

ROT

By Bill Button

Wood Rot. The scourge of a Morgan. The body frames are made of Ash a very rot prone wood product. Although the best for carriage making it is the pits for rotting. However it happens to the best of Morgan's. Water is the problem. Keep it dry and no rot. However the way a Morgan is built it is very difficult to keep the water out. Even if garaged, the water remains and does damage. There are various treatments to try to insulate from rot. I really do not think they work very well. A well ventilated dry garage is a big help, other than that I have no idea.

Rot usually manifests in the "Rocker, Sill and door posts. This is where water can seep in by the doors. The preferred repair is to remove and replace the damaged wood. This is often not easy and expensive if you have a professional do it. I am talking about "Alternative Medicine" in this tech article.

First how does one find the rot? Well I found it when I noticed the door post moving back and forth when I closed the door. After stripping the upholstery and padding that covers the sill, it was obvious that the rocker and sill plus the bottom of the door posts were badly rotted. This happened in less than 5 years, as 5 years ago I had this all exposed and it was sound. I hate to suggest it, but one needs to remove this covering and inspect the wood now and again. If you can catch the rot early, then the cure is very much easier and less expensive.

I use Epoxy to fix this problem. NOTE: Epoxy is not inexpensive but its use save much labor in this repair. The product brand name is "Rot Doctor" www.rotdoctor.com It is an internet company. They deliver their products with UPS. The first defense is "CPES". It is an Epoxy that is designed to be injected into the wood, and then using a capillary effect it is distributed throughout the timber. One drills holes into the wood and injects this epoxy with a big hypodermic type needle. They supply this in their kit. It really turns this rotten wood into a solid piece of epoxy. If the wood is so rotten that wood falls out, they have a filler to fill in and replace this and maintain its structural integrity.

Next time you see my +4, open the door and take a look. I no longer have the upholstery covering this sill and rocker. Instead it is a solid piece of Epoxy with wood pieces in it. If I were to do it again I would do a nicer job. But you will get the idea.

It is understood that the information contained herein is offered without any undertaking whatsoever and no warranty is suggested or may be implied.