

Polishing of a wide-angle dome.

After having used my 8 inch dome port for a couple of years, apparently some fine small scratches had appeared in Plexiglas, when I during a dive in Truk Lagoon bumped into some sharp metal, I added some further few scratches in the glass, this time, however, some nasty deep ones that could be seen on all of the photos I took thereafter.

Since such a dome cost in the neighborhood of 600,- €. I thought that these scratches must be able to be fixed somehow. Having been trawling on the Internet, in search of how those scratches could be removed, by mysterious ways I got in contact with Mr. Lars Kirkegaard from FOTOGRAFIT, and had a chat on how to best polishing such a dome port. After advice from Mr. Kirkegaard I ended up purchase a "Micro-Mesh" Polishing kit for Polish Plexiglas.

Thus armed and reinforced with sandpaper grain 220 and 240, it was just off to fight those scratches.

First the plastic shade edge was removed with a screwdriver, thereby granting free access to the entire dome. Now the dome port was attacked with grain 220, in order to remove the deepest scratches. After some polishing I could not feel the deep scratches anymore, but I had created a completely white and non-transparent dome port, filled with the nicest scratches This I was warned well enough about by Mr. Kirkegaard, but I couldn't help wonder if this "polish thing" just had been a "practical joke"!!!!!!

Well, now it was too late to do anything about it, except to continue polishing on this damn dome port.....

So I continued the polish, first with grain 240 then grain 1500 and 1800. Now the dome was not so white anymore, but filled with a hell lot of small fine scratches. As the result of my polishing appeared to be working in the right direction, I threw myself, with renewed confidence in Mr. Kirkegaard, over the further polishing. Now it went on with grain 2400, sharp followed by grain 3600 and 4000. It must be said that sandpaper grain 4000 is terrible fine-grained, it takes a bit of time before there seemed to be happening something to the dome. But it nevertheless had the desired effect. The dome had now only some very small scratches, just as it had before I plowed the dome through a wreck and made the fat scratches.

Now the only thing left was to give the dome port a decent rub with the included polishing fluid and cloth. Thus armed for the last attack on the dome port I threw my selves over the last 30 min. polishing.

In all, I spent 2 hours on the whole process. After this I had a dome, which was as good as new, as well as a big smile in the middle of the face. In addition to this, also a renewed confidence in Mr. Kirkegaard from PHOTOGRAPHITE.