

RV Interiors Creates Slide-outs for Motorhomes



Father and son, Jack Robinson and Jeff Haworth, have been operating RV Interiors in Gilbert, Arizona for the past 12 years. The company stocks a wide range of materials and furnishings. Their crews not only install carpet, wall coverings, and window treatments, but they also offer cabinet making and other interior design modifications. There are currently 11 employees with plans to increase to 15.

Approximately three and a half years ago, a gentleman by the name of Jim Young came into their shop, claimed he had an idea and, to the amazement of Robinson and

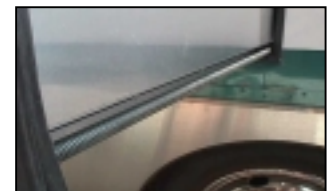
Haworth, proceeded to cut a hole in the side of his class "A" motorhome. Mr. Young was caring for his ailing wife and needed room for a hospital bed so he came up with a plan to add a slide out to his coach. After RV Interiors helped Mr. Young complete the project, he turned the plan over to the company, although he holds the patent. After numerous experiments, Robinson and Haworth refined the process and have now installed slide outs in approximately 90 motorhomes. Their goal is to do 40 per year.

Jeff Haworth explained that he has three different crews who implement the slide out installation. The first crew removes the existing interior and prepares for the installation. The second crew makes the cuts and inserts the exterior parts of the slide out. The third crew completes the interior, including any cabinet modifications.

A bar is attached to the belt rail and "C" channel steel is installed all around the sidewall opening. A

proprietary "floating nut" and screw are installed at all four corners. The "floating nut" assembly gives flexibility and makes the slide out module integral to the coach. There is a uniform fit and the installation is guaranteed not to leak, rattle, or whistle. The 34-½ inch screw is zinc plated and will withstand 120 hours of direct salt spray. The sidewalls of the slide out are made of sheet aluminum that can be painted by a body shop if the owner wants to match the coach exterior. There is no storage loss because nothing is added below the floor level.

On the inside, there is a 4-½ inch step up from the main floor to the slide-out. This is the trade-off for not encroaching on the storage space below. The 34-½" depth easily accommodates a



*Zinc Plated Acme Lead
Screw*

sofa, dinette, or most any other popular RV furnishing.

A drive chain runs around the entire perimeter of the slide-out module and connects to the zinc-plated screws with sprockets. A single 12 Volt DC motor, most commonly the chassis battery, powers the self-contained mechanism. With the engine running, this provides a reliable power supply.

There are three operating systems. The primary system has a drive motor and a Brain Box that moves the module smoothly with an auto-stop at both limits of travel. In case of a failure, a second system is activated with a switch to bypass the brain and allow the module to come in under power. However, without the Brain Box there is no auto-stop, so the operator must determine the stop position. Thirdly, there is an override that allows the operator to manually crank the module in or out. Although failures are rare, the Brain Box is inexpensive and many people carry an extra unit.

The modules use no jacks—in fact, using jacks may void the warranty. RV Interiors can install two slide-outs on a single coach—for example, one in the living room and one in the bedroom. If a shorter travel is desired, there is an additional cost of approximately \$250.00

because the screws would have to be re-milled.

An 11 ft by 34 ½” slide-out adds about 350 pounds of weight. A 6-10 ft. module costs approximately \$7,900. A 10-13 ft module would be around \$9,850, and a unit over 13 feet would be approximately \$1,000 per foot.

For more information contact RV Interiors, 1215 W Houston Ave., Gilbert AZ, 85233, 888-844-2752



Side Wall Cut Out



Drive Motor & Brain Box



Exterior View



Drive Chain