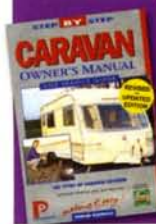




## Lindsay Porter



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](http://PorterPublishing.com)

# Fitting a Fridge cooling Fan

Lindsay Porter shows how to fit a cooling vent fan, to help your van's fridge work efficiently in hot weather

## THE JOB

Provided you are qualified or have an electrician to make or check the electrical connections, you could fit your own thermostatically operated fridge vent fan.

## WHY DO THIS JOB?

Last Summer, Dometic received record numbers of call-outs from caravanners whose fridges weren't 'fridging' properly. The reason? High ambient temperatures leading to lack of air circulation behind the fridge. The answer? Fit an electric fan, using

nothing more sophisticated than an ordinary household electric drill.

## HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

The solution we have used comes from a company called CAK. Their FFT1 fan is suitable for the UK and short visits to southern Europe, with 80-litre or smaller fridges. It costs £24.40 inc VAT. The FFT2, with two fans, and intended for longer stays in southern Europe, and for much larger fridges and freezers in the UK, costs more, at £37.23 inc VAT.

## Fitting the fridge vent fan



**1** On a standard Dometic caravan fridge vent, you push the tag down with a screwdriver and lift off the exhaust trim then unclip the oval pipe cover from underneath (inset).



**2** The main vent cover is detached after turning the turn-buckle anti-clockwise (inset) then lifting away from the left. When refitting, push the slotted hole on to the long peg.



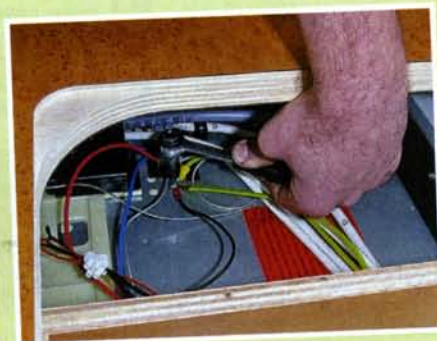
**3** Inside the caravan, you need to access the Dometic fridge top. Pull off the three knobs, unscrew the catch and then remove the two screws (arrowed) to remove the cover.



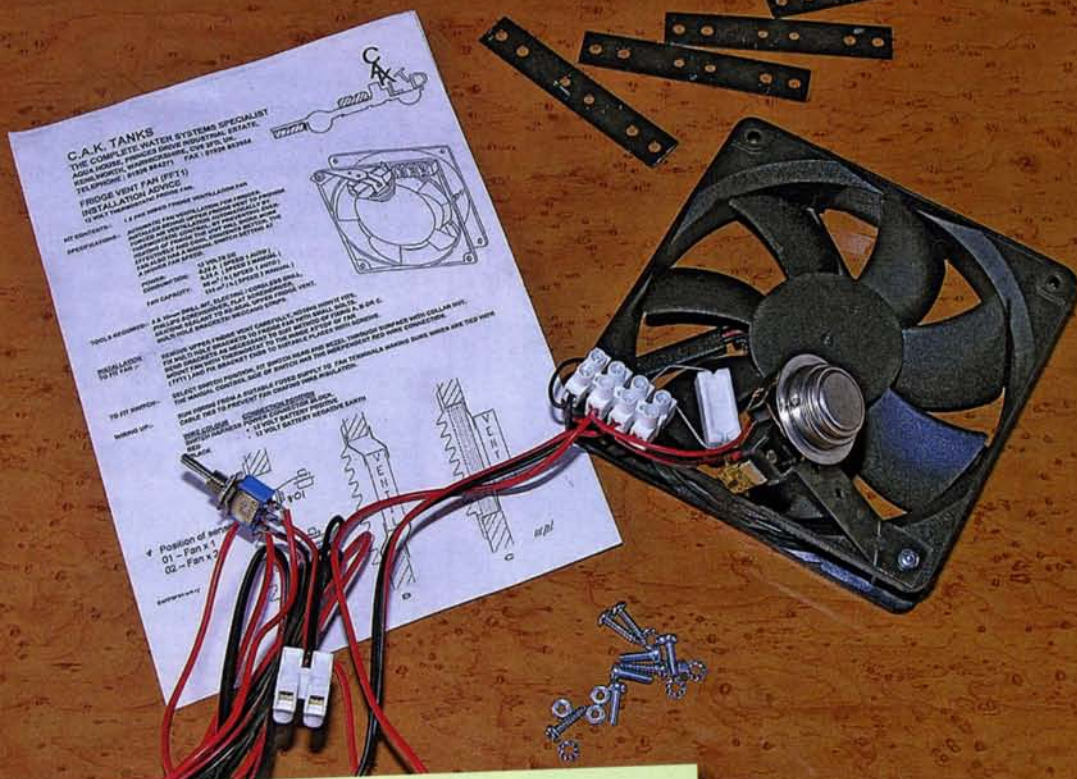
**6** The 'Meccano-style' strips supplied were cut down to fit the fan to the aluminium deflector with self-tapping screws while the lower part, bolted to the plastic, was reinforced with washers.



**7** Dave unscrewed the trunking (arrowed), passed the wiring along the existing wiring route into the space atop the fridge, and used the existing foam sealant to guard against draughts.



**8** You'll need to have a qualified electrician make an earth cable to fix to the fridge's earth strap and a 'positive' feed to a fused permanent feed on the fridge.



**4** On some caravans, removing the sink will expose the fridge-top wiring. The plug hole (a) was unscrewed from the trap (b), the sink unscrewed and removed. Some have replaceable sealant.



**5** Back out of doors again, Dave, who was carrying out the work, marked the fixing positions on the fridge vent and drilled holes for the screws provided with the kit.



**9** The fridge front trim panel, removed earlier, should be covered in masking tape, carefully measured and marked out, centre punched, drilled and the new switch screwed carefully into place.



**10** The switch allows OFF, permanent running or thermostat. Then, the built-in air temperature sensor switches on the fan automatically when the temperature behind the fridge reaches 30 to 35°C.

### Lindsay says...

If, in hot weather, you feel the fridge isn't as cold as usual, it's probably overheating in the space behind the fridge, in which case you need a fridge vent fan. Quoting CAK's Jonathan Frost, 'A fridge fan will improve the cooling performance of any make of three-way gas-absorption fridge. The fan pushes hot air out of the top vent allowing more cooler air to enter the lower vent. The improved airflow reduces the overheating of the absorption unit, allowing a more efficient process of cooling the fridge's interior.'

Fridge fans are not suitable for the few vans with DC compressor-based fridges and freezers.

### Useful contacts

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