

Rear Step Bumper

Bob Brauch

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Howdy & and welcome! This is our inaugural product review column reporting on a trick looking pre-runner styled Heavy Duty Rear Step Bumper , loaned to yours truly for the test and report by the fine folks at Adventure Accessories / Lynch HUMMER. Look for the ad on Adventure Accessories website (www.adventureaccessories.com) in the Exterior Enhancements area. The bumper item number is 6500-6, had a listed price of \$949.00 at my last look, and shows an optional Aluminum Skid Plate for \$200.00.



The subject bumper arrived strapped to a wooden pallet. Weighing about 150lbs, it was freight delivered off the back of a short trailer semi by a grateful for the help driver. A quick side note about big stuff being shipped to ~~our~~ our place; the delivery truck will need room to get in and out, and you will need to be there to lend a hand and sign the freight bill.

After cutting the banding straps holding the bumper and hardware box to the pallet, the heft and quality of construction of the bumper became apparent. Most of the hardware supplied was plated Grade 8, including all critical attachment bolts. None of the hardware removed from the factory bumper is reused except for a couple of sundry fasteners attaching the trailer lighting connector.



The bumper bolts up in a truly no-brainer fashion, which is a good thing since instructions were not provided. A quick conversation with Jim Bushart at Lynch indicated instructions are not included. Jim mentioned most of these units have been installed at their place and an instruction sheet never came up. It helps to have a strong helper on the initial mounting because of the weight. I, of course, chose the difficult way. To do this solo, use two of the longest bolts and nuts on the bumper mounting plate as alignment pins and temporary hangers until two additional bolts can be placed to secure the bumper to the truck frame brackets. Don't tighten any hardware till all of it is in place.

Getting specific, the test vehicle is my 95 4-door soft top with a factory heavy duty rear bumper with outer D Ring positions, tow package, round pin trailer lighting connector, and, a custom spare tire carrier and tow pintle.



Later model HUMMERS do not incorporate outer D Ring mounts in the factory bumper, nor allow the use of a tow pintle due to the design of the factory tow package receiver hitch. Late model owners need to consider this when referring to some pros and cons listed a bit later. The bumper is secured by 12 bolts to the existing left and right truck frame brackets and an additional four bolts by the receiver hitch mount and associated support brackets.



The existing factory D Ring cast metal brackets are reused, outer bumper to frame reinforcements are not. Loss of these reinforcement brackets is first of several small disappointments. Couple this loss with an unsupported tubular bumper extending approximately 1 outside the bodywork, add a serious tight space snag, and a permanent kink will result. I also lament not having outer D Ring positions. There are tabs to mount the factory license plate bracket and light, but it leaves the lower corner of the license plate vulnerable to damage. The biggest gripe is dealing with having to engineer mounts for spare tire and/or can carriers. On the bright side, it was great to retain a frame mounted tow pintle for my M105A1 trailer, and a receiver hitch pintle adaptor will fit for late model owners. The Step Bumper adds several inches of overall length to the vehicle (not including any spare tire dimension), which may affect droptover off a ledge, but doesn't seemingly alter departure angle. In trail use, it never snagged, but I did manage to scratch one of the outer ends against a squeeze point in the rocks. There were a number of bolts and four square tube brackets leftover after the install, but these may have been included to cover all model variants.





The step IS what it is advertised for, and is wonderful, albeit tall. One of our compatriots on the rock incident was collecting some fair sized specimens of granite, and having the step to stand upon while loading rocks on a bed rack made things much easier. Getting to wagon roof racks just has to be easier too. Solicited and unsolicited comments from HUMMER and lesser 4x4 owners concerning the appearance were 100% positive.