

## Polishes for persnickety people

Waxing a car is drudgery enough, but imagine doing it three times in a row. That, in effect, is what *Meguiar's Deep Crystal System* and *Mothers California Gold Ultimate Wax System* demand of their users.

Each "system" consists of three products, each requiring a separate application. *Meguiar's* (\$19.35 for the set) includes a cleaner, a polish, and a wax. (*Meguiar's*, alone among these manufacturers, makes a distinction between a polish and a wax.) *Mothers* (\$19.85) is similar, but with a "sealer and glaze" as the second stage.



Since you can buy the three products separately, we scored just the third stage--the wax--in the [Ratings](#). Both ranked quite low overall. But we also tested the complete systems to see whether they offer any advantages over the one-step products.

As with conventional polishes, you must still wash the car first. Throw in a little vacuuming and you can easily spend from dawn to dusk applying the three stages. Needless to say, we scored these products poor for ease of use.

The two systems made the finish gleam, but no more so than did the best one-step polishes. The *Mothers* also showed very good durability, while the *Meguiar's* was only fair. Both proved excellent at removing grime and oxidation, but they were only marginally better than the best one-step products. The systems didn't stand out in our scratching and hazing tests; results were worse than when we used the third step alone.



The three-step products did give the paint a deeper, richer appearance, making the black test panels look blacker. That could be significant if, say, you compete in car shows. Otherwise, we don't think these products are worth the trouble.