

Restoration Tip: How to Re-flock your Box
By Doug Schrantz

I love cars from the fifties. Some of the finishes have those wonderful smells and touch, like leather upholstery, wool carpets, and . . . flocked glove boxes and tool trays. But, frequently the flocking in the glove boxes and tool trays is worn and stained – not up to the standards of the refurbished car. We have all seen felt or paints used as a poor attempt to replicate the flocked finish. There is a simple process that restores the finish correctly and is quite satisfying DIY project. Best of all, the materials are near at hand and quite cheap.

Old tool box

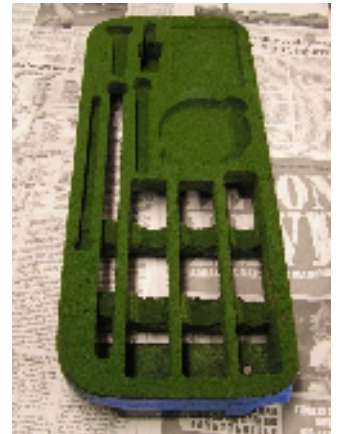


I recently restored the door tool trays for my Mark VIII Saloon. The trays are mounted in the lower front doors and are hinged to drop down for access. Being located in the front doors subject these tool trays to a lot of moisture. The result is rusty sheet metal and stained, faded and missing flocking. Correcting the sheet metal is quite easy but, the flocking needed serious work.

I heard that Hobby Lobby had flocking kits. If there is anything by that name, it is unknown to store personnel. However, a trip down the toy train aisle reveals quite a selection of material used to simulate grass on train layouts. One of the grass materials is a perfect color match for the original flocking and is available with the appropriate adhesive and applicator (see photo). With nothing to lose, I gave it a try.

The process is simple. Use a small brass brush to remove dirt and loose material. Apply the adhesive with the spray applicator. Generously sprinkle the grass over the surface of the tool tray. Set it aside to dry without touching the 'grass'. After the adhesive dries (I waited 24 hours), gently brush off the excess. Repeat as necessary to get good coverage, spray the adhesive over the surface and allow to dry.

The comparison photo does not really show the poor condition of the *before*, nor quite how good the *after* effect is. The flocking looks like new, feels right and appears to be durable. Total cost of the flocking, adhesive and applicator – about \$10 bucks. The result – priceless



Re-flocked tool box



Re-flocked tray and original tray



Supplies needed



Restored tool tray