

## Cooper Column

### Jesus the Mini saviour

And, in case you wondered, Jesus did come and visit me over Christmas... Now before I get into even more trouble, I will remind you that I am talking about Jesus Flores from FACORCA in Venezuela!

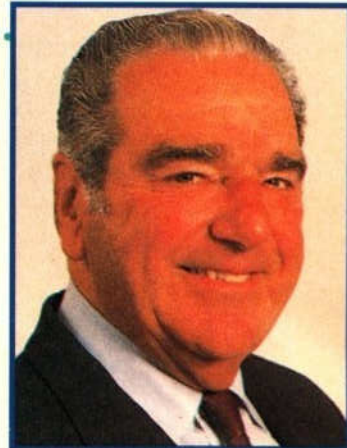
His company is producing the plastic-bodied Minis in Venezuela and by all accounts sales are going very well. We supply engine tuning kits for him and the car is called the John Cooper version, pictured here. If you look carefully you can see they have kept the front seams

down the A-pillar but have got rid of the guttering around the roof.

At present they still use the 1000cc engines but they are going over to the 1275cc engines later this year. The under-bonnet shot shows the John Cooper conversion and the necessary air conditioning. The cut-down picture also has the John Cooper conversion but presumably you don't then need the air conditioning! Interestingly, the glass fibre body is of similar weight to the metal version, but the

cars do seem a little quieter because the plastic deadens the sound a little.

Production is going well and I am glad to hear that Jesus says that the political and social situation is a lot better over there now, much more settled. They have even started exporting these Minis to Columbia so things must be looking up.



*John Cooper*



Perhaps not quite so tasteful is the convertible Mini from Venezuela with plastic add-ons to its plastic body...



Foreign visitors to the John Cooper Garages showroom early in 1995 have included Jesus Flores from Venezuela



The John Cooper version of the Venezuelan-built glass fibre-bodied Mini looks particularly smart. Under-bonnet is crammed with twin SU conversion and air-conditioning paraphernalia