Fuel Tank Sealing

Now we have a tank that is bulletproof on the welds; as I can see on the internal of the tank the metal looks solid and only a few rust spots are shown. These will be treated later on but for the time being we must first clean the internal surface from debris and varnish coming from the fuel. Strangely enough fuel leaves a reddish tone on the tank which can be removed only with a strong solution like Marine Clean.

It comes in concentrated form and it surely needs to be dilluted in water. Generally speaking 1:4 dillution works for most applications and should there be a large amount that is resisting then a second round of cleaning will surely remove any leftover dirt.

I have placed the tank on the very helpful stand giving me ease of working

Marine clean instructions.

Dillute 1 lt of marine clean to 3 lt of hot water and pour it directly inside the tank. Marine clean really loves hot water gving best results. Be sure to wear hand gloves as Marine Clean is harmful to your skin.

Here is the dirt removed from the inside after some hours of treatment. The tank was moved all around and positions were changed every 2 or 3 hours so that the entire surface is thorougly cleaned.

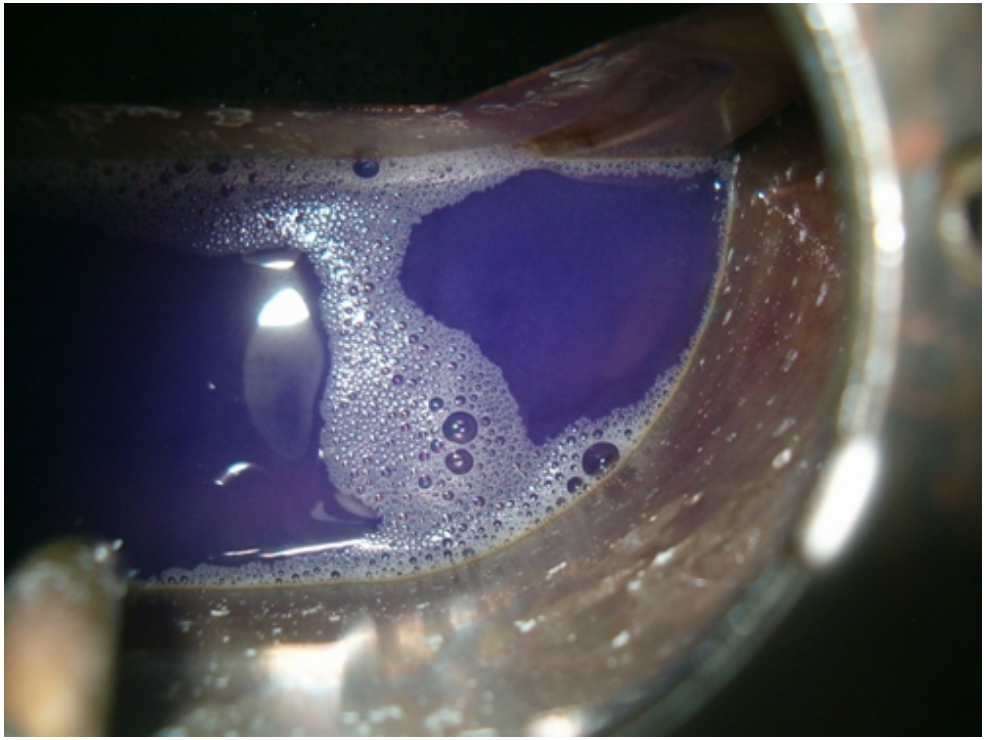
Here is a second round of Marine Clean.The liquid is cleaner than the first round but still it looks like there is dirt inside.

A third round proved to be even cleaner than the second. I will make a final fourth attempt so that the liquid turns out clear and clean.

Here is Marine Clean in action. Look at the boiling status of the liquid which removes dirt.

Pouring the liquid out of the tank, revealed no dirt so it looks like we are ready to proceed in the next step. Keep in mind that the tank should be thorougly clean inside and no Marine Clean traces are left, so fill it up with plenty of water, shake it around and flush it until no bubbles appear on the water. Water on the container reveals some traces of Marine Clean so do not stop flushing until clear water comes off the tank (even though you get bored shaking the tank)

Next step involved Metal Ready. Simply pour the liquid in the tank and let it cure for around 20 mins per side. You need to change positions after 20 mins so that the liquid fully treats the inside.



Notice the boiling activity as rust is neuralised and removed

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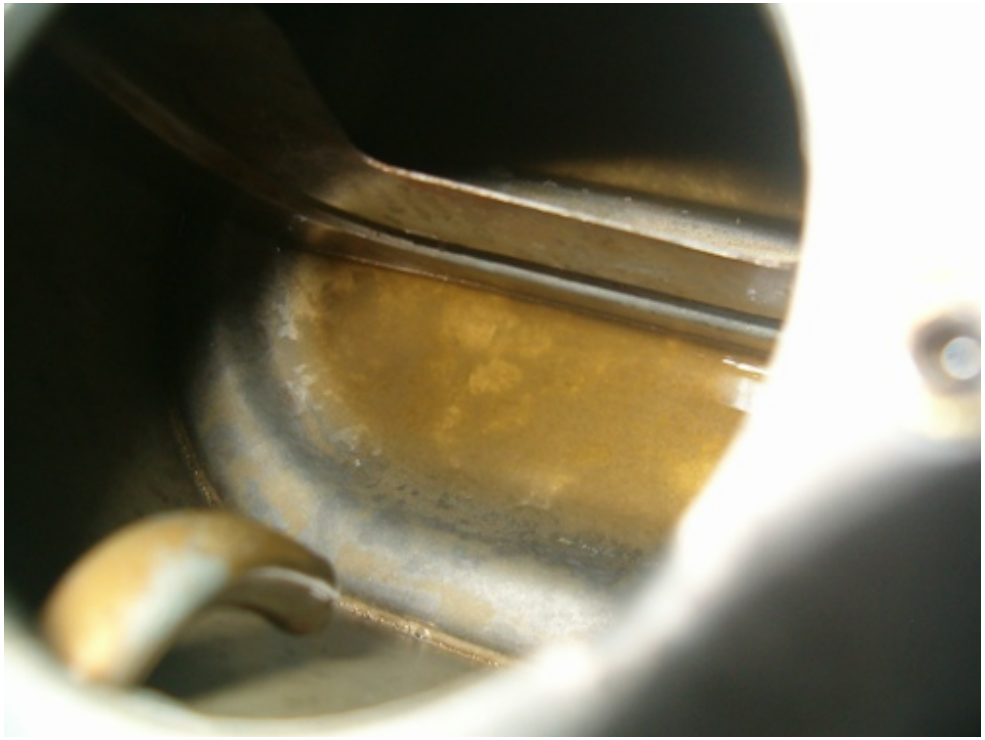
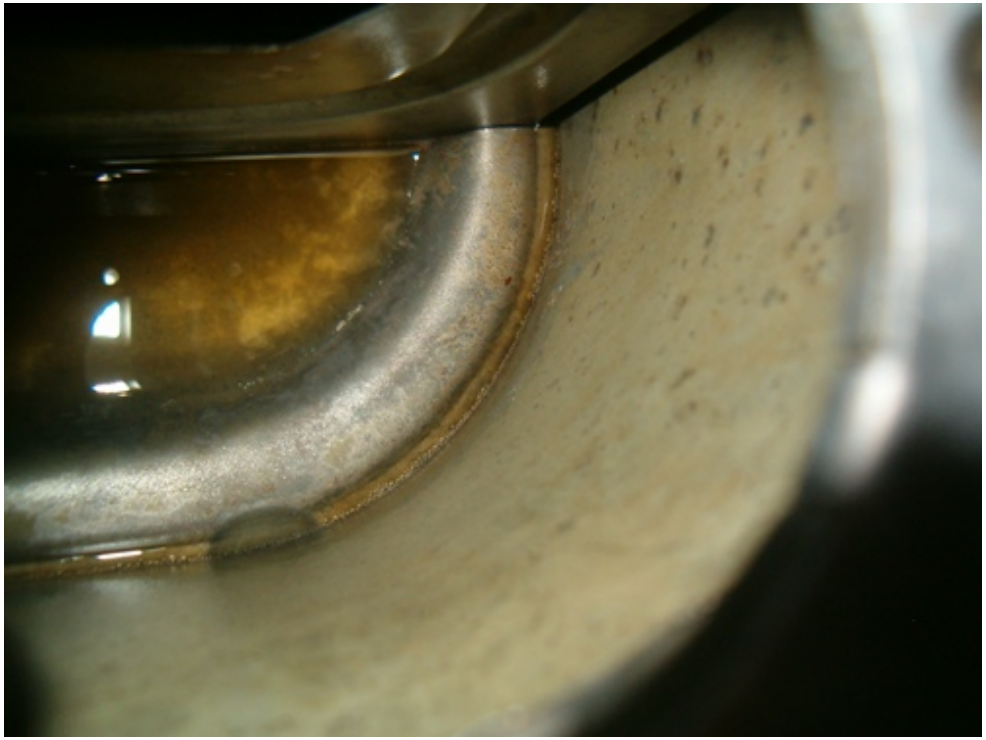
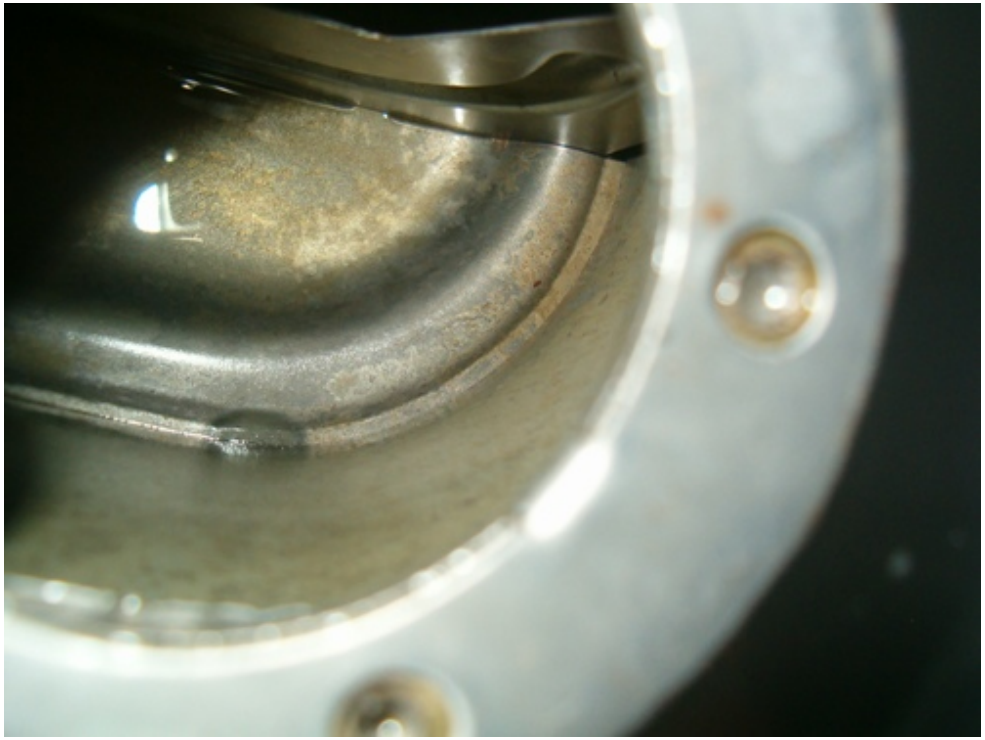
Metal Ready has turned from blue to clear and it will soon take a brown color meaning rust is eaten away.





Rust is now completely dissolved ...

and metal surface has taken again the original silver color.



Here is the final result after Metal Ready has completed its target, From blue it has turned to brown thus removing all rust. Be sure to rinse the tank with hot water several times as we dont want traces of Metal Ready inside.

Let's now move on drying the internals. No traces of water or moisture are allowed to be left as Fuel Tank Sealer will not stick to the metal surface.

With the aid of a high pressure air blower and a hair drier the tank is now completely dry and ready to accept tank sealer.

Be sure again to have the tank completely dry as Tank Sealer will not stick to the metal surface and all your efforts will be in vain. It is better to have the air blower/hair drier for at least 30 mins circulating the air inside the tank rather than leaving the tank on the sun or outdoors. Moisture will never get off the tank unless forced.

Tank sealer is ready to be applied inside the tank. The fuel return pipe is blocked as we don't want the sealer to enter the internals of the pipe; we would then need to unblock it with wire etc, so it is better to seal it temporarily.

Cover the fuel sender gap with tape and prior pouring the tank sealer in the tank wear hand gloves. Do not neglect it as tank sealer sticks everywhere and wont come off no matter what. Also keep in mind that should it spill your clothes then it wouldnt come off them. It is so sticky that the stains are more or less permanent. Once in your hands it will peel off after some days due to skin renewal.

Once inside, rotate the tank so that the liquid covers the entire surface. Doing it for 15 mins is more than enough; then the excess of the liquid should be poured in the original container and disposed off. Do not restore the can lid as according to the manufacturer it will probably explode.

Then place the tank as shown and let it drain for at least 96 hours. Be sure that the filler neck is vertical so that any leftover sealer eventually drains to the container. The sealer absorbs moisture from the environment and dries up as hours pass by. Nearly 1 hour since application the sealer on the container is drying up and becomes solid.