

Matrix Wand Helps Puyallup, WA, Auto Shop Make Accurate, Efficient Repairs

matrix WAND

by Autobody News Staff

Fix Auto Puyallup started as a family business with **Mel, Mark and Patty Denny** in 1983, and eventually grew to become a significant force in the collision repair industry.

Pamela Denny grew up with the shop and saw the dedicated work her grandpa and parents put into it.

"My parents were always at the shop, so I was always at the shop as well. They have worked really hard to create a name in collision repair, setting standards for quality repairs in our market," she said.

As their shop grew, they joined an international network of collision repair facilities, *Fix Auto*, but remain locally owned and independently operated. They have three collision repair locations under the *Fix Auto* brand—one in Puyallup, Gig Harbor and Port Orchard—and another light mechanics shop in Port Orchard. Pamela is currently the Chief Financial Officer for all three of the shops under *Fix Auto*, and there are 38 employees in total working at the three locations.

From the beginning of their business, the Dennys decided to take a more wholesome perspective in fixing vehicles. They also decided to introduce a new approach to repairs in their field.

"We want to be the first in our industry to create standard repair processes that improve the overall repair and down time for our customers and their vehicles," Pamela said. "We know and understand the precious cargo that goes into these vehicles every day. We want our customers to pick up their vehicles with the peace of mind that their vehicle has, in fact, been returned to them in pre-accident condition."

Pamela's drive to provide timely and quality repairs using the most up-to-date tools led her and her family to the *Matrix Wand*.

"We initially found out about the *Matrix Wand* through industry news and had an opportunity to learn more at a *VeriFacts* Symposium in Los Angeles," she said. "We decided to purchase the *Matrix* because we saw the immense value in being able to measure suspension parts, door panels, and fronts and rears of vehicles in order to check structural



The *Matrix Wand* allows employees at *Fix Auto Puyallup* to get a more accurate picture of the repairs needed.

integrity before beginning repairs."

It was a product that could provide the accuracy, efficiency and customer satisfaction that they sought.

When the Dennys acquired the *Wand*, *Matrix* sent its employee **Scott** to provide onsite comprehensive training. He was able to give Denny the chance to discover repairs that were not obvious before.

"We had a day and a half of onsite training," she said. "We measured vehicles, door panels and front ends. We had a vehicle we were concerned might have significant structural damage, but after completing measurements, we were able to identify where the damage was located and that the vehicle was still within spec. He was fantastic."

The target-less handheld *Matrix Wand* takes 3D images of the vehicle with minimal teardown. This virtual 3D measuring can see through solid objects to allow more precise measurements across any section. Captured images can be used to measure suspension, control arms, cradle positioning, toe angle, caster angle, camber angle, strut or knuckle symmetry, sensor placement and gaps. *Matrix's* proprietary data collection software allows shops to download the 3D images and data points to a computer to make it easier to create blueprints for the work that needs to be carried out along with the parts required.

The wand's software compares and analyzes a variety of dimensions to identify hidden damages, then verifies the repairs needed by comparing points to the Mitchell

database that is integrated into this product. All calculations done by the *Matrix Wand* and *Repair Analysis Software* are accurate within 1mm. The *Matrix Wand* also provides documentation to insurance companies and customers to reduce liability and ensure customer satisfaction. During the repairs, the *Matrix Wand* can assist with accuracy, including sensor angle positioning, hanging doors, verifying alignment and checking suspension. It can also be used to capture a final measurement to verify that the car is repaired back to specification before being returned to the customer. Since its launch in 2012, the *Matrix Wand* has won the prestigious Best New Product Award for the collision repair and refinish division at the SEMA New Product Showcase and has been used all over the country.

Pamela has now been using the *Wand* for two months and has found it to be an incredible help in saving cycle time, improving repairs and sending for more accurate parts.

"We have been able to redirect damaged parts with measurements. Previously, a technician spent hours trying to install a part that came defective," she said.

She and the other employees at *Fix Auto Puyallup* are still learning about the *Wand* and its dynamic functions.

"We are hopeful that we will be able to identify structural damage more efficiently, get parts needed ordered quicker, and slim down repair times due to the measurements and research conducted at the beginning of repairs," she said.

Fix Auto Puyallup

Location: Puyallup, WA

(253) 845-5665

fixautopuyallup.com/en/

Company At A Glance...

Type: Collision Repair

Facility Employees: 38

In Business Since: 1983

Number of Locations: Four

DRP Programs: Five

Combined Production Space: 10,000 square feet



An employee downloads the 3D images and data points taken by the *Matrix Wand* to a computer.



Fix Auto Puyallup has been in business in Puyallup, WA, since 1983.

The Matrix Wand

(785) 823-8800

thematrixwand.com