



4x2 to 4x4 Conversion Breakdown

If you are considering a 4x2 to 4x4 conversion, there are a few factors you need to consider. Those factors are, but not limited to:

1. **Cost**
2. **Expertise**
3. **Equipment**
4. **Parts Availability**
5. **Compatibility**

The best option when undertaking a project of this magnitude, is by doing it on a 4x2 truck that was also produced in a 4WD version. Preferably a pre-2000 year model truck with a solid front axle if possible. This is because in many (not all cases), the existing wiring harnesses, mounting holes, chassis width, cross member support beams, and certain other brackets might be similar.

Each truck is different and needs to be taken on a case-by-case basis. I cannot cover each one individually and this guide is meant to give you a slightly better overview of what this project entails.

The core factors that makes up the 4WD system area:

- Front and rear Drive-shafts
- Low Range Transfer Case
- A Compatible Transmission
- Electronics
- Differentials

VERY IMPORTANT!

Transmission Modification

One of the main components that needs to be considered when doing your conversion is your transmission. A 4x2 transmission cannot always accommodate a 4WD Transfer case due to the length of the output shaft. In some cases the transmission can be modified to accommodate the 4wd TC. The Output shaft needs to be physically cut to size. You will also require a compatible adapter plate to marry up the two after your tail-shaft modification.

Transfer Case Support Bracket

In certain instances the chassis width between the 4x2 and the 4x4 models differs. This means you will need to fabricate a new TC brackets and cross members in order to mount the TC securely.

Side Shafts

If you are converting an IFS suspension 4x2 you will need a front diff, driveshaft, and 2x front side shafts. With certain 4x2 models you can simply transfer the front diff and side shafts, since the chassis width is similar. In cases where the width differs you will need to have custom side shafts made up if the 4x4 versions cannot bolt straight on. Solid front axle trucks are always easier to convert

due to their simplicity and consist of way less intricate suspension components and fine geometric settings.

Electronics

If you've managed to source a donor truck where you can rip out whatever parts you need, you will need the wiring harness, transfer case plug and actuator. In many cases the instrument panel that is used in the 4x4 is the same one they use in the 4x2. The only difference is the 4x4 indicator lights are not wired up. If you can source the harness you should be able to plug it straight in.

4-Lo Gear Shifter

Your floor plan on a 4x2 does not have a hole to accommodate the TC and its shifter. You will need to measure and cut out a hole in your floorboard to accommodate the second 4Lo TC shifter. Source all the linkages, actuator, vacuum lines, switches and brackets from the donor truck.

Cost Breakdown to Convert a 4x2 to 4WD

Cost will largely depends on which model truck you want to convert. Obviously older pre 90' model trucks with SFA's are way cheaper and less complicated, void of sophisticated electronic brake sensors and intelligent traction control systems. You could source many used components at a salvage yard at a fraction of the price. As mentioned previously, a donor truck is ideal, since you will be able to re-use all the factory wiring harnesses, OEM switches and gear shifter, some of the support brackets, drive-shafts etc.

Let's take a 2000 model Ford F150 as a cost example. The below excludes physical labor, custom fabrication of brackets, or electrical wiring.

Component	Price
Transfer Case	Between \$853 and \$1810
Front Axle & Differential (SFA)	Between \$1274-\$2000
Front Drive shaft	Between \$307 and \$647
New 4WD AT Transmission	From \$1599
Drive Shaft center support	Between \$108 and \$117
TC Shifter	Between \$154 and \$250
Transfer Case Motor	From \$102
TC shifter mounting plate and release pins	From \$74

Transfer Case Gasket Set	From \$7.99
Transmission Cable Shift (AT)	From \$73.99

As you can see, this is by no means an affordable project. You might want to give the guys a call over at Rocksolidtoys for some more details on the custom fabrication and labour costs.

For more information please contact info@rocksolidtoys.com