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FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008

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WHEELBASE COMMUNICATIONS

PARTS BIN

A MAT FINISH

Just about any auto-parts retailer will sell you inexpensive floor mats. But if you want the absolute finest in floor protection for your prized ride, you really owe it to yourself to check out the beautifully crafted coverings from Coco Mat. The line of rubber-backed palm-fiber floor, trunk and cargo area products is designed to look good and stay in place. You should also investigate the line of premium stain-resistant cactus-based sisal mats that look as though you've treated your vehicle to a custom-made suit. Both are available in a wide range of colors (solids and blends). Prices begin at \$50 a pair for universal-fit front mats, plus delivery and handling charges, while a typical four-piece set of front and rear custom mats start at around \$190. To find out if Coco Mat has the exact fit for your new, custom or vintage ride, call 800-461-3533. You can also get product and ordering info online at cocomats.com.



SINCE YOU CAN'T GO BACK

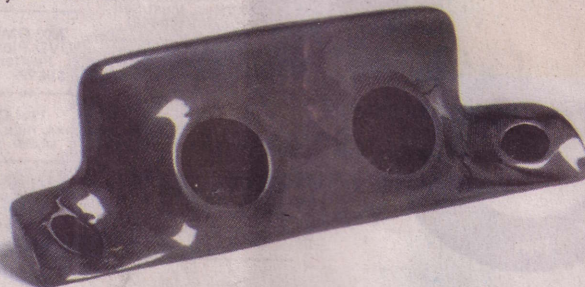
Interested in an unused 1978 Ford Mustang? Or, how about a 1980 Chevy Blazer, an '83 Camaro or a vintage AMC product in never-sat-in mint condition? No, we're not talking about the actual cars, but their original factory seat-cover materials that were destined to be installed on these, and many other vehicles from 25-30 years ago. Apparently, hundreds of square yards of such fabrics were sitting around a warehouse just waiting to be scooped up and put to some profitable use. And that's exactly what Kim White, who happens to live near the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, Calif., has done, turning them into purses, handbags, cosmetic



containers, belts and related accessories. White includes the year and make of the vehicle that the fabric used in her creations was originally intended, which should make for great guessing games with your automotive-savvy friends. Given the fabric's original intended automotive use, White's products are both durable and fade-resistant. Prices begin at about \$95 for a small bag, up to \$145 for a large tote-style satchel, while a large travel bag (pictured) costs \$380. There are plenty of styles, sizes and model years from which to choose, all available on line at kimwhitehandbags.com.

SOUND THAT LOOKS GOOD

When you go to a car show, do you find yourself drooling over the custom subwoofer/bass boxes that go with the custom audio systems? Those artful masterpieces will often take the entire trunk or back-seat space of a show vehicle, but there are companies out there that build custom enclosures for your ride, units that leave you room for essentials such as groceries and golf clubs. Bassforms from Newport Beach, Calif., might have what you're after, no matter whether you have Ford Mustang or a Lamborghini Gallardo (unit pictured). The cabinets come in a variety of finishes, from glossy painted fiberglass, to carbon fiber in the case of the Gallardo. What you get usually depends on the vehicle. As you can guess, prices wildly vary, so it's best to head over to www.bassforms.com for a better idea, or call 1-877-464-2326. The company can also supply you with amplifiers and subwoofers to fill its cabinets — and your vehicle — with sound. Most are removable, too, should you need to maximize your interior space or want to sell it separately from your vehicle.



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UNTIL JUNE

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