

Hints & Kinks

for Your Airstream

Bob Phillips, WBCCI #19964

ITEM: ROOFTOPS Airstream advises customers and technicians not to get on top of the rooftops of the B-Van fiberglass or aluminum (i.e. Classics) models. In the case of the fiberglass, it may cause gelcoat cracks and could extend into cracks in the fiberglass. Aluminum rooftops could suffer dents and scratches or loose rivets. All rooftop maintenance and other work should be performed from a ladder. The gelcoat is a final coating applied to the completed fiberglass roof as a protectant and finish. In the case of the aluminum roofs, it is advised to use soft-soled slippers or shoe stockings to prevent damages to that surface.

ITEM: DIGITAL POWER It appears that the majority of RVers have adopted digital cameras as standard equipment. These cameras and their LCD windows are battery eaters in operation. It is best to prepare and stock up with an adequate supply of batteries rather than run out at a remote site. Rechargeable batteries are also the answer since we have 12 vdc plug in sources aboard our rigs. The TV booster outlet and the car panel are two such sources. Think about using a rechargeable set of batteries together with the recharger unit that can operate both from a 12 vdc source or better, from a 12 vdc and 120 vac source. Make sure that it recharges in less than 6 hours. With this type AA or AAA battery charger, you can be sure of ample digital power at any location.

ITEM: CABINET PULLS At the recent B-Van Rally, I noticed that many of the van owners had added brass pull handles or white pull knobs to all of their cabinet doors. The finger recesses originally supplied had contributed to broken finger nails and arm strains in their operation. Both the brass handles and the white knobs added to the ease of operation and contributed to the beauty of the oak cabinetry. Use brass wood screws that do not extend in length beyond the width of the door thickness.

ITEM: TABLE STORAGE In the B-Van, there is room to store these fold flat chair-side tables for easy access and usability. Select the table that can fit in the van's recess behind the side door that opens full swing next to the main entrance door. Secure in that space with three equally spaced bungee cords held in place with eye-screws at each end. There is adequate space in that location to fold and store an outdoor grass mat to spread in that door area, on the ground, if that storage space is not used for the table.

ITEM: GROUND BUMPERS Many owners of the B-Van have added steel ground clearance bumpers to the rear structure in order to protect their drain valve main assembly from damage in ascending a deep ramp, e.g. off a shopping mall onto the road. These protectors are either in the form of a roller wheel or steel skid and are secured to the rear frame (available and installation at Campers World). Many

trailer owners have also added this device to overcome the rear low hang of the longer trailers.