spray bottle. The stain penetrates into the fibres. This step boosts the base colour and rarely produces completely even colouration because of the organic, fibrous nature of leather and variable levels of coatings between worn areas and as-new areas. This unevenness will be rectified by the Colour Cream. A second or third application can further intensify or darken the colour. Apply more where needed; ie where there's high levels of UV fading.

To apply, pour Aniline Dye Stain (No.29) onto a sponge and squeeze to incorporate it. Start at the back or in a low priority area. Working quickly, draw the sponge over the surface using moderately firm even strokes. Experiment to find the most suitable stroke for your leather; eg, long straight lines, circular or cross-hatch. Continue applying until all areas or the desired areas are dyed.

Optional trouble shooting: Manage dry and porous leather

Parched leather may absorb the product very quickly. To control or slow absorption, try the following:

- 1) Work more quickly so that you cover more area whilst the sponge is full
- 2) Dilute the Aniline Dye Stain (No.29) to extend the product then apply multiple applications as needed
- 3) Dampen the leather with water using a spray bottle or cloth. This can help to disperse the dye evenly and can help the product go further
- 4) Apply 2 coats of Prime (No.5) after surface prep (cleaning and sanding) (sold separately). This can lightly seal the surface, thereby slowing absorption.

5) Colour Restoration Cream

Colour test

Do a test spot of Colour Restoration Cream to an inconspicuous place. Allow to dry then assess the colour. If it needs adjustment, blend in other colours (sold separately) to achieve the right colour for your job.

Optional: Adjust shine

If you want a Matte result, add 5%-30% Dulling Agent (No.30) (sold separately) to the Colour Restoration Cream (No.32). More can be added if required. Test as you add. Apply a 1-3cm spot, dry it with a hair dryer then decide if more Dulling Agent is needed.

If you want a shiny result, add around 10% Topcoat (No.7) Gloss or High Gloss to the Colour Restoration Cream (No.32) and, when all colour work is completed and dry, apply 2 coats of glossy topcoat to finish.

Application method

Colour cream can be applied using a sponge or foam/paint brush.

Treat one area at a time. It can be beneficial to practice in an inconspicuous area to learn how the product handles.

Pour some cream onto a sponge, then, using moderate pressure, wipe it across the surface of the leather, finishing with smooth, even strokes. Experiment with circular, long or crosshatch techniques to find the one that is right for your job. The product dries quite quickly. Take care not to disturb the coatings whilst drying as this can cause sweep and drag marks. Be sure to coat all areas including nooks and crannies.

In high wear areas, build up the finish with a few coats. Apply extra layers to cover marks and stains. One to two layers may be enough for hidden areas such as between cushions. If there's any sticking, dry the cream with a hair dryer before allowing the panels to rest together.

Between each coat, allow 30 mins for the cream to dry or carefully heat with a hair dryer or gentle sunshine to speed up drying.

It is typical to apply 1-2 coats to low wear areas (backs and sides) and 2 – 6 coats to high wear areas. More can be applied if needed. Continue to apply until all areas have been treated to the desired level.

6) Optional: Topcoat

When colour work is done, allow 2 or more days drying time then apply 2 coats of clear topcoat for extra durability. When the colour coats are dry, apply topcoat using a sponge, roller or spray-gun. Allow drying. Apply a second and final coat. Prioritise high traffic areas. Allow to dry.

Prevent freshly coated faces touching until they are dry.

Note: Matte topcoat is best applied with a spray gun. If hand application leaves a streaky finish, try mixing approximately 20% Colour Restoration Cream (No.32) into both or the last coat of Topcoat.

Drying time

When done, allow a couple of days before using the leather again. The coatings are touch dry in 30 mins, dry in 2 days and fully cured in 14 days. Treat the coatings with care to avoid scratches, scuffs or other damage. Don't use covers such as sheets or blankets in the first 2 weeks as fibres from the fabrics may embed in the soft coatings and pull them off when lifted.

This make-over process can be repeated as needed. Refresh intervals vary depending on the type and condition of the leather as well as the amount and type of use the leather receives.

Tips

- Avoid touching the leather between coats during the restoration process as body oils could compromise coatings adhesion

- There is no 'normal' number of coats as each piece of leather is different and some colours build coverage faster than others
- Mild sunshine, a room heater or a hair dryer can be used to speed drying between each coat.
- Avoid using Spot & Prep (No.4) or other cleaners (including water) on new coatings until they are cured (14 days).
- If you find any blemishes, grit or hair in your coatings, allow a couple of days drying (or speed dry with a hair dryer) then lightly sand with 800 -1200 grit sandpaper. Follow with additional coating over the affected area.
- If at any time, you see coatings disturbance during the process (for example, Topcoat appears to remove some colour), the coatings are not dry yet. Allow further drying.

Maintenance

This make-over process can be repeated as needed. Refresh intervals vary depending on the type and condition of the leather as well as the amount and type of use the leather receives. Note: This kit include aniline dyes. Dyes, no matter the maker, are not UV stable. Some fading can be expected in high UV environments. Protect (No.3) contains a UV barrier that can help to reduce UV fading when applied regularly.

After care

After 7 or more days of drying, condition with Nubuck, Suede & Aniline Nourish (No.11) (also available in a kit with Nubuck, Suede & Aniline Cleanse (No.10) and protect with Protect (No.3) (always do a test spot first) if no additional shine is desired. Waxy Care Kit can be used if shine is desired.

More details

- **Ideal for:** Repairing and recolouring pigmented (painted/coated) leather or any leather project where new coatings are needed.
- **Use with:** The Leather Hero range of products
- **Application schedule:** As needed. Low impact areas may never need recoating. High impact zones may show wear and tear in time. Leather Hero products are ideal for maintaining leather at the structural and aesthetic level throughout its usable life.
- **Application method:** By hand using a sponge, brush or foam roller or by spray gun. Primer must be applied by hand.
- **Best accessories:** Microfiber cloth, applicator sponge, sandpaper, brush, palette knife, gloves.
- **Instructions:** On the bottles, under the How To tab and Directions For Use tab on the Repair & Recolour Kit listing on www.leatherhero.com.au
- **Drying time:** Touch dry in 1 hour, dry in 2 days and cured in 14 days.
- **Time before use:** 2 or more days where possible.
- **Available separately:** All products are available for purchase separately.

- **Test before use:** Test products in a hidden location before use.
- **Storage:** Store in a dark, dry place with the lids on tight. Avoid bacterial contamination.
- **Results:** Each piece of leather is unique. There are many makers of leather using a vast array of tannery treatments to create leathers with different characteristics. In optimal circumstances, this kit is capable of producing results that last for many years. That said, results and durability vary. The type, quality and condition of the leather, whether the full and correct process was used when applying the products, the amount and type of use the leather receives and the amount and type of leather care applied after repairing and recolouring all impact results and durability. The products are designed to let you restore and maintain the colour coatings on your leather as needed for the life of the leather.