MIDDLE EARTH TILES

The Sonite Story

Sonite comes out of the fashion industry - specifically the button trade.







Family Business

The family behind it have been suppliers to clothing businesses for over 50 years. Buttons and zips were and still are a big part of that via the Union Button and Zip Company.

High Tech Manufacturing

Most buttons today aren't shell or horn. They're polyester resin. You mix liquid resin with pigment, cast it into thin sheets, then cut, drill and polish millions of little pieces, and every batch has to match the last one exactly. High precision, design focused manufacturing.

Do that for long enough and you get very good at things. Colour matching. Casting resin thin and consistent. Getting a pearl or stone effect out of a synthetic material. Making tiny pieces in huge volumes to tight tolerances.

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The Sonite Story





Needing to be better - more colours, highest quality, faster

In the 1970s and 80s button machines could be set up to run for weeks at a time with little intervention. Then fast fashion changed the game. Brands stopped running a few big seasons a year and started turning collections over every few weeks. Orders got smaller, colours changed constantly, lead times shrank and the price pressure from China was relentless. Button makers either got flexible or got squeezed.





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The Sonite Story

Manufacturing and Product Innovation

The next generation of the family looked at that and asked a sensible question. We've got all this skill with resin and colour.

Where else could it be worth more than buttons ?











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The Sonite Story

This is essentially what Sonite is.

Sonite was developed from the ground up, over more than four years, with its own manufacturing technology, proprietary resin chemistry and distinctive mosaic forms.

The result is an exceptionally thin, lightweight polymer mosaic, just 2 mm thick, with the durability and flexibility to wrap curves, contours and complex surfaces with ease.





Installed in sheets using a protective face film, Sonite combines the practicality of a sheet mosaic with extraordinary creative freedom.

For more than two decades, Sonite has been used internationally to turn walls, curves and architectural surfaces into something genuinely distinctive.

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The Sonite Story

Inspiration - The answer came on a trip to France.

Standing in an old church, looking at a stained glass window the thinking was practical.

This is beautiful, but every piece was cut and set by hand. It's slow, it's expensive, and hardly anyone can do it anymore.





What if you made mosaic the way you make buttons?

Now the machines making the buttons can be making square red buttons in the morning and green square ones in the afternoon.

That innovation has been carried into the design and manufacturing ethos of Sonite Mosaics

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The Sonite Story

The background in button manufacturing is why it does things glass and ceramic can't

Colour - Over 300 colours, and they can match new ones. That's decades of colour matching at work.



**Sonite mosaic bathroom wall,
Waldorf Astoria Bangkok**

Shape and scale - Pieces as small as 5 mm, and not just squares.

Short runs or Long Runs - Fast fashion taught them to change over quickly, so a pattern for one project is normal for them. It isn't a special favour.

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The Sonite Story

Winning Awards since 2009

They patented it in Thailand and overseas. It took time to catch on, because nobody knew what to call it. It won the following awards







Hottest New Product at Coverings in the US

Material ConneXion in New York added it to their permanent collection in 2008.

Good Design Award (Japan): 2016 (Husk Collection), 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009

Demark Award and Good Design Award

Coverings Select Award, Hottest New Product (La Concha): 2009

Scarlet Opus Star Award, Best On Trend Product: 2011

Material Connexion library: accepted 2008

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More Awards

Prime Minister's Export Award: 2022
2011 to 2017: Thai Creative Awards, Decoasia Singapore, Design for Asia Hong Kong and Prime Minister's Business Enterprise Award

Sustainable Development

The innovation team revisited resin as a binder and started filling it with waste.

Rice husks first, then coconut fibre and ocean plastic. They buy the natural waste straight from farming communities.

It's come full circle, too. They've helped a fashion brand turn its discarded plastic buttons into marble-look tabletops.



Sonite Tabletop
Millennium
Hilton

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The Sonite Story

Choosing Sonite

So when you choose Sonite, you're getting a surface from people who've spent generations making small, precise, perfectly coloured things out of resin.

They just started putting them on walls.





Contact Us
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