

MOTORHOME STABILITY ON A SHOESTRING

Motorhome owners are enjoying a smooth ride, thanks to a nifty piece of engineering that has created a cost-effective way of improving suspension quality.

Dunlop's Auxiliary Air Suspension kit is now available in the UK through Marcle Leisure (www.marcleleisure.co.uk), and early feedback is suggesting the kit - which can be self-assembled - is a hit.

Steve Monkley, of Marcle Leisure, explained the difficulties associated with many existing types of air suspension kits: "Most semi-air suspension suppliers use an air spring which consists of a rubber bellows with steel end caps that have been mechanically crimped to the bellows. The problem with crimped air springs is that the whole air spring has to be

replaced if any leaks develop. Dunlop's steel end caps are removable, thus making the air spring serviceable, and saving our customers money. In the current economic climate, that's crucial.

"The air suspension kit is relatively cheap compared to the full air suspension which can cost about five times more. To put the icing on the cake, customers can save even more money by following our step-by-step instructions to self-assemble the kit."

As well as the money-saving aspects of the Dunlop air suspension kit, customers are enjoying the increased stability of their motorhomes. Jim Livingstone, the owner of a Marquis Lancashire/Autosleeper Nuevo motorhome, is impressed at how much more control he has over his vehicle now he has installed the Dunlop air suspension kit: "The cornering response is improved - sharper

turn in, less roll - and I expect sensitivity to side winds to be reduced," he says. "My previous motorhome (a Hymer Camp) had an additional leaf in the rear spring which gave the same dynamic effect but resulted in an excessive tail high attitude when un-laden. The adjustable air spring neatly addresses this problem."

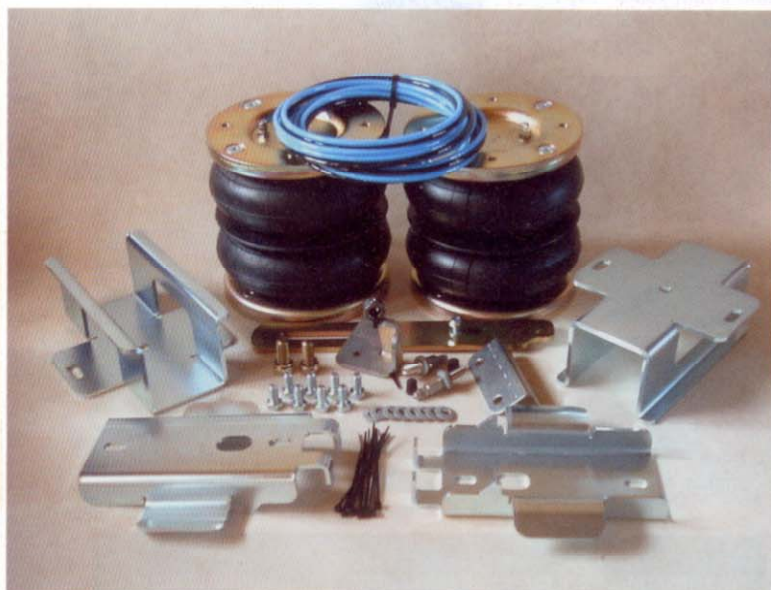
Mr. Livingstone comes from a background of professional automotive chassis design and development, so is well qualified to assess the merits of different air suspension systems. The impact of the Dunlop air suspension system available through Marcle Leisure is such, however, that even non-expert motorhome enthusiasts are noticing the difference.

John Robinson runs www.motorhome.me.uk, an information portal for motorhome owners wanting to know where they can park their vehicles. He purchased one of Marcle Leisure's air suspension kits, and found it to be highly effective: "The reason for buying the system was to make the vehicle more stable at speed. I did a test run and it was very stable at 70mph," he says.

Mr. Robinson went on to comment that he found the system very easy to install without specialist knowledge: "During the afternoon the weather was kind and enabled me to complete the installation. I must say Marcle Leisure's instructions and photographs were excellent. I only had a wheel jack and used it to raise one side of the vehicle but not lifting the tyre off the floor. This was sufficient to remove the bump stops and leave enough space for the bellows which were placed without working under the vehicle but just holding the fitting in one hand and working in front of the wheel on the side of the vehicle."

It's not just motorhomes that are set to benefit from improved suspension and cost-effectiveness thanks to Dunlop and Marcle Leisure: the Auxiliary Air Suspension kit is also compatible with many other UK vehicles up to around 4tonne GVW. This includes pick-ups which are used as 5th wheel tow vehicles or as campers with removable backs.

AL-KO chassis vehicle owners also have something to look forward to, as Dunlop is currently developing several compatible air assistance kits.



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