



WOODEN IT BE NICE

In the end, it's the details that mark out a really thorough classic car restoration, and in this respect interior wood panels often present a headache: they are likely to be stained or cracked, and those on the dashboard have often been modified to accept later radio designs, or extra switches. They are usually very difficult to source.

Inspired by the factory wood dashboard inserts still present in its short-wheelbase 911 race car, and encouraged by customer requests for them, classic Porsche specialist EB Motorsport – better known for its competition parts for early 911s – arranged for the remanufacture of the wood panels for 911s and 912s from 1965 to 1968. Painstakingly replicating the originals, the panels are made from African Mahogany, the Barnsley-based firm even confident that the wood colour and grain faithfully match the Porsche items.

Cut precisely, they have bevelled edges for a classy look. The price for a set is £648 including VAT, plus delivery; to order call EB Motorsport on 01226 730037 or visit eb-motorsport.co.uk



FEELING THE PRESSURE

In the old days, checking tyre pressures was easy, there being practically a filling station on every corner with a usually free air hose. That's no longer the case, given the massive depletion of petrol stations in the UK in the last 20 years, which are almost all now sited on main routes and part of a supermarket. Factor in the likelihood of the air hose (usually now chargeable) being out of use, and you really are better off with your own tyre pressure gauge, which will save a possibly inconvenient trip to the filling station if the pressures were fine.

Automotive workshop specialist Laser Tools based in Warwickshire has a new pressure gauge to tempt you, cased in rubber for toughness and liquid filled for accuracy. The gauge (part number 6055) comes with a 55mm hose attached, and features an angled valve connector for ease of use, while the brightly coloured face makes it as easy as possible to read in poor light. It's available in tool shops stocking Laser Tools products, and will cost around £48 depending on the outlet. More details at lasertools.co.uk



THE TYRE DEPOT

RICE WASTE WILL SOON BE USED TO MAKE A MORE ENVIRONMENTAL TYRE

'Green tyres' can reduce the fuel consumption of vehicles by as much as seven per cent in urban traffic, and these include high performance tyres (those graded 'C' or above for fuel efficiency on the EU tyre label), which also significantly reduce the CO2 emissions of vehicles compared to standard tyres. However Goodyear has now come up with a new, more sustainable way of making tyres – by using waste rice husk ash.

The US-based tyre company has reached a supply agreement with Yihai Food and Oil Industry in China, for a supply of silica derived from rice husk ash.

Goodyear will begin using the silica later this year in a consumer tyre that will be manufactured in its factory in Pulandian, China, and sold in China.



The company has tested silica derived from rice husk ash over the past two years, and found its impact on tyre performance to be "equal" to traditional sources.

"Sustainability is a cornerstone of Goodyear's innovation efforts," said Chairman and CEO, Richard J. Kramer. "This new silica benefits the environment in many ways: it reduces waste going into landfills; it requires less energy to produce; and it helps make tyres more fuel efficient."

Each year more than 700 million tons of rice is harvested worldwide, according to the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, and disposing of the rice husks is an environmental challenge. As a result, husks often are burned to generate electricity, reducing the amount of waste shipped to landfills. While this ash has been converted to silica for several years, only these most recent processes created silica of a high enough grade to use in tyres.

Silica is used as a reinforcing agent in tyre tread compounds. Compared to carbon black, a traditional reinforcing agent, silica reduces rolling resistance, which improves fuel economy.