



UTV Off-Road
MAGAZINE

TRUCK BUILD

BY DAMON FLIPPO
STAGE 3

“Building a Tow Vehicle” New Truck Gate, Front Light Bar and Nerf Bars.

Man, I'll tell you what, the Tow Rig is coming along great. All the stuff we have done so far has been for performance and stance to help us when we are in the dirt and sand. Cognito's Suspension has been put to the test, used in daily commute and used in some extreme off-road conditions. Cognito will tell you don't jump your truck, (and I will, too) but as it so happens, I was traveling down a dirt road relatively fast (faster than I should have), and boy am I thankful for that suspension. All of the performance mods from Superchips, Airaid and Gibson have made it a workhorse and a really fun and powerful 6.0 liter. So now it's time to make it easier to get into and easier to carry a full-size spare without it flying around in the bed.

First thing we did was back the truck up in the driveway and get ready to install the tire gate. Laying out all the parts as we took them out of the box made it easy to know what we were doing.



Following the instructions, we removed the tailgate and all the hardware, placing parts in a bag so we can reinstall them if need be. Then we removed the taillights being held in place by 2 screws each, and unplugged the bulbs from them.

Next we placed the right upright in place using the provided hardware with the kit, and installed the lower tube and left upright in place. Now tighten up the bolts and get ready to install the gate itself.

Installing the gate is easy, as it is one piece. We chose to mount ours outward, so we placed it in place and installed the provided shims and bolts on the left side to swing it open. On the right side, we installed the lock pins and added the supplied caps for all tubes.

This makes carrying a full-size spare very easy and doesn't take up bed space. Once the 35" tire and 20" wheel was put in place, the gate opens easily and is secured down with locking lugs and a supplied cable to lock it on.





Next we installed the N-Fab side bars and Prerunner front light bar, first thing to do is remove the front license plate hold downs and set the Prerunner bar up in place using the 2 center bolts as a guide and marking the outside ones.

Next using a 1/2" drill bit enlarge the center holes on the bumper and drilling holes where you marked them.



Using the supplied bolts and washers install them from the back side thru the bumper, start them in the bar and tighten them down. It has room on it to install 3 8" lights if wanted.



Now its time to get the side bars on, we chose the wheel to wheel ones with the additional step to be able to get into the bed. First thing to do is get help and hold them up in place mark your outer where they meet the pinch molds.

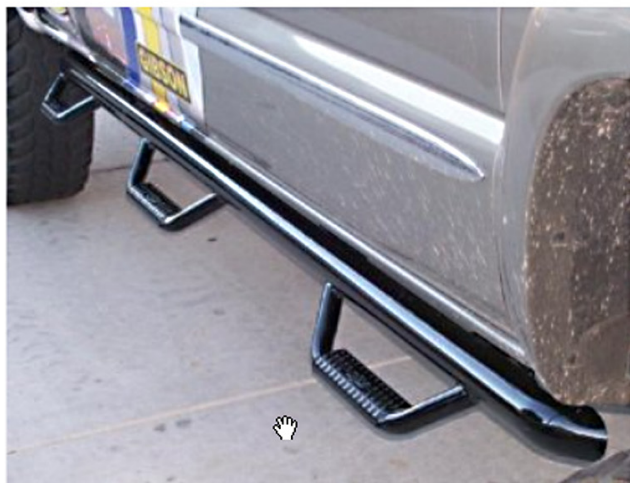
Next drill them using a 3/8" drill bit on all 6 holes. Placing them back up in place use the supplied carriage bolts insert them and tighten them up. Repeat the same thing on the passenger side.



Finally if you want for more security using them as rock guards also use self tapping screws in the back side upper supports, first making sure that there are no wires under the door seals by taking them off before drilling.



I must say that the N-Fab Prerunner Bar and Nerf bars are quality product and are easy to install taking about hour and a half. The guys over at Tiregate made a quality product that is functional and looks great also. We will keep everyone informed as we use



them and want to thank both N-Fab and Tiregate for helping with the product and supplying us with these.