

## Smooth Sidewalls

Shaving door handles and trim is a must-do for many enthusiasts, but what about the sidewall lettering found on most modern radials? Shaving the unsightly lettering from the sidewalls of your tires is a simple means of enhancing the looks of your tires and is a great way to prepare them for some whitewall treatment.



To remove the majority of the lettering, we used 180-grit sandpaper on a pneumatic 5-inch ROS.



After removing the lettering, we buffed the sidewalls with 400-grit sandpaper to ensure they were smooth all the way around.



We wiped the freshly shaved sidewall with Armor All tire cleaner to help restore some of the oils in the rubber and to give the letter-free tire a like-new shine.



## PAINT 'EM

Another way enthusiasts have achieved the look of wide whitewall tires on their street machines is by painting their tires white, most often with spray paint. Unfortunately, the sun and the rigors of driving take their toll on spray painted tires and they quickly lose their luster.

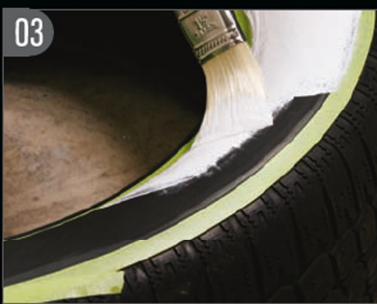
In our search for whitewall options, we came across an Icelandic company that sells a product specifically made for painting white-walls. Known as "White Tire Paint," the product is a liquefied rubber compound that adheres to the tire never fully hardening. The paint, even when completely dry, remains elastic enough to survive as a part of the tire.



01 To start the process, we wiped the tire down with Westley's Bleche-Wite to ensure the tire was free of any dirt or oils. It is important to clean the tires before trying to paint them.



02 We outlined our desired whitewall area using common painter's tape. After painting, you must score around the painted edges to prevent tearing the paint upon removal of the tape.



03 Using a brush, we applied a moderate amount of the whitewall paint to the taped off area.



04 After letting the first coat cure for the recommended 24 hours, we applied a second and third coat in 24-hour increments as the manufacturer suggested.



05 With the curing process complete, we removed the tape to find a beautifully painted wide whitewall tire that was ready to hit the streets on our '62 Oldsmobile.

## SOURCE

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