



Kia Ora Campers!

Welcome one and all to this month's Experts Corner!

We are going to have a look at Awnings this month, we use the Fiamma model F45i sourced through Serada in Auckland. There is an information pamphlet attached.

The reason for using the Fiamma models of awnings is that they are durable, streamlined and very simple to install and use. They are also very safe on the side of your van as they have dual shock absorbers and a solid casing which means less likelihood of damage occurring to either the awning or the vehicle during adverse weather conditions.

Installing an awning is not a complicated matter, but you do have to be careful to get it right, otherwise the awning could end up bent or not working properly. The tools you will need are:

- Masking tape
- Power drill
- 6.5mm drill bit
- 5.2mm drill bit
- Whiteboard marker pen
- Phillips head screwdriver
- Size 10 and 8 wrench/ socket
- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Ladder

I know you all want to know how much they are so, the 2.5m is \$1032, the 3.0m is \$1089, the 3.5m is \$1243 and the 4.0m is \$1430. All prices include GST, and are available through Serada (09 257 2419) or Kiwi Parts (0800 549 444)

Now the Fiamma Awning kit comes with the installation instruction manual, so I don't need to go into too much details on the finer points.

The main points to be aware of when installing an awning are:

- Keep all of the mounting brackets at the same height! The best way to check this is to stand on a ladder and "eye" down the line of the brackets to make sure they line up with each other.
- Check, check and check again that where you drill through the roofline there are no wires, cables etc in the space where your drill bit is going to come screaming through. The easiest way to do this is to draw a line on the window below where the drill hole is going to be with a whiteboard marker so you can go inside the vehicle and check it for location.
- Make the brackets as equi-distant as possible to spread the weight of the awning evenly.
- Get help to lift the awning onto the bracket as they are quite heavy and cumbersome and you don't want to drop an awning!
- Make sure you bolt the awning onto the bracket! It is very sad to drive along the road after spending a lot of time and effort to get the awning on and see it slide right off the back!!

These Fiamma awnings have "bolt-on" accessories such as the privacy room which comprises of 2 sides and a front to create a "room" under the awning where you can safely store your gear or the kids (or grandkids) can sleep. For more details and pricing, either contact Kiwi Parts on 0800 549 444 or Serada on (09) 257 2419.

That is it for this month's "Experts Corner", if there is anything you would like to see in the experts corner, please let us know! Send us an email, write us a letter, give us a call or drop on in for a chat!