

Eyechip Cleaning and Restoration

Warning: this tutorial is intended for use on **stock** Takara and Hasbro eyechips only. Please do not try on aftermarket eyechips without consulting the manufacturer. Not for use on Kenner Eyechips.

1. Don't throw those damaged, experimental eyechips away! With a little elbow grease, they can be shiny and new again.



2. Well, unless they look like this (photo showing extreme damage caused by acetone-based nailpolish applied to the back of the chip.) Throw that one away, or submit it to a museum of oddities.



3. If your eyechips have been coated in paint, glue, or some other crusted on substance, soak them overnight in a sealed container of rubbing alcohol (isopropyl)



4. Remove them from the bath, and scrub the faceted side to loosen the paint. I like to use an electric toothbrush. a regular toothbrush works well, too. You may have to change the alcohol and soak them again. The pupil paint may come off as well.



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5. These chips have been successfully cleaned. Notice that the faceted area looks nice and sharp again. The pupils have been damaged, though. If you want to remove any remaining pupil paint, or remove dents and scratches, file down the pupil with a medium nail file and buff it to a semi-shine with a multi-step nail buffer.



6. After you get all the dents and old paint off the pupil, repaint the pupil with black acrylic paint. If you are worried about getting paint in the faceted part, push the eyechip through a piece of paper punched with a regular round hole punch.



7. This chip has deep surface scratches and scuffs.



8. Remove them by sanding the face of the chip with a medium grit nail file. Nail files for acrylic nails work the best. Sand until you can't feel the original scratches with your fingernail.



9. Move up to a finger nail file, and eventually a super-fine nail buffer. If you have Novus Polish, it works well at this stage, too. The more gradual steps you take with sanding grits, the shinier your chip will look. I like to buy nail blocks with 6 different grits on them. You can tell the chip is shiny enough when the reflected light looks sharp, like in the picture.

