

# Front Bumper Storage for a WW II Jeep

## Premise

Where do you put all the stuff that you want to carry and still have room for the ice chest. Not to mention the feet of passengers in the back .... Make a place that is not obtrusive to put some stuff. A bussel is great. However my particular situation has a tail gate added to a Ford GPW and a bussel kinda makes a mess of using the tail gate. Then there is the pintle hook ... I actually move a trailer around from time to time and the bussel makes the pintel hook sorta hidden. Putting anything on the side is a big mess ... my spare is on the side and several times out in the brush we have run into a tree or rock as you forget that it is sticking out.

The tool boxes over the wheels are great for most stuff, but not large enough for all the modern day gear that we all might like to haul. If you jeep is for parades and shows then this article is not for you. If you get on the trail or even for at 100 miles highway drive you might need more room for storage.

I have reviewed thousands of photos on web sites, in news letters and books. Many show some sort of doodad on the front bumper but none show a lot of stuff. The concept sort of stems from the front mounted capstan which. It provides a large covered area (albeit high) around the capstan. The area between the bumper and grill and between the frame horns is about 12" x 30" and 4 inches of side well provided by the bumper.

This article is a continuum of my ideas and trials on my way to the perfect front storage area on a World War II jeep.

## Phase I - Trial and design

Here is the first try. A piece of 7/16" OSB about 12" x 30".



There are #12 x 3" bolts in two corners and four links of 3/16" chain are placed over the bolts and fastened/tightened with washers and double nuts locked together. The high chain link is split to form a hook that goes over the jeep's grill mount. The chain size and length was from a previous project and in my junk box ... there was no measuring and experimenting. The bolts are fastened to the board with washers on both sides and a single nut on top. The front part of the board is resting on the inside of the bottom flange of the bumper and pressed in place by the forward angle of the chains/bolts.

## Front Bumper Storage for a WW II Jeep

**NOTE:** This is on a 1943 Ford GPW but the bumper is ¼" - 2" x 4" channel. This is a similar dimension to the original bumper. The OD strap hanging down in the middle of the grill I an M38 windshield tie down as this jeep came to me with an M38 Artic Top and I modified its windshield to fold down. Also the frame is powder coated black ... It makes for good contrast in photos. The powder coating should outlast many generations and OD was cost prohibitive, the black was much cheaper. I hope to paint it OD some day, but driving and making front bumper storage is taking up my time ;-)

### Phase I Lessons

1. Make room or a path for the hand crank. The board covers the hand crank hole in the front bumper.
2. Consider adding footman loops in various locations for straps. Some of the loops could actually be placed to "trap" the tool box.
3. The old bumper jack that I use can be "jacked up" across the frame horns and holds in place.
4. The #12 bolts are too small.
5. After driving the jeep through big holes of muddy water ... the board catches and holds dirt. It is a paradox to use a solid piece and keep dirt/mud from coming through and to use a piece with holes in it (expanded metal) and allow dirt/mud to drain away!
6. Using the chain as hooks this contraption does not alter the jeep ... e.g. no drilling, welding etc. to the frame or body.
7. Move the horse shoe up ... you can't see it with junk stored in the rack.
8. As with some historical front storage, this lends it self to holding a spare tire, gas cans etc. Even with my tool box in it, there is more room for other stuff.
9. This was a successful demonstration of the concept. Now for a metal bottom and a crank path!

### Phase II

Ask some fellow HMVers what they think ... brain storm ....

---

More info about the restoration of GPW-I00709\* can be found at [ad5zo.com](http://ad5zo.com)