



AUTO-SLEEPER TALISMAN GL 1991
 PRICE £10,000
 COST £839.97 (Camos crank-up Flat Sat dish £399.99; Zehnder Free-To-Air receiver £89.99 and DQT 15" flatscreen TV/DVD player £349.99. All from RoadPro)
 TOTAL COSTS £3088.95

Never miss 'Corrie' again

Our DIAMOND DAVE brings the Talisman project 'van bang up to date by installing a Camos Flat Sat system

Anyone with touring experience knows that you can't bank on the weather.

With this in mind, we decided it was time for our Talisman to get a satellite dish, digital TV receiver and flatscreen TV fitted, to ensure moods don't turn murderous during rainy days on-site.

There were three varieties of dish to choose from. The first option was a parabolic dish that can be cranked down to rest flat when you don't need it. This dish has to be swivelled until it's pointing in the direction of the signal's source. The second option was the dome receiver – a dome-shaped unit which can receive signals from any direction, without needing to be rotated. Sadly the dome can contribute greatly to the height of your

'van, though, as it's taller than the majority of dishes.

However, we opted for a third option – a cutting-edge Flat Sat system from Camos, which has a planar antenna with a lower profile and a smaller footprint than regular dishes. It still has to be cranked up and rotated to get a signal, but it's more compact than any other option.

● *Special thanks to RoadPro (01327 312 233) for supplying the Camos unit.*

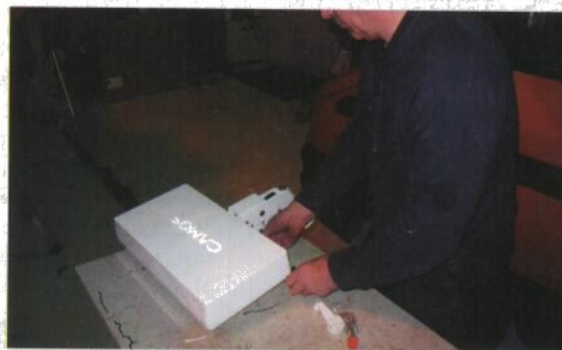
TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Drill and a selection of bits
- Screwdrivers, Phillips head and flat blade
- Side cutters
- Wire strippers
- Crimping tool
- Abrasive paper
- Pencil
- Caulking gun
- Sikaflex or similar polyurethane adhesive

PROJECT 'VAN 'TO DO' LIST

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MoT/habitation inspection | <input type="checkbox"/> Fit a rear view camera |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Upgrade Thetford bench toilet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fit a satellite dish/system |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fit a Heki rooflight to lounge | <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade audio system |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fit a new fridge | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-trim furnishings (upholstery and curtains) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fit cruise control | <input type="checkbox"/> Fit a solar panel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add a second leisure battery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fit a new Whale space heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fit a Gaslow system | |

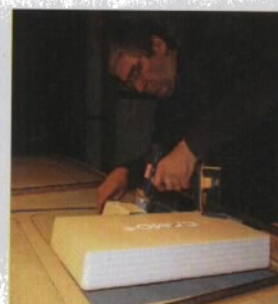
STEP-BY-STEP FITTING A FLAT SAT DISH



1 The Flat Sat dish required assembly out of the box – chiefly it needed to be fixed to the elevation control, which raises and lowers it via a hand-operated crank.



6 Sikaflex marine adhesive was then liberally applied to the baseplate of the elevation control. The baseplate has screw holes on it for mounting, but a powerful polyurethane adhesive provides a more secure method of fixing the dish.



7 In addition to the adhesive, the baseplate was also screwed to the roof – it's important to ensure that when screwing on the dish you don't tighten the screws so much that the adhesive is squeezed out from between the baseplate and the roof.



12 The entry point for the cable was then drilled from within the motorhome. It's not always easy to find a spot for this, since ideally it needs to be in a locker or wardrobe, out of sight. Unfortunately, there often isn't much space in these locations, and in a 'van like the Talisman, which has seen modification done in the past, these spaces are often taken up by existing fittings and wiring.



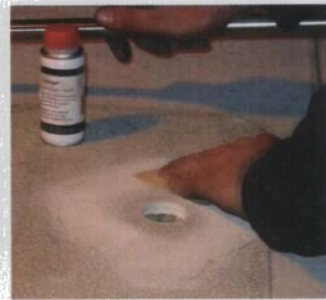
2 A location for the dish was then selected. Our Talisman's monocoque body has a roof that can bear the dish's weight at all points – other 'vans may not have uniform load-bearing capacity, so even with a light dish like the Flat Sat (5.5kg) caution is advisable.



3 Careful measurements were then taken to ensure that the mounting hole would emerge at the selected point on the roof. This is particularly important if the roof already has other items taking up space on it, requiring accurate positioning of the dish.



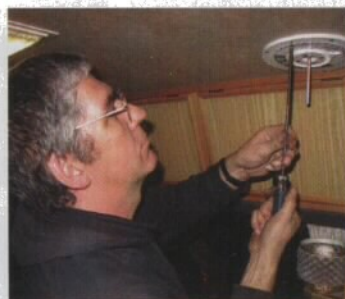
4 A counterpart hole was drilled through the outer skin of the habitation area. The drill was kept as straight as possible to make sure that the holes through the inner and outer skins would line up nicely, ensuring that the rotation control shaft is straight once it is fitted.



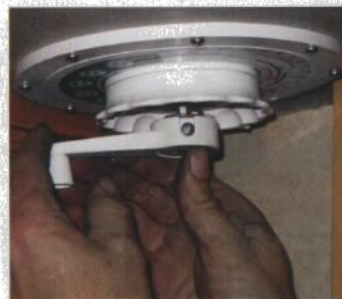
5 The surface of the roof was then sanded down and cleaned around the fixing point to ensure that the adhesive used to fix the dish would achieve a good bond. A 'van's roof is rarely cleaned thoroughly, so this was quite a time-consuming job.



8 Next, the elevation and rotation control shaft was fitted. The supplied shaft is fabricated at an excessive length, so as to fit varying roof thicknesses. The rotation control shaft was inserted until it meshed with the shaft of the dish itself, and then the excess length was measured and cut with a hacksaw.



9 The control mechanism backing plate, which has graduated markings on it to aid dish positioning, was then screwed into place. Note that the metal shaft of the dish was also too long for the Talisman's roof, and needed to be cut off. It's made of an alloy that cuts easily, so this can be done with a hacksaw.



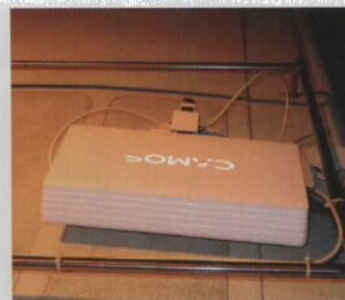
10 The amount that needed to be taken off the metal shaft was measured by seating the crank handle and handwheel on the shaft, and marking off the excess. The rotation mechanism is spring-loaded, so 5mm of extra shaft length was left on to allow space for the handwheel to move on the spring and to rotate the dish.



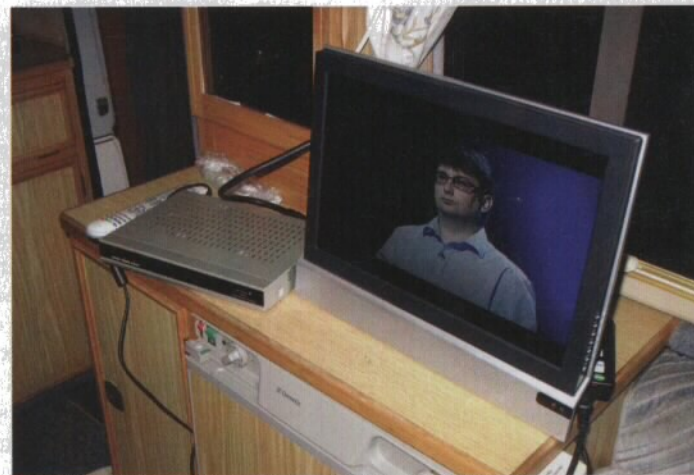
11 Next, Dave headed up top once more – he used the Talisman's existing roof rails to secure the coaxial cable on its route across the roof, from the dish to the selected entry point into the habitation area. Simple cable ties were used for the job – they're cheap, durable and do the job very well indeed.



13 The coaxial cable was threaded through to the waterproof cable entry sealing box, which was also affixed to the roof with polyurethane adhesive. The fixing procedure was identical to that of the dish baseplate – the area was cleaned thoroughly beforehand – but because there are no screw holes on the cable entry sealing box, tape was applied to keep it in place until the glue had time to cure properly.



14 Once the cable was in place and safely threaded through the roof, the satellite dish was ready to go. Before securing the cable and cutting it to length Dave ensured that there was sufficient slack around the dish to allow it to rise, fall and rotate without being impeded by the cable. Measuring the right amount of slack is tricky because if you allow too much you risk getting the cable snagged on objects when you drive.



15 After unboxing the flatscreen TV and the Zehnder Free-To-Air receiver, it was child's play getting the system all wired up and tuned into 'The Weakest Link'. We've yet to decide whether to mount the TV on one of the walls or lockers, so for now it's a freestanding unit that can be easily stowed away or removed from the 'van when it's not required. This makes it more tedious than a wall or locker-mounted solution, but it does keep the Talisman's new toy safe from covetous eyes.