

B-Quiet Sound Deadening Materials



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shut it!

MOTORMOUTH RAYNER GETS THE SOUND DEADENING TREATMENT IN YET ANOTHER FAST CAR WORLD FIRST TEST!

words by adam rayner; photos by spike

My Mum once had a DAF33 (before I could drive) which had that weird continuous rubber-band gear thingy and made the most horrendous noise. You practically had to shout over the racket inside. "BRRRRRR hey BRRR I said hey BRRR I SAID STOP HERE! BRRRR" And I've had a ride in the Splendid Isolation of an ancient Bentley. Now S class Mercs even have double glazing. It's all to do with noise and vibration in your car, this test. Most all of you will have heard of Dynamat. Do you know how it works, what it is, why you need it? We had a geezer write in, asking stuff like this. So here it is, another Fast Car World First. We are going to look at all the products around for deadening the sound in your car.

WHY USE THE STUFF?

Well, if your car is quieter inside, not only does it feel better, but your watts have to fight less over the background noise - it makes your stereo sound clearer and louder and that has to be a good thing, innit? They use Dynamat Premium and Super in the McLaren F1 roadcar. I've seen it!



REGULAR MAT PRODUCTS

1



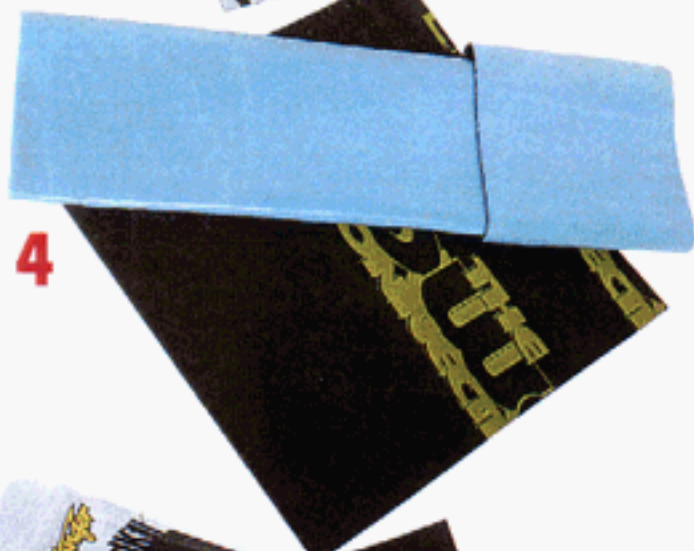
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1. Dynamat Original

How Sold: 4.33sqft roll for \$19.99 or 7x1sqft "sleeves" for \$12.99.

This is the fridge, Hoover, Xerox generic product of all acoustic matting. It's smelly, like bitumen, cuts like butter at room temperatures and looks like sheets of Licorice Allsort black layer. Nicely logo-printed, it took the cymbal's racket down to 88dB from 92dB naked and from 9 seconds to just 6.5 seconds. Good.

Weight per sqft: 295 Grammes
Cost per sqft: \$4.62

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 7
EASE OF USE: 10
VALUE: 8
TOTAL: 25

2. Scosche Accumat

How Sold: 5x1sqft boxed for \$24.95

A much harder and crumbly material at room temperature, this arrives in one foot squares. It has to be said, it weighs a lot less than Dynamat, even allowing for my ham-fisted cutting accuracy and it took the sound down to an average 84dB or four dB quieter as well as duration being a winning 2.5 secs. Awesome.

Weight per sqft: 190 Grams
Cost per sqft: \$4.99

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 10
EASE OF USE: 9
VALUE: 9
TOTAL: 28

3. Rockford Punch Mat

How Sold: 4sqft for \$19.99

Now here's a thing. This stuff has the same backing of blue plastic as Dynamat, looks the same, smells the same, bruises chocolate brown the same, weighs about the same, too. It is two bob more expensive and is printed with a different brand. It takes the figures to 88dB and 6.5 seconds long. What do you think?

Weight per sqft: 300 Grams
Cost per sqft: \$5.00

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 7
EASE OF USE: 10
VALUE: 7
TOTAL: 24

4. Autoleads Sound Deadening Material

How Sold: 4sqft for \$14.99 or bulk 12sqft for \$37.99.

This came unwrapped and was a bit drier and flaky-surfaced than the others. It weighed a bit more than the others, too. Could just be a thicker layer. Again we find the same factory's output, with a Power Connection logo instead of Dynamat. The only difference is no packing, lower price, less sexy branding. Weight per sqft: 315 Grams
Cost per sqft: \$3.75

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 7
EASE OF USE: 9
VALUE: 9
TOTAL: 25

5. SoundQuest DeadBeat

How Sold: Just over 12sqft for \$29.99

Whew-hey, here comes the piss stinky tomcat into the pigeon loft again! This looks like Dynamat with a clear shiny plastic layer over the face. Same blue backing, yet a bit lighter, so it could be a different maker's item. It deadened the half high-hat to 88dB for 6.5 seconds again. Although you must buy 12sqft. It's amazing value.

Weight per sqft: 225 Grams
Cost per sqft: \$2.46

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 7
EASE OF USE: 10
VALUE: 10
TOTAL: 27

6. Stinger Roadkill

How Sold: 4sqft for \$14.99

By this point I was starting to be a) really impressed at how many companies the Dynamat factory was selling this stuff to and b) getting bored of doing the same test over and over. It's the same gear or I am thin as a reed. A different printing again and yessss, it dropped to 88dB for 6.5 seconds. I'd buy this stuff on price, boys....

Weight per sqft: 320 Grams
Cost per sqft: \$3.75

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 7
EASE OF USE: 10
VALUE: 9
TOTAL: 26

5

SPECIALISED MAT PRODUCTS



7. Dynamat Super

How Sold: 4sqft for £26.99 (double the damping of original) OK, this stuff is better made than the Brown Bread gear but it is over double the price. It took the cymbal down to 82dB for 5 secs, so Brown Bread outperforms it too. Oh dear, if you want the brand badge, then you are paying 100% too much for the privilege. The secret? Who wants to pay shipping cost from the USA? Weight per sqft: 205 Grams Cost per sqft: £6.75

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 9
EASE OF USE: 10
VALUE: 5
TOTAL: 24

8. Brown Bread Sounds Dead

How Sold: 5.15sqft Roll for £15.99 With a cockney rhyming slang name, this is as British as pie & mash. It is of course, a Dynamat Super copy, with a thick alloy foil backing to better absorb vibration. It works very well, taking the time down to 1.5 secs and the loudness down to a mere 78dB. This really deadens with a little stuff. The best there is. Weight per sqft: 170 Grams Cost per sqft: £3.10

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 10
EASE OF USE: 10
VALUE: 10
TOTAL: 30

9. DeadBeat Pro

How Sold: 18.66sqft for £69.99, intended for bulk dealer purchase. Another tremendously lightweight matting, it took the cymbal's sonic output down a ways to 81dB for only 4 seconds. Like the Dynamat Premium, it would benefit from the use of a heat gun to fit it. It looks fairly ordinary, but the absorption characteristics of whatever this stuff is do the job well. Well priced. Weight per sqft: 160 Grams Cost per sqft: £3.75

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 9
EASE OF USE: 8
VALUE: 9
TOTAL: 26

10. RoadKill Professional

How Sold: 6sqft for £39.99 (ultra light, 2x damping of Roadkill regular, no heat gun needed.) Talk about lightweight, it's hardly there, half as heavy as Dynamat regular types. It has a flexible feel, though, and a sticky shiny backing to help fit it. It registered an 83dB loudness for 5.5 secs when 4in sq. were upon the cymbal. Another surprise product from Recoton, who also do the Stinger stuff. Weight per sqft: 145 Grams Cost per sqft: £6.66

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 8
EASE OF USE: 9
VALUE: 7
TOTAL: 24

11. Dynamat Premium

How Sold: 13sqft roll for £69.99 (lightweight, with 1.5 x damping of original) This is as used in McLaren's and it ain't smelly. Odd-looking, like thin sheets of Moroccan contraband with the Dynamat Premium overprint. It weighs 33% less than regular and it took our cymbal's racket down to a very creditable 81dB over a short 4 secs. This is serious stuff, if a wee bit more expensive. A bit hard to fit. Weight per sqft: 215 Grams Cost per sqft: £5.38

RATINGS

EFFECTIVENESS: 9
EASE OF USE: 6
VALUE: 9
TOTAL: 24

SPRAY-ON MATERIALS

12. dBAXe spray by Radiomobile E/S

How Sold: in cans of 600ml for £15.99 each.
This is the exact same stuff as Rockford are selling, right down to chemical warnings, lid, can size and colour, drying times and every single feature about it. The only difference is that the Rockford people are charging fully 10 more for the self-same exact thing. Shame on you boys!

13. Roadkill Spray

How Sold: In 24US oz cans for £29.99
Even though one was labelled in US oz and one in ML, this is the same as Stinger's. I reckon this is the seller and Cascade Audio Engineering whose name is on the other one make the stuff. It does say, "made for..." on it, but a tinner more for the same stuff? Forget it, go buy the Autoleads one.

14. Autoleads Sound Deadening Spray

How Sold: in 24US oz cans for £19.99 and by the gallon as trade goods to pros with spray gun compressors.
Although called as above in their catalogue, this is branded Quiet Kote V Block Sound Damping Spray on the label. Get this, it has a lid with "New Formulation! 20% extra free! 24 oz at the 20 oz price!" on a label on it. So does the Stinger Roadkill spray. Only difference? Stinger want £10 more.

15. Rockford Noiseblocker Spray

How Sold: in 20.29US oz cans for £22.99
High efficiency, low density, rust protective, water based, dry to touch within two hours and hard within 14 days, these are the same details as for dB Axe noise damping spray. Both come in the same 600ml cans as well. It shouldn't really surprise us, but the extra 10 is a can for this stuff is frankly taking the piss.

16. Dynashield Liquid Dynamat

How Sold: As 10.5US oz cans for £11.99
The only unique-to-the-company product on the market, this stuff reckons to act as an undercoat, gravel guard, rust proofer and thermal shield as well as doing the sound deadening thing. Only 10.5US oz for the cash does make it twice the price of dB Axe. In all, I'd simply buy the cheapest of these, and that's dB axe.



YOU DON'T NEED TO LINE THE CAR WITH IT.

Noise and vibration suppression is not always a "more is better" situation. Fact is, if you have applied the right amount of sound deadening material or absorption spray goop into the nooks and crannies, and in the middles of the panels, you can reduce the lot without adding the huge weight and cost penalties that the Coat-Of-Dynamat nutters go in for. Buy a small pack and try it on a metal tray, a bucket, anything that clangs when you whack it. It takes very little material to make the clang into a thud.

HOW WE TESTED 'EM.

Bit of an odd one but without going into full-on laboratory-based acoustic fast fourier analysis, I figured we could get a meaningful result with something that goes clang: a pair of high-hats. We hung it off the edge of a table and rolled a ball out of a mouse

mat for each product (4in sq.) , we put four bits of each around the cymbal and measured it again. These figures, along with each product's weight per square foot ratings are used to guesstimate an effectiveness rating. If we can't tell, we don't think you will either. This ain't science, though, boys, OK?

CONCLUSION

Of the regular mats, I'd buy the cheapest, which is the SoundQuest DeadBeat by a long way at £2.46 a foot. After that at around a fiver a square foot, the Accumat is the fastest mat here, even quicker than the best overall new Brown Bread stuff, which lowered the SPL the most of any with the same amount used, and is cheap. The £5.38 Vs. £3.75 per square foot issue is between Dynamat Premium and DeadBeatPro - they certainly performed the same for me. As to the



onto it, to keep the impact the same each time and so the energy input. Then, over many measurements, we tested the cymbal for sound level and decay time - how long before the "pish" finishes - averaged it and call it the control. (92dB for 9 secs.) Then, with the same amount of

sprays, well, testing them would be a bit tough, all I have been able to do here is tell you about them and their relative costs. And there's the rub, they are so silly in pricing differences that I can clearly recommend dB Axe from Radiomobile. It shifts on the others for value.

CONTACTS

- BBG, Dynamat. 0181 863 9117
 - IceTronic, Scosche 01702 300300
 - Car Audio Labs, Rockford,
 - Brown Bread 01494 459981
 - Autoleads 01420 476 767
 - Rcoton, Stinger and
 - SoundQuest 01705 240 287
 - Radiomobile, dBAXe 019926 34428
- Thanks to Mr. R. Foster of 60, High Street Northwood, Quality Family Butchers, whose Weights & Measures approved scales we used to weigh the sheets upon!

