

Pickup-Truck Entry System

In fall 2006, Further OPTIONS, Inc., a developer of vehicle-entry systems for wheelchair users, displayed its first commercial product at the 2006 SEMA Show in Las Vegas, Nev. The result of years of painstaking research, the patent-pending DMS-3 establishes a hybrid method, system, and apparatus for moving a wheelchair user into a vehicle.

David Gotter and Scott Darnell cofounded Further OPTIONS in 2003 to develop innovative vehicle-entry systems and other breakthrough products. Gotter also owns and operates two successful machine shops. Darnell sustained a life-altering spinal-cord injury (SCI) in 1991, and as a C5-6 quadriplegic has pursued his dream of helping create important new mobility options for other wheelers.

"After my accident, I had essentially one choice for a vehicle to drive: a full-size van that said 'handicapped' all over it," Darnell says. "At that point, I began dreaming of a lift system that would allow me to drive a pickup truck. After learning all I could about other products that might allow me to do so, I knew I could do better. The DMS-3 has allowed me to drive safely and in style for the past year. With the latest modifications, we can offer our standard installation in numerous vehicles, with major cost, cosmetic, and installation advantages over any competitive products."

Darnell's personal vehicle is a DMS-3-equipped 2001 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab he drives every day from his Quickie P200 wheelchair.

"I can hardly describe the extreme joy and excitement I experienced the first time I drove this truck," Darnell says.



Scott Darnell, a C5-6 quadriplegic, drives a 2001 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab equipped with a DMS-3 entry system. He is helping create new mobility options for wheelchair users.

According to Darnell, the cost of having a DMS-3 installed is in line with that of a full-size van that is equipped for a wheelchair-using driver and includes door openers/closers, a dropped floor, installation of a wheelchair-lift apparatus and tie-downs, and remote control. Bearing in mind the current lead-time of 12 weeks, standard installations are available for most full-size, extended-cab, two-wheel-drive pickup trucks offering "suicide" side doors. The first DMS-3s were scheduled to be available on February 1.

A full listing of vehicles that can accept a standard DMS-3 installation is available on the company's Web site. It includes numerous 2007 and earlier Chevrolet/GMC, Ford/Mercury, Dodge/Chrysler, Nissan, Toyota, and Honda models. The site also offers information on vehicles appropriate for custom installations and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Contact: 618-664-3178 / www.further-options.com.



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