

Windshield Heating

It was on a very sunny, hot day in the midst of Kazakhstan. Driving on a dusty road. Almost no traffic.

As of a sudden a cloud of dust approaches : It's an 'immemorial' passenger car. Just milliseconds after crossing, I heard an ugly ‚Zack‘ and my windshield looked like a spider. Fortunately on the passenger side and not on the driver side. I therefore could continue my tour without danger. I caught this opportunity to improve the windscreen after return into a heatable system. After deducting the insurance allowance, I paid another 1'000 CHF for the screen (650 CHF for the windshield and 350 CHF for the professional mounting and wiring) which was not quite cheap. It is now connected together with the rear screen heating.

The result is good, however not splendid. Ice and snow melt relatively speedy (after a rough pre cleaning). It is also very useful if it rains and the present air humidity condenses on the front screen. The heating takes care of that. On the other hand the windshield (and the windows in general) has to be ‚dewatered‘ after operating the stove for a coffee in the morning. Here the screen heating still has a good deal of trouble. I also have to pay attention that I don't operate the heating when the engine (and with it the alternator) is not running. The consumption of amperes is horrific. I am sure you find further details of various providers in the Internet.



Summary:

‚Nice to have‘ but not absolutely necessary. A real offroader can manage ice and snow also with other means (eg covering, de-icing spray, in the worst case a scraper also does the job). An absorbent rag helps to clean the screens inside and a good airing while driving (open windows) prevents renewed condensing.