

## Window tint removal – it can be easy! (No, really ...)

■ Words: David Elson

*I have never liked window tint, so when I bought my NC PRHT it was one of the obvious faults I noticed.*

That the driver's window was starting to peel and that the view out the back window was hazy made it easy to decide to remove it. Numerous *YouTube* sites made it clear that its removal was also easy to do.

Having nothing else to do one day last June, I cut six sheets of newspaper to the shape of the driver's window, soaked them in cloudy ammonia (about \$3 from the supermarket) and placed them against the window.

The newspaper fell off ...

Because of the reverse slope of the inside of the window, something was needed to hold the newspaper against

the glass. So, using an old cardboard box I cut a template of the window to act as a backing plate. I re-wetted the newspaper and, with some props, forced the cardboard and newspaper against the window.

Leaving it for the required 30 minutes I eagerly commenced the removal of the tint. It did come off but it kept breaking, so, using an old credit card as a plastic scraper, it took another 30 minutes to remove the tint. At last – a clear window, except it wasn't quite as clear as it should be. I then realised that the window tint consisted of two layers of film; I had only removed one.

But now I knew what I was doing so I rewetted the newspaper and propped it against the window and, 30 minutes later, commenced the removal of the second layer of tint film. It wouldn't budge – the soaking had not softened it.

Starting to get annoyed, I got the hairdryer and the steamer and applied heat to the film (another *YouTube* tip). As much as I tried I couldn't get enough heat to soften the film. Now quite annoyed, I got a metal scraper, a Swiss Army knife and methylated spirits and proceeded to remove the film millimetre by millimetre.

It worked; *it only took a few hours and left glue all over the window!* It took three

*continued ...*

rounds of rubbing meths over the window to remove the glue. A final clean with window cleaner and I had a clear driver's window. *It had only taken me all day and I was knackered!*

I decided to have a break before I tackled the other windows. On the next few Club runs I kept admiring the clear view out of the driver's window and, with the painful memory receding, and some additional research, on a hot October day I decided to tackle the passenger window.

I parked the car in the sun and, using the same technique of newspaper, cardboard and cloudy ammonia, I hoped for a better result. But 30 minutes later when I

removed the newspaper everything was bone dry; the heat had evaporated the cloudy ammonia and the window tint was unaffected.

Gritting my teeth, I got an old plastic garbage bag and placed it between the newspaper and the cardboard and repeated the process. Another 30 minutes later, with some trepidation, I removed the still wet newspaper and magically the window tint peeled away, in one piece – both layers of film and the glue included! A few small pieces remained around the edges but they scraped away easily. One wipe of window cleaner and I had another clear window. It really *was* easy.

On another hot day I did the rear window. The tight confines of the cabin, the slope and curvature of the rear window and the sauna effect inside the cabin made it more challenging, but the film easily peeled off.

I love my clear windows.

**Moral of the story: pick a hot day to remove window tint. ■**