

Refrigerator Fan

Question: Refrigerator Fan: The Flying Cloud has a counter top above the refrigerator and the outside cowling is too low to allow adequate ventilation to the coils without the assistance of the fan. Unfortunately, the fridge does not work well without the fan switched on. The fan oscillates on and off as required, however, it is loud! I am wondering if anyone has come up with a substitute fan unit that operates more quietly.

Answer: There are a number of sealed bearing, 12-volt DC, computer-cooling fans that are considerably quieter. Just make sure you get one that will not be affected by the dust, dirt and occasional moisture in the outside fridge compartment. You are correct about the lack of airflow when you have a horizontal exhaust instead of a roof vent. A few tips:

1. Always cool the fridge down to operating temperature before putting the food in. I usually turn it on 2 days before I load it for a trip.
2. Try never to allow the fridge to lose its temperature, particularly on hot days. If it does, it will take a cool night to bring the temperature back to below the 40-degree level.
3. Wire a fan thermostat bypass-switch and mount it so you can control the fan operation from inside the trailer. On hot days just turn on the fan and let it run all day. You will actually use less power since this will help keep the temperature at a safe level and reduce the need for turning on the propane or electric heating systems.
4. Get a switch that has a built in light that works when the switch is turned on. Then you can easily see when the fan has been set to the on position. You will need a 12-volt source wire, in addition to the two switch wires. One wire goes to the trailer ground, one to 12 volt plus and one to the fan. On a cool day, with the switch off, your fridge will function just as it does now.