

### SAVVA Technical Tip 137 – Cleaning plastic head light lenses

About a year ago I bumped my six year old “Tupperware car” and broke the drivers side headlight. Fortunately the insurance fixed it as it was so expensive I would have had to take an extension on my bond to pay for it. After the new light was fitted I was now very aware of how dull the old light was in comparison to the new one. These modern lights seem to have plastic covers instead of glass. The question was how to rejuvenate the old one as the cost of a replacement was out of the question.

I had for some time been aware that the lights on the car weren't quite what they should be but didn't realise that the problem lay with the lenses being dull and opaque compared with new ones.

It was a case of what to use to clean to clean the old one as it looked so very dull compared to the new one. A trip to the local spares shop didn't help – they had a special munti available, at a price, but warned that customers had said it didn't always work. I thought of cleaning it with tooth paste, polishing compound, rubbing compound, Brasso etc and looking around for inspiration came across a tube of Auto Solve which is used for cleaning chrome. I tried cleaning it by hand with this Auto Solve and walla! the result was excellent. I would say it's 90% as clear as the new light and the brightness of the lights is more or less back to normal. I'm sure there are better compounds to use but this worked for me.

You may say what has that to do with collector cars – well, being made aware of the problem with these lenses I've seen some 20 year old cars, including posh ones, with lights that would never get through a C.O.R.

My next move will be to use an electric buff to do the job properly.

On the pictures the top light is the old one and the bottom the new. Not much difference!



