

In a previous article I discussed some of the more unusual things that I have been asked to fit to motorhomes; and this month is no exception.

To set the scene, let me first ask the question to all of you that have Sky Digital, and the question is, how easy is it to fit the dish.?

The answer is probably not very, bearing in mind that firstly you need to get your bearings with a compass, assuming that there are no other dishes to be seen. Then you need to pick a clear site for the dish, watching out for trees and other obstructions. Then you need to fit your dish to the wall, securely and straight. Then the all important last thing - get your digital satellite meter out and look and listen for the signal, check your picture in the house for all horizontal and vertical channels.



The kit taken out of the box

When you fit these dishes for a living you can make it look so very easy but, when you've never had anything to do with Sky Digital at all, it is anything but easy. My advice is to read the eBook "[Installing Sky Digital TV](#)" from SatCure.

Now, back to the plot. I was asked the other day to fit a satellite system to a motorhome. Now, to be fair, this was a specially adapted system designed to be fitted to caravans, boats, lorries, and motorhomes. It is made by a company called Maxview Teletronics, and consists of a dish and a unique mechanism designed so that the dish can be raised or lowered [for travelling], and turned from inside the vehicle.



This system comes with very comprehensive fitting instructions so, as long as you read them carefully and then follow them exactly, you shouldn't have any major problems. You don't need any special tools other than a 38-40mm hole saw and a spirit level and, as long as you make sure to use the silicone sealant where it says, to prevent water ingress to the vehicle, then you should sail through the fitting with no problems.

Here's the almost completed installation



The instructions tell you to secure the pole guide to an inside wall of a cupboard. This rather limits the choice of positions! We were lucky in this respect as the motorhome had a clear roof area above the wardrobe. A pilot hole was drilled upwards from inside the wardrobe then the hole cutter was used to drill down from the roof. The pole and its plastic bearing tube were secured in place with the large plastic nut. The bracket was screwed to the wardrobe wall. The cable was then fed down inside the pole and the dish affixed to the top of it. A slide plate is provided to protect the roof from the sliding action of the dish arm when it's lowered.

### Inside the wardrobe

You must be sure to fit the coaxial cable to the dish in such a way that the movement is accommodated by flexible loops.

I used plastic cable ties and self-amalgamating tape to hold the cable in place. There are probably better ways but I was limited to what I carry in the van.



### The coax cable loop

My only concern is that although the system comes with a basic satellite meter to help with the setting up of the unit, I don't know many sites that provide totally flat hardstanding. By that I mean that, if you were to get your spirit level out, the bubble should be in the centre, both front to back and side to side. I am sure that, once you have parked either your motorhome or caravan up, then you will enjoy the challenge to find the satellite, provided that the site manager hasn't put you somewhere surrounded by trees!

Putting the minus points aside, when you do finally find the satellite, you can pretend that you are at home again, and resume the fights as to who has the remote control and what channel you are going to watch. You can order the dish system from SatCure. The system comes without a dish alignment meter but you can get one from: <http://www.satcure.co.uk>