



tips re adding a portable panel

Some practical tips re adding a panel to your RV

Written By: Heleneboyer

INTRODUCTION

The previous article is an excellent overview. Here are some practical tips

Step 1 — Emergency relief in disaster zones



- War zones and sites of other natural disasters benefit significantly from portable, [off-grid power solutions](#). They can light and power medical facilities help rescue teams and even pump clean water.

Step 2 — Relief in more domestic emergencies



- These back up solar systems also work well closer to home. Blackouts and storms are far too frequent these days. A personal emergency kit with a portal solar panel helps provide back up power to essential systems when the grid fails.

Step 3 — Electric power for fieldwork



- Researchers can spend hours out in the field collecting data and taking photos. This is only possible with enough battery power. A portable solar panel offers the chance to charge batteries, and back-ups so that users don't have to cut a trip short.

Step 4 — Electric power for campers



- Camping is a great opportunity to head out away from the modern, technological world. Many campers still like access to mobile tech for entertainment and news. Others will need to charge batteries or lighting. A small solar charging kit can go a long way.

Step 5 — some practical thoughts



- Most plan to mount a panel on the RV roof. However, this may well drop collection in a shady area. Consider a portable panel, using trailer hitch electrical connectors to mate the panel to the vehicle. The voltage converter still will be inside and wired up as its instructions mandate. Add a voltmeter and a center-zero ammeter to monitor activity

Step 6 — Electric power for RVs



- Camping with portable power sources doesn't just mean tents and traditional campsites. It is also possible to use a well-positioned solar panel to turn an RV into a little home away from home. A substantial system could power air conditioning, a television, refrigerator and more.

Step 7



- Using an umounted panel, attach it to a plywood sheet, then adapt its connectors to a long 10-12G cable that can be terminated to the trailer hitch plug. Drill a 1" hole in the Camper to accept the trailer hitch socket. Wire the panel positive to TWO trailer hitch posts, and the panel negative to the other pair of posts.
- When not being used, the panel can be easily stored inside the Camper along with its cord. Now this setup can be oriented to the sun at 90° for maximum efficiency, and the Campers location now is no longer a factor.

Step 8 — Electric power for boats



- This is a step up from a portable solar panel on an RV – or a step down if you are an RV owner. Some bendable panels are ideal for the sides of boats. This means the reliable power to all kinds of electronics for a long weekend on the water.

Step 9 — Electric power for road trips



- Anyone heading out across the country needs to make sure that their phones, tablets and other devices are functional. This is the only way for kids to watch their movies, or for grown-ups to call ahead and make plans. A solar panel at a rest stop is better than trying to find a gas station with a free outlet.

Step 10 — Electric power for backyard parties



- Finally, a [portable solar panel](#) is an excellent tool for backyard parties. The best hosts will provide plenty of means of entertainment for guests outside. A portable drinks maker and PA system for music is a good start. It is much better to use solar power than rig up a dodgy extension cord.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.