

What happons to a specially modificed Detender 130 when it imally reaches the end oftis worting lifer why it gets talken on theadventure of alifetime
PHOTOS TOM WOOO WOROS OFNCARROL


in a Land Rover, taking around a year. So when Simon found this 130 Crew Cab for sale at Douglass Motors of Wimborne in Dorset, it seemed ideal. The 130 wasn't prepared for expeditions, so it had to be completely ovechauled to make it suitable for the trip. Over the course of the following months, the vehicle benefited from a host of upgrades and accessories, many of which were fitted by Marcus and Paul at Douglass Motors. The previously replaced 300Tdi engine was treated to a bigger intercooler and an air-conditioning pump so that Megan's desire for air conditioning could be fulfilled. The axles were rebuilt and fitted with stronger halfshafts before being installed on new suspension, and a reconditioned gearbox was installed after the original failed.

Then, with both function and style in mind, the truck was treated to a set of aftermarket steel wheels with BF Goodrich All Terrain LT285/75R16 tyres including two spares, a stecring guard and a Warn Powerplant winch in a winch bumper. The Powerplant acts as both a winch and supplies compressed air for inflating tyres. The spares are carried on a pair of opposing swingaway wheel carriers.
Behind the Shadow sill protector steps are a pair of additional tanks - one for diesel and the other for water - that were installed underneath. The water tank supplies the water for cooking and showering, while an electric pump transfers the fuel from

the auxiliary tank into the Defender's regular fuel tank. The beauty of these underfloor tanks is that they keep the centre of gravity low for stability on and off surfaced roads. That said, some equipment has been fitted to the roof on two separate roof racks (one on the cab and the other on the load pod), including the Overland Autohome roof tent, a box for the sleeping bags and some recovery equipment. Chequerplate wing top and bonnet protectors and a neat, cab-mounted folding step aid access to the roof tent which, of course, has its own access ladder once it's been erected. The 130's new accessories also include a snorkel, some spotlights, light guards, a bull bar and a wing-mounted shovel. Reading this list, you could be forgiven for thinking that this


Above topr a novel cab-mounted foldim steps helown a hidtu safe to lock away any valuables




Hannibal awning that is mounted on the roof rack, with sides that fasten in when required. The fridge, a Webasto heater and all the electronic communication aids, are located behind the tinted glass inside the cab, alongside the retro-fitted air-conditioning unit. The offside was also cut open and fitted with a top-hung flap. Inside this are shelves and a wardrobe hanging area that means that the couple's clothes and shoes can be conveniently stored.

## (0) ISI: D) शर्रोD): 1

## Twin roof racks offer considerable carrying capacity


a shower curtain will provide a degree of privacy. Among the useful knowledge picked up on the practice trips was the fact that the cover of the roof tent was prone to fraying in regular use, so Simon had reinforcing panels stitched in to ensure longevity.
As Simon talked through the modifications to the Land Rover, his casual manner belied the thought and planning that has gone into both the


Above left: the sills hide two auxiliary tanks for water and diesel; above right: the central storage area

Northern Territory, Australia. Simon said he'd been looking at numerous websites about overland travel - such as horizonsunlimited.com - and that they'll use laptops to keep up with friends and family. The couple were planning to leave soon after these photographs were taken on Dartmoo and, by the time this feature appears in LRO, they'll be well on their way everything goes according to plan.
As I write this, Simon's blog reveals that overlanding by Land Rover is never an exact science.
He says: 'With a little over a week tri go, things are getting a little frantic. Outstanding items:

1) Carnet not yet received from RAC
2) Still trying to source a water filter for the drinking water supply
3) Rear brakes on the Land Rover to to fix as they have just started leaking - brilliant
4) No travel insurance
5) No car insurance
6) Still waiting to hear the price of shipping the truck from Iran to India
7) International driving licence not yet sorted
8) A number of Lonely Planet guides still outstanding.
Hopefully by Wednesday of next week, we will have a big tick next to 90 per cent of the above items. If not, Megan and I might not be talking to one another as, apparently, I should have done most of these things months ago, but that wouldn't be the Maple way. Last minute panic, that's the way 1 like it.'
You can keep up with Simon and Megan's progress by visiting trektooz.com. [10

