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Stylish green

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Billed as "stylish green", the Jeep Renegade is an electric-diesel hybrid two-seater intended for the all-weather fun of dune-surfing or rock-crawling.

"With an electric motor powering each axle, the Jeep Renegade concept is designed for a 'hang on and have fun experience'," said Tony Shamenkov, Jeep Renegade concept principal exterior designer.

Constructed of environmentally responsible materials, sustainability is a key theme of the Jeep Renegade concept.

The propulsion system in the Jeep Renegade concept starts with a 40-mile (64-km) lithium-ion battery pack. A range extender — in Renegade's case, a small-displacement (1.5-litre, three-cylinder) Bluetec diesel engine — allows for journeys beyond 64km. In fact, the Jeep Renegade concept boasts a 640-km range.

Renegade's Bluetec diesel engine generates an additional 85kW when needed, while reducing exhaust emissions when compared to standard petrol engines.

The Jeep Renegade concept's lightweight aluminium architecture and regen-braking system help to improve overall efficiency, while dual electric 200kW motors propel a 4x4 system — complete with low range and locking differentials — worthy of carrying the Jeep name.

Get outside

The Jeep Renegade concept's "one-with-nature" personality is emphasised by its large, flaring wheel openings, oversized wheels and tyres, and cut-down speedster windshield — all of which combine to deliver on the Renegade's promise of cross-country fun and agility.

Among the unique exterior details are "deconstructed" rubber-clad headlamps and taillamps, as well as just-for-fun elongated triangular openings in each of the two sculpted doors.

While the Renegade features a roll bar, it has no top. Instead, the cargo deck just behind the cockpit can be



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fitted with a variety of "lids". Options include a plain lid, or lids configured to accommodate the gear of a particular outdoor day-trip activity, such as mountain biking or kayaking. Or it can come "as built" — with formations designed to accommodate two matching water scooters with open storage underneath. Fluid-fill caps, a plug-in port and a first-aid kit are also included.

Stay inside

Sustainability — a ratio between the energy needed to build and ship the vehicle as compared with the impact these processes have on the environment — is a key focus of the Jeep Renegade concept's interior design.

Materials used in constructing the Jeep Renegade concept were deliberately selected to be environmentally responsible, both in manufacture and end-of-vehicle-life recyclability.

Innovative construction includes one-piece moulded soy-based foam seats and doors, a one-piece co-moulded instrument panel with a urethane skin, a co-moulded aluminium/silicone steering wheel, a one-piece moulded chassis created without using environmentally-harmful resins, and a one-piece moulded interior compartment "tub". This environmental care in designing the Renegade's interior is aligned with Jeep's "harmony with nature" philosophy.

"The Jeep Renegade concept's interior — actually the entire vehicle — is designed to minimize the number of parts necessary for assembly and function," said Scott Anderson, principal interior designer of the Renegade concept. "We designed the Renegade with an eye toward simplification of systems, both in parts and processes."

The HVAC system, for example, is not coolant-based, while the colour, grain and gloss of the interior parts are moulded in one piece. Even the no-gloss exterior colour of the Renegade's lightweight composite body is moulded in to avoid the use of solvents present in automotive paints.

The dual-cockpit instrument panel is symmetrically balanced for easy "plug and play" left-hand drive and right-hand drive applications. There is no conventional wiring. Instead, the instrument panel features wireless electronics in sealed, self-contained units, removable by the customer.

The panel is built about an exposed cross-car beam containing an integrated power strip, and on the passenger side, yaw, pitch and roll indicators (also built into the fluid-fill gauges). The instrument panel itself is hollow, allowing ample open storage below the beam. Separately-configured impact-absorbing vinyl-wrapped knee-blockers "float" beneath the cross-car beam.

The thin multi-plane acrylic instrument cluster mounts to the steering column, while the similar but separate centre control screen mounts on a swivel base.

Located at the intersection of the steering wheel's T-shaped spokes, the circular LED screen rotates, allowing the driver to select the drive mode, while a flattened rim provides roomier thigh clearance. A driver air bag

is concealed beneath the screen. Red or green translucent shift buttons allow Park, Reverse or Drive selections.

The Jeep Renegade concept's doors incorporate unique canvas-pull remote "handles", while the rush of the moving landscape visible through the door's elongated openings enhance the open-air feeling.

The Renegade's contoured, figure-form seats — covered in scuba-like waterproof materials that are both soft-touch and flexible — feature in-seat belts and unusual, hollow, lightweight upside-down "U-shaped" headrests. The seats feature a urethane skin with soy-based foam co-molded with a composite substructure. The integral seatbelts, along with slender accent strips on the seats and instrument panel, repeat the Palm Metallic exterior colour.

A "thermal unit" in the centre console plugs into the electrical battery pack, permitting food to be either heated or cooled.

"Inspired by the simplicity and functionality of scuba diving gear, we wanted the interior of the Jeep Renegade concept to be weather-tight and durable," Anderson said.

The Renegade's wireless interior is designed to be hosed down. It features a drain in the floor, while the formations built into the floor mat are designed to channel water to the opening. Hollow-section billet-formed pedals float above the tub floor.

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