



**HOLDEN**

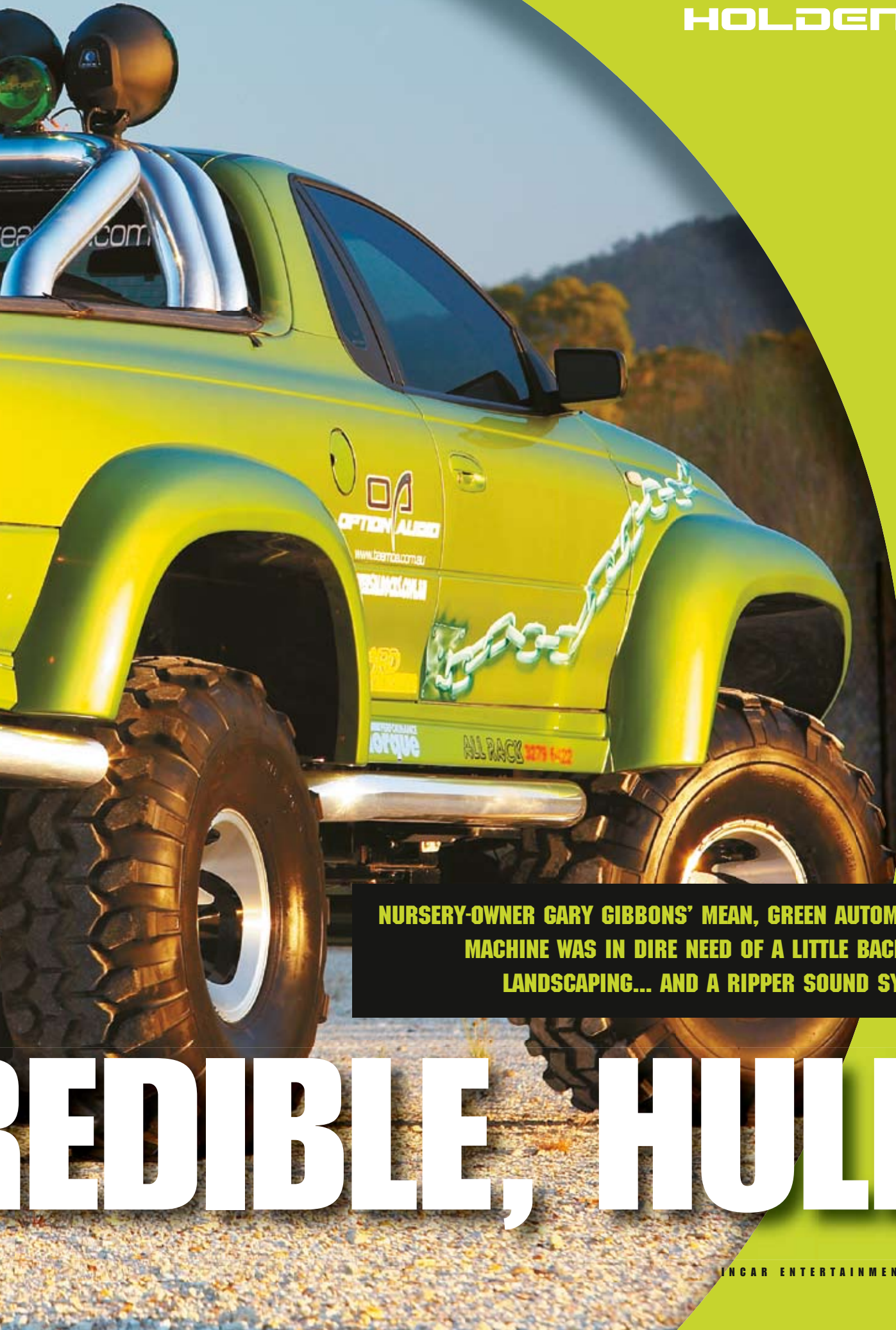
**STORY:** MICK RIGNEY

**IMAGES:** TONY RABBITTE



**AIN'T IT INCR**

HOLDEN



**NURSERY-OWNER GARY GIBBONS' MEAN, GREEN AUTOMOBILE-MACHINE WAS IN DIRE NEED OF A LITTLE BACKYARD LANDSCAPING... AND A RIPPER SOUND SYSTEM.**

# CREDIBLE, HULK



**G**ary Gibbon's VY SS ute could be easily a prominent feature car on MTV's 'Pimp My Ride'. Though it really can't be called a 'ute' anymore, what with the complete and utter transformation performed by Kev, Rob and Kris from Kev's Kustoms in Underwood, Queensland.

### Wild Imagination

Gary is what most people call eccentric. To his mates he is just plain crazy, but that is what they love about him. He has a head full of 'out there' car audio visions that many would claim as 'undoable'. For instance, the VN that he owned previously was built onto a four-wheel drive chassis and, not surprisingly, he decided to expand on this unique idea with a brand new ute, just off the showroom floor, AKA Da Hulk.

The story of Da Hulk actually begins as a sad one. When Gary first laid eyes on the Hothouse green ute, before he could put his hand in his pocket to pay for the little beauty, his wife told him he'd have to choose her or the car. Assuming the proclamation was in jest, Gary went ahead and bought the utility.

As he drove it into his driveway, his wife had packed her bags, and off she went in the opposite direction. Oh well, another one bites the dust, thought Gary, who had too much to worry about with realising his dream of building the ultimate show car.

The green God was a car of which the likes had never before been seen. As he likes to do things on such a grand scale, all of his mates had learned by this time to just sit and listen to his plans, then watch him set about making them a reality. According



to Gary, no good ever came from telling him he couldn't or shouldn't do something — it simply issues him a greater challenge that he just *has* to conquer.

Once the scene was set and the design had been drawn up, the next car show, in two weeks time, was just around the corner. Of course, Gary wanted to compete, so his favoured installers especially needed to pull together as a team, to deliver the goods in the face of adversity. Quick smart, the ute was dismantled, rendering it unrecognisable — a clean slate that allowed the install to begin.

### Water sports

Gary owns a nursery. His nursery distributes Universal Rocks landscaping materials, and is his pride and joy. So, in an attack on absurdity, Gary decided he'd like to combine the two, and install a fully-functioning waterfall and pond on the back of the ute, for no other purpose than to be different. Of course, many people thought he was crazy, but Gary would simply reply, "Why not?" Why not, indeed.

The waterfall and pond were fitted, and Da Hulk was transformed from an everyday, working ute to a monster of creation that went on to win its first ever car show, and many after this. But still, something was missing — after all, there was still a fair amount of space left in the tray. And true-to-form, Gary opted for the messiest combination of elements imaginable: water and audio electronics. But of course, he again let his imagination run wild — no run-of-the-mill audio system would bring down *his* ute's rear-end.

Mark and Rob from Option Audio in Queensland were enlisted as entertainment equipment installers, both eager to become a part of Gary's already mind-boggling efforts. But how to fit expensive sound equipment in an environment that lends itself to water leakage and spray? Not only this, but Da





Hulk had been booked to appear in a car audio show in only two weeks time.

Obviously, Da Hulk was a display vehicle only (anyone who's tried driving down the highway with a waterfall on the back of their car will vouch for that). So, it was decided to pack as much hardware into the tray of the ute as was humanly possible.

### Attempting the impossible

Eight Option Audio Titan 12SVC single voice coil subwoofers were built into two enclosures that each hold four subs. The chambers each hold a total volume of 0.17m<sup>3</sup> (6ft<sup>3</sup>), meaning each sub runs in an area of only 0.4m<sup>3</sup> (1.5ft<sup>3</sup>). Still, this minimal amount of space allows the subs to pack a really powerful punch, which is necessary for open-air environments like car audio shows.

Visually, the subs have been configured in an L-shape and the five lined-up on the left-hand-side of the tray give the look of a five-gun salute. There are five Option Audio Titan G-150RS amplifiers running the show, all of which have been mounted underneath the tray. The amps were originally to be installed on a rack that resembled a bridge spanning the pond, but after considerable thought it was decided that it would be better to keep the amps in a more protected environment. A water-resistant box was constructed and bolted into the space previously occupied by the vehicle's spare wheel (no need for this anymore!).

When it came time to install the two pairs of 65R2 two-way speakers, there were space restrictions that limited their placing. Therefore, it was decided to

*integrate* them into the water-feature by painting the grilles to match and fitting them amongst the surrounding 'rock'.

For the purposes of the photographs featured on these pages, a 26cm (10.4-inch) screen was mounted in the rear of the car but this has since been replaced by a 43cm (17-inch) FDM17 full-colour monitor that has made its home in the ute's roll bar. Two more screens can be found under each wheel well, and were installed for the purposes of show demonstrations only.

Happy with both the placement and installation of the components in the tray, all that was left to take care of was the 'cosmetics' of Da Hulk. Sure, this sounds pretty straight forward but, of course, no-one told the fake rock how it was supposed to behave. The fiddly material was both



NO-ONE TOLD THE FAKE ROCK HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BEHAVE. THE FIDDLY MATERIAL WAS BOTH HEAVY AND MOODY, ONE PIECE FALLING WHEN ANOTHER WAS ADDED,

heavy and moody, one piece falling when another was added, and so on.

Ample swearing and cursing, numerous cuts and bruises later, everything was in place. Green LED lights were placed strategically around the pond casting an eerie glow over the water, rendering the atmosphere even more intense, with the extra help of a 'fog' misting machine.

### The goods inside

When it came to the cabin of the vehicle, Kev from Kev's Kustoms' brilliance shone, fitting the Titan HR565 screens in the door trims while retaining the factory appearance — this was his speciality.

A Clarion multimedia, in-dash touchscreen head-unit was installed and a NECVOX DVA310X DVD player was mounted under the passenger seat.

Again, space constraints made for a tricky business, but this is to be expected when working with utes, due to their limited cabin space; every little niche possible must hold gadgets that are necessary to enhance the system.

The factory speaker locations in the front of the car have been taken up with a pair of Option Audio 6.5R splits; the tweeters are in the dash and the crossovers can be found in the kick-panels. There is a G-150RS amplifier fitted between the seats to keep the power going, and two deep cycle marine batteries have been used to keep the whole shebang running. Plus, more cabling than one could imagine, links everything up. And to top things off, green lights add to the 'Da Hulk' theme, including a bright white light that

shines outwards from inside the roll bar, highlighting the spectacular exterior install.

### No SPL, no matter


In less time than expected (just over a week from commencing), the beast was finished and ready to hit the show circuit once more. As the ute is of such an open design, it won't be able to enter any SPL competitions, but really, who cares? It plays any style of music, very vocally-clear and loud, and is all anyone could ask for.

Pre-stereo, Da Hulk had accumulated close to 100 trophies in the first 12 months of being shown and, now with the stereo, there will be plenty more prizes to come.

Gary would like to thank Rob and Mark from Option Audio for all the gear they supplied. Kev, Rob and Kris have earned a big 'thankyou' for the installation



work, and Lightforce for the spotlights, Chiptorque, Wizard Performance, Allrack and Universal Rocks for each piece of equipment brought to the installation.

And now, the story has come to an end, but not before putting to rest any misconceptions you may have had about Donna, Gary's partner, and the man himself. Gary would like to thank his loving better half for all her support along the way, and for putting up with Gary and all of his crazy ideas. You see, Donna wasn't gone long after she walked out that fateful day — Da Hulk lured her back. Well, who *wouldn't* be just a little bit curious to see if such a kooky job could be done? 

## INCAR INFO

Owner: Gary Gibbons

Vehicle: VY SS Holden Commodore ute

Sponsor: Option Audio

Installed by: Kev's Kustoms, 10 Compton Road, Underwood QLD 4119

### THE SYSTEM

Head-unit: Clarion Multimedia in-dash touchscreen

DVD player: NECVOX DVA 310X

Front speakers: Option Audio titan 6.5R

Front amplifier: Option Audio

Screens: Option Audio Tital HR565

Rear speakers: Option Audio 65R2

Subwoofers: Option Audio Titan 12SVC

Rear amps: Option Audio Tital G-150RS