

DIY Soundproofing: Realistic?

According to Gene Shackelford of SoundEx, half of his company's multilayer sound damping, deadening and reflective product are sold to end users who install it for sign off under a mechanic's supervision (it doesn't fall under approved owner-conducted aircraft maintenance).

Step one is to choose a material that meets FAR Part 23.856 burn requirements so it can be installed in a production aircraft. For example, Super Soundproofing Foam Mat (and floor mat—black rolls shown below) is a closed cell vinyl-nitrile foam that will not absorb moisture,

sold by thickness and meets FAA burn requirements as does SoundEx's soundproofing shown below. Both are available through Aircraft Spruce (www.aircraftspruce.com).

While designed for SoundEx material, PlanePatterns (www.planepatterns.com) templates (the sample below is for Cessna 180s and 185s) are available for precise cutting of most soundproofing materials. Cost is \$45 per sheet—most airplanes require five to seven sheets.

Installation simply takes a little time and patience.

