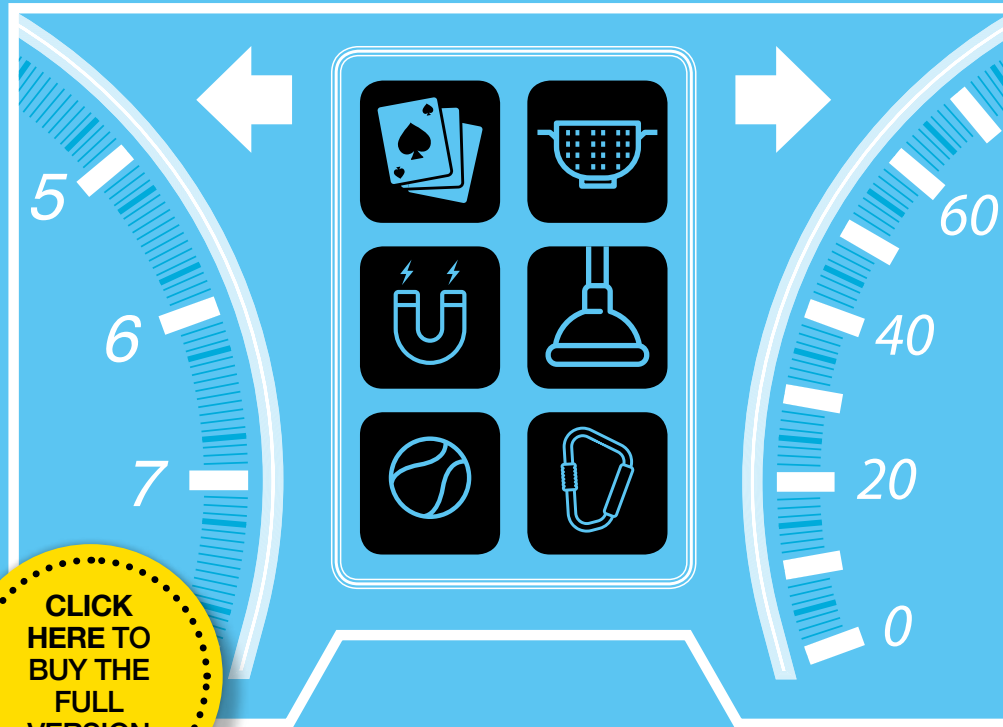


CAR HACKS

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Use toothpaste to make headlights minty fresh

This hack is designed to solve a problem that affects some cars much worse than others: cloudy headlights. On some older cars this manifests itself as a milky or yellowing that affects the headlight plastic, and it can be so pronounced that the headlight beam is drastically reduced.

There are headlight cleaning kits out there, and this tip involves embarking on the same process as these kits outline – but rather than using costly cleaner, toothpaste comes to the rescue. Toothpaste's abrasive qualities make it ideal for gently polishing away the cloudiness, leaving clear plastic. Here's how to do it.



1. Clean the headlights to get rid of dirt and road film, or perform the toothpaste hack after giving the car a wash.



2. Get a tube of toothpaste. Any will do because they all contain an abrasive of some sort. Whitening toothpaste with soda would be ideal, but avoid anything containing microplastics.



3. Mask up the area around the headlights with masking tape and newspaper.



4. Smear some toothpaste on the first headlight with a dampened microfiber cloth. Gently rub a small area in a circular motion then build up pressure and keep rubbing until the headlight appears clearer.



5. Move on to the next area of the headlight, adding more toothpaste to the damp cloth as required. Note: if elbow grease and the cloth aren't cutting through the fog, try using a drill with a polishing mop attachment.



7. Once the headlight is looking crystal clear, wipe off the residue, rinse with clean water and dry with a clean microfiber cloth.

6. Go over the whole headlight again with an increased ratio of water to toothpaste, and then do the same again with even less toothpaste.

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