



## 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)

# Put a socket in it

Installing an attractive-looking socket from CAK Ltd is dead easy, but get an electrician for the connections

### THE JOB

Caravans usually have a 12V, two-pin TV socket but rarely one of the cigar lighter-type. Here's how we fitted one.

### WHY DO THIS JOB?

To name but a few instances: if you're away in your caravan and your mobile phone battery goes flat; if you want to recharge your i-Pod; use a tyre pump compressor; a solar charger (to charge up your caravan battery) or use a portable TV with cigarette

plug. These sockets will come in very handy in your caravan.

### HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

The 'original equipment' quality CAK 12V socket assembly shown in the pictures below costs a total of:  
 MP12AC/G socket = £8.64 inc VAT,  
 MAT1NL/G inner frame = £1.24 inc VAT,  
 MAC1NL/G outer cornice = £1.22 inc VAT.  
 Contact CAK direct if you're interested in variations on the theme – they're highly knowledgeable and extremely helpful folk!

## How to fit the socket



**1** The components selected for this installation are: the 12V socket (a); front outer cover (b); inner plinth (c); flip-up lid (d). There are many options available if you want more accessories.



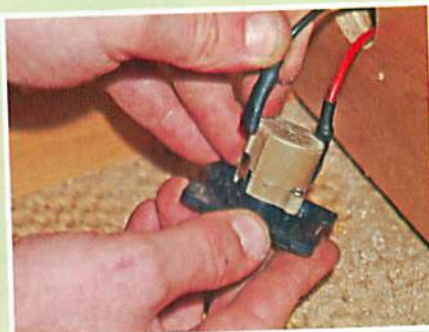
**2** We used a Würth hole-cutter in the electric drill to make a hole in the cabinet large enough to clear the protrusions on the back of the socket.



**3** As the hole-cutter broke through on the inside of the cabinet, you could see why we'd measured, marked out and worked out for sure where to drill before starting!



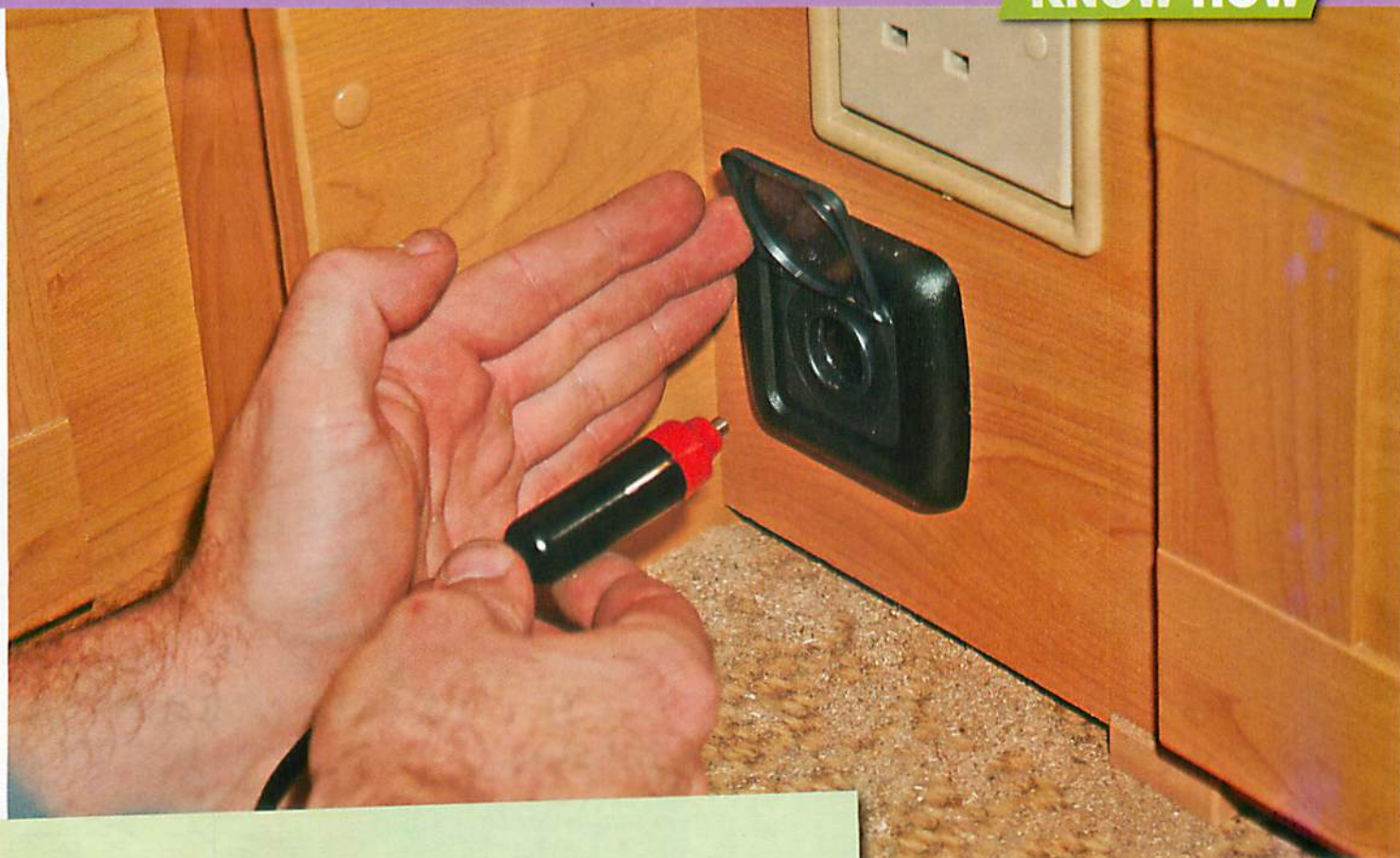
**6** The socket ends of the cables are spade connectors and these were supplied with the kit by CAK. They were attached to the stripped cable ends with a crimping tool.



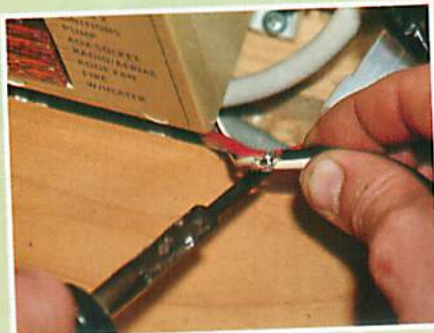
**7** Here's the shape of the back of the socket. The connectors have been protected from electrical contact with shrink-fit insulation. The tube is slipped on, heated – and it shrink-fits!



**8** The socket was next inserted into the hole in the panel and held in position with a pair of short self-tapping screws after first drilling small pilot holes to prevent splitting.



**4** You'll need a qualified electrician to make the 12V power connections. This clever Würth cable stripper removes insulation from the length of the earth cable ready for a soldered connection.



**5** The negative connection to the 12V socket was made by soldering the stripped end of a sufficiently heavy cable as a kind of T-piece. The joint was then insulation-wrapped.



**9** Next, the inner plinth (see pic 1, item c) was placed in position on the socket and screwed down with similar-sized screws. Their heads must recess into the plinth mouldings.



**10** Both of these good quality components simply clip into place. The front outer cover (b) fits into the slots on the inner component and the lid (d) pushes onto plastic pegs.

### Lindsay says...

If you want to fit one of these CAK 12V sockets yourself, you could fit the socket to the cabinet but you should then leave the wiring to a qualified electrician. Okay, it's 'only' a 12V connection but, while 12V wiring incorrectly connected won't electrocute you, it can cause a fire if the wiring happens to overheat.

If you do fit the socket yourself, make absolutely certain that there is nothing the other side of the panel to which you are attaching it. Look first; measure and mark-out second; drill last – and only after checking one final time!

### Useful contacts

**Würth UK Ltd, 1 Centurion Way, Erith, Kent DA18 4AF**  
 ☎ 08705 987841  
 🌐 wurth.co.uk

**CAK Tanks Ltd, 10 Princes Drive, Kenilworth, Warks CV8 2FD**  
 ☎ 0870 757 2324  
 🌐 caktanks.co.uk