



True Blue Ford Trucks

Out with The Other Woman

Building a Race Truck on a Paper Boy's Budget

magazine

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PRODUCT REVIEWS

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.

With the warm Michigan summer firmly in place, it's a great time to show you what we have been busy with here in Motown.

But first, a quick overview: The Ultimate F-150 project was born from decades of desire to take the best-selling vehicle in America – the Ford F-150—and metamorphose it right here in the Motor City into the Ultimate F-150 by assembling a group of some of the most innovative, useful, and bold aftermarket accessories manufacturers from north America, 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 yet another phase of our project. In this Phase V article, you will read about some incredible products from USA companies that together have helped develop the spirit of this truck. As always, you can help steer the design of our project by recommending products that you feel fit our F-150 build

or simply those you would like us to review. You can contact us through our project website located at www.UltimateF150.com where you can also bring yourself up to date on the variety of products which are already part of this project including reviews, photos, video and installation notes.

ALL SALES MANUFACTURING, INC.

For a guy or gal that wants to add some bling to their truck (or car) but has a tight budget to work within, the very high quality products from All Sales Manufacturing may be your answer. AMI produces what they coined, "Billet



The Motor City's Ultimate F-150 Project

BY PAUL BEROFF, MICHIGAN, INFO@ULTIMATEF150.COM

Phase V

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Candy for your Ride" and that's exactly what it is. They have a large selection of items with everything from door and tailgate handles to fuel doors and stylish antennas for the exterior to dash accents, door sills and pedal pads for the interior.

We outfitted our truck with the AMI "Big Stick" Antennae which has a solid shaft and stands just over a foot in length (several sizes are available). We also installed the AMI black locking fuel door that is crafted from solid T6 aircraft aluminum. Both items are high quality and dressed up the Ultimate F-150 nicely. Installation is a snap – five minutes for both (www.AllSalesMfg.com).

AL'S LINER

This is a very cool product and I had a lot of fun installing it. I shopped and shopped online for the perfect do-it-yourself spray in bed liner and all signs pointed to Al's. Don't let the fact that it doesn't have a snazzy name fool you (sorry Al), it is a fantastic premium-grade truck bed liner kit designed for the do-it-yourselfer.

Al's Liner is the first and only urethane/acrylic DIY bed liner that can actual-



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Prepping the pickup bed was easy, I first removed our factory bed liner. I then roughed up the entire surface with the



supplied cup brush on an air sander. I then wiped everything clean with denatured alcohol. Next was a quick misting with the included Al's Liner primer which we let set for 10-15 minutes. During this time I poured all three Al's Liner components together and added the black tint. Mixing was easy because Al was thoughtful enough to include a mixing paddle for insertion into a drill.

Now it was a matter of setting the air compressor to about 30psi, pouring the gorgeous sludge into the hopper of the Al's Liner spray gun and getting busy... and that's exactly what I did. Besides priming a '78 Mustang twenty-five years ago and blasting some drywall "knock-

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time. I mixed up the second batch like the first, and loaded the spray gun hopper – this time much more confident than my first application. I began spraying. About fifteen seconds had passed when I realized the hopper was not secured to the spray gun. I realized this because I watched in absolute terror as it popped off the gun and essentially became a one-gallon funnel! The good news is I didn't waste one drop of the mixture as it all poured directly into the pickup bed! Yikes! Time literally stood still, the sounds of the air compressor cycling becoming dimmer and dimmer as it was replaced by the thumping of my pounding heart. I remember thinking, "You just ruined your truck. Stay calm, you can fix this if you stay calm (you idiot!)" Al's starts to solidify in 10-15 minutes so I had to work fast. I grabbed some quart-sized containers and started gathering the spilled product mopping it up with rags. I wiped up as much as I could and then poured it back into the hopper this time holding it securely to the gun while I began spraying again. Al's Liner was flexible enough for me to correct my error and it still looks great!

One last thing I loved about the Al's Liner kit... cleanup was a snap. The spray gun is all that needs cleaning and if you let the product sit overnight, you can easily peel it off the hopper and gun especially if you smeared a light coat of Vaseline on it prior to use.

This is an awesome product and I can't wait to shoot other things with it like tool boxes, shop cabinets, my UTV. I will probably use it for sound deadening also as there are some cool additives available for this too. Check out their very informative website at www.AlsLiner.com.

OPTIMA BATTERIES

When it came to selecting unparalleled power, a high-performance AGM battery was a must and the always reliable, legendary OPTIMA RedTop was our next stop. The RedTop is well known throughout the industry to both outperform and outlast traditional lead-acid demanding cranking and starting applications, and besides all that it looks cool. With the growing number of electronics installed on our project truck, we also ordered a BlueTop marine and RV OPTIMA



battery that we will be incorporating into the project soon – perhaps installed in the bed for some added juice (www.OptimaBatteries.com).

UNDERCOVER

While exploring all bed cover and tonneau options on the market our attention was quickly grabbed by another fine Made-In-The-USA company – UnderCover. Undercover manufactures several innovative products, two of which we decided to make a part of our Ultimate F-150 – the UnderCover SE Tonneau and SwingCase storage boxes.

Our UnderCover products were eagerly ordered and promptly arrived shortly thereafter. Upon reviewing the

selection. UnderCover is ALL about value and high quality. I personally installed the tonneau and two storage boxes (one on each side of the bed) in under 30 minutes. The UnderCover SE Tonneau is lightweight, rugged and is easy to initially install and totally brainless to remove and pop back in. There were some nice surprises with this product as the folks at UnderCover kept us customers in mind when they decided to add a bright, battery powered light under the cover to light up the pickup bed when needed and they even included a set of hangers designed to suspend the cover on a garage wall when removed from the vehicle. As a working hard consumer, I really like and appreciate when a company goes that little extra step for their customers – Thanks UnderCover!

We also installed the UnderCover SwingCase storage box. This innovative storage box is lightweight, strong, lock-

I'm even thinking of installing some outside speakers in it. The SwingingCase includes an internal tray and is also pad-lock loop for extra security. This was a very welcomed addition to our truck and will come in very handy at all of our upcoming shows and public events (www.UnderCoverInfo.com).

UPCOMING REVIEWS

We really got moving and launched out of the gates this past spring. Several very exciting items have already been installed and we'll be taking photos and writing about them for our next product review article. They will include (at the very least) a hard-core winch, light bar and lighting, tail lights, spare tire carrier and a world-famous off road jack with a very cool mounting method. Stay tuned and visit often to see what has been recently added at www.UltimateF150.com



able, easy to install and is out-of-the-way making very good use of the bed space. It's no wider than the wheel well and installs between it and the tailgate and leaves approximately 2" of clearance between the bottom of the case and the truck bed. By pulling a simple lever, the SwingCase does exactly that – it swings out toward the tailgate of the truck providing easy access to the contents. It is great for storing tools, camping and sports gear.



instructions and examining the product parts we soon realized we made another very satisfying product and company

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