

# Honda Aircraft Company

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## SERVICE LETTER SL-420-12-005

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**SUBJECT:** Paint Finish – Matte / Flat / Satin – Care and Maintenance

**PURPOSE:** Bring to the attention of Customers, Operators and Service Centers, unique care and maintenance requirements and precautions applicable to HA-420 aircraft non-gloss surface finishes, i.e. matte, flat, or satin.

**AIRPLANES AFFECTED:** Aircraft 42000011 – 42000999 painted with matte, flat, or satin finishes

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Service Letters (SL) are used as follows:

Provide information related to product improvement, economics, maintenance and/or operational practices, etc.

### I. General

Honda Aircraft Company recommends that owners/operators of HA-420 aircraft painted in a matte, flat, or satin finish, familiarize themselves with the following steps and precautions for care and maintenance of their aircraft finish.

These types of finishes are unique and require different care and maintenance from that normally applied to the more common gloss finish. Please note: that no product is available to restore these non-gloss types of finishes. Therefore, special precautions must be taken when working with them to preserve and maintain the matte, flat, or satin finish appearance.

### II. Planning

Not Applicable.

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## III. Customer / Operator / Service Center Actions

Honda Aircraft Company recommends compliance with the following precautions and instructions for care and maintenance, to preserve the finish of aircraft painted with a non-gloss finish; matte, flat, or satin.

### What **NOT** to do in the care and maintenance of matte, flat, or satin finished surfaces:

- 1) **DO NOT** polish, wax or buff these finished surfaces using any rotary or orbital device; such as a sander or buffer.

A smooth surface is counterproductive to maintaining these types of finishes.

- 2) **DO NOT** perform any surface hand buffing, polishing or aggressive rubbing.
- 3) **DO NOT** use a circular motion when wiping and cleaning with a microfiber cloth.
- 4) **DO NOT** use towels with hard tags, towels that have been exposed to any abrasives, terry cloths, paper towels or other rough surface towels.

Towels such as these can damage the surface leaving swirl marks or scratches.

- 5) **DO NOT** use any “quick detail” sprays or cleaning agents designed for gloss finishes.

These “quick detail” products contain waxes, silicones and optical brighteners which will make the finish look blotchy or uneven.

- 6) **DO NOT** use dish soaps.

Dish soaps may contain abrasives which will damage the finish.

In addition, dish soaps have drying agents which will weaken the clear coated surfaces and lead to cracking or yellowing of the finish over time.

### What to **DO** in the care and maintenance of matte, flat, or satin finished surfaces:

- 1) **DO** use only clean microfiber cloths and ensure the cloths are not contaminated or dry when cleaning.
- 2) **DO** use a forward and backward linear motion when wiping during cleaning.

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- 3) **DO** wash with a soap formulated specifically for matte, flat, and/or satin finishes or clean with an up to 50/50 Isopropyl alcohol (IPA) and water mixture.
- a) Method 1: Hand wash the surface with soap, water and clean micro-fiber cloths.
  - b) Method 2: Apply soap to surfaces utilizing low pressure and once fully applied, rinse to clean away the suds and residue from surfaces using low pressure water.

**NOTE:** Any hard to remove stains should be soaked with an up to 50/50 IPA/Water mixture prior to wiping with a clean microfiber cloth.

- 4) If required, **DO** additionally use CitriCut Concentrate cleaner diluted to a ratio of 1:8 (this cleaner does not contain a polymer), and clean per the manufacturer's instructions.

The diluted CitriCut Concentrate cleaner should be applied evenly while cleaning. When cleaning in this manner, keep wiping to a minimum to prevent burnishing of the finish.

- 5) **DO** remove bird droppings, finger prints and bug remains from finished surfaces on a regular basis or immediately upon being noticed, by wiping with a micro-fiber towel and cleaners as described above.

The acids in these types of surface contaminants will eventually leave permanent marks if not removed in a timely manner.

- a) Hard to remove stains should be soaked with the up to 50/50 IPA/Water mixture prior to wiping with a clean microfiber cloth.

## IV. Commercial Terms

Not Applicable.

## V. Other

Not Applicable.

**Note:** Contact Honda Aircraft Technical Support (1-888-453-2501) with any questions with regard to this service letter