If the insurance industry wants to utilize more used parts to keep the cost of repairs down, they need to be more realistic with their times in order for the repair industry to embrace the parts.

Above is a 23-step process to prepare a used quarter to become usable (and these steps don’t include installation). The sad fact is, when all these additional steps are taken into account, it’s not usually financially feasible to use a used quarter panel.

Check the recycled quarter before you unload it.

Measure the paint-film thickness to determine if additional paint labor is necessary.

Remove all attached parts.

Remove all sealant and caulking to expose resistance spot welds that you’ll drill out in order to separate the panels.

Remove the rear glass reveal molding.

Cut out the urethane bead and broken glass to expose the rear glass pinchweld.

Remove the paint from the rear window pinchweld to expose the bare metal and resistance spot welds.

Remove all sealant and caulking to expose the resistance spot welds where the quarter panel is attached to the rear body panel.

Remove the remaining roof panel from the quarter.

Remove the undercoating from the lip where the inner and outer wheelhouse panels are attached.

Separate the quarter panel with wheelhouse from the rear floor panel and trunk floor to gain access to the spotwelds that hold together the inner and outer wheelhouse panels.

Separate the inner and outer wheelhouse panels with an air chisel.

This photo sequence is also on a CD and can be used for training purposes and for educating insurance adjusters, employees, spouses, etc. The cost is $30, and net proceeds ($25) will be donated to the collision program at Cypress College (they need all the money they can get in order to keep the program going). E-mail me at tmchess@earthlink.net to order the CD.

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Twenty-three steps (and approximately three hours later), you’re now—finally—ready to install the recycled quarter.

Contributing Editor Toby Chess has more than 30 years of industry experience. Chess is an ASE Master Certified Technician, an Accredited Automotive Manager, an I-CAR instructor, a stud, the Los Angeles I-CAR Chairman, a stud, a technical presenter for CIC and let’s not forget, a stud.

March Taylor owns Auto Body Hawaii in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Not your typical shop owner, Taylor works alongside his employees as a technician. This, he says, gives him “the opportunity to see things how they really are. I’m not disconnected from production or management.”