

## Collision Repair Shops Finding Endless Applications for 3M File Belt Sander

*Technicians Are Experiencing Huge Benefits in Work with High-Strength Steel*

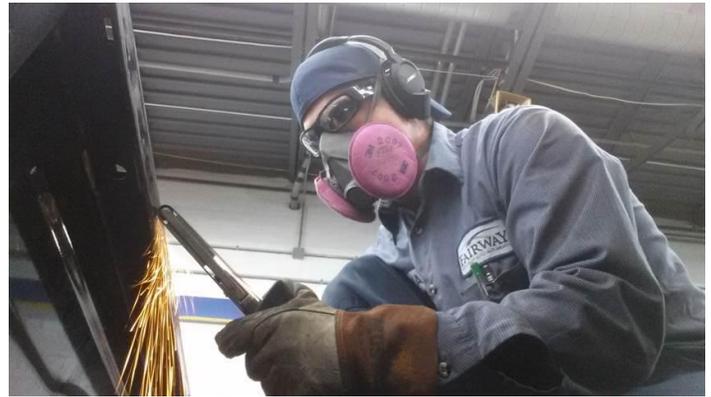
**ST. PAUL, Minn. (May 28, 2014)** – Collision repair body technicians are experiencing huge time and cost savings with 3M Automotive Aftermarket Division’s 3M™ File Belt Tool. With many of today’s automotive panels being constructed of high-strength steel, traditional ways of removing spot welds with drill bits during disassembly is now more expensive, time-consuming and harder on the technician. With 3M’s File Belt Tool, that process is now easier and faster, saving both time and money.

The 3M Green Corps File Belt is an ideal alternative to drilling with a long-lasting abrasive designed for spot weld removal as well as grinding in other tight areas. A single 3M Green Corps File Belt grinds off many more spot welds than drill bits, and it works well on all types of steel. It is a solution that performs faster and at a cost savings in time and materials for the customer and the shop owner.

According to Ryan Marrinan of Fairway Collision Center in Vadnais Heights, MN, the 3M File Belt Tool is not only saving time during disassembly, it’s also saving prep time for reassembly.

“It’s faster, for one, and I think it leaves a better surface behind for the application of the new panels,” he noted.

Marrinan also said one of the biggest advantages comes with the amount of total time that he saves on each repair.



“The time savings are great, because changing out the belts is pretty fast, especially on high-strength or boron steel,” he said. “If you’re changing out drill bits, you’ve got to drill slower and it takes longer to swap bits out. With the belts, it’s pretty cut and dry. It only takes a couple seconds to slip a belt on it and go from there. You’re looking at probably about a 30 to 40 percent improvement in time savings for the repair itself”.

The 3M File Belt Tool applications also go beyond the removal spot welds. Technicians are taking advantage of its size and ease of use to work in areas that other tools can’t reach.



“It can clean up your welds after the fact on things that a 3” or even a 1” grinder can’t get to,” said Josh Van Heel, the Production/QC Manager of Luther-Hopkins Honda in Hopkins, MN. “It’s got a 6” reach and it’s so thin, that you can get into tight spots.

“Our technicians were so impressed with the tool that after they were first introduced to it almost every guy bought one in our shop, and there are nine body guys,” said Van Heel. “We had guys six months away from retirement spend money on a tool just for that last six months doing their job. There’s no better way of saying that’s how nice they are. If you’re six months away from retiring, you’re not buying many tools. It also saves

your elbows. You're not going home at the end of the day with tennis elbow from drilling a panel off anymore".

Also available is the Scotch-Brite™ Duraflex File Belt that can be used for the removal of window urethane and seam sealer as well as weld preparation and cleanup applications.

The 3M Green Corps File Belt and File Belt Tools are available throughout the United States. Contact 1-877-MMM-CARS or your local 3M Distributor or 3M Sale Representative for more information or visit our website at [www.3MCollision.com](http://www.3MCollision.com).

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