



PROSTAR DAY CAB CONVERSION

The newest day cab conversion kit is now available from Prairie Technology. Responding to growing demand from our Certified Partners and customers, we completed the design, engineering, and manufacturing of the Prostar kit utilizing new techniques developed in our own shop. We believe that this new product will far exceed the expectations of our customers for fit and finish as well as ease of installation.

“The focus of our design effort was to create the easiest conversion of an integral sleeper that we have developed to date”, said Bill Osman, founder of Prairie Technology. “We were very conscientious in our R & D effort to reduce labor time and complexity in the installation of this conversion package. There are very few critical cuts to make in the cab preparation stage and the suspension comes pre-assembled with no frame holes to drill.”

Several modifications and design enhancements were pursued as a prototype was mocked up with preliminary body parts. The result is a clean finish that has the appearance of an original factory design as opposed to an after-market modification. The interior incorporates several design features to compliment the rounded cove pieces with a superior fit and finish package. We completed our first customer conversion for North Central International in late-March.

We are encouraging our Certified Partners to schedule time into our facility to get an update on this kit as well as training with the Cascadia and new installation techniques for existing day cab kits. Please contact Tracy or Josh at 605-274-0444 with any questions you may have or to reserve your training session with one of our experienced teams. We are excited about this new kit and are already working on new projects for release in the near future.

BILL OF WRITES

by Bill Osman, Founder

As most of you are aware, my quarterly topics in this column have focused on our nations leadership (or lack thereof) and the insidious degradation of our culture which some have referred to as cultural evolution. I prefer to cultivate a conservative personal and business philosophy at Prairie Technology that is similar to that espoused by our Founding Fathers as they drafted the documents upon which this great nation was founded.

Although there may be those who view this philosophy as old fashioned or out of date, we enjoy the stable and cooperative business relationship that it creates. It is our goal to encourage and assist each of our customers to build a successful business founded upon conservative capitalist entrepreneurial principles. We have been blessed with a team of individuals with innovative ideas and concepts that we have been able to bring to the industry.

I firmly believe that in life and business we must be able to “control the situation rather than having the situation control us”. My vision and belief system is shared by our general manager Dave Husby. He leads our company with a positive, practical and proactive approach to business accompanied by a strong commitment to integrity and stewardship to our customers and employees.

It is our desire to form and maintain strong business and personal relationships with each of our customers and share our success with them. May God bless you, your family, your business, and the United States of America.

M2 112 FREIGHTLINER AIR SHIELD

Responding to a request from PAM Transportation, Prairie Tech has completed a roof air shield and cab extender combination to create an aerodynamic tractor for a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered truck. Working with the State of Texas to utilize the one of the newest engine technologies available in the marketplace today, PAM ordered Freightliner M2 112 tractors powered with a Cummins alternative fuel engine.



The storage compartment for the CNG tanks is located directly behind the cab in a “cabinet” that extends above and outside the profile of the cab. Driven by PAM’s corporate culture to enhance fuel economy, they approached Prairie Tech founder Bill Osman to design an aerodynamic package that would easily mount on the truck. With significant assistance from Tim Prins, Bill came up with a unique design that is not only aerodynamic but also a very subtle and seamless extension of the cab.

The first unit was completed and delivered to PAM for their review and assessment. If satisfied with the appearance and full efficiency enhancement, PAM will authorize Prairie Tech to continue with the project and complete an aerodynamic package for the remainder of the trucks in this part of their fleet. Once delivered to PAM, we hope to be able to provide this after- market package to other users of this revolutionary CNG storage system.

Please contact Bill at 605-274-0444 for more information on this product line or with questions on this or other products that may be on your wish list.

BIGTRUCKPARTS.COM

Drawing upon years of manufacturing and design experience as the industry leader for day cab conversion kits, Prairie Technology will soon launch a new web site offering high quality truck parts at a price point well below that currently available in the market place today. The site will be easy to navigate and offers on-line ordering capability using a "shopping cart". The parts available are primarily replacement body parts for many of today's over the road and vocational trucks.

Hand laid fiberglass construction is the benchmark for these premier truck parts. While many of today's after-market parts are manufactured out of plastic, aluminum, stainless, or other materials, these fiberglass parts are not susceptible to cracking caused by stress or fatigue normally associated with other parts. We take great care in the production of our molds to insure a clean and smooth surface that will yield a professional grade finish with the utilization of fiberglass mesh, resin, and other materials. Reinforcement is included in many of the parts to help insure stability, integrity, and long term reliability for their intended use.

Some of the parts that will be available include bumpers, visors, chassis or tank fairings, doors, fan shrouds, and fenders. We are in the R & D process with others and will make those available on the new web site once they are designed and thoroughly tested. Please let us know if you have any questions about these parts as well as any suggestions as to others that you would like to us consider making.

CUSTOM TRUCK SERVICES AVAILABLE

With our growing reputation for superb frame and axle modification and installation, Prairie Technology has received more and more requests to complete custom truck work. While we limit the number of requests that we accept, the challenges associated with the various projects has given us the opportunity to gain additional expertise and knowledge in this area.

One of our recent projects included significant modifications and updates to a 1978 Peterbilt 359 3408/twin stick owned by a long-time friend of Bill's. We updated the entire wiring, plumbing, and suspension systems, installed new airlines, removed the sleeper, installed a day cab kit, added a lift axle, rebuilt both transmissions, installed a cab air ride suspension, refinished the exterior to the bare metal and repainted, installed bronze tinted windows, and sandblasted and repainted the entire frame. On the interior, we installed a new interior from Truk Guts as well as a custom 400 watt sound system by our expert Tim Prins.

We also tackled a large Pete 379 project. We stretched the frame, added a lift axle, changed out the suspension, housing and rears to full lockers, installed a Herd bumper, changed out the sleeper to one with a flat top, changed out the headlights, turn signals, clearance and marker lights, replaced the battery and tool boxes, and had a custom two tone paint done. The end result was an entirely new look for the truck.

We are currently pursuing one of our most challenging projects to date. We are converting four (4) 2010 Peterbilt 387's to day cabs, shortening the frames 24 inches, and adding a pusher axle. Additionally we are adding a blower and PTO system for a specialized trailer. Several OEM installed components are being relocated to accommodate the new chassis configuration.

We are extremely proud of the work done by our frame and body specialists. If you would like us to consider a custom project for you or one of your customers, please contact Bill at 605-274-0444 for more information.

PRAIRIE TECH PHOTO GALLERY



"I" Series Conversion



"C" Class Day Cab



387 Pete Day Cab



Custom IHC Hot Shot Sleeper



TIPS FROM TRACY

By Tracy Koenekamp, Shop Foreman

As we have discussed in previous newsletters, proper planning and truck prep are key ingredients to a successful day cab conversion. Part of this process is to make sure that you have the proper tools in your box to use as you go through the process. Although there are several tools that you can use to do the same job, the end result may be different with each of them.

As we train our Certified Partners and provide them with updates on best practices, Josh and I emphasize certain tools for completing tasks in the conversion process. For example, using a plasma torch for cutting the sleeper off might seem like a good idea because it is perceived to be much faster. However, air lines, seats, and electrical systems can be in the way and the damage from the cutting torch can far outweigh any initial time savings.

We recommend specific tools for certain segments of the conversion process. Some common tools include the Sawzall, a die grinder, and a circular metal saw. If you would like to know more about these and other tools we use in our shop at Prairie Tech, please give either Josh or me a call at 605-274-0444 and we would be happy to share our knowledge and experience with you.