

Mats for the Making

A classic sports car deserves a set of new period-correct floor mats that protect the carpet and add charm to the interior. It just wouldn't look right to use a set of discount floor mats festooned with cartoon characters—Tweety Bird and Yosemite Sam have no place in a vintage automobile.

That's why we love coco and sisal floor mats. They just look right in an older car and, thankfully, they're still readily available for a wide variety of classics.

Natural Auto Products makes coco-fiber mats at their Fort Mill, South Carolina, shop out of hand-woven sheets. Jeff and Debbie Allwine are the owners of this mom-and-pop operation, overseeing and performing the production process from start to finish. As we discovered when we visited their facility, the process of turning raw materials into high-quality coco mats is fascinating.

Natural Auto Products
(800) 461-3533
cocomats.com



The coconut husk and sisal materials are woven into a fabric in India. The fabric arrives at the shop in large rolls.



The mat shape is chosen from an inventory of more than 2500 templates.



The template's shape is transferred to the coco with a chalk outline.



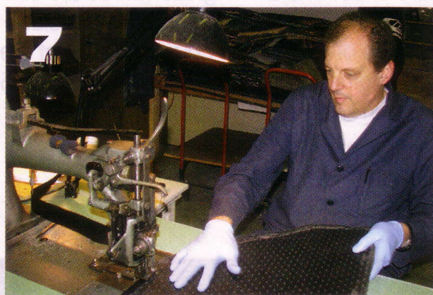
A jigsaw is used to cut out the material. A low-friction table prevents the material from bunching.



A rubber backing is added in a temperature- and humidity-controlled room.



The coco mat is treated with a stain-resistant finish that keeps the fibers clean.



Edging is bound onto the mat with an industrial sewing machine.



The driver's-side mat gets an added heel pad that protects the material from damage.



As company president Jeff Allwine shows, the finished mat is ready to ship.