

De-rusting with Molasses

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A few months ago I was browsing on the HAMB and ran across this thread:

<http://www.jalopyjournal.com/forum/showthread.php?t=408074>

It is a long discussion about de-rusting parts using common molasses. Yes, MOLASSES! I suggest you cut-n-paste that URL into your browser and go read the thread. It's long, but there are several before/after examples that are mighty impressive.

Well, since there is a bit of a skeptic hiding here, I just had to try it.

First off: molasses. I looked around, figuring could get it at TSC or Atwoods, but no luck. I finally went to a farm feed store and they had a bag of dry molasses. I bought a bag, 40 lbs or so(!) and brought it home. I had a large plastic storage tub that has been unused and I figured it would be just right for a lot of parts.

I mixed up a five gallon bucket. Not sure how much dry molasses, but until "it felt about o.k.". Poured it into the tub. Now for some parts to try it on. Found a couple of backing plates. One was from my A that we replaced when Joe and I re-did the hydraulic brakes. And since I am wanting to add Bendix brakes, I had the backing plates from a '55 Ford F100, one of which I had pulled apart so all that was there was the backing plate itself.

Into the tub they went, and I just forgot about them. Several weeks later, I remembered the project and went and fished them out of the tub, and here's the results:



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The backing plates were NOT cleaned thoroughly before I dumped them in. And anyplace there was a lot of grease or remnants of paint, the mixture didn't clean. But after a month or so (I forgot them!), they really cleaned up nicely. I used a high pressure sprayer to wash them off after their long soak, and the remnant paint just blew off the steel.

One thing I saw is that when you get them out and cleaned, they start to rust right away. So a coat of primer or a spray of WD40 seemed to be needed. Here's the other backing plate.

