

Adam Stander

Drawer system for a 98 Prado

I bought our families first 4x4 about 3 months ago.

The Prado does not have a closed packing space and I decided to buy a packing system. After looking at the inflated prices of systems I decided to rather build something myself.

I had a general idea of what I wanted, but still did not know exactly how or from what.

The idea: Lose the jumpseats and fit the system on the anchor points of the jumpseats.

The first option was wood, cheap and easy to work with, but heavy.

For interest sake I went to a scrap metal dealer to see what they had as off cuts or scrap.

They had aluminum extrusions and tread plate, enough to complete my project.

I can't do aluminum welding and decided on using pop rivets.

My system: Scrap metal aluminum only @ R20/kg (10Ton metals)

Parts bought: 2x Handles @ R32 each (Silverton Canopy Centre)

2x Locks @R30 each (Silverton Canopy Centre)

2x Slider sets (900mm) @ R110 each (rated at 40kg only) (Gelmar)

Rivets @ +/-R50 (Silverton Bolt & Nut)

Cutting discs: +/- 15 @ R10 each (Silverton Bolt & Nut)

Flap discs: 2 @ R25 each (Silverton Bolt & Nut)

Drill bits: +/- R30 (Silverton Bolt & Nut)

Weight: 38kg plus 2 folding tables of 6kg each, total of 50kg.

Total cost: R1,600 (excluding the beer needed for completion)

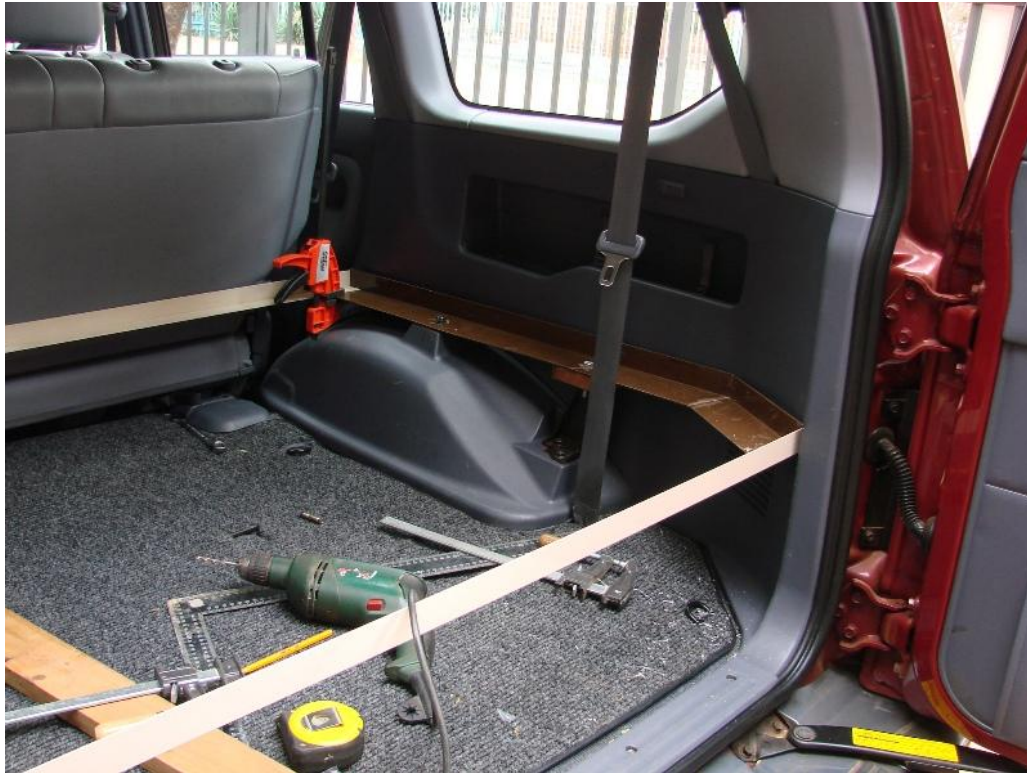
When starting, I didn't consider ammo cases as 4 Wolfpacks would not fit very well.

I therefore decided to just make the drawers as big as possible, space permitting.

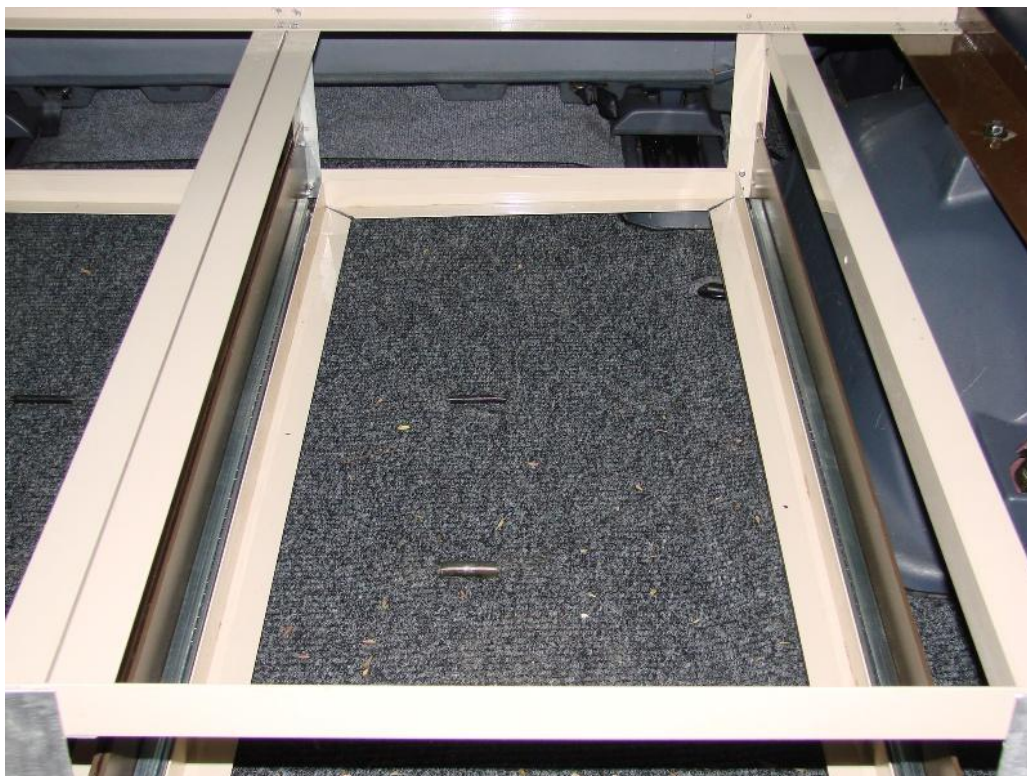
I had a rough plan on paper, without measurements or details.

I started by building the main frame inside the van after removing the jumpseats.





After the top frame the rest of the structure was completed from the top down in the van. The biggest worry: Would I be able to remove the complete structure as it was a very tight fit? Just, just if turned at 45degrees, but 1 man can do it, 2 makes the task easy.



Next, the start of the drawers and top floor which would be the new loading base.



Flaps in the sides are for access to the wasted space (lots!) behind the wheel arches.



While completing the drawers I found ammo cases that fit into the drawers perfectly, 3 in a row, but unfortunately my drawers were about 10mm too shallow. Well, come hell or high water, I made them fit.



Now I just need 3 more such cases for the other drawer!

Some other things also fitted perfectly, like my 25l water tanks.



On the top floor I added 2 fold up tables, made of the off cuts and pieces I had left over.



My wife's old Dolphin shaped BMW boot mechanism gave me the inspiration for the fold away feet, that add immense stability to my table design.



The tables are very sturdy with no wobble or sagging
Table size is 95x48cm so together they're nearly 1sq m.

Even under immense stress. ☺



Further modifications to be made on the system in the next 2 months involve:

Fridge slider: A removable bracket over the right-hand table in order to fit a fridge.

I have to buy the fridge first though.

Jump seats: The plan is to refit the seats on top of the system as the van is used daily.

With kids and their friends we need the extra seats

Inverter: As I have a dual battery system in the front I would like to get 220V in the back.

Just left or right of the drawers, are little covers, on which to mount the plugs.

Maybe even fixing a compressor and have the outlet on the plates.....