

MobiSet 4 CAP 900

Kathrein's New GPS Antenna Package for RV's

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We knew it would happen: positioners can precisely point an antenna to a satellite while a GPS unit can provide geographical data. Users of mobile receivers such as RV owners have been waiting for quite some time for manufacturers to combine these two systems. It would end the time-consuming and sometimes aggravating task of aligning to your favorite satellite every time you move to a new location. The inauguration of the digital satellite age made this job even more difficult.

The day we've all been waiting for has finally come. Kathrein has developed a new package for campers. Kathrein has always catered to this target group with such products as 12-Volt boxes and the exceptional BAS 60 flat antenna that date back to the analog age. Their new CAP family of products was developed by Kathrein specifically with digital technology in mind. Antenna, tuner and receiver are now bundled into a single package that makes it possible to automatically search for satellites.

The new MobiSet 4 CAP 900 has been completely redesigned. The flat antenna was replaced by a 90 cm offset dish mounted on the antenna motor. The antenna is controlled by the receiver and will automatically retract into its stowed position when the vehicle's motor is started. Protection is included to guarantee that the antenna stays in this stowed position while the vehicle is in motion. But even while the antenna itself is idle, the GPS system remains

active and checks its position every ten minutes, storing the new data.

The antenna can only be reactivated when the vehicle's ignition has been turned off. The receiver then takes the most recent position and current GPS data, recalculates the new elevation and skew angles and drives the antenna precisely to the correct



The MobiSet 4 CAP 900 in its operational position...



...and here in its stowed position when not in use, such as while driving.

satellite. The correct azimuth is found by rotating the antenna on its vertical axis. Thanks to its ability to turn a full 360°, the RV

can be parked in any position. The correlation between the GPS data and the last known location makes realignment of the antenna so fast that in most cases the satellite can be found within 30 seconds. In this way a selected channel can be very quickly accessed – assuming of course that there is a clear view to the satellite.

The MobiSet 4 CAP 900 package includes a motorized antenna, a retractable dish plus a twin LNB all integrated into one unit. It weighs in at 19 Kg and is mounted on the roof of the vehicle. This increases the overall height of the vehicle by 23cm with the antenna in its stowed position. Three cables from the antenna are routed through a 38mm hole in the vehicle's roof to the inside of the vehicle where a maximum of two receivers (and two TV's) can be connected. The first receiver must be the UFS 740sw since it is

the only one capable of providing the necessary Kathrein-specific CAP commands for the antenna. The second receiver can be whatever you want; it could even be an HDTV box or MPEG-4 receiver. This system won't become obsolete anytime soon.

The package includes an assortment of cables, mounting hardware and even a special polyurethane sealant. The only additional items you really need are a TV and radio. The antenna is designed for use on 12-Volt DC systems although the receiver can even be plugged into a wall if needed using the included power supply. If you also want to run the antenna itself from a wall socket, you would need a power supply that can deliver 12V/15A.

The motorized antenna is mounted on the roof of the vehicle with relative ease using five screws. The included sealant helps to guarantee a secure bond to the roof. Our tests were successful in every aspect. The motorized antenna operated quickly and reliably. After turning on the receiver (with the vehicle's ignition turned off), the antenna moved to the correct position in just a few seconds. Even the difficult-to-receive BBC transponders on Astra at 28.5° east could be viewed without any problems. The skew for the Turksat bird was also properly set.



An all-in-one package. The MobiSet 4 CAP 900 comes with everything you see here.