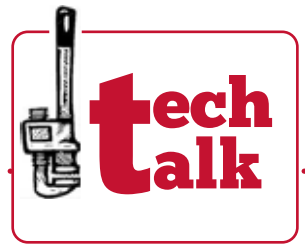


# Vinyl wrapping an MX-5



Words & photos: Lori Merceica

As many of you may be aware, I'm *very* fussy about my cars ... and every time I drive my MX-5 on runs, I seem to attract the deadly stone chips. It's been driving me crazy ... soooo I made some enquires around the Club whether anyone had information on PPF\* coating.

*\*PPF is Paint Protection Film – a clear thermoplastic that moulds to cover the entire surface of the vehicle without any bubbles.*

Andrew Tate and Bill Roder had both used this product on their cars (Andrew on his 30AE MX-5 and Bill on his wife's Merc "shopping trolley") and highly recommended it.

So I went and saw JJ Liu from *Affinesse* in Clayton South (Victoria). JJ convinced me to get the PPF – an aid to preventing rock chips, scratching and marring on the paint service. In addition to being highly transparent, it has "self-healing" properties. He convinced me to do this for a number of reasons:

1. the paint on the MX-5 ND seems fairly thin
2. it is very easy to clean ... it is a matter of just using a normal garden hose to wash the grime off, and
3. the big one for me is that when we do Club runs we are often on "B" roads and we are often in close proximity to other cars, leading to stone chips.

Depending on the loose gravel and how big the stones are, the PPF will absorb the shock – it might mark the PPF but generally it will recover back and not damage the paint.

JJ assured me that every time you wash the car it will look as if it came off the production line with little maintenance to be done. Andrew Tate's experience on his 30AE bears this out.

JJ knows about MX-5 cars as he has an NA of his own on which has used this product. The car looks great and this helped convince me to do mine.

**It is not 100% protection but I'm convinced it was the right choice for me.** I have had the front of the car, the two guards, the two mirrors, around the windscreen, and the bottom sills of the car done as well. The cost was about \$2,725 – *far cheaper than a respray!*

The reason I went down this avenue was that a group of us from the Mazda MX-5 Club who went to Tasmania in April to follow The Targa this year (which was the best thing that I have ever done, with the best bunch of people you could wish for), and after witnessing damage to various unprotected cars, I am confident it would have paid for itself if each had been protected beforehand. ●

*Affinesse is at 4/75 Main Rd, Clayton South VIC 3169 – Tel: (03) 9581 2653*



Please note: All "Tech Talk" information is provided as a guide only. All work is carried out at the owner's risk.