

IMPROVE YOUR CARAVAN



Lindsay Porter



One of the UK's leading motoring and caravanning technical writers, Lindsay Porter started caravanning with his wife, Shan, some 25 years ago. He wrote and published the *Caravan Owner's Manual & Service Guide*. Visit PorterPublishing.com

Fitting a better aerial and mast

CAK's new, digital friendly Teleplus aerial provides brilliant reception. Adjustable from indoors provides the best 'gain' figures he's seen, Lindsay is impressed

THE JOB

To fix the CAK aerial to the top of your caravan, you'll need to first cut a hole in the roof for it to connect through, then attach the support bracket inside the caravan and fit a new aerial cable.

WHY DO THIS JOB?

The adjustable mast that can be purchased from CAK as a separate item turns the powerful Teleplus aerial into one that's very

easy to set up, even in the most horrible wet weather. You don't even need to go outside to alter the aerial in a vain attempt to get better reception!

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

The TVPLUS Teleplus aerial, with its amplifier, costs £83.07, including VAT. The separate TVSF165 telescopic through-roof TV aerial mast, which measures 165cm, costs £50.24.

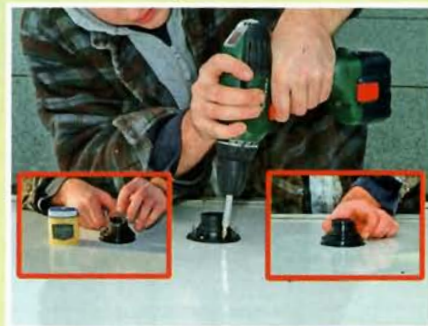
How to fit the aerial and mast



1 The Teleplus aerial as it comes out of the box. Included is a good quality, adjustable signal booster that can run from either 12V or 230V. The clamps are galvanised – excellent!



2 You might need to remove the old aerial before drilling (we did), depending on where you want to site the mast. The mast kit – available separately – is shown inset.



3 You need to seal the top flange – it swivels for sloping roofs. There's a rubber cover (right) and a spring seal (left). Smear Vaseline into the housing to lube the mast.



6 Because the aerial cable has to be inserted into the weatherproof cap, it's easier to feed the aerial wire into the mast before inserting it into the mast tube.



7 If the mast is used full-height, the clamp is best mounted on a wall. In our case, it was okay to mount the clamp on a bracket, against the roof.



8 Before fitting the Teleplus aerial to the mast, remember to screw on the aerial cable. Seal it with more Vaseline to stop corrosion in future, otherwise the TV's picture quality will deteriorate over time.



4 Inside, the mast tube is held with a rubber washer and screw-on flange. The hole for this tube absolutely must be drilled upright - check with a spirit level when drilling.



5 Space restrictions inside our caravan meant the mast had to be cut down, reducing the aerial height available. The aerial was fitted first before measuring and cutting the tube.



9 The aerial wire is best held to the mast with a cable tie. The cable must loop down then up again to the aerial so that water runs off.



10 Before fitting the top cap, we used good ol' Würth Bond & Seal to make a fully waterproof seal and to ensure that the cap couldn't be blown off.

Lindsay says...

We live in a very poor TV reception area yet, for the first time in a caravan, we were able to pick up all the analogue channels and many (but not all) of the digital ones, via our digibox. The Teleplus aerial picked up very good analogue signals on its own (which is more than our house aerial will do!) and the booster reached the digital signals. It's easy to 'find' the transmitter from inside the caravan, too. Unlike satellite receivers, the Teleplus picks up a TV signal over a huge sweep so it's not at all difficult to tune in.

Useful contacts

CAK Tanks Ltd
 10 Princes Drive Industrial Estate,
 Kenilworth, Warks CV8 2FD
 ☎ 0844 414 2324
 🌐 caktanks.com

Würth UK Ltd
 1 Centurion Way, Erith, Kent
 DA18 4AE
 ☎ 08705 987841
 🌐 wurth.co.uk