

RAAMmat BXTII

The difference between rattly French farm cars and a Bentley is the sense of Splendid Isolation. Adam Rayner investigates the latest sound deadening product to hit the UK

There are those who would give a testicle to have my job. I do get to go poncing about the planet (Japan, 'Vegas, Canada, Germany, France, Greece, Iceland and Belgium on press trips) and all over the UK on stories and press events. But just sometimes it can backfire on you! It might seem really cool to go and see the McLaren production facility and how they make their supercars but while I came out with many really cool bits of technology (Google 'Inconnell' - the exhaust manifold of an F1 cost more than a whole BMW seven series) the whole experience was ultimately demoralising. Looking that deeply into a world I can never inhabit was actually depressing.

And the trip to see the McLaren Mercedes being made was even worse. Engineering as Art!

But one thing astounded me on that first factory tour, which was to see that they were sticking small pieces of Dynamat's lightest and most efficient vibration-absorptive matting in small carefully-located spots inside the gold leaf-lined engine bay. Now this is on a car where boss Ron Dennis was recorded as objecting to the one and a half kilos of weight the knobbly protective paint underneath the carbon fibre body cost! Funny thing was, the then distributors BBG couldn't rave about it, unless they paid McLaren BIG for the privilege! For the difference between a cheap car's



'feel' and a posh motor is in the sound. It's in the enveloped feel you get in old fashioned



menswear shops with suits on racks lining the walls and the sense of the world simply 'going away' when you shut yourself into a really nice car. Best of all, the equipment you have, whatever it is, will work less hard to entertain you if you improve the noise floor of the ride. Less noise, more music.

The really big story with RAAMmat seems to be its cost effectiveness versus many of the more famous ones. And sound deadening has always been described as the most cost effective upgrade any ice



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fan can buy. What we have here is the BXT mat in it's MkII guise, which is a about a slightly higher, denser spec. It's 40% denser than their first version and apparently that now means it is at least as dense as the 'branded' gears' top lines.

It's got a nice thick and yet soft and squishy Aluminium foil on the surface which, as well as being a crucial part of the absorptive powers of the stuff, is also a lot more installer friendly as those who have cut fingers on the edge of foils doing cars in the past will know! The idea is that a significant amount of the sound energy is converted to other kinds at the junction between the dense yet pliable bottom layer and the foil. RAAMmat BXTII is available in large twelve sheet packs of 37.5 square feet and will retail between £180 and £200, which is way lower than many other brands. The full on techy analysis is called Fast Fourier Analysis and takes a science lab to do it, although I have done comparative tests with bits of mat and a cymbal and an old rubber armoured steel ball from a mouse, with a stopwatch in the past!

The real deal for the trade is it's an upgrade sale to anyone who ever bought an amp or sub and you can be supplying their need with a new, better value product with a nice margin as chewy as the mat itself.

It's a Good Product, I'd rate at least an Eight.

www.raamaudio.co.uk or call Aaron on 07707 080040

