

HOW TO CHOOSE A CARAVAN TV ANTENNA

Without some basic knowledge of what are radio waves and their properties, choosing a suitable antenna would be as frustrating or rewarding as finding a good fishing rod and tackle.

TV signals are basically radio waves which are transmitted from a transmitting antenna and radiates into the space around the transmitter. These waves while propagating through space will encounter losses and eventually diminish. The lower the frequency the further it will travel and vice versa. TV signals in Australia are transmitted over Very High Frequencies (VHF) and Ultra High Frequencies (UHF). They are horizontally polarized in majority of populated areas.

Vertical polarization is used typically in outskirts towns, next to fringe areas of major coverage transmission towers to eliminate interference. Most of these areas are country towns between adjacent major horizontal polarized transmitters. Majority of these vertical polarized transmitters are usually low power and servicing only a small radius between 2km to 10km.

In choosing a suitable antenna, one must have some basic knowledge of how to catch the most signals with a given setup. There are as many kinds of antennas in the market as there are fishing rigs. For an analogy, the basic hook and line in antenna terms is what we call a "dipole", which is the basic unit of an antenna. They come in a common form we recognize as "rabbit ears" antennas. Of course there are optimum lengths for the ears that can be calculated with some fancy formulas to catch certain frequency (or fish!). In this, it can only catch one fish at a time and in most cases some fancy fish will never be caught using the simple line and hook.

As man got smarter, he got creative and made hooks that looked like a scrumptious meal to a fish. This is what anglers called a "lure", but lures still have a one-lure-one-fish drawback. Then comes the "net", now that is a revolutionary idea! In antenna terms, this is the "Aussievan EasyTune". Seriously, the EasyTune BD-11a is a revolutionary antenna package designed specifically for mobile homes that incorporates many features so all TV signals can be captured.

Before the advent of the "net" the basic idea of getting a particular type of fish to bite was figuring out its favourite snack. Now with a net, man has a choice of variety of fish!

Then man got even more creative, he invented the fish finder, which in the antenna analogy is the rotator employed on the EasyTune antenna. Fishermen don't just aim randomly and cast their nets anymore, but home in on schools of fish.

The Aussievan EasyTune's revolutionary design is based around convenience, ruggedness, simplicity, effectiveness and completeness. The Yagi antenna encased in a rugged plastic shell is the basis of good signal reception. A Yagi antenna has good directivity that will minimise surrounding unwanted signals and interferences, it has a wide receiving frequency range, has a good inherent gain and Yagi antennas are simply effective. Working in tandem with the antenna is a wide band VHF/UHF booster or amplifier. The booster amplifies signals received from the directional antenna and enhances it for the TV.

Getting good TV picture reception is not always easy. In a mobile home situation, what is needed is a directional antenna, a rotating mechanism, AND an amplifier. Any one of the above will not work well on its own when moving about and setting up in different places and situations. For instance, the best antenna booster will not give good signal output if it doesn't have a good signal fed into it to amplify. A good antenna without a booster will be elaborate in its design, large and delicate to handle and limited in range.

The Easytune BD-11a antenna will change the way you think about setting up an antenna on a mobile home for good. At the end of a long trip, a hassle free and enjoyable evening with TV can be realised with just a touch of a button.

TV antennas come in various types, shapes and sizes. Amongst the common ones are:

Basic dipoles:

Pros

- Simple
- Cheap
- Suffice only in strong signal areas
- Easy mount / dismount
- Easy storage

Cons

- No directivity
- No inherent gain
- Susceptible to ghosting or multi-path
- Low signal to noise ratio
- Do not work well with booster in fringe areas
- Not good with UHF

Omni directional antennas:

Pros

- Simple to handle
- Very convenient
- No rotation for signal alignment needed
- Works well in strong signal areas
- Permanent mounting

Cons

- Expensive
- No inherent gain
- Susceptible to ghosting or multi-path
- Low signal to noise ratio
- Do not work in fringe areas
- Do not work well with booster in fringe areas
- Do not work in vertical polarized signal areas
- Not good with VHF

House Yagi antenna

Pros

- Good directivity
- Cost effective
- Has inherent gain
- Works well with booster in fringe areas
- Good signal to noise ratio
- Handles both polarizations

Cons

- Clumsy size and flimsy
- Mounting hassles
- Storage hassles
- Needs to be in signal alignment

Aussievan EasyTune

- Robust
- Cost effective
- Easy mount / dismount
- Easy storage
- Built-in Yagi antenna
- Built-in Booster
- Built-in rotator with remote control
- Directional antenna
- Handles both polarizations
- Works well in fringe areas
- All-in-one VHF, UHF, FM antenna

Working closely with our manufacturing partner, the built-in booster has been optimized to complement the Yagi frequency response characteristics, further enhancing the strength of received signals.

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