

MOTORHOME REFINEMENTS

There are many owner modifications that can be made to a motorhome to improve the RV experience. Larry Jones, WBCCI #9805, has made the following three and recommends them to you.

Door Latch - When it is cold in the winter and you want to heat the front of the motorhome while traveling or when it is hot in the summer and you want to air condition the front of the motorhome while traveling, it is more easily accomplished by closing the pocket door between the kitchen and the bathroom. This cuts your motorhome air space in half and successfully maintains cool or heat better whether you are using the dash AC/ heat systems or running the generator and using the ceiling AC/ heater. The difficulty is that a way must be found to keep the door in the closed position, otherwise it will bang back and forth while driving. The attached picture shows his installation with the two screws on the right mounted on the pocket door. The slide bar on the wall is set in the locked position. Larry reports that the slide bar stays in either intended position during travel and has functioned very nicely.



Battery Disconnect - One of the original equipment switches by Larry's doorway is a battery disconnect. Its function is to disconnect the 12 volt coach batteries during storage. This is an advantage when disconnected during storage because it assures you that any light or accessory inadvertently left on in the coach will not drain your batteries before you return. When camped in the motorhome, a disadvantage is that it is mounted where someone can unknowingly bump it and switch it into the off position. This shuts off 12-volt power and may not appear to be much of a problem. However, 12-volt power runs the switching mechanisms for the roof air conditioners and for the refrigerator. All of a sudden when you turn on the roof AC it won't function even though you are plugged into 120 volts. What you don't realize is that the food is spoiling in the refrigerator as well. The picture shows his solution, utilizing a safety pin. With the switch in the "ON" position, he drilled a small hole laterally through the exposed rocker and mounted the safety pin. Now the switch cannot be turned off accidentally or by children who want to push every button in the coach. If you can't drill where your switch is mounted or you do not have a small enough bit, put the open pin in locking pliers, heat the pin tip with a torch, and gently push it through the plastic.



Laptop Stand - When camped for long periods Larry likes to leave his computer set up. But in his 35-foot motorhome there was no provision for this. He found that utilizing the kitchen table was too crowded and potential spills made it dangerous. Instead he designed a mounting board for the laptop and mounts it on the driver steering wheel. The photo shows it in position. He finds that it is out of the way but convenient and the chair is always ready for him.

