

Sweet Sixteen

An eclectic assortment of stunning SEMA vehicles

By Ken Brubaker

Photography: Ken Brubaker

The annual Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) show in Las Vegas is the Mac Daddy of all automotive shows, bar none. For instance, the 37th annual 2002 show packed more than two million square-feet of space in and around the spectacular Las Vegas Convention Center with more than 1,700 exhibitors from all over the world. The show is dedicated entirely to the \$26 billion specialty automotive parts and accessories industry. That being the case, you can find a wide variety of parts on display—from aesthetic bolt-on items to beefy drive-train components. The show is not open to the public. In order to set foot on the carpeted event floor, you must be directly related to the automotive industry in some way. This fact makes the attendance of 82,000 souls even more impressive.

To us, one of the most exciting aspects of the show involves inspecting the enormous number of late-model cutting-edge four-wheel-drive vehicles displayed by the various manufacturers. This year, the Hummer H2 seemed to be the palette of choice for many builders, followed closely by the restyled Chevy Silverado and that enduring favorite, the Ford Super Duty. What follows is a collection of 16 of the most noteworthy of those vehicles, gathered for your viewing pleasure.



H2 Ohhh!

1 Manny DeEncio's stunning Hummer H2 adorned the carpet at the Bulletproof Suspension booth, and it turned a lot of heads with its 14-inch Bulletproof suspension kit and chrome-plated undercarriage (by Anaheim Plating). The truck also features dual 12-inch-travel Fox shocks in front, dual 14-inch-travel Fox shocks in the rear, 16.5x12 Weld Stone Crusher wheels, 44-inch Boggers and Powerslot brake rotors. The 6.0L engine's performance has been enhanced with a Volant Cool Air Intake and Magnaflow exhaust. Exterior mods include smoothed and painted plastic, custom light covers by Smoked Lamps and Street Concepts window tinting.



Extreme 'Runner

2 You've probably seen the Toyota 4Runner television commercials touting the 2003 Global Extremes: Mount Everest 4Runner. One of these specially prepped vehicles was on display at the Toyota booth, and in addition to a number of functional exterior bolt-ons, it featured a TRD stainless-steel exhaust system and the TRD supercharger. The supercharger boosts the 4.7L V-8's output to a whopping 353 hp and 359 lb-ft of torque, and features a supplemental injector that creates what TRD describes as an intercooling effect, permitting higher boost levels for increased efficiency and enhanced power and torque.

Imposing Presence

3 We had to photograph Doug DeBerti's '02 Super Duty in the early morning before the show opened, because the rest of the time there were scores of people flocked around it. Part of the truck's popularity stemmed from the MatTracks residing at each corner of the truck. They give the truck a beefy go-anywhere appearance. For many showgoers, this was their first close look at these creative (and expensive) bolt-on devices. There was much more to the Super Duty however, and the list includes a custom Air Ride Technologies/Firestone suspension system with King shocks and custom paint by Craig Fraser.

Superb Super Duty

4 Andre Neumann spent more than 1,200 hours creating this awesome '02 Super Duty, and that investment in time paid off big when he received the Ford Motor Company Design Award for Outstanding Achievement In Design. This diesel-powered truck sports a long list of mods, including such notable items as a Banks 4-inch-diameter exhaust, U.S. Gear 4.56:1 gears, Dynatrac Super Duty combo kit, Fabtech 12-inch suspension with dual shock hoops, Mickey Thompson Fun Country 44-inch tires and Weld Stone Crusher 16.5x12 wheels. Additionally, the truck features Bushwacker cutout fender flares, a Warn 15,000-pound semi-hidden winch, Reflexion bumpers and hood, APC projection headlights, Blackhawk Double Gate tailgate and Kodiak Sidewinder steps. Inside the truck there's a JL Audio sound system, Audiovox video and navigation system, Classic Soft Trim leather seating and a Budnik Mercury steering wheel.



Remarkable Rover

5 This Land Rover Defender 110 could be the catalyst for one to throw aside all responsibilities and flee for extreme adventure in some hard-to-spell place like Machu Piccu. The beauty is that the truck seems to actually be designed for such challenging adventure. The silver beauty was at the Rover Accessories booth, and features a very impressive list of mods like a Rover Accessories Crew Cab conversion, 3.9L engine with ZF automatic transmission conversion, Old Man Emu 3-inch suspension lift, ARB Air Lockers, IPF auxiliary lights, 55-liter water tank, extended-range fuel tank, Rover Accessories carbon-fiber seats and center console, Bridgestone/Firestone Destination M/T tires, Hannibal USA roof-top tent, dual Warn winches, custom Safety Devices rollcage and much more.