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ARB Rear Bumpers and Swing Away Tire Carriers

Seattle, WA - For the past 30 years, ARB 4x4 Accessories has provided 4 wheelers around the world with the very best winch bars available. Now, after an exhaustive development and testing program, the design principles that earned the company an enviable reputation for frontal vehicle protection, have now been applied to a range of rear bumpers and swing away tire and jerry can carriers.

While there are many rear bumpers on the market, the new ARB system achieves unprecedented levels of fit, finish, and ease of operation. ARB's Director of Engineering and Marketing, Andy Brown, states... "Our rear bumper development program was instigated as a result of years of feedback from customers regarding their dissatisfaction with similar products on the market. Difficulty in operation was the overwhelming criticism, mainly due to the amount of brute force required to open and close the carriers themselves."

The new ARB rear bumpers are the result of one of the biggest development programs in the company's history. The project was headed by one of ARB's master design engineers, Peter Anderson, who has been designing ARB protection equipment for over 27 years. The very first component that was developed was the latch mechanism that releases and closes the carriers. Anderson states... "A fundamental design parameter was to make the wheel carrier as easy to operate as a car door, and that is exactly what we have achieved."



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Numerous prototypes were developed, before the final design was agreed upon. What came next was a gruelling testing program that would ensure the new rear bumper was able to withstand the harshest conditions experienced in the Australian Outback. ARB approached a mechanical and environmental laboratory used by the Australian Army for evaluating the structural integrity of military vehicles. The facility's Random Vibration Platform simulated the effect 15,000 miles of continuous corrugated roads would have on the rear bumper. Competitors' products were also tested, to see the effect this punishment would have on other rear bumpers. Next came in-field testing, with prototypes fitted to several vehicles operating regularly in off road environments.

This two year development program has culminated in a range of rear bumpers, incorporating wheel and jerry can carrier options, for the Toyota LandCruiser 100 Series and Nissan GR Patrol, with this range set to expand in the future.

ARB rear bumpers have provision to accommodate up to two tires or a tire and a jerry can holder, and will accept twin 33 inch tyres or a single 35 inch tire. The convenient multi fit spare wheel stud system means that alternative rim styles can be selected, without the expense of extra parts. If two carriers are not necessary, a single carrier can be fitted, or the bumper can be fitted without any carriers whatsoever (neat insert panels are used instead).

Slight pressure applied to a lever opens each carrier with a gas strut assisting this process. The strut holds the carrier in the open position, with engagement of a locking pin only being necessary if the vehicle is on an extreme side angle. The carrier can be closed with a simple "slam shut", with the spring loaded locking pin automatically disengaging as soon as the weight is released. The rear bumpers have a number of other practical features, incorporating Hi-Lift jacking points and a heavy duty towing system, complete with removable hitch and terminated wiring loom.



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They will also accept a number of functional accessories including a Hi-Lift jack holder, camp light and HF aerial bracket. A lock nut secures the spare wheel to the stud plate, and an optional padlock then locks the stud plate to the carrier. Supplied in a grey metallic powdercoat, the rear bars can be colour matched to the vehicle.

Andy Brown sums up ARB's new rear bumpers... "Customers now have the ability to provide the rear of their 4WD with a similar level of protection to the front. In addition, spare wheels, jerry cans, Hi-Lift jacks and camp lights can all be mounted, without hindering access to the back of the vehicle."

But perhaps Australian 4WDTV presenter Simon Christie summed it up best when viewing an ARB rear bumper fitted to a Nissan Patrol... "It's just damn sexy".

Along with the new rear bumpers, ARB also has a variety of other 4x4 gear available, including winch bars, Old Man Emu suspension, Air Lockers, and a whole range of general accessories.

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