

Fuel storage



Storing fuel is a special chapter where opinions defer widely. Some prefer extra fuel tanks under the vehicle (even more tanks inside with rally cars). Others prefer canisters because it is easier to realize (no additional pumps). In most cases, canisters are also cheaper in prize. This was also the main argument why I decided for canisters. Yes, it is definitely cumbersome to fill each canister at the pump station and to detach them in case of refilling the car. Also, the centre of mass is better with the first solution and you draw much less attention on you when travelling.



On the other hand, also canisters have their advantages. No rough territory (stones, rocks) can harm them. I also can determine myself the balance of weight to keep the load evenly spread. And canisters are less vulnerable and accident sensitive (no auxiliary pump system, valves and tubes).



Originally, I bought the suspension attachment at Woick (<http://www.woick.de>); that means the necessary stainless steel bars and the canister mountings. However, the mountings proved not to be reliable on rough road. Each one of them broke at the edges after some time (fatigue of material) and I had to enforce them. In addition, the borders where the carriage straps go through were much too sharp. On my Sibiria tour I had to replace them twice. That means 12 straps for 6 canisters! Has anybody that much spare straps? Nevertheless, I still keep the system after I have made some changes (enforcing the mountings, making the borders softer). First I have already spent the money on this system and second the cost for extra tanks under the vehicle is simply too high for me as the price for good quality lies in the range of a few thousand dollars. I secure my canisters with a simple steel cable. Although this measure is not insuperable, it prevents accidental theft by bad people.



Also important when using canisters is the filler. No cheap stuff from a discounter please. I bought mine from army liquidations. (<http://www.armyliqshop.ch>). It has a attachable filter that could hold back any debris in the fuel.