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words and
images
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LOCK DOWN TECH

SIMPLE CHASSIS CLEANING

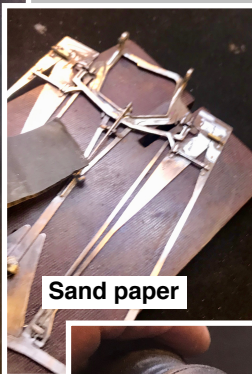
Thought I would use this world wide lockdown period to give my Recek Open Group 12 chassis a deep clean and share my process with you. Now there are a lot of expert racers out there who do a better job but this how I do it. Maybe the super tech guys will respond and tell you how you can do it better. I follow this process in preparing for every major race meeting.

STAGE ONE - TOP SURFACE

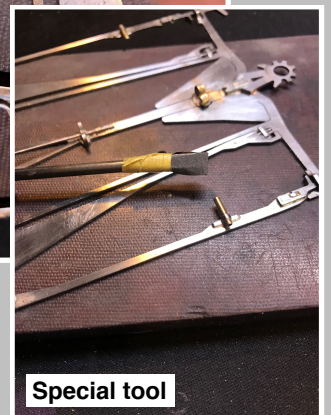
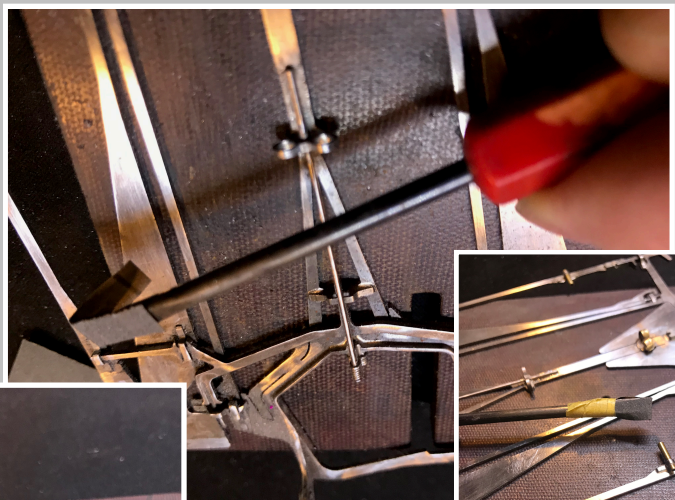
No matter how often I clean my chassis during the motor installation stage I still get rust forming after every race meeting. So to start my cleaning process I use a jewellers polishing wheel to clean of the worst of it. It is useful to know a master jeweller who can get these for me! Then I attack the chassis with some very fine sand paper. For the tricky places that are difficult to reach I prepared a tool by attaching some sand paper to a screw driver and use this for these areas. See the image. After this I finish things off with a wire brush tool.



Jewellers wheel



Sand paper



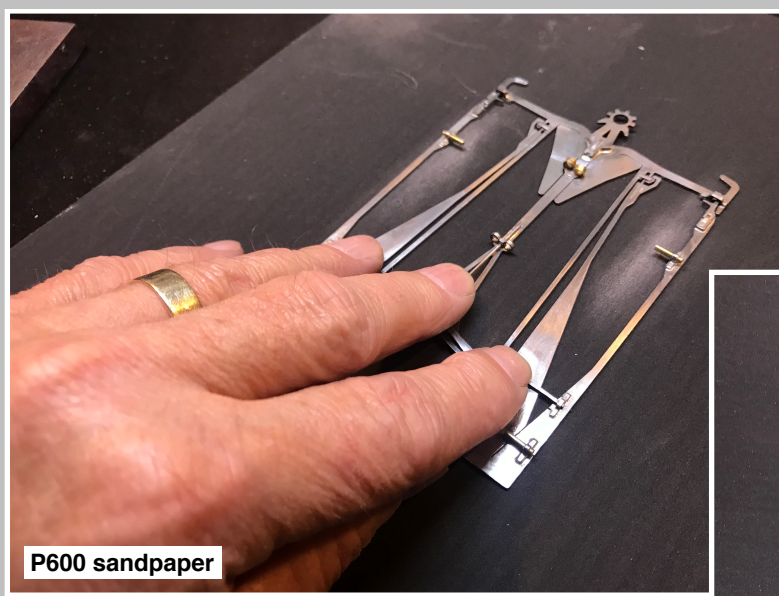
Special tool



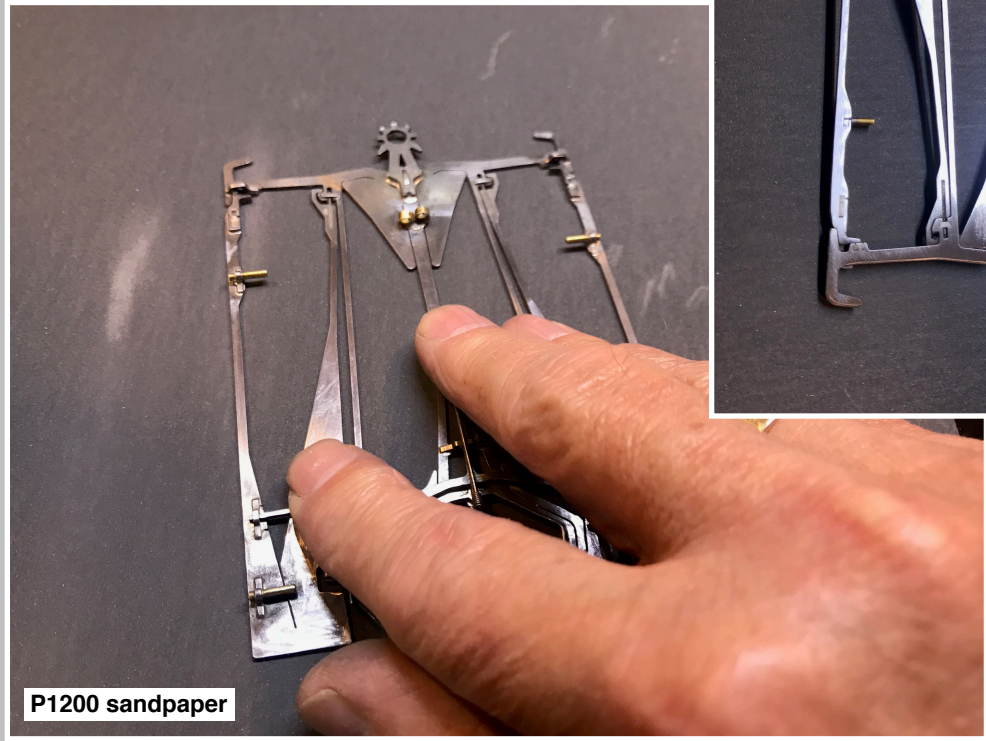
Wire brush

STAGE TWO - UNDERSIDE

I once watched Jaroslav Recek build an E24 chassis from scratch and he finished it off by polishing the underside with fine sand paper. What is good enough for him is certainly good enough for me. I start off with P600 and then finish with P1200. Don't be frightened to give it a really hard go.



P600 sandpaper



P1200 sandpaper

STAGE THREE - OVEN CLEANER

One thing you can't help but notice at the ISRA Worlds is the amount of time the Czechs spend cleaning their chassis. After every race meeting Horky strips down his chassis and then scrubs it down under warm water with an oven cleaning abrasive product so I do the same and use a UK product called "Astonish Oven and Cookware Cleaner" I use a good scrubbing brush and put the chassis on a tech block. Dampen the oven cleaner and then liberally apply it to the chassis front and back. The result is well with the effort.



Astonish oven cleaner



STAGE FOUR - TUMBLER

This stage isn't absolutely necessary but if you have a tumbler its well worth while. Ace retro chassis builder George Kimber put me onto this. My tumbler is an "Extreme Rebel" which I bought on line. It wasn't cheap but it is the best. It comes with a rubber lined interior so it doesn't damage the chassis in any way. I put three chassis in at a time together with the stainless steel shot medium and a brightness cleaning powder. I then let it run for two hours and hey presto your chassis almost looks like new. You will find that not only does it sparkle but the process also frees up all the movement in the chassis.

All the way through the cleaning process I check that the chassis is straight and true.

Stay safe

Pat Skene

