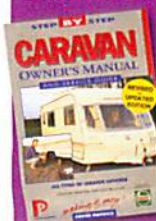




## Lindsay Porter



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](http://PorterPublishing.com)

# Fit an exterior telly aerial socket

Are you fed up with aerial wires trailing through your caravan windows? Lindsay Porter shows you how to fit an externally-mounted aerial socket

### THE JOB

This project enables you to plug in to the television point on a caravan site's power bollard via a socket on your caravan.

### WHY DO THIS JOB?

Most caravans have an on-roof aerial. This signal is often weak but most sites have a television point available. With this

socket and switch, you'll be able to select whichever one you want without loose wires inside the caravan.

### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The external socket (Part no. TV9608AW) costs £9.63 from CAK while the switch unit (Order code: MY03D) is £6.99 from Maplin. Buy aerial cable from most DIY outlets.

## How to fit a television socket



**1** If possible, fit the socket inside the battery box. There's a waterproof cap, but even so... The aerial wire can pass through the recess for the mains cable.



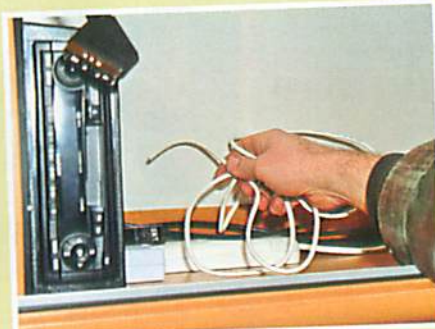
**2** Make sure that the socket will be clear of all obstructions. It's best to drill a small pilot hole first. Then, if you've made a mistake it'll be a small one and can be corrected.



**3** Use the correct size of hole saw or a (tapering) stepped drill but don't make the hole too big. Here, the aerial cable attached to the socket is passed through the hole...



**6** A stubby screwdriver was used in the confined space to screw in the stainless steel self-tapping screws we used. They're available quite cheaply in packs from Screwfix.



**7** If the aerial cable supplied isn't long enough, you'll have to extend it. Fitting conduit and planning a hidden route through cupboards and bed boxes can be quite time-consuming.



**8** You'll need F-plugs to connect to the back of the switch. Use a very sharp knife on the coaxial cable. Cut away from your fingers or on a piece of wood or cardboard.

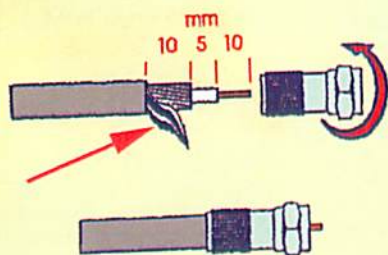




**4** ...and the aerial socket, with the flap open, is pushed into position. If you're fitting it outside the battery box, the socket flap hinge should be at the top.



**5** Here's why the main hole mustn't be too big. You need to drill pilot holes near to the edges of the main hole. This inexpensive Clarke angle adapter is a real boon!



**9** Prepare the cable as shown, twirling the braided section (arrowed) and wrapping it back, around the insulation. Push and screw on the F-plug connector, making sure the centre protrudes as shown.



**10** I fitted the switch, semi-concealed inside a cupboard. One button switches to the caravan aerial; the other to the external on-site TV supply. I added a label to say which is which.

### Lindsay says...

This has been a low-cost, easy job. Previously, when connecting to the TV aerial on-site supply, I had to disconnect the coaxial cable from the TV and drape another one across the caravan, through a window and over to the power supply bollard.

Now, all the coaxial cables are fitted permanently inside the caravan and a simple switch selects between aerials. Connecting to the on-site TV supply, is simply a matter of plugging into the battery box socket and running the coaxial cable alongside the mains cable to the power supply bollard.

### Useful contacts

**CAK Tanks Ltd**  
 ☎ 0844 414 2324  
 🌐 caktanks.co.uk

**Clarke International Ltd**  
 ☎ 020 8988 7400  
 🌐 clarkeinternational.com

**Maplin**  
 ☎ 0844 557 6000  
 🌐 maplin.co.uk

**Screwfix Direct**  
 ☎ 0500 41 41 41  
 🌐 screwfix.com