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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Paul Beroff will be reviewing many aftermarket products in the upcoming issues of True Blue Trucks Magazine on his truck "The Ultimate F150 Project". If you have an item you would like to have Paul review, let us know.

The Motor City's Ultimate F-150 Project
 BY PAUL BEROFF, MICHIGAN
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pt. 2

The weeks have been flying by here in Motown and the Ultimate F150 project has received yet more incredible aftermarket accessories. For those new to True Blue Trucks magazine, the Ultimate F150 project truck was born from decades of desire to take the best-selling vehicle in America – the Ford F150, and metamorphose it right here in the Motor City (naturally) into the Ultimate F150 by assembling a group of some of the most innovative, useful and bold aftermarket accessories manufacturers from north America and hand-picking their best products to incorporate into this project truck. These product selections are still in the process of developing the unique character of this vehicle as we enter the second phase of the project. It is anticipated that PHASE III will be one of the biggest (literally) with products that will include a suspension lift, over-sized tires and wheels

from some of the biggest, most reputable names in the industry which will then dramatically alter the personality of this now nationally known "Ultimate F150." – Stay tuned!

As always, you can help steer

the design of our project by recommending products that you feel fit our F150 build or simply those you would like us to review. You can contact us through our project website located at www.UltimateF150.com.



PACE EDWARDS JACKRABBIT FULL METAL TONNEAU COVER:

One of the most useful additions to the Motor City's Ultimate F150 is the Pace-Edwards JackRabbit Tonneau Cover. For those of you on the fence on whether or not you should take the plunge on an item like this – the answer probably is YES. This is one of the few accessories that will be working for you 7x24x365. Right now, the Ultimate F150 is parked outside and the bed contents are being protected from the rain and from potential thieves. The full metal deck is made of tough powder coated aluminum panels that glide along the powder-coated side rails. There is a weather-protected lock on the top of the cover that secures the unit for key entry only. This cover protects my bed contents from the weather and thieves while parked and does the same while driving down the expressway with the added benefit – some say – of increased fuel economy. I

haven't measured this myself, as with the many hundreds of pounds of added accessories already bolted on to this project truck – I don't want to know what my mileage is!

The installation of the Pace-Edwards JackRabbit was simple. I have the factory bed liner installed (would love to upgrade to a tough-spray on liner) which required removal and some trimming up front to accommodate the roll canister. I performed the install without assistance and it took approximately 3-4 hours. The no-drill, clamp-in design was quick and easy and the finished product looks incredible! I also find the latching mechanism (top latches at 12" intervals) very useful.

My roll cover was obtained from the wonderful folks at www.RealTruck.com who are constantly running specials including sales discounts, free shipping, etc... a pleasure to work with!

Z-BENCH:

The manufacturer says, "For Fun or Work The Z-Bench® is The Perfect Tailgate Accessory" and I couldn't agree with them more. Z-Bench is the type of company that made America great. An entrepreneur in the prime of his life sees a

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need for a product that would benefit the owners of the best selling vehicles in America – pickup trucks. He designs, engineers and produces a very high quality, durable, innovative all-aircraft-grade aluminum gizmo -in America- that he names the Z-Bench. It installs on a tailgate and serves as a bench, table, step and cargo holder not to mention a conversation piece anytime you fold it down.

Installing the Z-Bench was quick and easy. I screwed in two aluminum brackets onto the top of my tailgate, lined up the lightweight Z-Bench, popped in the securing pins and the install was complete. Sometimes it's the little things that get my attention, and some of the items that came with my Z-Bench really go to show the kind of company they are – my kit included anti-theft screws (for the brackets) and a Master lock which is designed to work with the pins that secure the bench.

The Z-Bench is durable. It's designed to be strong and perform for many years with a 1,200 lb. rating. This is probably a good time to mention that it also takes a beating while functioning as a hockey puck deflector via your 15-year-old step son while you are away at your cabin and still looks and operates perfectly (can't say the same for the kid).

The Z-Bench has extendable legs that work on both lifted trucks and uneven terrain and can be completely removed from the tailgate in under a minute. If any reader knows of a good place to recommend a product and company for innovation awards, Z-Bench is definitely a contender. Visit them at www.Z-Bench.com – you will be glad you did.

IRON BULL BUMPERS:

Character, character, character—that's what a front bumper should shout out, and the folks at Iron Bull are doing it very well. They start by taking a heap of A36 de-scaled premium steel – almost 200 lbs of it, they then inject industrial strength growth hormone into the batch of molten steel, forge in the souls of powerful gods, pound-out a rugged design very suitable for the last battle of good and evil





and then drench it in something called Black Shield which is a very rough, scratch and dent resistant material with a rubberized feel to it. And there you have it, a perfect Iron Bull Bumper with a custom fit to your vehicle screaming with attitude. This bumper is definitely bold, it's rugged and it's tough.

The install went very well. I removed the factory bumper and trim piece, borrowed the help of my brother and his cherry picker and setup operation in the driveway. It was only minutes before curious neighbors were stopping over asking, "What the heck do you have there?!"

Within twenty-minutes we hoisted up the Iron Bull, gently lined it up and bolted it on. This bumper is setup to receive a concealed-style winch (which is on the way – read about it in the next issue of True Blue Trucks) and has four 5" light cutouts which I filled with the super-bright PIAA 510ATPs (www.PIAAUSA.com) utilizing my existing factory fog-light electrical.

For some of the craziest, toughest bumpers every built, visit www.IronBullBumpers.com.

HUSKY LINERS GEAR BOX:

A new product from Husky Liners is their under-the-rear seat storage box called the GearBox. It is engineered for your particular vehicle and made with a rigid and



durable substrate that has a soft noise-reducing surface to help minimize your cargo from shifting. The GearBox has a ton of room in it with its removable divided compartments and is a great way to keep your truck organized. www.HuskyLiners.com.

CUSTOM VINYL GRAPHICS:

I contacted one of the internet's largest online custom vinyl graphics retailers: www.CustomVinylGraphics.com and had them create custom website address graphics sporting our URL – www.UltimateF150.com to

be incorporated on our tailgate. Leanne, who was a pleasure to work with and very patient as well, suggested that I have her create a custom rear-window-wrap sporting the Motor City's Ultimate F150 logo graphic as well as the web address, etc. She worked with me on the variety of graphics, resolutions, sizes and more until we came up with our official "wrap" which is now displayed on the truck. It was fairly easy to install and I would definitely recommend an extra set of hands. Thankfully, the decal was forgiving as I pulled it off a couple of times to re-align it.

As with many of the products that have become part of the Motor City's Ultimate F150, you can visit us at www.UltimateF150.com for more information.

WHAT'S NEXT:

In the next issue of True Blue Trucks look for reviews these products (we're still shopping for tires, wheels and exhaust systems!)

- GoRecon Xtreme LED Tailgate Light Bar and side lighting
- HELLA USA hi-output lighting systems
- Truck Covers USA American Cargo Lights (bed lighting)
- Pace Edwards tailgate lock and seal
- MotoAlliance 12,000 lb Viper winch
- truck bed seating

See ya next issue! 🇺🇸

