

Who's using Camos sat-domes?

One of the reasons for the Camos sat-dome's popularity is that it's so versatile. Because it doesn't require a large area in which to operate, it's suitable for small vehicles as well as large ones. Their simplicity makes them ideal in situations where ease of use is essential and, because

they can be used in all weather conditions and can be painted in colours to match a vehicle, they're ideal when a discreet installation and total reliability are important. Here are some examples of how Camos sat-domes are being used.

Digital UK is an independent organisation which is playing a leading role in the introduction of digital television throughout the U.K. working closely with Government departments, the broadcasting regulator OFCOM and other interested parties. It's owned by a consortium of organisations including broadcasters BBC, ITV and Channel 4.

To help people make the switch-over from analogue to digital TV, Digital UK has a fleet of vans which are touring the country. They demonstrate the advantages of digital TV and explain what's involved in making the change. The vans are equipped with Camos sat-domes which ensures perfect digital reception wherever they are. Find out more at www.digitaluk.co.uk.



Chris and Stelle live full time on their custom-built 65' narrowboat Belle.

"Having persevered with digital terrestrial UK Freeview TV for the last couple of years and encountered a great deal of signal loss/interference, we decided to invest in satellite TV in the belief that this would significantly expand our viewing options, both on our own mooring and whilst we were out and about cruising. Our preference was for a compact and easy to use system that would 'self-seek' the satellites accessible from within the UK. We were attracted to various roof mounted self-seeking dish units that fold down when not in use, our thoughts here being focussed on achieving a low roof profile so as to lessen the risk of wiping the unit off the roof in a bridge hole, etc. However, we were concerned that fold down units might not be suitable for all year round use. What we mean by this is that, having struggled before with items that have occasionally frozen to the roof in winter conditions, we thought that there was a strong possibility that the dish might do the same, possibly resulting in damage and a hefty repair bill. At the very least, the accumulation of ice would probably disrupt our viewing because the dish would not be able to seek/lock onto the chosen satellite. That's when we came across the CAMOS SAT-DOME. This unit is totally enclosed, thus totally weatherproof and at 300mm high it does not project unacceptably above the roof profile.

"The SAT-DOME control unit is compact and, in conjunction with the CAMOS BLACKBOX decoder is

hidden neatly inside a closed cupboard next to our flat screen TV. The BLACKBOX decoder is the only unit we have seen that incorporates a remote IR receiver and it is this that has enabled us to locate the receiver inside the cupboard. The IR sensor has been mounted discreetly below the TV alongside another IR receiver for the CAMOS DVD player. We located the DVD player here instead of inside the cupboard because we need regular access to the DVD slot.

"It's early days yet, but thus far we are very pleased with the performance of this system. One only has to flick a switch on the SAT-DOME control unit to switch it on, select the satellite required and, subject to nearby trees and buildings being in the way, it will take care of the rest. There is some noise generated by the servo motors that are located in the dome – these servo motors move the dish around during searching / tracking, but this noise ceases when the dish is locked onto the satellite. We have the IN-MOTION version of the SAT-DOME, so this servo motor noise will continue if anybody on board is watching the TV whilst cruising as the dish tracks the satellite. We have not experienced this yet, but our expectation is that this noise will not be heard above the boat engine noise. The BLACKBOX decoder has easy to use menus and it enables you to view a multitude of TV channels (and radio) that originate here in the UK and overseas, including most of the Freeview TV channels. We are limited to the free channels at the moment, but we are exploring ways for subscribing to channels like, British Eurosport, etc.

"We have back-to back checked digital terrestrial UK Freeview TV reception alongside satellite TV reception – the satellite TV reception has been as solid as a rock whilst we have been encountering picture break-up on the digital terrestrial UK Freeview TV."



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