

VB-AIRSUSPENSION TWENTY-FIVE YEARS 1993-2018

"Air suspension is functional and certainly not sexy!"



ENJOY VB RECIPES!

FUN COMPETITIONS!

INCLUDING POSTER!

SPECIAL ITEMS:

- technical tips • colouring in •
- our products • on holiday with Victor and Benno • puzzle

FIND OUT ABOUT 'OUR ROUTE' TO SUCCESS...

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Serious business

"The sharpened focus, the professional outlook and determination to follow our own path turned out to be the right ingredients for growth. VB-Techniek had its foundations in 1993 and has chosen its own road to success." **PAGE 7**



Continuing to give it our all

"The future of VB-Airsuspension begins today. A future that is full of plans, full of ambitions, and full of energy. The VB-Airsuspension team stands ready to shake up the world of air suspension." **PAGE 35**



CONGRATULATIONS!

A BUMPY ROAD TO SUCCESS

1993
2018



25 YEARS OF VB-AIRSUSPENSION

It's good to look back over the past year, to experience the year you're in and to look ahead to the next year! And, if the year in question is 2018, we can only say: "What a fantastic year!" There was one particular day in this year that was extra special, one day that stands out. That day is 1 April: the day on which VB-Airsuspension reached 25 years old. This is a big milestone that we are enormously proud of here at VB-Airsuspension, something we could only have dreamed of 25 years ago, on 1 April 1993.

But our 'own route' to success is not solely down to the founders of this fantastic company. A motivated team of individuals has helped VB-Airsuspension grow enormously over the past 25 years, and we have been through so much together: the company developed new products, introduced a varied product range, entered the international markets, expanded the organisation, opened new offices around the world and entered into cooperation arrangements with partners. Much of what has been achieved at VB-Airsuspension would not have been possible without the support of the employees, partners and our close associates. And, it is highly likely that your support and confidence in us has also been part of this success. Without you, the company would not have got to where it is today. And, VB-Airsuspension has not finished yet, not by a long shot; as we have more fantastic developments in the pipeline, including further expansion with new offices.

We would love to take you on our 'own route' to success: to look back over the past 25 years, to be part of the anniversary year and to look forward to the years ahead. We will take you on a journey through the events of the past 25 years. While these events may be familiar to some, others will get to learn about them for the first time. Travel along the 'VB timeline' with this special edition of our anniversary magazine.



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This is a special publication from VB-Airsuspension on the occasion of our 25th anniversary in 2018.

PART NUMBER
722450580025EN02

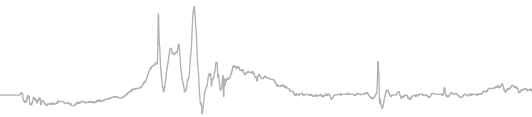
DESIGN
VB-Airsuspension Marketing team

TEXT
VB-Airsuspension Marketing team

PHOTOGRAPHY
Various photographers

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SMOOTHIE RECIPE

RECIPE

Blueberry smoothie
Ready in 5 minutes



MAKE YOUR OWN VB SMOOTHIE

A smoothie is a cold, usually creamy, alcohol-free drink made with fruit. The ingredients for most smoothies are ice cubes, fresh fruit and a milk product (yoghurt, milk or cream). These ingredients are added to a blender or a special smoothie maker and mixed together to produce a creamy drink. In specialist smoothie bars, frozen fruit and frozen yoghurt are used instead of ice cubes for extra flavour. Sugar or honey may sometimes be added.

BLUEBERRY SMOOTHIE

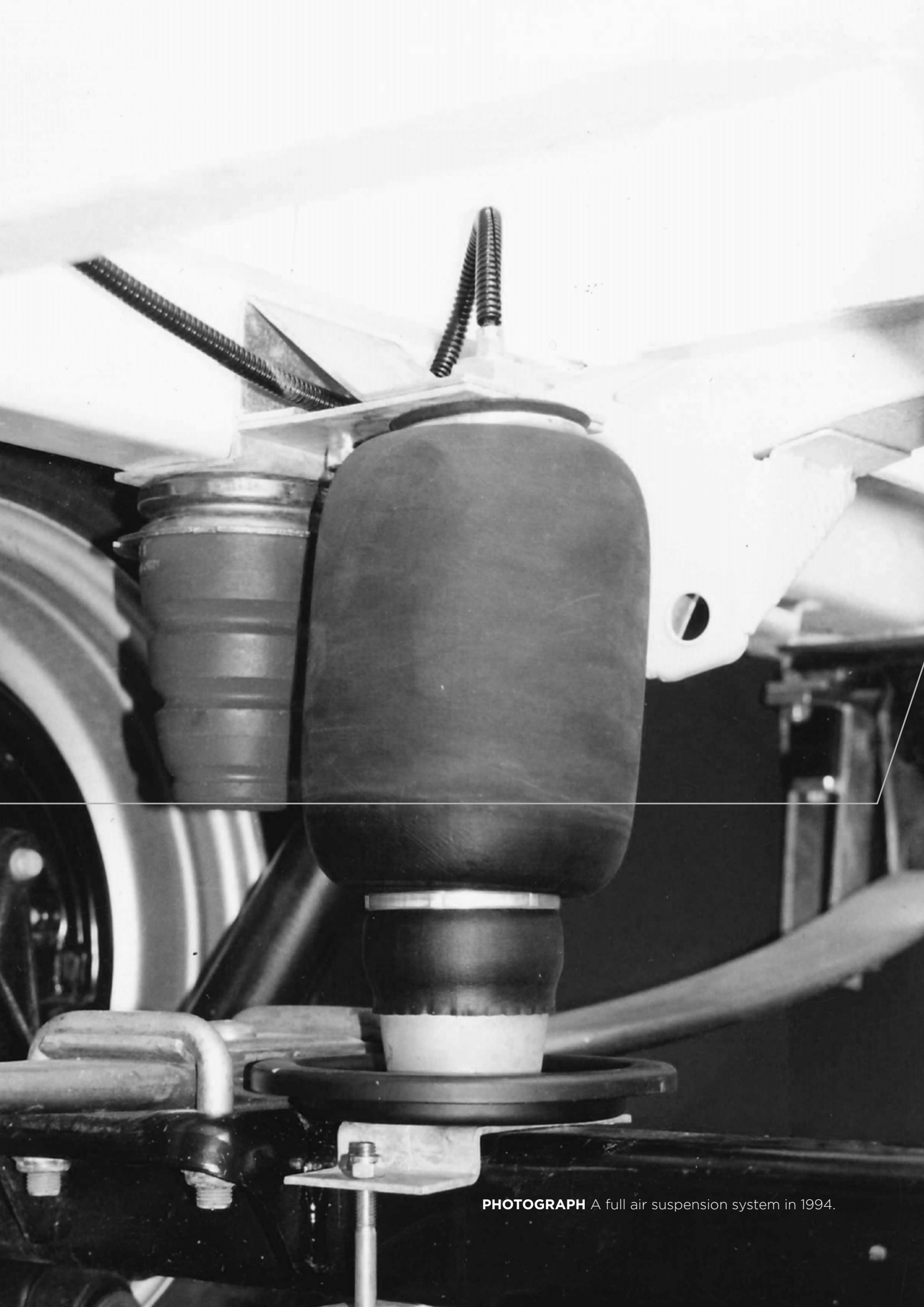
WHAT YOU NEED:

Blender
Ice cubes
Glass (cocktail glass)
A handful of blueberries (plus a few for the topping)
A handful of raspberries
1 banana
A good splash of milk
100 ml yoghurt

METHOD

1. Peel the banana.
2. Add the fruit to the blender.
3. Save three blueberries for the garnish.
4. Add the other ingredients to the blender and put the cover on the blender.
5. Mix it all together until you get a smooth consistency.
6. Pour the smoothie into the cocktail glass.
7. Stick a straw in the glass and add the blueberries you saved to the top as a garnish.

YOUR BLUEBERRY SMOOTHIE IS READY, ENJOY!



PHOTOGRAPH A full air suspension system in 1994.



SEEING OPPORTUNITIES AND GRASPING THEM

THE BEGINNINGS

1993, the year in which the foundation of our company was laid. The story of VB-Airsuspension actually begins with a trip around the world that Iginio Voorhorst made with three friends 26 years ago. Together they transformed a Magirus Deutz truck into a travelling workshop and did all sorts of odd jobs in exchange for food and fuel.

BRUIL KONSTRUKTIES

One of the sponsors of this "World Journey Project" was his old motocross friend Eric Bruil (the B in VB), who had left the company a few years previously. Once he was back in the Netherlands, Iginio went looking for Eric at his construction company. Somewhere in a corner sat something that was supposed to be an air suspension system; a project Eric had started at some point but was too busy to finish. The idea was to develop air suspension for small cars or commercial vehicles, something that didn't exist at the time. Iginio, who still didn't have anything to do after returning from his trip, picked up the project and after days of welding, drilling and grinding, created the first air suspension system for lightweight (commercial) vehicles.



VB-TECHNIEK

The motocross friends saw a gap in the market and so on the 1st April 1993, they started VB-Techniek in a small shed on Sinderenseweg in Varsseveld (the Netherlands). To promote their business to the right people, they fitted an air suspension system to a car for the opening of a car dealership. It turned out to be a good move, as within a couple of months they had gained their first customer.



PHOTOGRAPHS The first VB-Techniek air suspension kit for the Iveco Daily in 1993.



FOUNDATION

On 1st April 1993, Iginio Voorhorst and Eric Bruil started VB-Techniek in a small shed on Sinderenseweg in Varsseveld (the Netherlands).

A vehicle with VB-Techniek air suspension was displayed at the opening of a car dealership in order to promote the company.

Within a few months they had gained their first client.



1993

1994

1995



NEW PREMISES

At the beginning of 1994, VB-Techniek moved to the Oostelijke Oude Aaltenseweg in Varsseveld and held an open day so people could get to know the company.

There's a first time for everything: the first partnership talks were held, the first employee was hired and the first VB dealer became part of the partner network.

SETTING OUR OWN COURSE

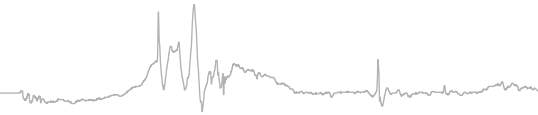
A major competitor of VB-Techniek was Alco, a company from Nieuwegein, with whom VB-Techniek held talks. VB-Techniek decided, however, to continue on their own course.

In July 1995, a wheelchair accessible minibus was built especially for the Noorderhaven Foundation.

There were issues with the accommodation at that time and a decision was taken to build our own premises.



PHOTOGRAPHS A great deal of hard work went into making it a success ... and new opportunities were about to present themselves.



1993-1997



GESINKKAMPSTRAAT

After the open day in 1993, Italian vehicle manufacturer Iveco showed an interest in VB-Techniek and invited them to Brescia (Italy). Due to his Italian roots, Iginio felt it was his duty to take on this task and go to Italy.

In July 1996, Bruil Konstrukties and VB-Techniek moved into their newly-built premises on the Gesinkkampstraat in Varsseveld (the Netherlands).

MILESTONE

The decision was taken to change course and focus more on the VB-Techniek side of the business. As a consequence, Bruil Konstrukties ceased activities in several areas, including for the heavy commercial vehicles sector.

With a lot of grit and determination, VB-Techniek created their first air suspension kits in 1997. The kits were produced for Crawford (a manufacturer of garage doors) and were designed to be fitted to six mini artics based on the new Sprinter – a huge milestone at the time.

1996

1997



WILMA VRIEZE

[HRM AND ADMINISTRATION]

From 6 to 120 employees, and from a couple of air suspension systems to multiple kits for a range of applications: over the past 22 years, Wilma Vrieze has watched VB-Airsuspension grow and has been involved somewhere along the line in almost every aspect of the company.

HOW HAS VB-AIRSUSPENSION MADE HER LIFE SMOOTHER:

"VB-Airsuspension undoubtedly makes my life 'smoother'. For one thing, I love my job and I appreciate the opportunities I have to develop as a person in the areas that interest me. This gives further scope to put my skills and abilities to use."



PHOTOGRAPH Workshop on Gesinkkampstraat.



PHOTOGRAPH The first kits for full air suspension were fitted to vehicles and delivered.



COOS VAN GINKEL

[INEL B.V.]

INEL B.V. has been a supplier to VB-Airsuspension for many years now, to the extent that Coos now feels like an employee. The company was brought in to further develop the electronics and improve the ASCU software for VB.

HOW HAS VB-AIRSUSPENSION MADE HIS LIFE SMOOTHER:

"The collaboration over the past 20 years and the work that we are currently doing for VB has given us a great deal of pleasure and makes our life smoother. What's more, I have the luxury of owning a vehicle with VB air suspension."

1998

1999

VB-TECHNIEK B.V.

In 1998, Bruil Konstrukties and VB-Techniek officially merged into one "BV" (similar to a "Ltd" company). From then on, they were known as VB-Techniek B.V.

Iveco tasked VB-Techniek B.V. with developing an air suspension system, and 'strange black vehicles' started arriving in Varsseveld. This caused quite a stir.

HARD WORK BEARS FRUIT

All this hard work was starting to pay off as VB-Techniek B.V. won the contract to manufacture air suspension for Iveco!

A tent was erected at the back of the Gesinkkampstraat premises to create even more storage space for stock.





PHOTOGRAPH VB-Airsuspension fits the prototypes for the best development itself

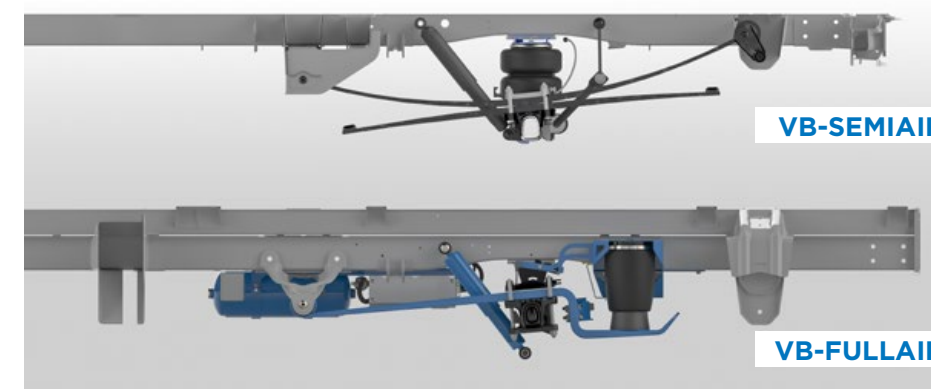


WHAT IS AIR SUSPENSION?

The name of our company tells you clearly that we develop and sell air suspension.

Air suspension is the general term used to describe suspension systems that (partially) run on air.

However, it is important to note that there are two completely different types of air suspension available: semi air suspension and full air suspension.



Semi air suspension creates more spring travel

The name 'semi air suspension' says it all: this type of suspension supports the existing suspension on the vehicle. Semi air suspension is often used on vehicles that regularly carry heavy loads. An air spring is fitted between the chassis and the rear axle, which raises the ride height of the vehicle and generates greater spring travel. The semi air suspension therefore helps to increase the level of comfort and stability when travelling in your vehicle.

Full air suspension – the best solution for suspension problems

Full air suspension is a fully automatic (adjustable) solution for suspension problems. The conventional suspension system is completely replaced by a full air suspension system that filters out unevenness in the road surface, thereby increasing ride comfort. Our full air suspension also reduces crosswind sensitivity, helping to make your vehicle safer.

A full air suspension system includes air springs, height sensors, a compressor and an electronic control unit. Our full air suspension systems are supplied with a sophisticated remote control that can be used to easily operate all functions of the suspension system.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
Our VB-Partners will be happy to help you choose the right system for you!

The benefits of semi air suspension:

Relatively low purchase price - 'plug-and-play' system allows for quick installation - body, equipment and load remain protected from damage - heavy loads are no longer noticeable from the outside

The benefits of a full air suspension system:

Constant ride height - increased comfort - optimum driveability - increased stability - comfortable ride for passengers and/or goods - kneeling function for convenient loading and unloading of goods - less wear on tyres/brakes - better for the environment: reduced CO₂ emissions

We also offer different types of full air suspension, for example the VB-FullAir 2C kit (only on the rear axle of the vehicle) or the VB-FullAir 4C kit (on both the front and rear axle).



2000

2001

2002

IVECO

The first partial delivery of a total of 123 kits was sent out to Iveco in Italy. It was all hands on deck right up until the evening before departure to get the kits ready in time.

Irish group Drive-Rite decided they wanted to sell more semi air suspension systems on the Dutch market and saw a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with VB-Techniek, who they met at a UK trade fair.

NEW LEASED PREMISES

After a year and half, it was goodbye to the Gesinkkampstraat premises with the industrial tent out back for storage and hello to leased premises on Riezenweg in Ulf.

An effective partnership with suppliers meant that the entire Iveco production order of just under 1000 kits could be turned around by three people.

RED BROCHURE

This growth and the drive towards professionalisation at VB-Techniek signalled the need for a new brochure. The brochure was designed with a red cover to make it stand out.

After Drive-Rite, German company Goldschmitt also expressed an interest in working with VB-Techniek. The company wanted to sell VB-Techniek FullAir systems under the Goldschmitt name.

HRZEUG-
ERUNGEN

2000-2004



ISO CERTIFICATION

To identify and optimise the key processes, the process of gaining ISO certification was set in motion in 2003. However, it turned out it was not just a matter of ticking a few boxes...

Drive-Rite and VB-Techniek continued to work together, even though each was still working separately on the development of a new ECU. At the invitation of Drive-Rite, VB-Techniek visited the SEMA trade fair in the United States where Firestone was launching a new ECU.

MILESTONE

A fourth move! Twenty three employees moved, following a year of building work, to completely new VB premises on Frankenweg. Premises that were five times bigger than the site at Gesinkkampstraat.

One of the salespeople at VB-Techniek was given the ambitious task of selling a special mini artic combination to Festo. As an extra incentive, the whole staff team were promised a day out if he succeeded... It must have worked, as the VB-Techniek team happily headed off to Center Parcs.



2003

2004



PAUL STEINPATZ

[DIRECTOR VB-AIRSUSPENSION FRANCE 2004-2014]

We were looking for a Dutch native who could speak French and sell VB products in France. We found this individual in Paul, who had already been living in France for around two years. VB-Airsuspension France S.A.R.L. was formed and Paul took 40% ownership of the company.

HOW HAS VB-AIRSUSPENSION MADE HIS LIFE SMOOTHER:

"They agreed I could stay my own boss. I was given the freedom to do and arrange things as I wanted. That made my time with VB-Airsuspension one of the best in my life."



PHOTOGRAPH VB-Airsuspension manufactures a large proportion of its air springs in house.



VB-TECHNIEK B.V.

Now the focus was solely on air suspension systems, the company had outgrown its name of VB-Techniek. So, the copper anniversary was celebrated with a new, international name that said what the company does: VB-Airsuspension.

The arrangement with Drive-Rite proved to be troublesome and they showed themselves to be unreliable partners. When the promised contract was still not forthcoming, it was the last straw for VB-Techniek and they decided to put an end to the partnership.

HARD WORK BEARS FRUIT

The second subsidiary was in the bag! A difficult partnership and a lack of trust following the takeover of UK-based VB client TVAC by an investor drove the decision to take over distribution in the United Kingdom,

The development of the fourth generation Iveco Daily, which was due to come onto the market in 2006, needed to be started in the near future but Iveco was suspiciously quiet. Something wasn't right, and not long after this suspicion proved to be well-founded: VB-Airsuspension lost Iveco.



2005

2006



OLIVER DRINKWATER

[MANAGING DIRECTOR VB-AIRSUSPENSION UK]

As the son of an air suspension manufacturer (Drinkwater Engineering), Oliver grew up among bellows and springs. When the family firm merged with TVAC, then importers for VB-Airsuspension in the United Kingdom, a joint decision was taken to pool the expertise of both brands and continue doing business with VB.

HOW HAS VB-AIRSUSPENSION MADE HIS LIFE SMOOTHER:

"The VB mindset does not always make my life easier, but it does make it more interesting. VB has given me the opportunity to develop myself and to put my all into something. As well as opening doors, it has taught me to solve problems in an inventive way and has given me the chance to prove I can deliver."

... EVERY YEAR
A CELEBRATION!



PAST AND FUTURE ANNIVERSARIES!

PAST ANNIVERSARIES

COTTON ANNIVERSARY	01/04/1994
PAPER ANNIVERSARY	01/04/1995
LEATHER ANNIVERSARY	01/04/1996
WOOD ANNIVERSARY	01/04/1998
TIN ANNIVERSARY	01/07/1999
PEWTER ANNIVERSARY	01/04/2003
CRYSTAL ANNIVERSARY	01/04/2008
PORCELAIN ANNIVERSARY	01/04/2013
SILVER ANNIVERSARY	01/04/2018

FUTURE ANNIVERSARIES!

01/04/2043	GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY
01/04/2068	RHODIUM ANNIVERSARY
01/04/2093	IVORY ANNIVERSARY

PHOTOGRAPHS Collection of cakes for the staff celebrating VB-Airsuspension anniversaries down the years.



PHOTOGRAPH This VB-Airsuspension Nissan Navara with a VB-FullAir 2C air suspension system has already shown what it can do at the 'Le Dakar' in South America and the 'Morocco Desert Challenge' in Morocco.



WE DON'T JUST SUPPLY AIR SUSPENSION!

Did you know that we also make shock absorbers and reinforced replacement and helper springs?

Air suspension is the recommended solution for many problems, for example if you need to be able to lower the vehicle or variable loads are being carried, but in certain situations a reinforced replacement or helper spring can provide the perfect solution. A reinforced replacement spring and/or helper spring, even a VB-CoilSpring, helps and strengthens the existing suspension on the vehicle. The VB-CoilSpring returns the vehicle to its original ride-height, which improves the driving characteristics of the vehicle. The VB-CoilSpring is a good option for vehicles that are always heavily laden.

SOUND FAMILIAR?

We will help you find
the right solution for
your vehicle!

Service vehicles

You know them well; service vehicles that are filled to the brim with parts because the driver never knows which tools or parts will be needed for the next job. These service vehicles are often so heavily laden that they start to sag. This leads to unstable, uncomfortable and sometimes even unsafe handling. Over time the chassis will also be damaged. By fitting the VB-CoilSpring, the vehicle is returned to its original ride-height and will feel much more stable, and drive much more comfortably and safely.



Motorhomes

The weight of the motorhome superstructure on the chassis of a Fiat Ducato, Peugeot Boxer or Citroën Jumper means many motorhomes have a high centre of gravity. The standard suspension systems on these chassis are not completely up to the job of carrying a heavy motorhome, so the suspension has a great deal to contend with. For this reason, modifying the suspension system of your motorhome is highly recommended. We offer reinforced replacement and helper springs especially designed for both the front and rear axles of motorhomes. As with service vehicles, motorhomes are returned to their original ride-height once these springs have been fitted. Our (suspension) applications help to improve the driving characteristics of your motorhome so that you have a pleasant and safe journey.

Does the above sound like your vehicle(s) or motorhome? Then our VB-CoilSpring could be the perfect solution for you.



MICHAEL BRILMAN

[ACCOUNT MANAGER BENELUX]

Starting out as a fitter and progressing to become account manager for the Benelux site, Michael Brilman makes the most of the opportunities that come his way, and has been able to develop within VB-Airsuspension. "I want to play my part, and in this way take myself and the company to the next level."

HOW HAS VB-AIRSUSPENSION MADE HIS LIFE SMOOTHER:

"VB-Airsuspension makes my life 'smoother'. I have been able to grow along with the company and develop professionally and as a person. Having a good work/life balance acts as a catalyst!"

2007

WORKING HARD

Pulling together as a team, VB-Airsuspension redoubled their efforts to limit the damage wreaked by 2006. All that hard work wasn't for nothing. Two months after the reorganisation, the first employee was asked to come back and new VB innovations were introduced.

Safety is incredibly important in the automotive sector, meaning that the requirements continually become more and more stringent. In response to an enquiry from Mercedes, VB-Airsuspension began fine-tuning the air suspension and electronics for the combined solution with ESP in conjunction with the University.

CRYSTAL ANNIVERSARY

Our crystal anniversary, hooray! VB-Airsuspension had turned 15 years old, and the VB team blew out 15 candles on their celebrated birthday cake.

At the request of a German company also in the industry, VB-Airsuspension threw themselves into developing a completely new air suspension kit for the Iveco Daily within six weeks so that it could be fitted to five vehicles and displayed at the Caravan Salon in Düsseldorf.

2008



MERCEDES-BENZ

VB-Airsuspension became a "Generalunternehmer" or General Contractor for Mercedes-Benz! This means local Mercedes-Benz dealers are able to order a Sprinter with pre-fitted VB air suspension in the 27 countries of the European Union, as well as many countries outside the EU.

A Volkswagen Transporter rechristened as TH2RS gained the title of "fastest van in the world" by reaching speeds of 310.7 km per hour. The record came with Dutch honours as the lightning-fast van was fitted with VB-FullAir 4C Extreme Sport air suspension and a Speed Depending Leveling System.

VB-SEMAIR IS BORN

After several attempts to partner with various players on the market, the decision was taken to develop semi air suspension in-house instead. In 2010, VB-SemiAir in trusted VB quality was proudly introduced to the world.

The excellent collaboration with Mr Linnepe continued, meaning that VB products were now represented in Germany. To provide him with the support he needed, VB-Airsuspension Germany put sales rep Martin Fabisch on their payroll.

VB GOES INTERNATIONAL

At the end of January, VB-Rally-Racing took part in the Lapland Tour, a rally marked by excitement, beautiful scenery and icy roads. The team made their way throughout the whole of Scandinavia, with some of the stages taking place above the Arctic Circle.

VB goes international! With the help of a partner in St. Petersburg who VB had been working with since 2008, the fourth VB-Airsuspension subsidiary was founded in Russia. The Managing Director of this subsidiary was Igor Vlasjuk.

2009

2010

2011

PHOTOGRAPH A Transporter christened TH2RS fitted with our VB-FullAir 4C gained the title of 'fastest van in the world'.



PHOTOGRAPH A glimpse of the warehouse on Guldenweg.



FAREWELL TO THE BRAKE

Founder and owner Eric Bruil decided it was time for him to go. The gas and the brake, the self-willed pioneer and the level-headed doer... Eric and Iginio had formed the perfect partnership for many years. A new phase would follow for the company.

An extended pick-up (a Volkswagen Amarok) developed by Veth Automotive needed air suspension. The two joined forces, and to bring the products to the attention of an international audience, the extended pick-up with air suspension was made available to the Dakar Press Team.

PORCELAIN ANNIVERSARY

VB-Airsuspension goes Dakar! It was not just the Dakar Press Team; Mammoet trucks with air suspension from VB-Airsuspension also stood on the starting line at the 2013 Dakar Rally. One of the teams ended up in eleventh place.

Porcelain anniversary for VB-Airsuspension! The company's 20th anniversary was celebrated with events over four days, when we celebrated the successes at the Dakar and marked Eric's departure. There were presentations and factory tours, test drives in different vehicles were organised, there was an open day and general celebrations all round.

2012

2013

ERIC BRUIL

[FOUNDER AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF VB-AIRSUSPENSION]

If you couldn't buy it, then Eric would make it for you. His passion is for welding, grinding and fitting; all of which skills he has at his fingertips. The growth, investments and internationalisation were so far removed from his passion that in 2012, he decided to sell his shares to Iginio and leave the good years at VB-Airsuspension behind him.

HOW HAS VB-AIRSUSPENSION MADE HIS LIFE SMOOTHER:

"I enjoy life, And, when all's said and done, I have VB-Airsuspension to thank for that. Back then I enjoyed putting my skills to use and seeing our business flourish, but my real passion was for Motocross bikes. Our business almost didn't get off the ground, but now thanks to VB I get to make the most of my hobby and my time with my family."



DISCOVER OUR PRODUCTS!



1. VB-SemiAir 2. VB-CoilSpring 3. VB-FullAir 2C LCV remote control 4. VB-FullAir 4C LCV remote control 5. VB app 6. Shock absorbers 7. VB-AATS air tank 8. VB-SemiAir compressor 9. VB-SemiAir control panel 10. VB-FullAir 2C Motorhome remote control 11. VB-FullAir 3C Motorhome remote control 12. VB-FullAir 4C Motorhome remote control 13. VB-FullAir 14. Height sensor, height sensor rod 15. Inflation valves 16. Air springs 17. VB-LevelAir 18. Roll stabiliser

VB-FullAir – full air suspension

VB-FullAir is an automatic, adjustable solution for suspension problems. The existing leaf or coil spring suspension is replaced with a full air suspension system. This system includes air springs, shock absorbers, height sensors, a compressor and an electronic control unit (VB-ASCU). The air suspension system filters out unevenness in the road surface, improving ride comfort.

While driving, the vehicle will constantly remain at the ride height set by VB-Airsuspension during installation. The driveability and stability of the vehicle are improved, which in turn increases safety. When the vehicle is at a standstill (in some cases with the handbrake on), the entry/loading platform height can be increased and decreased to comfortably enter and exit the vehicle and for goods to be conveniently loaded and unloaded.

VB-LevelAir – automatic level control

VB-LevelAir is a VB-SemiAir basic system with automatic level control. With the VB-LevelAir system the height is adjusted automatically, as is the minimum and maximum pressure in the bellows, so that the vehicle is always at the right height and the bellows are always at the correct pressure.

VB-CoilSpring – (auxiliary and reinforced springs)

A helper spring or replacement spring is used on vehicles that already have coil spring suspension. Helper springs are fitted on vehicles with leaf suspension. These reinforced springs will largely ensure that the vehicle returns to its original ride height, which increases the spring travel and hence improves stability and, to some extent, comfort levels.

Replacement spring: As the name suggests, the original coil spring is removed and replaced by the replacement spring, i.e. by a reinforced spring.

VB-NivoAir – full air suspension

VB-NivoAir is a full air suspension system specifically developed for vehicles with coil springs. The existing coil spring suspension is replaced with a full air suspension system. The air suspension system filters out unevenness in the road surface, improving ride comfort. The VB-NivoAir system always keeps the vehicle at the same ride height. In contrast to the VB-FullAir systems, the VB-NivoAir system cannot be operated, so it is not possible to raise or lower the vehicle yourself.

VB-ActiveAir – active shock absorbers

VB-ActiveAir is a combination of a full air suspension system (VB-FullAir 4C) and adaptive shock absorbers (VB-DynActive). The intelligent suspension and damping system adjusts in real time to the condition of the road surface and the load. The system provides for greater ride comfort, but above all increased safety.

VB-SemiAir – semi air suspension

VB-SemiAir enables the suspension to be adjusted (manually) within specific limits. On a vehicle with leaf springs, an air spring is fitted between the chassis and the rear axle. This air spring supports the existing leaf spring.

VB-SemiAir is supplied as a two-chamber system, which means that the air springs are not connected to each other. The use of a two-chamber system allows left and right to be adjusted separately, enabling the vehicle to be levelled, even when it is loaded unevenly.

Helper spring: The original leaf or coil spring is retained when a helper spring is fitted. The helper spring is installed alongside the original. Installing the helper spring reinforces the original suspension.

VB-FSD shock absorbers

FSD stands for 'frequency selective damping'. The addition of a special valve allows the shock absorber with FSD technology to vary its own damping force. This directly results in more comfortable driving characteristics, improved stability, more safety and less vibrations and background noise since unevenness in the road surface is not felt as distinctly in the vehicle.

VB-SpecialParts

Roll stabilisers: the effect of a roll stabiliser is such that vertical movements in one wheel are reproduced (to a lesser degree) in the same wheel on the other side of the vehicle. This reduces leaning of the body in bends as well as crosswind sensitivity. The installation of a (reinforced) stabiliser is mainly recommended on vehicles with a high centre of gravity.

Shock absorbers: The installation of reinforced shock absorbers helps to more effectively absorb vehicle movements in relation to the road surface. The vehicle returns to the correct ride height after each movement. Vehicles with softer suspension are usually considered to be more comfortable, but often have unstable road contact. The installation of reinforced shock absorbers improves the stability and therefore is good for the vehicle too.



GERALD MOLENVELD

[GENERAL MANAGER]

In 2015, while on the hunt for a new challenge, Gerald Molenveld met Iginio for a coffee. When they later came to put an agreement down on paper, he got to work as General Manager on shaping the growth and structure of VB.

HOW HAS VB-AIRSUSPENSION MADE HIS LIFE SMOOTHER:

As a mountain climber, I sometimes find myself 'climbing mountains' when I'm not exactly sure how big they are, or how we're going to get back down from them successfully and in one piece. Working with the team in a great atmosphere to successfully overcome a puzzling challenge – that's what makes my life 'smoother'!"



PHOTOGRAPH The new stand at the Caravan Salon in Düsseldorf.

2014

2015

AOMS

Together with Eminent Products, VB-Airsuspension started work on the development of suitable technology for a load sensor that would give drivers precise information on the weight of the load in their vehicle, also known as an Axle Overload Monitoring System (AOMS).

Inspired by Hymer, the CEO of AL-KO asked whether VB-Airsuspension would be open to a takeover. Talks followed and after some time an offer was forthcoming, but it fell way below expectations. The takeover did not go ahead.

VB EXPANDED OVERSEAS

Following careful market research, the preparation of a business plan and a search for the right partner, in 2015 the fifth subsidiary – VB-Airsuspension North America – became a reality!

To enable the company to continue to grow and professionalise and with an eye to the future, Gerald Molenveld (General Manager) and investment firm Quadrum Capital were welcomed on board.

PHOTOGRAPH A glimpse of the warehouse on Frankenweg.

2016

2017

VB-ACTIVEAIR

The first vehicle, a luxury motorhome from Morelo, was fitted with a ground-breaking innovation: active dampers in combination with full air suspension, called VB-ActiveAir! The VB product responds to unevenness in the road surface in milliseconds.

The figures for 2016 were well below par. While the innovations, awards, new team members, investments, growing turnover, divisions and professionalisation drives all followed one another in quick succession, costs were spiralling out of control and there was a lack of focus.

KÖNIG KUNDE AWARD

VB-ActiveAir was a success and won the coveted European Innovation Award in the Safety category at the CMT fair. The introduction of VB-ActiveAir, the strong OE position with the big motorhome manufacturers and the partnership with VB dealer Carsten Stäbler all contributed to VB winning the König Kunde Award two years in a row!

Two years of negotiations between Daimler and VB-Airsuspension held in the utmost secrecy finally resulted in a very pleasing OEM contract in 2017, which means VB-Airsuspension will deliver the OEM air suspension for the new Sprinter models.



PHOTOGRAPHS König Kunde Awards ceremony in 2016 and 2017.





PHOTOGRAPH Iginio Voorhorst is grateful and proud! "Here's to another 25 years of VB-Airsuspension!"

CELEBRATING WITH THE VB-TEAM

The marketing department was at full tilt with the preparations for the anniversary celebrations, both for the in-house team and the partners.

The champagne corks were all set to pop at 12 midnight precisely on 1 April 2018. The entire VB team and their guests enthusiastically celebrated 25 years of the company, in which they have all played a part. A solemn promise, partly made in jest, was given that none of the photographs from the evening would be published.

CELEBRATING WITH OUR PARTNERS

The anniversary was celebrated on 25 May 2018 with all VB-Partners at the 5th edition of the Dutch Dakar Experience.

It was a spectacular day with a 'silver' tinge. This special VIP Day started with a presentation by Jan Lammers, following which the event turned its sights on fun and relaxation, excitement and speed. Later that day guests were treated to a fabulous dinner courtesy of the chef at Van der Valk Hotel and the evening concluded with a celebratory party.

IGINIO VOORHORST

[FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF VB-AIRSUSPENSION]

Iginio has never stuck to the beaten path; bumpy dirt tracks, sharp hairpin bends and, every now and again, a quick shortcut down a side road are much more in his line. Right from his earliest days, this typified the route taken by the budding entrepreneur.

HOW HAS VB-AIRSUSPENSION MADE HIS LIFE SMOOTHER:
"VB is my life, my baby. I have poured everything I have into the company and I will continue to give everything I have to the company. Because of VB I have become a more complete person and I now have the freedom to do things the way I want to. I feel very blessed and privileged to have formed the friendships that I have at VB over the past 25 years."



CONTINUING TO GIVE IT OUR ALL

The future of VB-Airsuspension begins today. A future that is full of plans, full of ambitions, and full of energy. The VB-Airsuspension team is ready to shake up the world of air suspension with ground-breaking innovations, products that will find appreciation on the market.

LOGISTICS CENTRE

On the site that is currently just a large grass field, a brand-new logistics centre will come into being in 2019.

WORKING WITH COBOTS

Ultra-modern cobots will be there to support VB staff with repetitive tasks.

AFTERMARKET AND OEM

VB-Airsuspension has been looking for a way of separating the flexible after-market production and the structured OEM processes for at least the past 10 years. Because of the complexity and volume of projects, this represents a major challenge, but it is a necessary move to enable us to really benefit from the best of both worlds. Fortunately, we are getting closer to achieving our objective.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

We are thankful for the team that is now in place leading VB-Airsuspension. Together we are strong! Stronger than all the rest!

OPS

We have invested in Overload Protection Systems, suppliers of a system that detects overload in vehicles using VB products.

VB ACADEMY

There are plans to set up a VB Academy with a field lab, which will be used to develop the technologies of tomorrow. Our aim is to create a culture of learning and innovation within the company. Smart co-working and the joint development of knowledge and understanding form the basis for further growth!

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

A minority holding by AL-KO Fahrzeugtechnik in VB-Airsuspension is boosting joint growth. This holding is the next logical step to further strengthen the already close ties between the two businesses.



126 employees

38,458 BOXES

are equivalent to more than
5406 m²

43%

of products
sold are
VB-FullAir kits

No. of orders:
9923

TOP 5

- 1. DE
- 2. UK
- 3. USA
- 4. EN
- 5. FR

18,127 order items

227 KM
of air tubes

30%
of products
sold are
VB-SemiAir kits

More than
15,500 m²
floor space

27%
of products sold
are
VB-CoilSprings

IT'S THE TAKING PART THAT COUNTS

25

"Victor and
Benno" dogs



HAPPY PUZZLING!

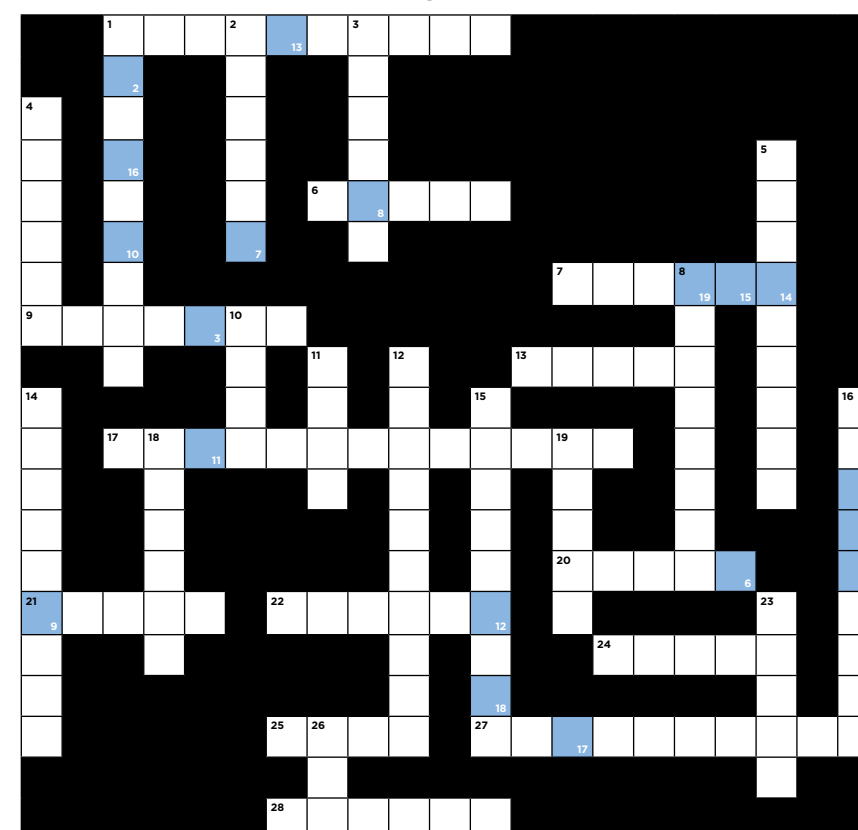
Got a few moments to spare, on a journey with nothing to do or relaxing on holiday? Why not have a go at solving our 'How-many-years-are-we-celebrating-crossword-puzzle'. Try your luck and be in with a chance of winning one of our 25 original "Victor and Benno" dogs.

Work out the answers based on the clues, then enter the answer in the relevant line or row of the crossword puzzle to match the number of the clue. The clues are cryptic or the answer can be found somewhere in this magazine. Once you have solved all the clues and completed the crossword, the letters in the blue boxes with the white figures will form a sentence, and you have solved the puzzle!

E-mail the sentence to smoothery@vbairsuspension.com with 'How-many-years-are-we-celebrating-crossword-puzzle' in the subject line. Include your **name** and **address details** in the e-mail. The first **25** correct entries drawn out of a hat will win an original "Victor and Benno" dog.

IT'S EASY TO TAKE PART! GOOD LUCK!

1. Fill in the answers **2.** Formulate a sentence using the letters in the blue boxes **3.** Send in the solution by e-mail



HORIZONTAL

- 1 Place of business
- 6 Collaborative robot
- 7 Electronic control unit
- 9 VB liqueur
- 13 Brother of Victor
- 17 In all countries
- 20 100th anniversary
- 21 König Kunde ...
- 22 Co-founder
- 24 Dutch ... Experience
- 25 Product in VB smoothie
- 27 25 years
- 28 In magazine centre pages

VERTICAL

- 1 VB training college
- 2 25th anniversary
- 3 VB test driver
- 4 Raise your glass
- 5 Full air suspension
- 8 Making everyday ...
- 10 Celebratory confection with candles
- 11 Extra storage space
- 12 Name founded under
- 14 Works with you
- 15 V in VB
- 16 Drink to celebrate
- 18 Nissan
- 19 Our anniversary month
- 23 B in VB
- 26 Certification

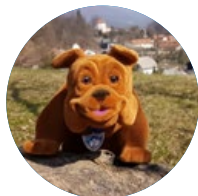
More prizes! Like to be in with a chance of winning other great prizes? Subscribe to the newsletter at www.vbairsuspension.com/vbnews and you could be one of the lucky winners!

COLOUR IN VICTOR!



25

"Victor and Benno" dogs



COLOURING IN!

Making everyday colourful!

Our test drivers Victor and Benno are two little dogs who like to sit on the parcel shelf or dashboard of (light) commercial vehicles, motorhomes and ambulances and, who knows, maybe in your vehicle too!

They are real VB test drivers with their own driving licence and their own passport of course, because these VB team members need to be able to get over the border too. As long as Victor is giving a satisfied nod, our suspension is working perfectly.

So, travelling with Victor and/or Benno is not just 'smooth', above all it's safe and comfortable. This is because our suspension systems allow for better handling, whatever the conditions throw at you.

Show us your very own top product, the result of hard work and effort: that is a cheery, coloured-in Victor heading off on his holidays.

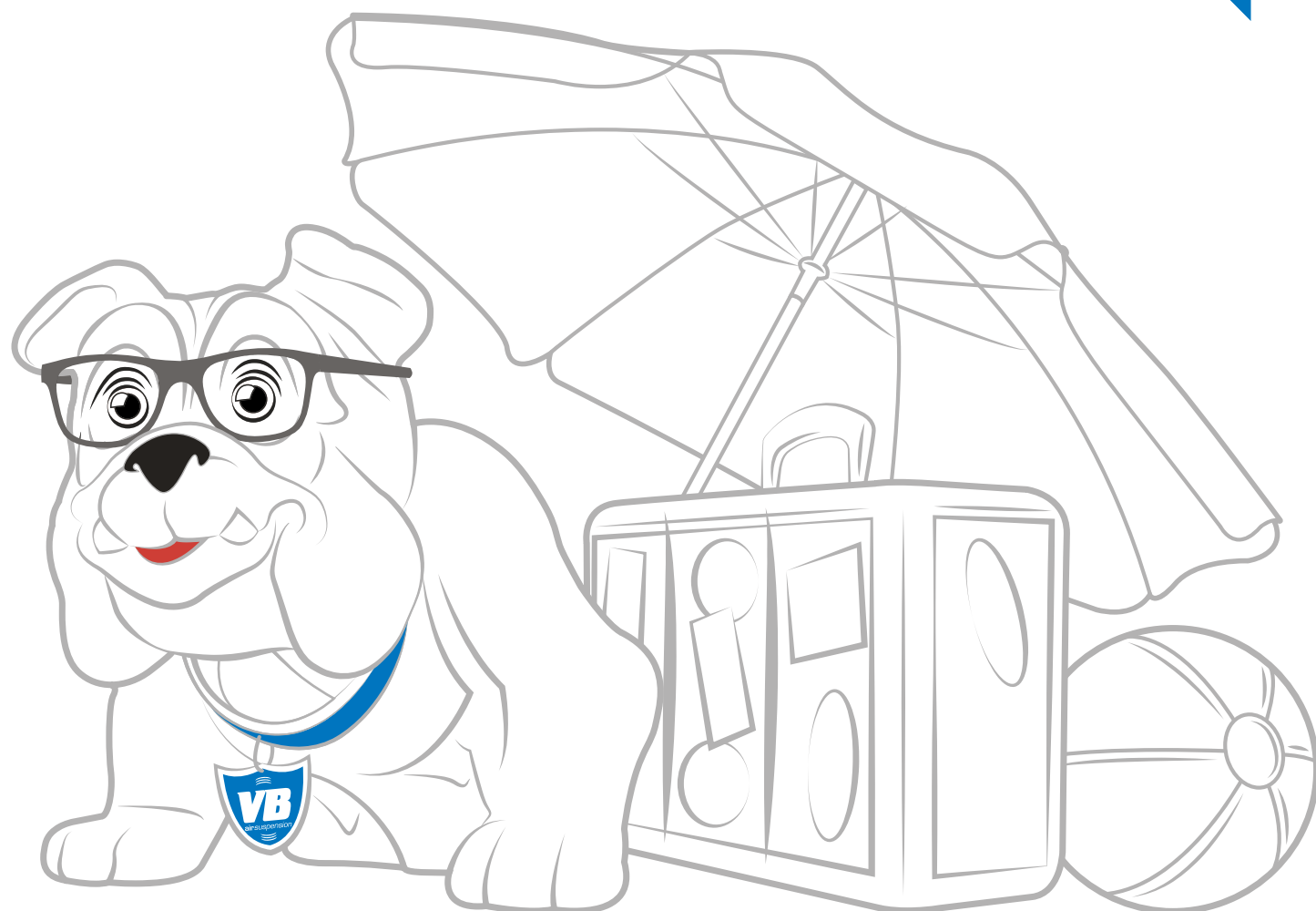
Fun for you or your (grand) children! Colour in the picture of Victor below and be in with a chance of winning one of our 25 original "Victor and Benno" dogs.

Send your coloured-in picture in a stamped envelope to **VB-Airsuspension F.a.o. Victor and Benno, Frankenweg 3, NL-7051 HV, Varsseveld, The Netherlands.**

Please include your **name, age** and **address details**. The first 25 entries drawn out of a hat will win an original "Victor and Benno" dog.

IT'S EASY TO TAKE PART! GOOD LUCK!

1. Get out your colouring pens **2.** Colour in the picture **3.** Put it in the post



SAMBUCA RECIPE

RECIPE

Flaming sambuca!
Ready in 1 minute.



CHEERS!

Sambuca is a strong (40% ABV) Italian liqueur with aniseed flavouring. Most sambucas are colourless, but become cloudy when mixed with water. Traditionally, sambuca is served with three coffee beans in the glass. The beans each represent health, happiness and prosperity. The sambuca may be ignited to give a rounded, full flavour when an unusual sensation of hot and cold is experienced in the mouth. Other flavourings, such as mandarin, are sometimes added to sambuca.

THREE COFFEE BEANS

Three coffee beans should, by tradition, be added to the glass. The three beans at VB-Airsuspension stand for our pleasure in welcoming you as a guest. With the three coffee beans we would like to wish you health, happiness and prosperity. Flambé the sambuca, so that the coffee beans impart a full flavour.



WHAT YOU NEED:

Glass (liqueur glass)
3 coffee beans
Sambuca
Flame (lighter)
Cover

METHOD

1. Put three coffee beans in a glass.
2. Pour a small amount of sambuca into the glass.
3. Then ignite the sambuca using a lighter.
4. Leave alight for around 20 seconds.
5. Put a cover over the glass to extinguish the flame.

CHEERS! ENJOY!

WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU'VE AGREED

"Get what you've agreed down on paper. Everyone has their own filter, i.e. their own perception of things. By writing everything down, you prevent unnecessary misunderstandings now or later down the line." - **Iginio**

"Say what you are doing and do what you say."
- **Iginio**

GREAT DAYS

"If the plus and the minus were both producing energy, the battery wouldn't work." - **Eric**

DAMN HARD WORK

"That is the DNA of VB-Airsuspension and something I am very proud of." - **Oliver**

DOING WHAT YOU ENJOY

"What use is money if you're not happy." - **Iginio**

"It's important to look out for one another." - **Wilma**

... TWENTY FIVE FANTASTIC, EVENTFUL YEARS!

