

PANEL REPAIR PHILOSOPHY

A message from the inventor of the Miracle System, president and director of Star co, Mr. Kosel Ishihara.

Since our company is a manufacturer of body repair tools, it is a matter of course that I visit a large number of body shops all over the country. When I enter these shops, I usually begin by saying something like this: "We've developed some excellent panel repair tools which can help you to make very good repairs. Would you take a look at them for us?" During such visits, I am often told by the craftsmen themselves: "We are skilled craftsmen so we don't really need any special tools to do our work." At times like these, I sometimes ask them what they mean by "skilled craftsmen." Most craftsmen are not too quick to respond to this question, but sometimes one of them might say. "A skilled craftsman" is a worker with skills, or, "a craftsman who has skills to make difficult repairs that other workers can't do themselves, "or even "the kind of worker who can make his repairs without having to rely on any special kinds of tools." I have actually heard statements like these on quite a few occasions.

What these craftsmen say does make some sense. However, when you look at the work these men actually do, in most cases, you tend to see craftsmen who are thoroughly convinced that they are indeed highly "skilled" and, generally speaking, quite satisfied with their own work.

In my own case, I am a complete amateur when it comes to panel repair working. However, as an amateur who has worked to develop outer body repair tools that are simple and rational to use and help to make excellent repairs, and as an amateur who has visited body shops throughout Japan and the rest of the world, I have learned quite a bit from my experiences. I admit that there are some truly skilled craftsmen out there who are quite adept at what they do. For example there is one man I have met who is able to make a bust of Buddha out of a single piece of sheet metal. There is another who is able to make a globe of the earth out of only two sheets of metal. These talented individuals have in their possession a tremendous talent, but by no means should they be considered to be typical sheet metal workers.

At the same time it is also worthy of consideration to discover how these two men with their superb talents perform from the perspective of business. Everyone knows that you need to make a profit in order to stay in business. These kind of people are exceptional people, both in terms of their interests and their technical skills. But, simply have the skills of being able to fix up a bad dent or scratch only by

spending lots of time on a particular task does not necessarily lead to profitable business operations. These days, however, estimates are made before the work has begun.

In other words, the costs for the repair work are already determined. For example, suppose that a 6-hour repair job could be completed in one hour. From my own business perspective, a skilled craftsman is one who can make repairs in a brief amount of time, one who can complete a large number of repairs within a limited amount of time; in effect, the point here is that a skilled craftsman is one who is able to earn a lot of money.

The next important consideration would be the quality of his work and how nice the repairs look. Even if a craftsman can make repairs quickly, if the finished job is done irresponsibly, his customers are bound to complain.

Furthermore, another important factor would be how simply the craftsman can make his repairs, complicated methods and expensive equipment are not easy to come by. Especially, when repair methods are difficult, it becomes quite difficult to train the other staff members as well. If it would take 5 or 10 years to train a staff member in these skills, this entails more concentration than most modern employees have and it also means that training programs may not be too successful. In other words, simple methods that can be handled by anyone must be taken into account in a successful body repair business.

OVERAL SAVINGS THOROUGH A SIMPLE APPROACH TOWARDS BODY REPAIR WORKING

Meeting the above conditions alone may not be enough. By further pursuing the issue of practical experience, something even more important becomes apparent. Regardless of which body repair working establishment a customer selects, all craftsmen must be able to work with panel repair, do body filler and paint working if any job is to be completed satisfactorily. It must also be taken into account that of these three operations, the panel repair work must always come first. This is very important. In other words, the results of the latter two operations are dependent entirely upon the quality of this initial task of panel repair work. When I visit body shops, it is not uncommon to find factories in which painters do not get along well with panel beaters. This is often a major problem.

A skilled panel repair worker is able to minimize the area of any distortion, which means the area in which filler must be done becomes surprisingly narrow. This, in turn, leads to a much better finish. It

results in decreases in the amount of work that must be done by those applying the filler to almost unbelievable levels. And, of course, the work of the painters is further supported by the narrowness of the filler applications since there will be much less of a need for painting gradations in locations where the repair work borders on the original panel repair finishes. This, in turn, leads to fantastic savings for the body shop as a whole. The manager must give serious thought to the level of the original panel repair work when he considers the amount of application and painstaking paint work that must follow.

In effect, a skillful panel repair job is not only one that can be done quickly, cleanly, simply, but one which minimizes the operations of applying filler and the paint finish.

It is a job which generates saving in the finished work through skillful methods.

WHAT IS MIRACLE SYSTEM?

Until, now it has been felt that the field of panel repair was quite difficult and that it would be impossible to make good repairs on panels without a high degree of technology and much experience. Furthermore, it is also said that it has become even more difficult to make proper repairs on some of the newer cars now on the market.

For example, the panel on the exteriors of some of the more recent models is much thinner than it used to be and makes repairs more difficult since this thinner panel tends to stretch out of shape easily. Also, when the repairman tries to pound out the metal from the inside, removing the interior paneling and trimming takes much more time than it did in the past on many of the newer cars on the road today. Furthermore, impact protections are now being installed inside the doors of newer cars for the sake of added safety. Doors are where most repairs are required but it has now become almost impossible to do repair work from the inside of these doors.

Our company, however, is able to handle these sorts of problems quite easily with what we consider to be an extremely rational way of making panel repairs which is the result of developments based upon years of experience.

The Miracle System (the Ishihara Method of Panel Repair) has been designed to handle and solve those especially difficult problems that now confront panel repairmen. It is a simple system which can be mastered by anyone and it leads to the further rationalization of panel repairs. [The Miracle System is](#)

what we call the total repair concept that has resulted from years of invention, research and development within our company.

MIRACLE SYSTEM, THE METHOD.

Most of the dents that result when cars bump into each other and the distortion that results when they scrape up against each other can be divided into two types, either the elastic distortion of most of the surface area or the plastic distortion of surface sections.

The Miracle System method of repairs and the individual tools have been designed for simple, rational and quick panel repairs. The plastic distortion of surface sections is handled through concentrated repairs and the elastic distortion of most of the surface area can be carried out quite simply. As a result, distortion during repair operations can be drastically reduced, resulting in a surprisingly minimal necessity for body filler work, thus reducing the work load of your staff. Also, finish for painting operations are made easier since there is much less of a need for paint gradations in locations where the repair work borders on the original panel finishes.

What could be more rational?