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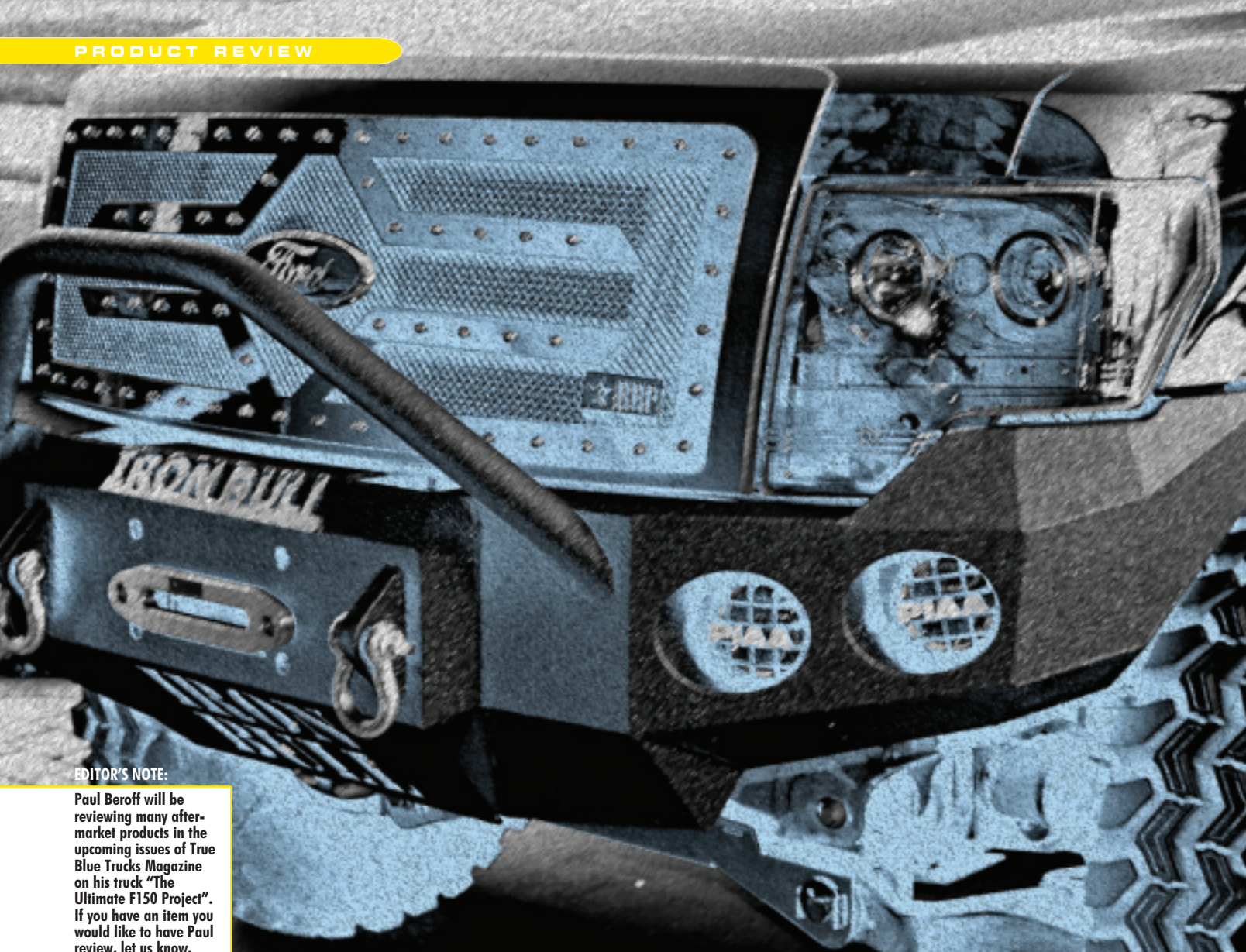
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**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

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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**Phase III**

As time continues to fly, our UltimateF150 project moves forward as well. To recap from previous Phases, the Ultimate F150 project truck was born from decades of desire to take the best-selling vehicle in America – the Ford F150—and metamorphosize it right here in the Motor City 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 third phase of our project. 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](http://www.UltimateF150.com) where you can also bring yourself up to speed on the variety of products which are part of this project including reviews, photos, video and installation notes.

**DUAL REAR-EXIT PERFORMANCE EXHAUST SYSTEM:**

When it came time to shop for the perfect exhaust system for our Motor City's Ultimate F150 project truck we had several options. We had an idea of what we wanted: a high-quality, catalytic converter-back, stainless steel, dual-rear-exit system that had a controlled yet monstrous sound but at the same time did not permit an excess of sound penetrating into the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Most of us have heard the names of the top few players in the aftermarket exhaust realm – but for the UltimateF150 one stands above the others - BORLA – "The World's

Most Winning Exhaust" and it was quickly decided that BORLA was the perfect choice for our F150. As with most things in life, you usually get what you pay for and when it comes to premium aftermarket





exhaust systems, BORLA is no exception.

From working with their friendly and very knowledgeable staff, the fast shipping and meticulous packaging to the made in the USA aircraft-quality T-304 stainless steel, gorgeously buffed exhaust tips and incredibly easy and quick installation – this cat-back dual-rear-exit BORLA exhaust was going to completely change the UltimateF150 – adding a new dimension to the project by appealing to our sense of sound – and WOW does it sound great!

Since our project truck only had 10,000 miles on it, it was fairly easy to remove the stock exhaust. But to call the factory exhaust removal easy, I'm making it difficult to describe the actual installation of the BORLA system so I'll put it like this: The BORLA kit was engineered so that someone with zero mechanical ability could have installed it in their driveway with only a socket wrench (which is exactly what I did). Working alone, this install couldn't have taken me more than fifteen to twenty minutes.

I leveled the beefy exhaust tips, tightened the last bolt and with eager anticipation called the UltimateF150 Crew out to the driveway to listen to the new vocals of our favorite truck. The key was turned, the 5.4L V8 roared to life as the exhaust now effortlessly flowed through the stainless steel BORLA pipes rumbling out as it exited the shiny dual tips. The sound is just perfect! It's exactly what we were hoping for. It's a



sophisticated, powerful soundtrack at idle and when stepping on the gas a bit it really roars to life. With all I have mentioned thus far, I have failed to bring up the performance benefits – which for us are just frosting on the cake. A 5-15% increase in horsepower is not uncommon as well as an increase in fuel economy – all of this and a Million Mile Warranty to top it off! To learn everything you ever wanted to know about exhaust systems and what sets BORLA apart visit their well-constructed and informative website at [www.BORLA.com](http://www.BORLA.com)

### MOTOWN ROCK & ROLL!

There are some really cool things about Detroit. Obviously those of you reading this are auto enthusiasts and the reason you have True Blue Trucks magazine in your hands right now is probably due to the fact you are an American truck fan—specifically Ford—and thus you know Detroit is the home to the Ford World Headquarters. As a matter of fact the world's best-selling vehicle – the Ford F150 – is rolling down the assembly line just a few miles from where I'm writing this article.

So yes, we are the Motor City but we are also the home to something else – something that is so common place that at times it goes forgotten, but the Motor City is also the home and birthplace of more than just the automobile — we are also the birthplace to rock and roll/music! We have Aretha Franklin, Madonna, Mitch Ryder, the Motor City Madman himself – Ted Nugent (Ted is a Ford guy – loves his Broncos. Ted drop me an email when you read this!) Bob Seger, Alice Cooper, The White Stripes, Eminem and Kid Rock not to mention the up and coming local sensation Point Blank and many, many more.

So what's the point? The point is that the Motor City's Ultimate F150 Project needed an upgrade to the sound system so we turned to the name synonymous with adrenaline pumping, raging-loud sound machines – Kicker audio!

For the front door replacement speakers we went with the Kicker DS6802 6" x 8" Component Speaker System. The main 6" x 8" was a quick swap but I had to drill a small hole right above the power

“  
It's all juiced by a powerful internal amplifier with digital signal processing for the richest, best-sounding docking system I have ever heard or even imagined possible.”



window buttons to accommodate the Dome Tweeter. For rear door replacements we went with the Kicker KS680 series 6" x 8" coaxials & 3-way, added a Kicker 12" subwoofer enclosure (TCTVT12) under the rear seat and tied it all together with the Kicker ZA series 1000W amp (ZX7005) which we mounted behind the rear seat bolting it on to the rear wall.

The Kicker components are interfaced with the stock Ford SYNC CD AM/FM head unit. The sound improvement over the stock speakers is mind blowing. Our

plans are to replace the stock head unit soon with a double din DVD stereo with Bluetooth audio streaming and perhaps navigation – suggestions are welcome.

I do have to mention another product I included in our project. It's called the Kicker i501 iPhone / iPod dock and I figured it would come in very handy at all of the shows and events that the Motor City's Ultimate F150 Project would be participating in. This compact device absolutely blew me away with its incredibly rich sound! But not just me... everyone who walks into the room while I have the ik501 pumping out the jams are flabbergasted by the HUGE sound it spews out. Still portable and loud, the iK501 features the outrageous, square-shaped reflex subwoofer on the back of the unit, along with a pair of five-inch woofers and silk-dome tweeters. It's all juiced by a powerful internal



amplifier with digital signal processing for the richest, best-sounding docking system I have ever heard or even imagined possible. I really can't say enough about the sound this little guy is capable of. If you are in the market for something like this for your den, game room, garage or to take to events like us, you will be EXTREMELY pleased (to say the least – really) with the Kicker ik501. [www.Kicker.com](http://www.Kicker.com)

**PRIORITY ONE EMERGENCY:**

When the time came to implement a vehicle anti-theft and security system, we didn't have to look far. Priority One Emergency is the Detroit area's largest and most trusted name when it comes to upgrading police and fire department vehicles to tow trucks and show vehicles.

Priority One does it all and they do it very well. I have had personal experience with them for many years and their quality of work far exceeds anything I have seen. Their expert crew are meticulous with such things as routing wiring, making solid electrical connections, fabricating brackets or enclosures and just going that extra mile. They pride themselves on doing it right and it shows.

Now I have to be careful here discussing what exactly they did for our vehicle, but I can tell you that the Motor City's Ultimate F150 has several kill switches along with some very cool, ultra-modern and

advanced hi-tech security systems that make me sleep well at night knowing it will still be parked where I left it (that is if I ever left it outside!) [www.Priority1Emergency.com](http://www.Priority1Emergency.com)

**RANCH HAND BUMPER:**

We shopped for a rear bumper for weeks and finally decided to install the Summit from Ranch Hand Truck Accessories. The Summit back bumper is designed with the type of quality and workmanship that our Ultimate F150 Project strives for. This durable bumper is made from formed channel and has diamond plated step plates and skirts. Ranch hand even went the extra step and ships this bumper standard with black powder coat finish along with backup/work lights. Our Ranch Hand bumper also came with two lights for the license plate, and holes for those of you with backup sensors. All nuts and bolts were included along with plugs for the backup sensor holes for those of us that do not have that factory option. [www.RanchHand.com](http://www.RanchHand.com)

**DRIVETRAIN UPGRADE:**

With eager anticipation we at the Motor City's Ultimate F150 Project await the rapidly approaching six-inch suspension lift installation and upgrade to the much larger tires and wheels. With these upgrades the stock 3.55 axle gearing ratio would no longer be appropriate and it was time to upgrade

the ring and pinion in both axles of our 4x4.

For nearly a decade-and-a-half, Drive Train Specialists (DTS) has been THE place to go for hardcore drivetrain solutions. DTS is the kind of place with all the high-performance parts and all the hard-won knowledge required to successfully deploy hardcore applications. I felt confident leaving our project truck with them for the day while they upgraded our ring and pinion to a set of 4.56's. This new gearing will easily accommodate our 37" Super Swampers. Visit them at [www.DriveTrainSpecialists.com](http://www.DriveTrainSpecialists.com).

**PHASE IV – COMING NEXT:**

Before completing the writing of this article, we also completed a few other things that we are very excited to share with the True Blue Trucks readers in the next issue. We have installed the custom 6" Superlift suspension system which makes the Motor City's Ultimate F150 just one of three on the planet with this setup. This allowed room for 20" wheels and 37" tires which we are going to discuss in detail next issue. The truck looks absolutely incredible if I do say so myself. Other upgrades will at the very least include a new custom grille, blackened out headlights and a massive winch. As always, visit us at [www.UltimateF150.com](http://www.UltimateF150.com) to track updates, read product reviews and more! 