

Auxiliary heating system



There are two main brands for auxiliary heating systems: Webasto (<http://www.webasto.de>) and Eberspächer (<http://www.eberspaecher.com>). They are built (according to what I heard) almost identically. However, in case of a failure, Webasto only exchanges the whole burner (you will get another second hand device completely revised), where as Eberspaecher does actual repairing. I decided for the latter. I don't need a completely revised unit when only a small defect occurs (costs). Additionally, Eberspaecher seems somewhat cheaper.



There exist various systems for auxiliary heating: Water circulation, air circulation, electrical or fuel driven systems and different sizes (all with/without remote control). As my auxiliary battery is already stressed enough with other things (eg fridge), I decided for a diesel induced heating of lower class power and bought the 'Eberspaecher Airtronic D2' device. It is sufficient for my Zebra and does not use a lot of battery power (only electronics and fan). The heating occurs through hot air that is blown into the cabin. This has the advantage (contrary to hot water systems) that my clothes, shoes etc dry much better than through the proper Landrover heating system. However, the engine is not pre-heated. This can be a disadvantage in starting the car a very low temperatures.



My garagist (<http://www.klarer-garage.ch>) handled the mounting of the heating system perfectly. He attached the burner in an aluminum box outside the cabin under the left rear wheel house. The original side wall was ripped up for the length of the device so that every maintenance can be done from inside the vehicle. The control unit is placed right to the driver seat. With that I can switch the auxiliary system on to assist the original Landrover heating when necessary even while driving. Additionally, I have fixed a press key in my 'residential area' so that I can switch the heating system on also from there. Altogether, the hardware cost me around 2'000 CHF (work not included). It was quite expensive but it was worth it. I can drink now my first morning coffee in warm and cozy surroundings even with bad weather where as some of my colleagues have to drink it outside the car which can be quite nasty when weather is cold and/or it is raining.



One tip. Make absolutely sure that the air inlet pipe is always clear of any dust and well protected. If not, it will become plugged and that may lead to an overheating of the burner and hence malfunction. A small gauze inside the unit will have to be exchanged then. Although the thing costs only about 1 CHF, I paid 250 CHF for a specialist know-how the first time.