

Dentman smooths out the process – and the financial pain – of restoring your car to its original glory



Dents don't just spoil the appearance of your car: they reduce its value. The trouble is, dents are like boils – the solution often seems worse than the disease.

First, you need to book your car into the repair shop. Then you've got to take time off work to get it there. Then hang around while they do it. Then you've got to try not to weep when they give you the bill.

If only someone could provide good quality dent repairs, at an affordable price, at the customer's home or workplace. Well, someone is providing that very service in the Greater London area right now. And that someone is Dentman.

In real life, Dentman is Martin Leach. A town planner by training, he is now one of the UK's leading specialists in the Paintless Dent Removal (PDR) system which repairs dents by 'massaging' the metal and pushing it back to the original position and shape. It's a simple combination of old-fashioned skills with a panel beater's hammer, augmented by nearly 20 years' experience that allows Martin to find and work with a damaged panel's 'sweet spot'. 'There's nothing magical about it,' shrugs Martin. 'Working with metal in this way is one of the oldest crafts around. It goes back to the Iron Age.'

Here and now, in the 21st century, the Dentman service could hardly be more contemporary. Martin's typical daily job list reflects changes not just in society – 'walkover' vandalism damage is increasingly common – but also in our climate. 'I did a lot of work on the shipment of 50,000 cars that was badly hail-damaged in Germany a few years ago,' he recalls. 'That kind of extreme weather is going to come to us here in the UK, no question.' Martin takes a holistic, organic approach to what he's doing. He's looking to start training others, not just to build the business, but also to help build awareness about the fixability of things in an increasingly throwaway world.

Nissan GT-R hit by flying gazebo at Le Mans 2009



How do I get Dentman?

It couldn't be easier or more convenient.

Dentman is based in Richmond, but he services a large area of Surrey and Greater London, from Finchley in the north to Dorking in the south, and from Egham in the west to the Isle of Dogs in the east. To summon him, you call **07774 812 512**. Martin will then ask for three emailed pictures of the damage. Once he's had a look at those, he'll come back with a quote. Prices start at £75 and vary according to the type of dent – from small parking dings to vandal damage caused by someone kicking or walking over your bonnet and roof.

If you accept the quote, Martin will make an appointment to come along and do the job, usually the next day. A typical dent can be removed in less than an hour.

Martin is a perfectionist. He will only stop when he's happy with the end result. And if Martin's happy, the chances are you'll be delighted and amazed. To the layman's eye the repair will to all intents and purposes be perfect. Even designed-in crease lines will be restored to original factory appearance.

Autocar brought Martin in to sort out a football-sized depression in a Renault Clio's bonnet. They were more than impressed by the results.

'The finish was near faultless,' they said, declaring the service to be 'incredibly cost effective.' Check out the before and after pics on www.dentman.co.uk if you'd like to see the nearest thing to a miracle.

For a speedy metropolitan response, Dentman's vehicle of choice is a kitted-out BMW GS motorcycle, so you're unlikely to get that 'sorry I couldn't make it mate, I got stuck in traffic' call.

There really is no excuse to carry on driving around London in a dented car while Dentman's around. If you're after a quick, affordable, hassle-free repair that will keep your car's bodywork in excellent, original condition, he's your man.