

# Marketplace

Readers are advised that products featured have not necessarily been inspected or tested by MMM. If we've tried a product we say so, otherwise claims are those of suppliers. Prices were correct when we went to press.

known as Truckstuff), 43 The Green, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 5AA (tel: 0800 9800680 for mail order; web site for location of shops: [www.truckstuff.co.uk/index.cfm?page=168](http://www.truckstuff.co.uk/index.cfm?page=168)).



An advance in car radio operation from Clarion.

### TOUCH-SCREEN TUNING

Touch screen is the up-and-coming means of control of many things, and now it is into radio. Clarion's new car or 'van DXZ958RMC combines radio, CD, and the ability to integrate with MP3, WMA, and iPod. Sound is generated by four 45W amplifiers and radio bands are long wave, medium wave, and FM with RDS facility. The cost of this little box of tricks is about £600. Further details of its products and stockists can be obtained by telephoning Clarion at 01793 870400 or looking at the web site [www.clarion.co.uk](http://www.clarion.co.uk).

### MONITORED PRODUCTS

### KEEP WARM, KEEP COOL

A significant improvement in comfort level was achieved in our motorcaravan during recent trips to the north of Scotland to test the usefulness of windscreen and side window insulation screens.

A new product range called Isotherm Insulation Shield (made in Germany) is ideal for this purpose and can be obtained from Van Comfort – the leisure products division of Beeversales Components. I have recently carried out an extended test of the two sets of shields – one set for use within the 'van and an external set covering the cab windows and extending down over the air intakes on the bonnet. Each set is supplied in its own storage bag.

The outer screens can be fitted by one person in approximately five minutes, though assistance from a



Attachment of external screens includes bungee cord to the wheel arch.



The external windscreen cover sheds any water clear of the upper bonnet edge.

second person can reduce the time taken. Attachment is by a combination of suction cups, Velcro, and bungee cord. These screens consist of a sheet of bubble plastic heat-sealed between sheets of aluminised, 20 micron PVC. Because these three layers are welded together, water does not seep into the sandwich from the edges, which are bound with hand-sewn PVC.

The inner screens are easily and quickly fitted using the suction caps (with stainless steel ring pulls) that are attached to the screens. Inner screens consist of seven layers of material: a soft, woven nylon lining, a bulky insulating layer of soft fibre, 20 micron aluminised PVC film, 2mm plastic foam sheet, the last two layers over again, and finally a 200 micron, mesh-reinforced aluminised plastic outer coat.

I received the sets in March, when sufficient snow still remained on the Cairngorm Hills (mountains to some!) to make the night-time temperature close to freezing during three separate trips to test the effectiveness of the screens.

We have an Italian-built motorcaravan, which has winterised construction. The use of the inner screen resulted in a significant increase in the comfort level of the 'van. Not having used an outer screen before I did not know what to expect and was pleasantly surprised to find that the addition of the outer screens increased the retention of heat (generated by the gas heating) to a noticeable degree.

I was curious to establish the amount of condensation generated when both sets of screens were fitted and was surprised to find that, even with the gas heating, a burner on the gas cooker, and an electric fan heater all on at once during a particularly cold spell, on removal of the screens only a faint

misting of condensation had occurred. This dispersed within minutes without assistance. The company openly states that the use of the outer in conjunction with an inner screen is more appropriate for people who spend significant periods of time in the far north and at ski levels during winter.

Steve Beevers of Van Comfort tells me that they sell around nine inner sets for each outer. He puts this down to the price difference, ease of fitting, the possibility of theft



Quilted internal screens seen from the outside.



The internal windscreen cover fits snugly...



...as do those for the doors.

of outers, and the impossibility of driving off at short notice with outers in place. (My own view, for what it is worth from a user of screen covers for twenty years and a physicist, is that using a screen externally is more effective in combatting condensation than using the same screen internally. Theory and observation concur. There are various practical issues that are fairly obvious, and I won't waste space discussing them here. BC)

The screens can, of course, be used to keep a 'van cool in strong sunshine. A recent report from a customer told how the interior of a van conversion fitted with internal screens all round reached only 32°C when the outside temperature was 31°C. Without the screens, the internal temperature reached 50°C.

Inner screens cost £69 per set and outers £105.50 per set, prices including delivery. Both are available ready made for Fiat Ducato/Peugeot Boxer/Citroen Relay; Ford Transit; Mercedes Sprinter; and VW T3, T4, and T5. Delivery is from stock, otherwise it takes about two weeks. Sets for other base vehicles including A-class and RVs can be made to order, when delivery is about a month.

Isotherm Screens are also available for Heki roof lights 1, 2, 3, and Mini Heki and cost £18 each.

Orders should include base vehicle make, model, and year. Payment can be by cheque or credit or debit card. Van Comfort plans to exhibit and sell Isotherm Screens at the National Motorhome Show, Peterborough next spring and possibly at other shows.

The supplier is Van Comfort, Aurillac Way, Hallcroft Industrial Estate, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN22 7PX (tel: 01777 701804; fax: 01777 701799; e-mail: [sales@vancomfort.co.uk](mailto:sales@vancomfort.co.uk); web site: [www.vancomfort.co.uk](http://www.vancomfort.co.uk)). **IM**