

## NO FARM GATE

DO you need a bullbar for your Dacia? Probably not, since the Romanian vehicle is not readily available in Australia, not even from John Hughes. But AFN has some accessories for it and a whole lot of other vehicles, including all the 4WDs on the Australian market.

The Euro-based company is a global operation that takes a modern approach to its products, taking into consideration the vehicle's design so that its bullbars, for instance, look like a standard factory part, rather than a farm gate welded onto the bumper.

'A well designed bar is a fine balance between strength, overhung weight and aesthetics and with AFN we put a lot of effort into getting this balance correct,' the company says. All AFN bullbars are Australian Design Rules compliant and the same goes for its rear bars, side steps, rear step-bars and aluminium underbody



protection plates. The bullbars don't need the original bumper to be modified, and recovery points, hi-lift jacking points and winch mounts are standard, likewise dual antennae and driving light mounts. They have a satin powder coat finish and come with recessed fog and indicator lights. There's a lot more to this brand, so it's well worth checking its products out, whether you have a Dacia or not. AFN 4x4 Australia is the Oceania partner of AFN Portugal which fired up 21 years ago to supply vehicle protection gear for the military and the UN before applying its expertise to the 4WD sector.

## MORPHING MOUNT

DON'T you wish you could buy adjustable clothes?

Imagine being able to squeeze into jeans with a 34-inch waist and then just click a few bits to get the leg measurement just right.

Those 34s invariably come with 32-inch legs, which is a bugger if you have 30-inch legs. Or 33, 34 and so on.

And there's zero option. So you buy them at sale price and off you go to a jeans custom shop, aka tailor or alterations specialist, where you'll pay

an extra \$30 or so to get them trimmed to size.

And yes, of course you can wait while they do the work.

So you sit in a cubicle in your undies for 'arf an hour and eventually your \$100 jeans end up costing you \$130. What a bargain.

Which brings us to a real good sense product: a fridge slide that perfectly fits your Engel, Luna, Waeco, Evakool, Freezomatic or ChillyWilly. It's from Clearview Accessories and it's cunningly called the Expanda fridge slide.

Its length adjusts every 25mm from 670mm to 870mm and the width every 20mm from 380mm to 540mm. In other words, it's expandable or shrinkable to fit as tight as Speedos on Kim Kardashian's bum.

That way you can be sure the ever-changing size and shape of portable fridges won't matter at all if you have an Expanda. Of course, it will do the same for toolboxes, generators, barbecues or whatever else you have rattling about in the back of your 4WD. The slides can cope with ham-fisted folk, have dual locking mechanism and a load capacity rated at 180kg.



It comes with mounting hardware and tie-down straps, so you can install it yourself if you're so inclined. Alternatively take it to a custom shop, aka tailor or alterations specialist.

## GREEN POWER

FOR a split second we thought a new version of acca dacca was about to hit the stage.

But then we looked at the picture and saw nothing that looked like a guitar, or even an amplifier. Nay, 'twas a strange flat device with a couple of interesting bumps that its makers say is the bee's knees, or BCs, of battery chargers.

The Smart Start BCDC In-vehicle battery chargers from Redarc have been upgraded to include a next-gen 25amp model, with the 40amp model to follow. Charging auxiliary batteries from either solar or a vehicle alternator has never been easier, Redarc says.



The new 25 amp BCDC has separate vehicle DC and solar inputs and will charge from both solar and the alternator simultaneously and with inbuilt 'Green Power Priority,' it will select solar charging first, so the alternator can take a breather. Just the one unit can now be used for 12 or 24 volt vehicles systems (9 – 32V) with either standard or variable voltage/ smart alternators.

And it will charge AGM, gel, standard lead acid and calcium batteries. It also has a charging profile for Lithium (LiFePO4) batteries, so can be used now and well into the future.

The result is top performance of your fridges, lights, cameras, whatever, powered from a dual battery set-up by providing a multi-stage charging algorithm.

The compact and fully sealed charger has dual battery isolation functionality as well as fault recognition that includes protection against voltage spikes, overheating and reverse polarity. And they come with a two year warranty.

So you can be Thuderstruck on the Highway to Hell and still come out smiling – if your Big Gun has one of these BCDC thingoes in its Big Balls.