



Remote-Control VAN

Being able to move your caravan with the touch of a button? Tell us more...

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY CARAVAN & MOTORHOME

We all know the hardest aspect of caravan ownership is the dreaded manoeuvre. It might be at the end of a journey parking the van at home, or even just negotiating into a cramped site during peak season. It's the one thing that you never really look forward to. Especially when every Tom, Dick, or Harry is watching your every move, waiting for you to begin a 50-point turn after getting things wrong.

Well the good news is that there are products that not only take the hassle out of moving a van, they're also simple to

install and fun to use. When we first heard about van movers they seemed too good to be true, but after witnessing the installation of the unit and seeing the kits in action, we're sure these units will become far more common sights in caravan parks around the country.

Imagine arriving at your chosen site, simply engaging the drive units with a supplied tool, disconnecting the van, and moving the whole show into place via remote control. It makes things so easy, it almost doesn't seem fair! The Purple Line Van Mover E-Go Quickey unit we installed on Colin's (a Caravan & Motorhome reader) van can also

easily be removed to prevent damage during a water crossing, or to save weight and fuel on trips where it's not needed.

So after being thoroughly impressed with the features of the E-Go Quickey, it was time to see what goes into fitting the unit. Truth be told, if you are handy on the tools, and have access to a flat area for the install, it's a task that can be handled at home. If you're unable to perform the installation, however, the good news is the kit is supplied complete, saving time for the installer, which equals more money in your back pocket!



1. First things first, park the van up on flat hard ground and disconnect the caravan's main battery. Remove all parts from the packaging and check that everything is there using the supplied list. Once you're happy, it's time to install the motor's mounting plates.



2. Position the adaptor plates on the chassis, and clamp the plates in position as per the instructions. Mark the spots to drill, tap with a centre punch then drill three holes through the chassis rails. Fit the supplied nuts and bolts and finger-tighten.



3. Fit and secure the motor assemblies, keeping the mounting bolts finger tight. Using some duct or gaffer tape, take the supplied spacer and secure it to the unengaged drive rollers. These need to be positioned 20mm from the tyre on the caravan. This precise distance is critical to the operation of the unit.



4. Take a small wooden box or similar, and position the motor using the box as an elevated platform. These motors are heavy, so this step will help prevent injury. Secure the motors to the chassis brackets using the supplied clamping hardware, and bolt it up finger tight ensuring it the drive wheel is in the correct location in regards to the caravans wheel.

5. It's time to now install the main crossbar, which needs to be centered to the caravan using the marker on the centre bar as a guide.



6. Slide the motor and drive rollers towards the van's tyre until it sits tight up against the spacer. Once everything has been positioned correctly, tighten all bolts to 40lb.ft using a torque wrench, except the crossbar pinch bolt/lock nut. The crossbar doesn't need to be tightened as much, and only requires 9lb.ft of torque to comply with the manufacturer's specifications.



7. Mount the supplied electronic control unit (ECU) in a secure position using the four screws that are supplied. Spend some time thinking about where to mount the ECU, as it needs to be away from dust and water, and still close enough to the battery to keep wiring to a minimum.



THE VERDICT?

I'm well pleased with my E-Go Quickey van mover.

No more heaving and tugging the van into position in a tight spot. With the touch of a button the van turns on a sixpence. Getting the van in and out of our awkward driveway is a breeze involving no muscle power from me. I push buttons and watch, misty eyed, as the van glides gently into position. It's a joy to behold.

Pat feels somewhat redundant. Gone are the days when, hitching up car and van, she took up her position as director of operations. Gesticulating madly, she'd indicate right, left, forward and back, all the while screeching her instructions:

"Go forward and come back a teensy bit to the right. No, that's too far. Try again. Just an inch. I said an inch an inch, I said. That's not an inch. I said to the right. Oh, sorry, I meant the left." Most entertaining for the onlookers, not so much for me.

Now, with that touch of a button, the van finds the tow ball all by itself. Bliss.

I love it! - *Colin Smith*

8. Drill a hole 150mm in front of the control unit, being sure to check underneath the surface you're drilling to ensure you won't hit anything like pipes, wiring, brake lines or even the van's chassis.

9. Route the motor cables up through the new hole, ensuring all cable lengths are the same to keep solid signal flow. Fix cables to the ECU using the supplied crimps, making sure they have been installed on the correct posts as per the wiring diagram that comes with the kit.



10. An isolator switch needs to be mounted in-line with the battery and the ECU, so the unit can be manually switched off. Find a suitable location near the battery, and run the power from the battery, to the isolator, and then to the ECU ensuring all cabling has been insulated in flexible conduit for additional protection.



11. Connect the battery back to the electrical system once you have run all required cables, ensuring you have the positive and negative battery cables the right way around on the ECU. Using the supplied tool, position the drive wheels in the caravan tyres, and if the electrical system checks out, you should be ready to test the unit. Moving the van is now as simple as pressing a button on the remote control, and driving it as you would a remote control car. Best of all, you can literally now park your van with a cool drink in your hand, while your neighbours all admire in awe.



WIN

Would you like to win a Purple Line E-Go Quickey, valued at \$1495, just like Colin did? Simply head to the website - www.candm.com.au - and sign up for our free eNewsletter to find out more!



THANKS

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