PRESS RELEASE

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Three Months Off the Beaten Path: The PR 4X Put to the Test

Forest trails, roots, sand, and steep slopes: Sascha from Hamburg tested Paravan's all-wheel-drive electric wheelchair, the PR 4X, for three months in everyday life and off-road. His conclusion is clear—with one point of criticism.



Off the beaten path: Sascha tests the PR 4X in tall grass—exactly where his usual everyday mobility reaches its limits. Photo: Sascha/Paravan

The slope looks steep from below. From the wheelchair, it feels even steeper. Sascha is tense as he starts moving forward in the PR 4X. He holds on tight, even though the straps keep him securely in the seat. "I was 100 percent sure: I'm about to tip over," recalls the Hamburg resident. But the moment he expected never comes. The wheelchair drives up the slope, back down again, and later across roots and branches. "The PR 4X climbs up there like a big cat," says Sascha.

For three months, he had the opportunity to test the newest electric wheelchair in the Paravan portfolio exactly where it was designed to be used: off the beaten path. Sascha lives with high-level tetraplegia following an accident and usually gets around in his daily life using an e-fix wheelchair. However, extreme dirt roads, forest trails, or steeper inclines set clear limits on his usual everyday mobility. That's exactly where his test began: What changes when a wheelchair is specifically designed for unpaved paths and challenging terrain?

It Takes a Few Kilometers to Build Trust

For Sascha, the first surprise wasn't the motor power, but the suspension. All four wheels of the PR 4X have independent suspension. For someone whose usual wheelchair doesn't offer this riding experience, it took some getting used to at first. Even with small movements, Sascha initially felt as though the wheelchair might tip over. "I first had to trust the technology beneath me," he says, describing his first rides.

That trust came with the kilometers. Sascha drove on forest trails over roots and branches, tested inclines and declines, and navigated sandy sections along the water. On more challenging stretches, he initially had an attendant walk behind him. She didn't have to intervene at all during the test.

The all-wheel drive also won him over. Four powerful motors drive the wheels of the PR 4X; large knobby tires and about 13 centimeters of ground clearance are designed for use off paved paths. The latest and ninth model in the Paravan wheelchair series is available as standard with a top speed of 6 km/h, and optionally as a " " version with 10 km/h. The seating system, electric height adjustment, and other options can be

customized. In this way, the PR 4X combines its off-road capability with the requirements an electric wheelchair must meet in everyday life.

A Different Way to Steer—and It Gets Tight Inside

Not everything came intuitively to Sascha from the very first meter. He especially had to get used to the active front-wheel steering. “To be honest, I really messed up the first few turns,” he says. “You get used to it over time, but anyone driving the PR 4X for the first time shouldn’t expect it to feel intuitive right away.” As he gained more driving experience, however, Sascha quickly got the hang of the steering characteristics, which were unfamiliar to him.

Even after three months, he clearly identifies one point of criticism: the turning radius in indoor spaces. In a narrow stairwell, he got so stuck that the wheelchair ultimately had to be uncoupled and manually backed up. For Sascha, this experience fits into the right context: The PR 4 X is primarily designed as a stair-climbing wheelchair and isn’t optimized for tight indoor spaces. “That’s actually the only criticism I have after three months. But for me personally, it’s not a deal-breaker,” he says.

Three Months, a Clear Conclusion

After three months, Sascha has used the PR 4X on routes that he, with his usual everyday mobility, would not have even attempted in the first place. His conclusion is correspondingly succinct: “Would I buy the PR 4X? Absolutely.”

For him, after these three months, what matters most isn’t so much the technical specifications as the experience of being able to even consider routes he previously avoided. For him, the PR 4X doesn’t automatically replace his wheelchair in every everyday situation. However, it opens up possibilities for him precisely where his usual mobility had previously reached its limits. Off-road, it delivered exactly what Sascha had hoped for from the test—and showed him that the limit sometimes comes later than expected.

Sascha has also documented his experiences from the three-month test in two videos. They complement the field test with footage from various riding situations.

Sascha on Instagram: @tetrastyleofficial



Climbing slopes in the real-world test: With all-wheel drive, knobby tires, and high ground clearance, the PR 4X is designed for challenging terrain. Photo: Sascha/Paravan



From the trail to the meadow: For three months, Sascha tested the PR 4X in various everyday situations and on unpaved surfaces. Photo: Sascha/Paravan



Real-world test on camera: Sascha shares his experiences with the PR 4X—from getting used to it to using it on forest trails, sand, and inclines. Photo: Sascha/Paravan



Tested in everyday life as well: Sascha tested the PR 4X not only off-road but also, among other things, while riding public transportation. Photo: Sascha/Paravan



Designed for off-road use: Knobby tires, independent wheel suspension, and high ground clearance are among the key features of the PR 4X. Photo: Sascha/Paravan

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PARAVAN GmbH, headquartered in Pfronstetten-Aichelau (Baden-Württemberg), is the global market leader in highly customized, disability-accessible vehicle solutions. Approximately 180 employees at the main location and the Heidelberg branch develop and produce innovative mobility solutions for people with physical disabilities—ranging from vehicle conversions and electric wheelchairs to specialized driver training. With its “one-stop-shop” concept, PARAVAN supports its customers from consultation through vehicle modifications to driver training. At the technological heart of the company is Space Drive, a digital drive-by-wire driving and steering system that is the first of its kind worldwide to be approved for road use. The technology enables even people with the most severe disabilities to drive a vehicle independently. With over 25 years of practical use and more than two billion kilometers driven on public roads, Space Drive has proven itself worldwide. In addition to mobility for people with disabilities, numerous industry partners use the system as a technology platform for developments in the field of autonomous driving. www.paravan.de