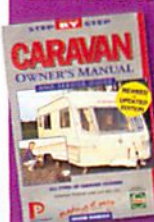




Lindsay Porter



One of the UK's leading motoring and caravanning technical writers, Lindsay Porter started caravanning with his wife Shan some 30 years ago. He has written and published Caravan, Trailer and Motorhome manuals. Visit PorterPublishing.com

Get digital telly on the move

Pick up digital television wherever there's a signal with a jockey wheel-mounted, high-efficiency aerial

THE JOB

How to install a Maxview digital aerial, mast and signal finder, and how to use your laptop as a flatscreen television.

WHY DO THIS JOB?

Have you ever found a roof-mounted, omni-directional aerial to be useless for Freeview television? So have I! Do you like to take your television and your laptop touring? Me too! Here's how to put things right.

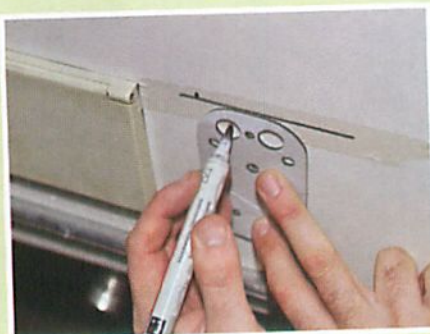
HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

- Maxview MXL022/DVBT digital tourer high-gain television aerial with DVBT finder: £45.99; without finder: £29.99
- Maxview B2006 jockey wheel mast: £29.99
- Maxview B2008 twin weatherproof socket: £15.99
- Hauppauge WinTV-NOVA-TD: digital television receiver and programme recorder for PCs: £65-£70

Fitting the system and aerial



1 Here's the kit of parts as supplied by Maxview. For optimum performance in low-signal areas, Maxview recommends the use of a signal booster, though ours didn't come with one.



2 The Maxview weatherproof socket provides a weatherproof cable entry into your caravan. Use this seal as a template but double check the holes you'll need before marking them out.



3 It is best if the internal cable is hidden inside a cupboard. It's essential to drill away from internal components, seals or structures. Check first with your dealer, if necessary.



6 The aerial itself is simply assembled using the bolts and wing nuts supplied. The aerial breaks down into four sections so that it takes up little space when you're travelling.



7 The jockey wheel attachment is excellent because there is no need for the mounting of permanent brackets. It turned out to be strong enough, even in a fairly high wind.



8 This nifty television signal strength meter plugs into the aerial cable and enables you to tune the aerial position when it's not possible to see the television screen.

The aerial is actually quite sturdy in bad weather conditions



4 With the sealing pad fitted, internal cables are pushed through and connected to the socket, then the backing paper is removed from the seal and the socket is stuck in place.



5 Cable entry points must be double sealed using suitable flexible sealant. Pilot holes for mounting screws are drilled after the socket's stuck in place, and stainless steel screws used.



9 It is only sensible to trial-fit and test your new television system before setting out. You'll want to play with the Hauppauge WinTV's programme recorder and television scheduler.



10 With the Hauppauge WinTV plugged into a USB port, your laptop turns into a television with remote control plus electronic programme guide and recorder.

Lindsay says...

My first instinct was to be most excited about the Hauppauge WinTV, which enables you to watch and record digital television in a window or full screen, using Freeview. You can also listen to DVB-T radio. And I was right – it's great!

However, without the means of being able to pick up a decent signal, you can forget about digital television because it's more demanding than the old-fashioned analogue signals currently being phased out.

The new Maxview digital aerial is as light as a feather but performed really well, even without a signal booster, though I reckon I'll be getting one for weak signal areas.

Useful contacts

Hauppauge WinTV
hauppauge.co.uk

Maxview aerials and accessories
maxview.co.uk

Many thanks to the conveniently situated Breakspear Way Caravan Club Site, close to the M1 at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, where we put all this kit to the test.