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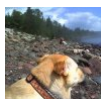
Can We Make Vegas Gold Sparkle with Roth Rattlebombs? Let's Find Out!

erix · Jul 15, 2020

1 2 Next ▶

Jul 15, 2020

#1



erix

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

A couple of years ago I got it bad for a 2014 Vegas Gold Sparkle Baja. I waited for a long time for one to come up for sale but they never did. Figuring I'd have to make my own eventually I bought some Roth products to do the deed. Of course the day they arrived I scored the Baja of my dreams on the 'Bay and the spray cans went down in the basement...

Fast forward to last fall when I made my first body from scratch but to do it I made two bodies at the same time - one was the guinea pig that I'd try new stuff on and the other was the real deal. The real deal came out great. The pig came out almost great but still good enough and, because it was lightweight, I decided to hang on to it and build it out one day.

Now that my basement is nearly done and I have another build that will need finished soon I thought I'd dig up the spray bombs and use the pig for practice. Once done I'd be able to settle the age old question which is the title of this post!

Step one is the prep. You need a flat surface for metallic and flakes as any wrinkle or wood grain will show right through. Since this body had a lot of deeper grain as well as some voids I filled a lot of it with automotive spot putty first. Here it is sanded back.



Spot putty is like super thick lacquer. It doesn't shrink and sands very smooth with no air bubbles. But you don't use it as a fill or it will shrink down a bit. I had a knot hole that needed filled but I packed it with sawdust and CA first so the spot putty only smoothed the top. You can also see a divet from a clamp that got filled as well as grooves from just sliding around the bench.



Next step was primer. I used SEM high-build in white. This stuff lays down thick and sands really nice wet or dry.



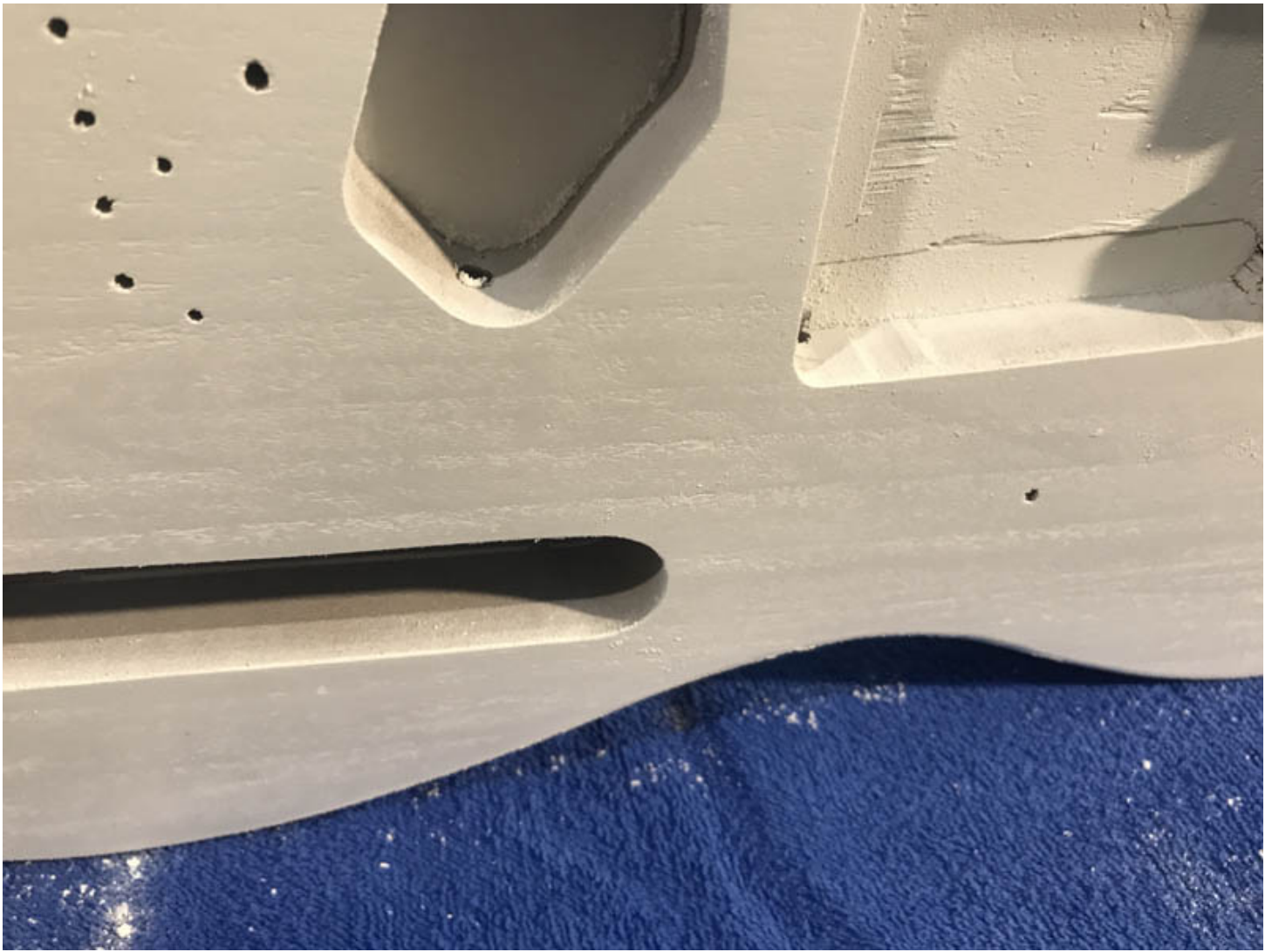
You can see the fine powder from sanding here. Note that ridge at the neck pocket from the routing - I'll have to fix that!



In the right light I could see that I needed more filling. I was hoping the primer would fill the grain in one step but it was not to be.



Yuck!



Spot Putty Extravaganza! This may look like a lot but I'll sand off almost all of it.



The back wasn't as bad..



I didn't take pics of the sanding back the spot putty and shooting another layer of primer. Here is the second coat of primer getting sanded back with a block. It is very important to use a block if you want to get a truly flat surface! Never use your fingers alone or you will make grooves all over the place.



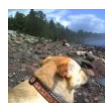
I use this little rubber sanding block for the sides and curvy areas. It's the cat's meow!



Blue Bill, hemingway and rangercaster

Jul 15, 2020

#2



erix

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

And here is almost \$100 of spray cans (shipped). Roth has all kinds of fun names for their colors and I couldn't tell which to use so I sent a picture of a Vegas Gold Baja to their customer service address and they suggested a kit comprised of Warm Beer base, Warm Beer

flake, Warm Beer kandy, and 2K gloss clear. Note the respirator mask. YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED ONE OF THESE!!!!



Warm Beer? Yeah, I guess it does look like that....



Mounted up and wiped with degreaser



The first coat of base is misted on. Base is a fine metallic and is the color that will show through the flake. You want nice even coverage of base!



Coat two of base. The Roth spray bombs have excellent tips and the propellant is like a jet engine. I was getting stripes until I moved the can 16" away from the body! After three coats you could clear it and have a nice fine gold color. I'm not sure what color that would match - Shoreline? Aztec? Frost? None of the above?



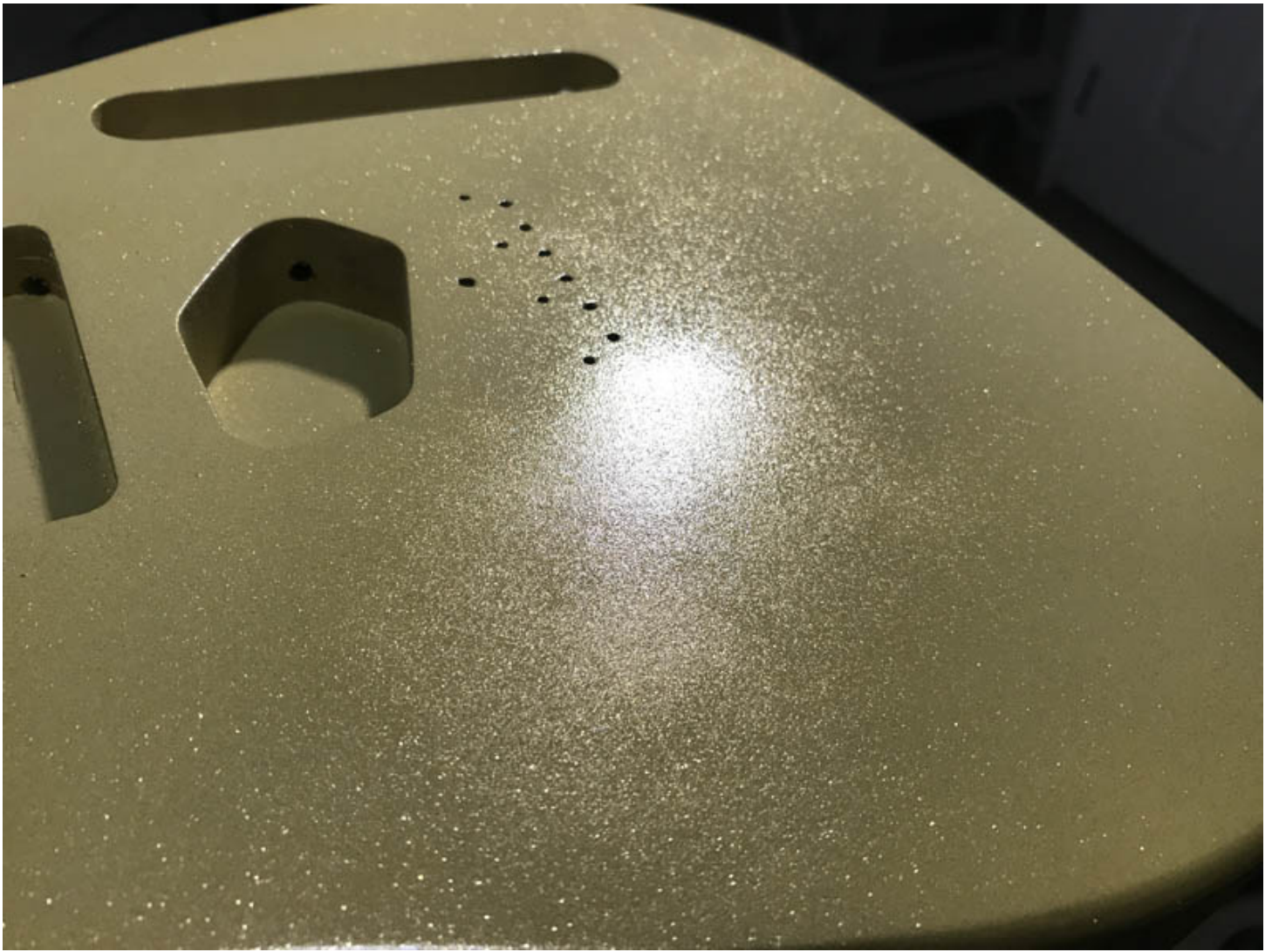
Next went on the flake. This is a gold-colored flake in a transparent binder.



Sparkles! It was fun watching all the flakes flitting through the air as I sprayed this. Again, I was 16+" away from the body.



I used almost the whole can of flake!



Sparkles even through a blurry photo!



Last edited: Jul 15, 2020

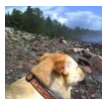
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Jul 15, 2020

#3



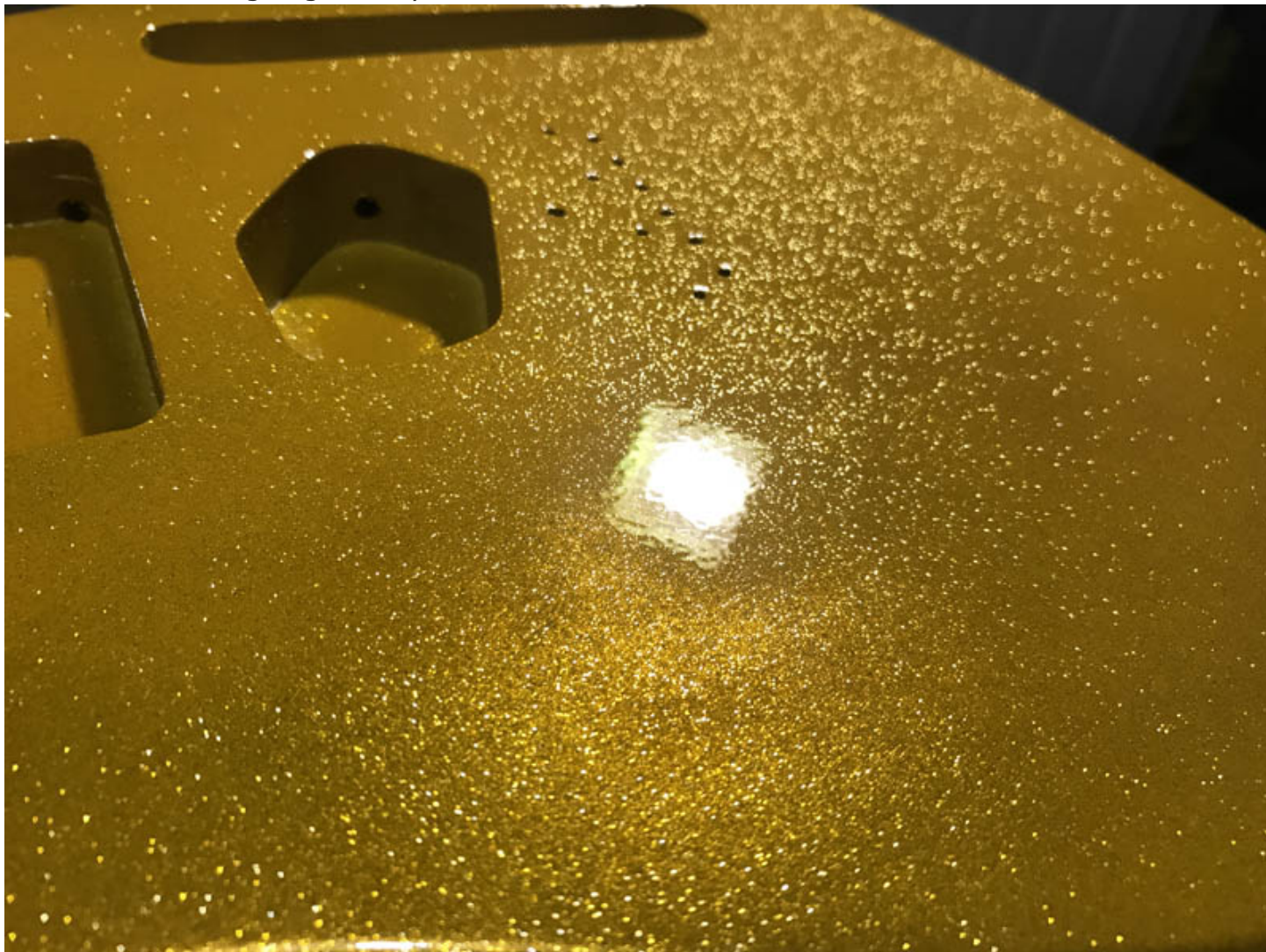
erix

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

Next up was the kandy. If it was going to go south this was the time. Kandy is like a shader coat, the more you put on the darker it gets.

First coat is looking Vegas Baby!



Mmmmm yes.....



Second coat - getting close!



Third coat - UH OH!!! TOO MUCH KANDY!!! I buried the flake....



I reached for the can of flake while the kandy was still wet and covered the face again. The sparkle came back. Not the ideal way to do it but way better than it was.



And after the first coat of 2K clear.



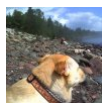
I sprayed the whole can of 2K over three coats with 15 minutes between them. About 30 minutes after the last coat I brought it inside to hang overnight and let the garage air out. There was a cloud of 2K that needed to dissipate before I would pull the cars in and the floor in the spray area was still sticky! Be careful using this stuff!

Later today I'll post pictures of the body as it is now alongside my Baja. Stay Tuned!

Mouth, RiversQC, nojazzhere and 9 others

Jul 15, 2020

#4



erix

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

All told the spraying process took about 2.5 hours last night and when it was all over I was kinda disgusted with myself over the kandy krushing the flake. Last night there were visible areas that looked like two different colors of base coat with the majority of the second color appearing right where I had applied too much. As I lay down to sleep I thought I might use the pig to be my first heavy relic attempt....

But in the morning things were very different. It was all one tone now and sparkly all over!



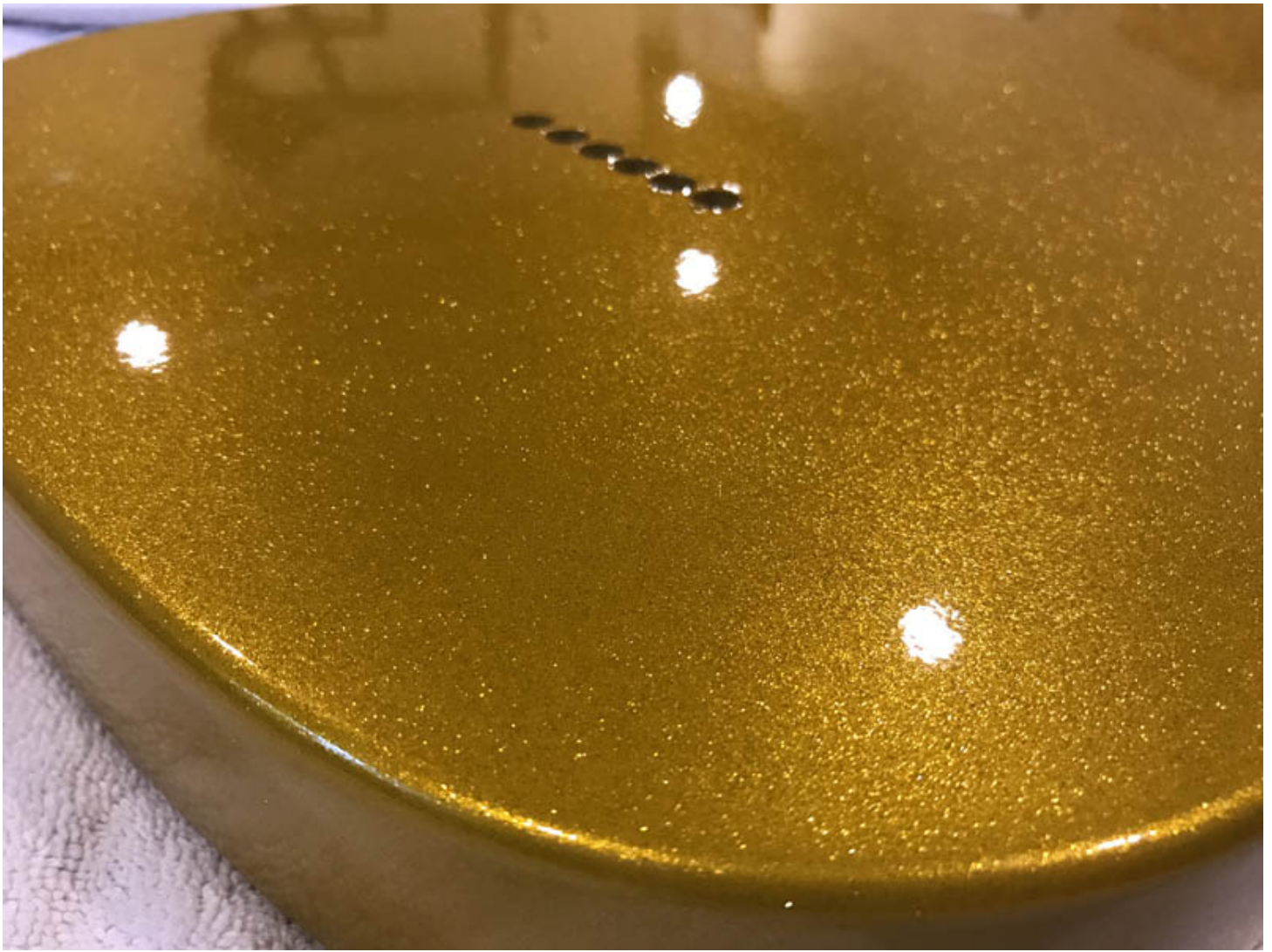
Also, there was almost no orange peel in the clear. The 2K flowed out very nicely.



The backside didn't get the too-much-kandy treatment but I still floated some flake on it during those crazy panicked moments. It came out stunning.



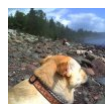
Up close and personal...



I took it outside to photograph but the reflections were too distracting



mefgames, zippofan, Mr_Q and 5 others



erix

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

So did we meet our goal of matching Vegas Gold Sparkle?

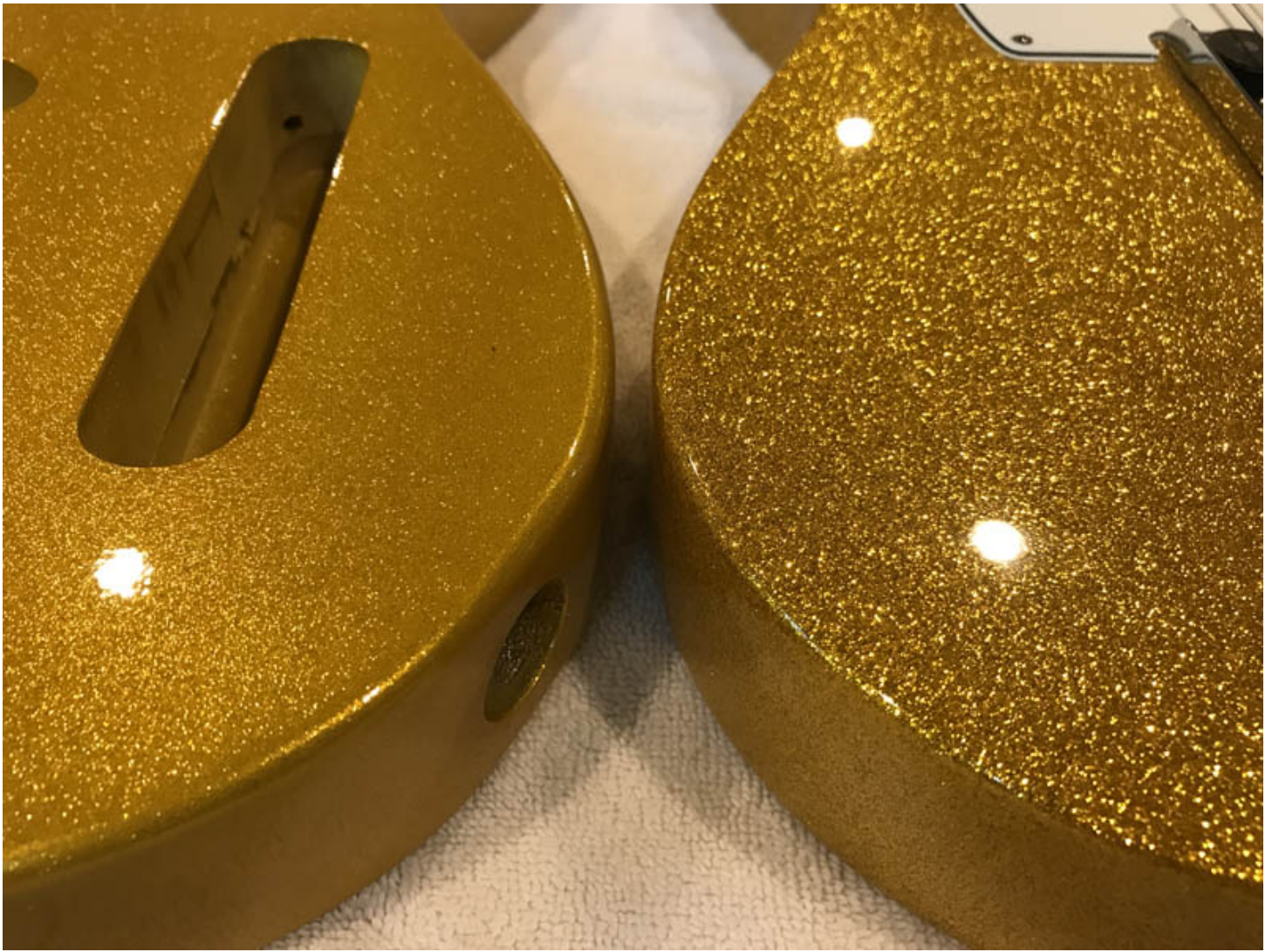
Kinda..



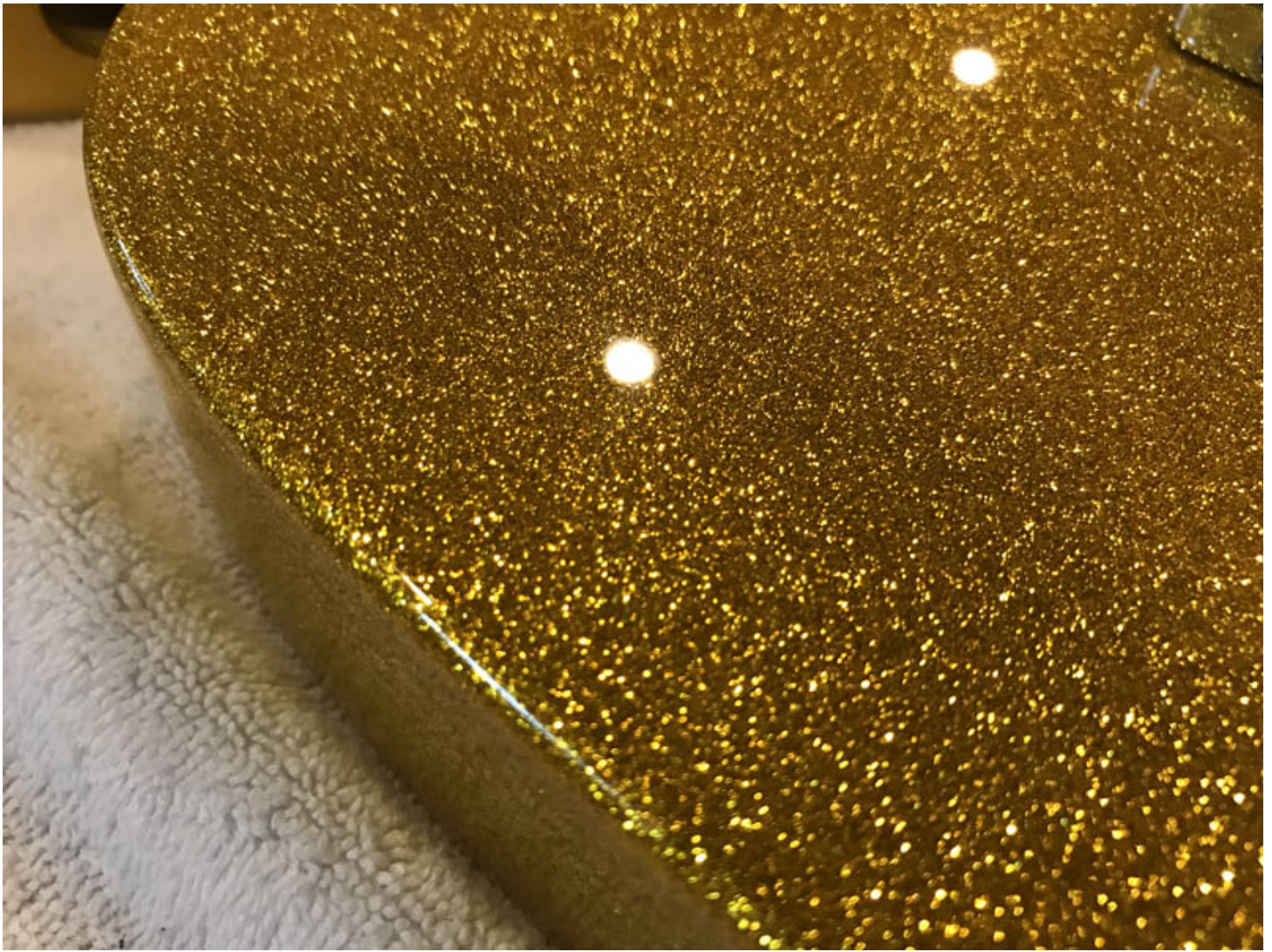
Obvs the Baja has much larger flake and no kandy over them. They reflect a lot of light back to your eye. But the color... the color is almost there. It might have been perfect had I stopped at two kandy coats.



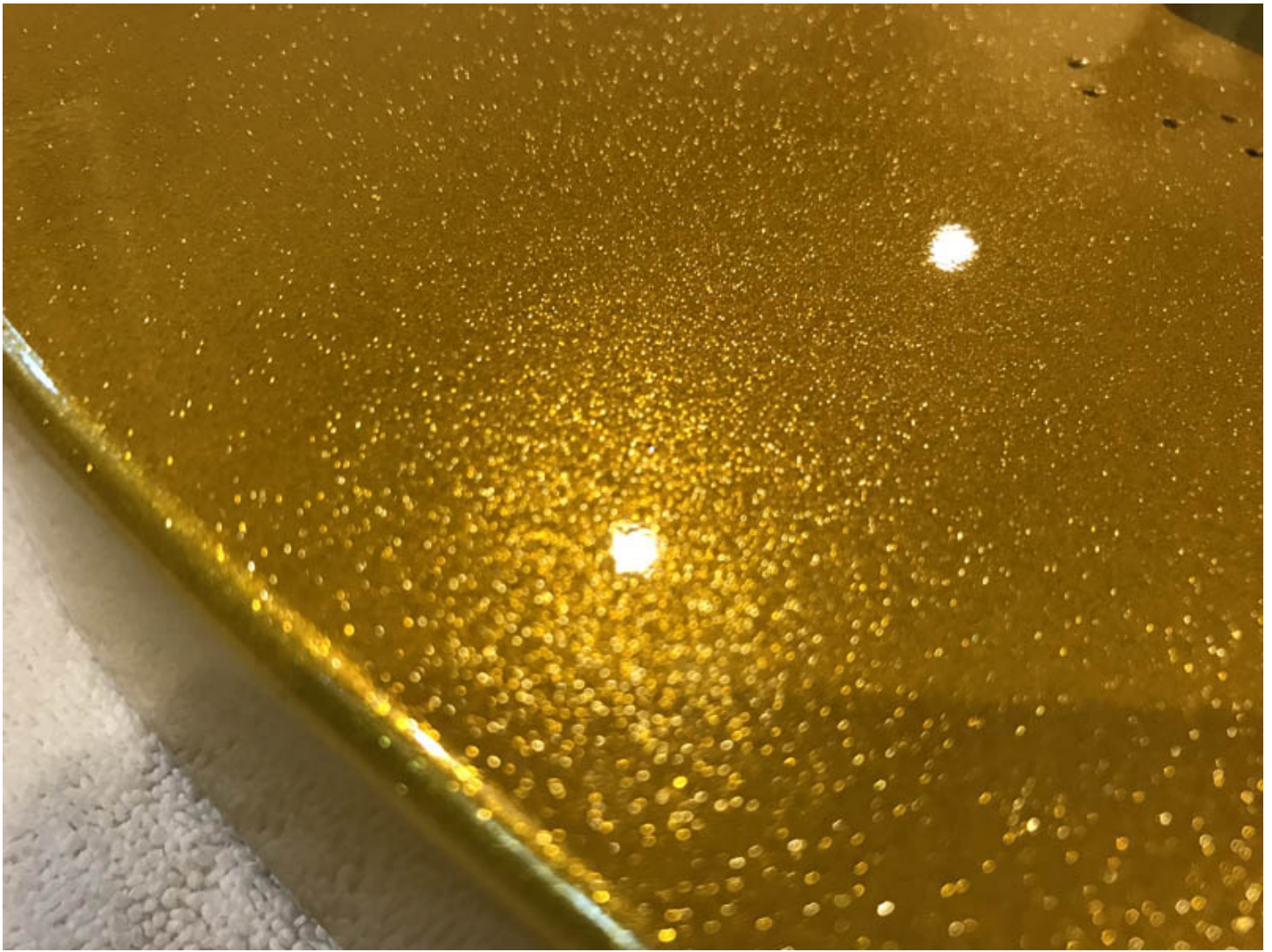
They both have a LOT of flake. The pig's sparkel looks more dense because of the size difference and you cant see any of the base coat.



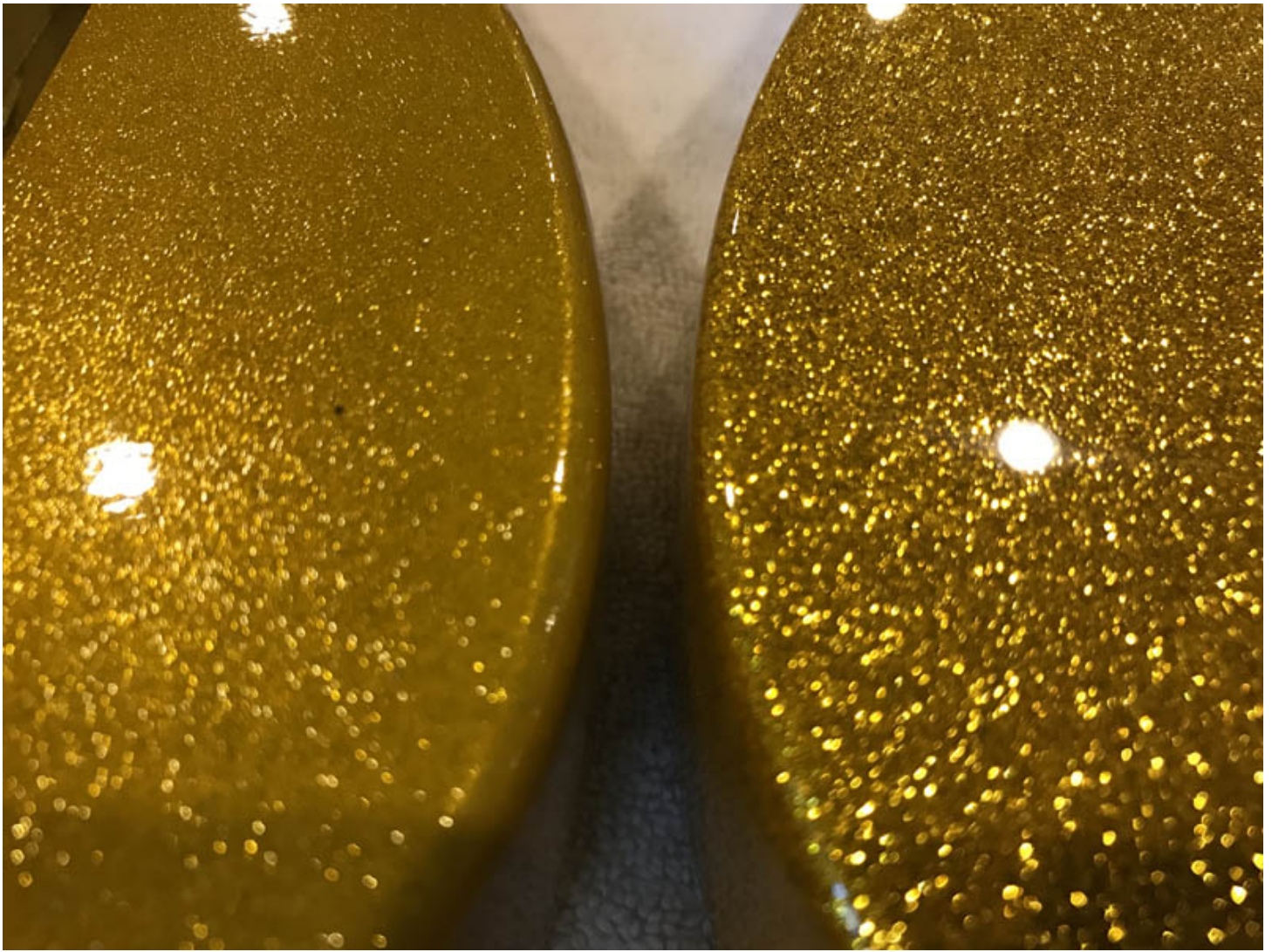
Close up of the Baja..



Same view of Golidipig.



The flake is hard to photograph but you can see the orange peel in the clear here compared to the smooth finish of the Baja. I've no doubt I can get Goldipig that smooth.



Now comes the fun time: waiting for it to cure and choosing a pick guard! Aged white one-ply?



Bright white one ply?



Tortoise? We shall see! I even have a red celluloid around here that may just push it over the cliff....



So! The verdict: This project was about making a sparkly guitar using as little equipment as possible and it 100% met the goal.

Yes, you can get the color of Vegas Gold Sparkle but not the same size of flake using the Roth Rattlebombs. You get a great sparkly finish but not the SAME finish. This was expected.

Yes, you can screw it up if you are not careful, especially with the kandy!

Yes, the Roth products sprayed really nice. I warmed them in a hot water bath and shook them for 5 minutes minimum before using and they came out like a rocket. I used a timer to measure flash time and initially used 7 minutes but that was way too long, it was ready to spray again in around 5 minutes.

Yes, the 2K is a nice spraying product but plan on having all the safety equipment. Two and a half hours in the spray booth without gear is suicide!

Yes, the Roth products cost a bit o'money and you could probably buy a \$14 HF gun and do it yourself with your own air compressor (if you have one. And a filter. And a drier...) but you will be spending about the same in material (between the flake, clear, reducers, shading toner,

etc...) not to mention the time it takes to build up your skills and recipes to get the look you are after.

I loved how it turned out and I'm sure I will be making another sparkly guitar one of these days!

twoodoo, Rufus, nnieman and 9 others

Jul 15, 2020

#6



Jim_in_PA

Friend of Leo's

Silver Supporter

Honestly, that's really an outstanding result.

erix

Jul 15, 2020

#7



Buckocaster51

Super Moderator

Staff member

Ad Free Member

Very nice.

It's fun, eh?

erix

Aug 14, 2020

#8



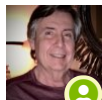
CCK1

Tele-Afflicted

Nice result! I am duly impressed!

Aug 14, 2020

#9



Ronzo

Tele-Afflicted

"Roth" being the legacy company of Ed "Big Daddy" Roth, of "Rat Fink" fame, correct?

Great job. It looks fabulous!

erix

Aug 14, 2020

#10



R.S. Fraser Sr.

Tele-Meister

Terrific look.

Your comment...

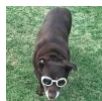
erix said: It is very important to use a block if you want to get a truly flat surface! Never use your fingers alone or you will make grooves all over the place.

...Should be made into a T-shirt.

erix

Aug 14, 2020

#11



pinchgil

Tele-Holic Platinum Supporter

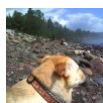
Thats a great finish, I had a post here on my rattle can gold glitter, i used rustoleum products. And +1 for a red tortoise pick guard



hemingway and erix

Aug 14, 2020

#12



erix

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

Ronzo said: ↑

"Roth" being the legacy company of Ed "Big Daddy" Roth, of "Rat Fink" fame, correct?

Great job. It looks fabulous!

Thanks! Yes, I'm not sure of the family relations but they are cut from Big Daddy's cloth! I highly recommend their videos.

That red pickguard looks great on your godly. Mine is a bit more... clown shoes. I think if I put it on you'd fo get it was painted gold!

pinchegil

Aug 14, 2020

#13



old wrench

Friend of Leo's

I'm not usually a fan of the sparkly finishes on guitars, but your Goldipig looks really good .

The 2K Glamour Gloss is some pretty nice stuff. I really like how you can lay down nice heavy wet coats and they flow out so nice and flat. It buffs out really nice too. Very tough and durable as well.

erix

Aug 14, 2020

#14



Brian J.

Tele-Afflicted

that looks fantastic

erix

Aug 14, 2020

#15



erix

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

Ya know, this might be a good weekend to rub that out and string it up...

Aug 14, 2020

#16



Vondre

TDPRI Member

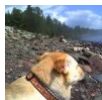
Amazing work! I like it better than the original one. The sparkle is just enough not too much.

Id go with the a black 3 ply if it were me

erix

Aug 17, 2020

#17



erix

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

Yesterday was cut-n-buff day!

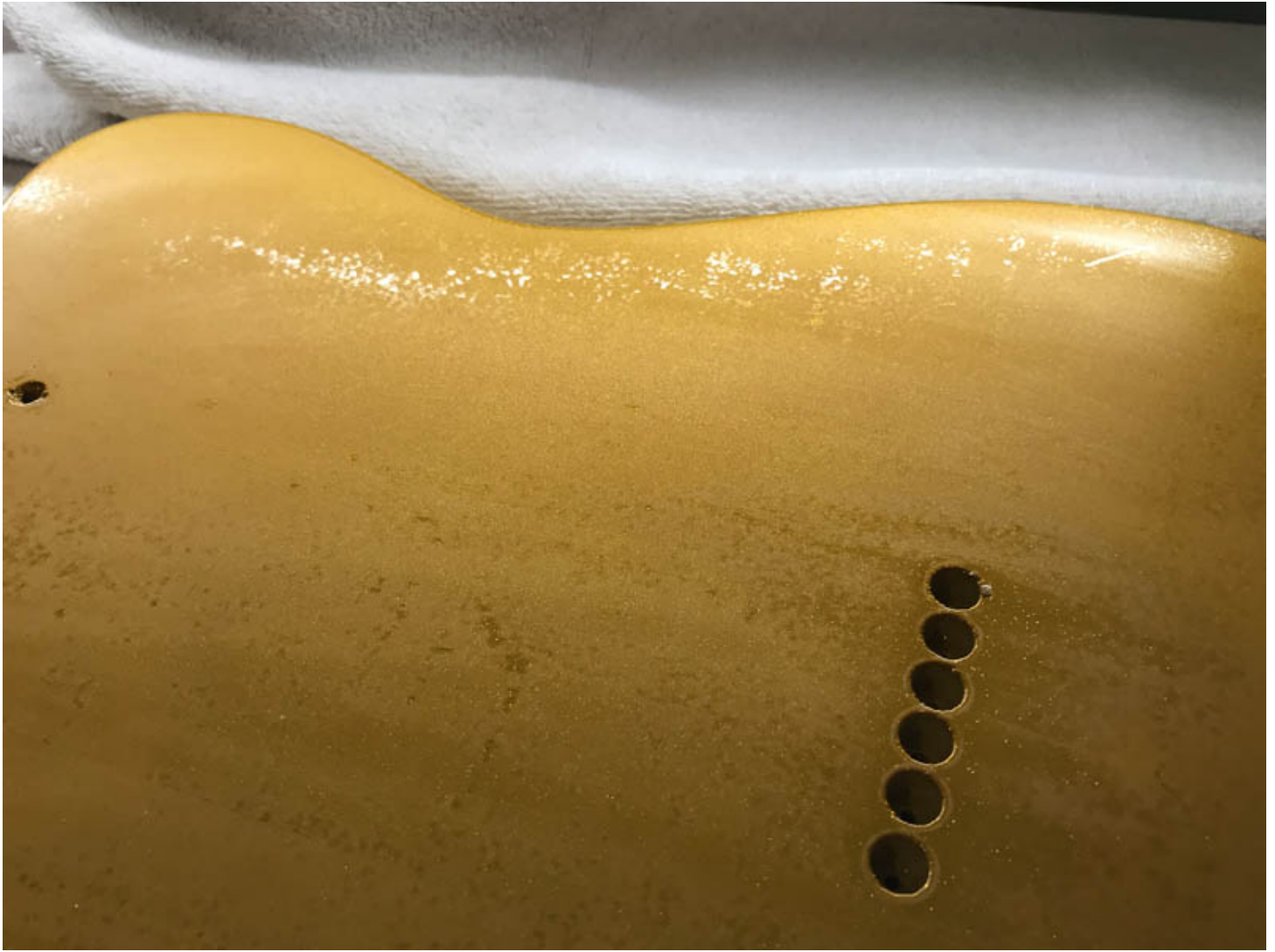
I started with 800 wet and backed with my little rubber squeegee pad. I don't mind using water on a poly finish like this. I figure if a 2-part activated urethane is good enough to keep raw steel from rusting when it is on a car, it is good enough to keep water out of the wood. That said I do run things on the dry side, dipping my fingers in the water on occasion to add moisture to the sanding process. Also, the paper was soaked for an hour before I started. The

process is sand all over with even pressure, wipe it dry, examine under a light, and repeat. I did this with 800, 1000, and 1200 which was the highest grit I had.

First pass:



Second..



It got flat enough after the third. Next the top, note the taped-off raw wood at the neck pocket and the avoidance of sanding around holes...



Second pass..



Third pass. At this point you have to say to yourself, "Self, why didn't I spend a little more time sanding when it was still raw wood?"



You gotta know when to stop - you cant sand the wood flat under the paint! Also, don't risk sanding through areas that will be covered by the pick guard or bridge.

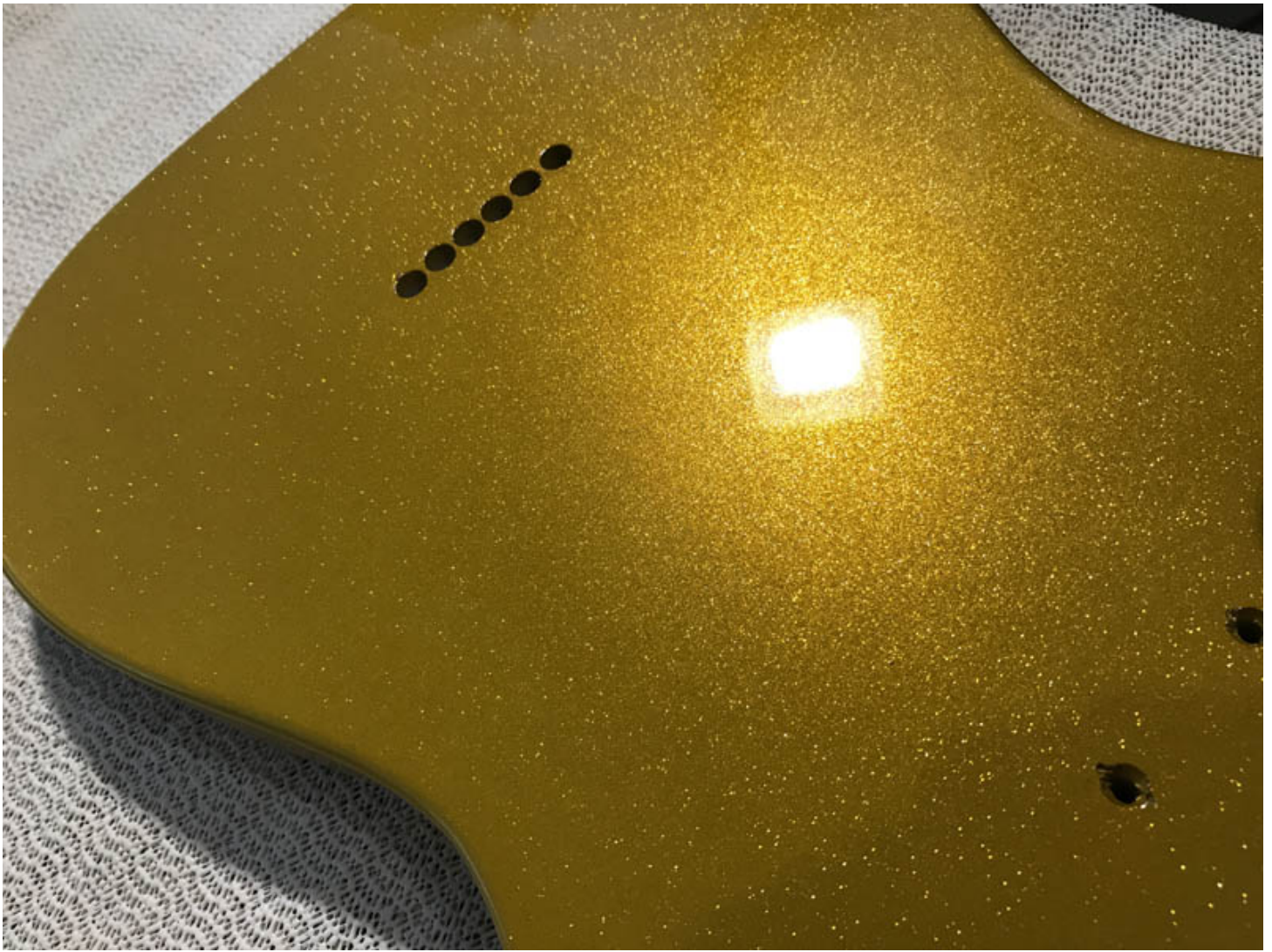


Now, I've buffed a few cars and boats in my time but I'm NOT tooled up to buff a guitar so I used what I had on hand. I DO NOT recommend doing the following:



Oh yes I did.

The 2K sands flat very easily which is good because this buffer is way too big and spins too fast for a guitar body. I had to constantly cycle the power switch to keep the revs down and keep the weight of the buffer off the body. My arms got tired and so did my feet 'cause I had to stand on tip toes just be able to see what I was doing! But I did get a good gloss out of it:



It needs a bit more work, especially on the sides. I wasn't going to tackle that with monster buffer so I will be looking at the little 3" polishers + foam pads in the near future. But for now I'm calling it done and I strung it up last night. But first a different kind of finishing...

Last edited: Aug 17, 2020

Jim_in_PA

Aug 17, 2020

🔗 #18

**erix**

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

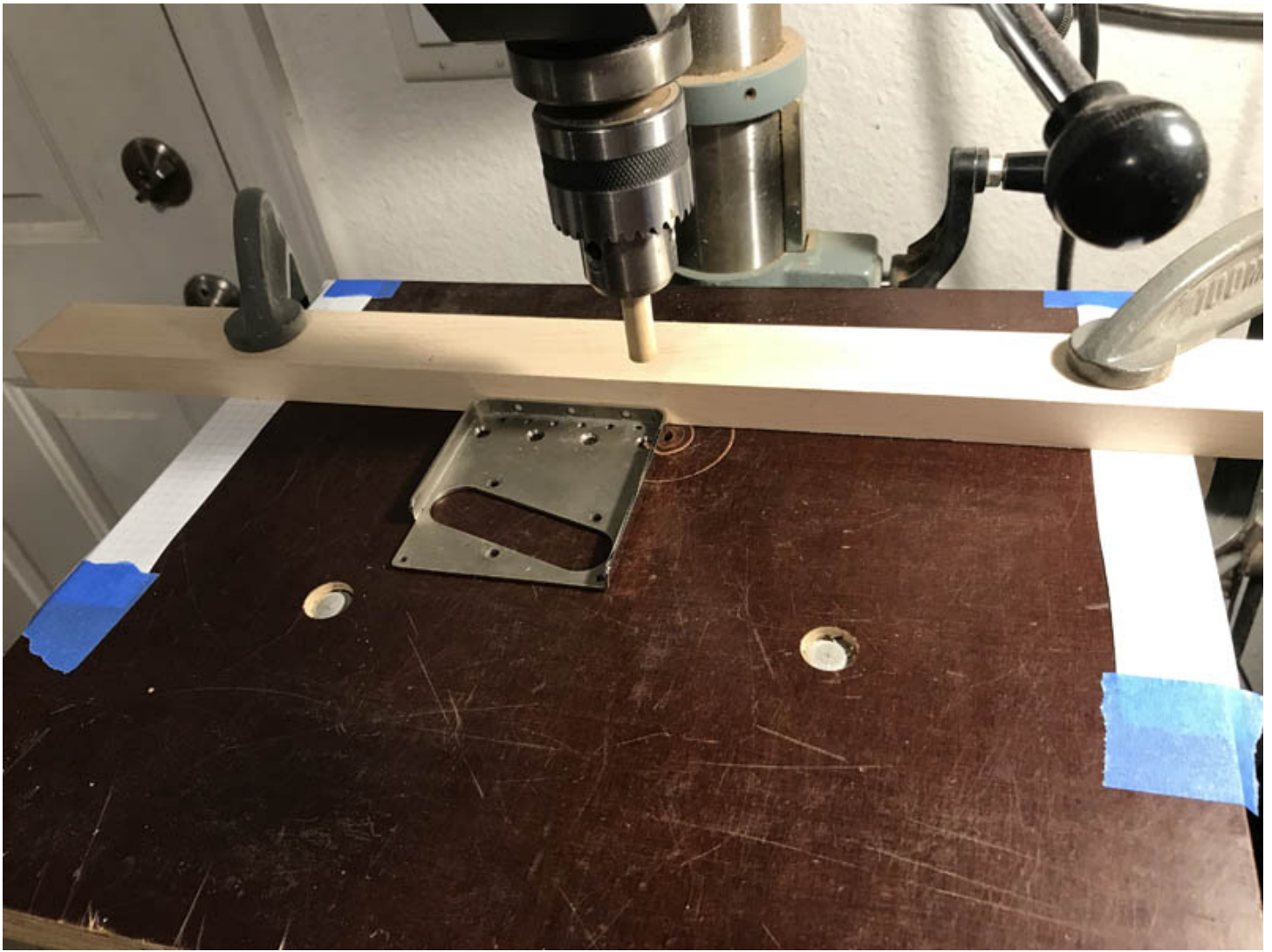
The "theme" for this guitar has always been around a hot rod / custom kind of look. All the hardware that is going on it is aftermarket, just like a kid fixing up an old hot rod back in the day with a mix of old and new parts and parts from entirely different cars. So I had this old Callaham bridge..



It's pitted and dirty and the set screws have really dug into the steel over the years...



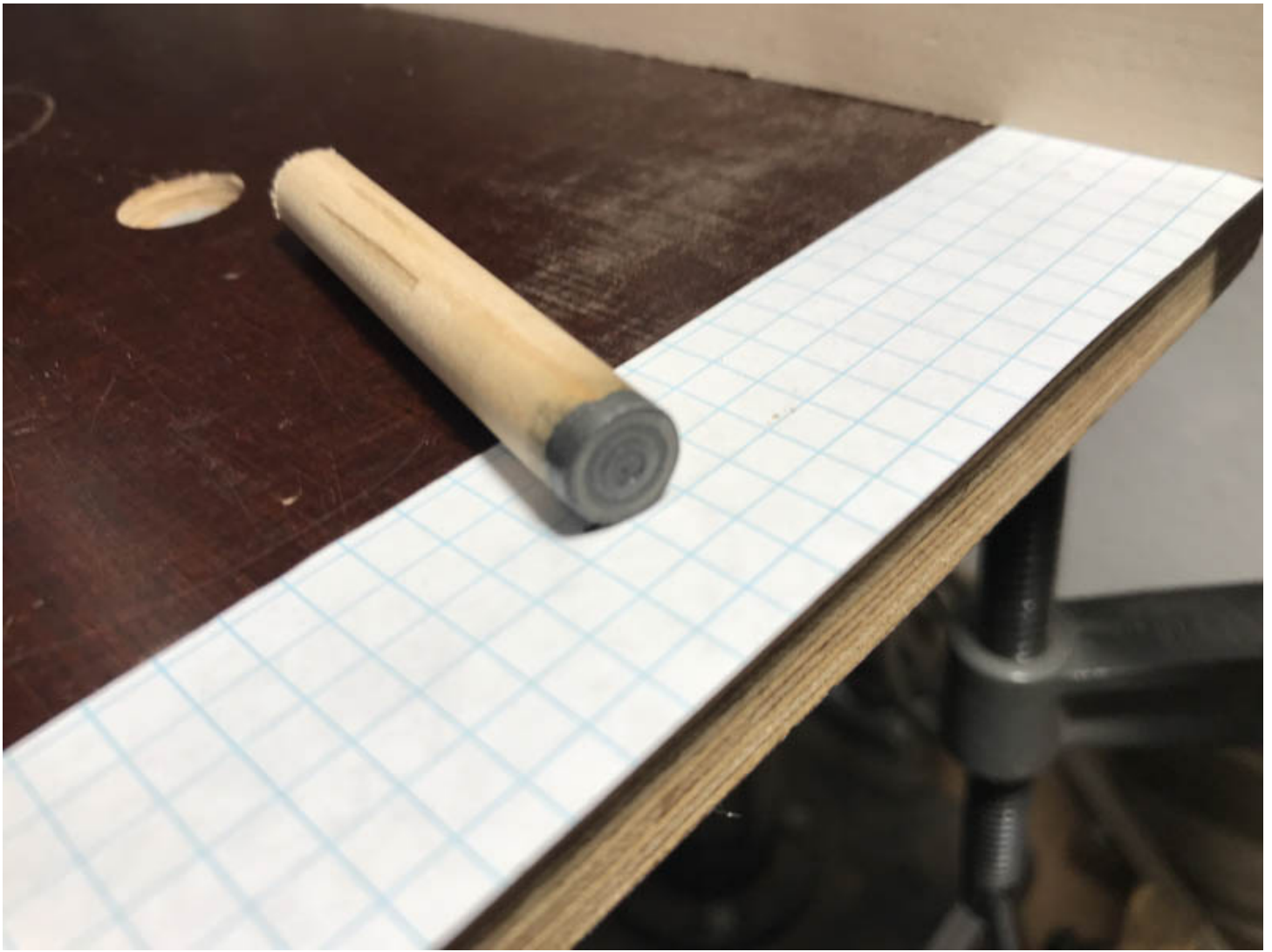
So let's give it an engine turned finish! Here's the rig rundown: Drill press with a 3/8" maple dowel chucked in and filed/sanded smooth on the bottom.



Two strips of 1/4" graph paper taped to the edges of the table. Old piece of maple clamped at each end aligned with the blue lines.



This is the maple dowel. This picture is out of sequence but I wanted to show how much wood you need = not much.



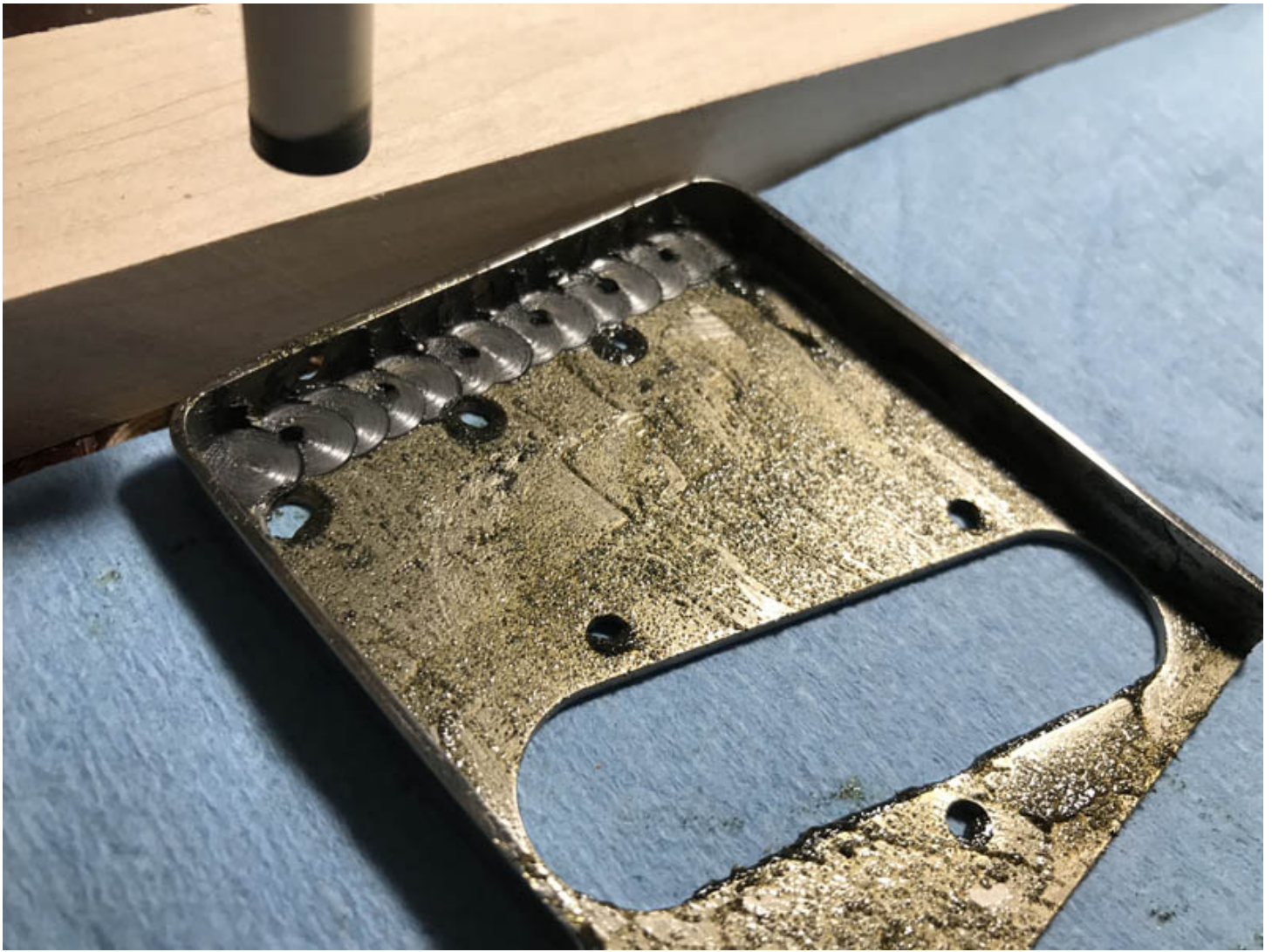
There are a lot of videos on the youtube thing that show the process but I like this one the best:

I like the method in the video except it is messy. You can do the same thing with valve grinding compound like this: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00O542WDK/?tag=tdpri-20>

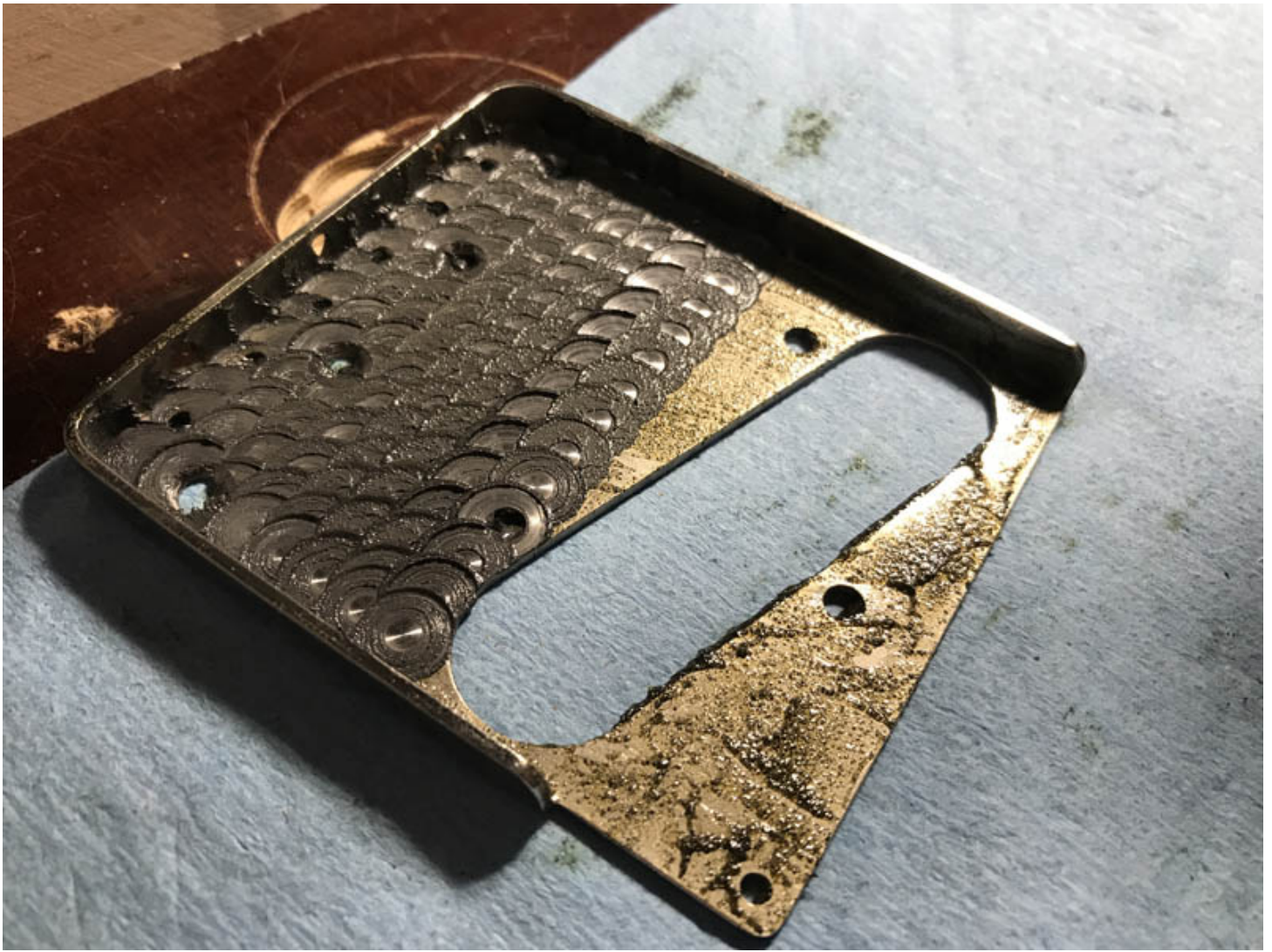
Here's the plate with some 220 grit compound slathered all over the top.



And here is the first row. You'll want to experiment first with the pressure - you don't need a lot. It is more important to be consistent with the time you spend when the dowel is in contact with the metal. For the case of this plate that time was a long three second count. Too much pressure and the tip of the dowel will start to mushroom and make bigger and bigger circles!



Lower the spinning dowel into the work, medium light pressure, count to three, lift the dowel, move over one half circle, and repeat. When you get to the end of the row, stop the drill press and move your maple fence back to the next grid line on the graph paper. In this way each circle is covering half the circle before it and half the row below it. KnowwhadImean?



All done, about 15 mins of work. Now the fun part - cleaning all this crap off. I'm kidding - it is not fun at all.



BAM!



Last edited: Aug 17, 2020

rickmccl, twoodoo, backwater and 6 others

Aug 17, 2020

#19



erix

Tele-Holic

Silver Supporter

Presenting Goldpig!



Hot Rod!



I REALLY like how this turned out.



Found these funky strap buttons somewhere..



Shiny! Note the reflection of the T. Downs print hanging on the wall...



Warmoth birdseye strat neck in 24.75" scale. I think it has a lot of Danny Gatton styling. I

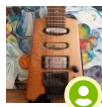
can't afford a real one so this will have to do!



87Lion, Vondre, nnieman and 8 others

Aug 17, 2020

#20



hemingway

Poster Extraordinaire

I'd play Goldipig all day long.

Now there's a sentence I wasn't planning on typing today.

erix

1 2 Next ▶

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