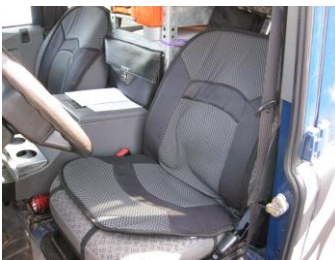


12V Seat Heater



My Zebra has a good deal of trouble to keep the cabine warm below 0 degrees Celsius. And it is no wonder that it becomes quite frosty at such outside temperatures. The seat heater was obviously not yet invented in the UK when my Defender was built (1999). A fully airconditioned driver seat (as advertised by various providers) was much too expensive for me. Then I had the idea to simply attach some heater mats to my seats and connect them via a switch to the auxiliary battery. It works fine so far. As I left the originally delivered two level switches of the mats untouched, I am even able to have different heating on each mat or switch one off completely if travelling alone. In addition, my original seat coating is somewhat protected too.

What kind of seat heater you buy is up to your choice. There exists a wide variety of models in different price classes. From the fully air conditioned mat with massage by Waeco down to cheap heaters only. As I don't need neither air conditioning nor massage, I decided for a rather cheap model. Nevertheless, even the cheap stuff has a two-level heating switch (I basically only use level 2) and they get warm within a minute or two. In addition, they are easy to clean (nylon fabric). Costs are around 60 CHF apiece (even cheaper during sales periods). However, it is basically not possible to repair them once the heating wire is used up. Say good-bye to the mat and buy a new one unless you are really a repair freak (you probably have to spend hours to replace the heating wire). I had to replace my mat on the driver seat after 3 years of (partly) extensive use. The amount spent didn't kill my budget.



Therefore, in case someone is sensitive to low temperature (as I am), I can only recommend these 'heating pads'. One small disadvantage exists though. Nylon is not cotton. I might therefore well be that you sweat somewhat more on your back than without the mats during summer. But this problem can be simply solved by detaching them from the seat (I am too lazy to do that though).
