

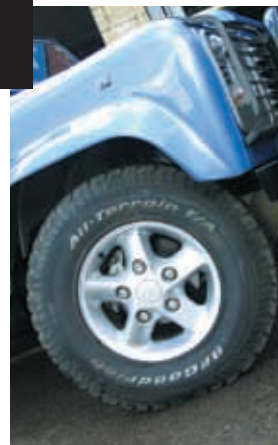
Blue 90 300Tdi soft-top conversion



THINGS THEN started to get a degree more fancy, once this stunning example rolled up on the forecourt. Indeed, an initial glance at Sue and Alistair Read's Defender might have you thinking this was a factory fresh 2003 model, rather than a ten year old van with a liberal sprinkling of Brooklyn magic dust applied. "I used to drive a Freelander," explains Sue "but as Alistair has a Defender [an extensively prepared, if somewhat battered winch-challenge eventer], I've always fancied one too." In this



example, Sue and Alistair specified exactly what they wanted. "My cousin has a Defender Td5, and I simply loved this Monte-Carlo blue colour when I saw it in a Land Rover main dealer," she smiles. Therefore Brooklyn were enlisted to create a Defender with a similar specification to the latest model, together with a soft-top for fun. Detailing includes the latest lamps and grille in gun-metal grey, together with the interior trimmed in 'techno' fabric, a centre cubbybox and Compomotive alternatives to the current Defender alloy wheels. A NAS



style rear bumper is fitted below a Pivlock spare-wheel carrier, while tubular side-bars and chequerplate trim for the sills and bonnet add to the overall glitziness, together with an A-bar, driving lamps and lamp guards. Despite being utterly pristine, their intention is to use this vehicle for a little gentle off-roading, and as such, sizeable BF Goodrich All-Terrain tyres are fitted, together with a Safari Snorkle and steering guard. "We plan to move to Australia later this year, and we'll be taking both our Land Rovers with us," explains Sue. "While I won't be doing anything quite as extreme as Alistair does in his, we will use it for holiday trips, and I have also bought a bikini top so we can enjoy wind-in-the-hair motoring without getting sunburnt."

Left: Only the registration gives the game away – refurbished to the latest 2003/04 specification, this example is truly stunning. Owners Sue and Alistair Read plan to export their new toy to Australia later this year

Purple 90 200Tdi soft-top conversion

AS ONE of the first vehicles Brooklyn prepared in this manner, this vehicle was originally built for Sarah to use as a company car, but current owner Martin Headley was so taken with it when he first saw it, that he just had to have it. "It's my first Land Rover," he explains. "Originally I didn't know that much about them, hadn't even driven one before, I just knew I wanted one." He has certainly become thoroughly smitten during his four years of ownership: "I use it as my everyday car, and also do a little mild off-roading at weekends when I

can," he smiles. "I find it really nice to drive, even on motorways – despite the fact that this is not really designed for that kind of driving – and I must admit I do have a hard-top for it too, especially for winter." Natty paintwork aside, this vehicle is still relatively standard, but detail touches include an A-bar and lamps, chequerplate sill trim, silver modular steel wheels and a full-width steering guard.



Left: an early example of Brooklyn 4x4's handiwork, and a good example of how an individual vehicle can be created on a limited budget

