

FLAT-SCREEN CONVERSION

MOR/RYPDE'S VERSATILE SLIDE-OUT AND SWIVEL MOUNTING SYSTEM MAKES INSTALLING AN LCD TV SIMPLE AND SECURE

by Bob Livingston

PHOTOS BY BOB LIVINGSTON



The TV was originally mounted in a cabinet on a sliding/swivel tray. The configuration worked well, but the cabinet was not large enough for a decent-size LCD TV.

The new LCD TV snugs up tightly to the opening of the existing cabinet, taking up only a little more space formerly occupied by the cabinet door.

Transitioning to a flat-screen television — or even adding a new LCD or LED TV to your RV — can be complicated, depending on cabinet structure and suitable wall space. While there seems to be a large selection of brackets earmarked for stationary residences that can be adapted, MOR/ryde offers a line of mounting systems featuring unique elements that make them RV friendly.

I know what you're thinking: "What does a company that specializes in trailer suspensions know about TV brackets?" After installing a TV in the tight confines of a pickup camper using this bracket, the answer is, "a lot."

Installing an LCD TV in the same cabinet that formerly housed an analog 13-inch TV with the standard picture tube can certainly be a hair-pulling exercise. But the MOR/ryde



The Slide-Out and Swivel kit includes a base with the release mechanism, a sliding arm and the tilting bracket that secures the TV.

Slide-Out and Swivel bracket makes it simple. As any RV technician will attest, doing anything in a camper requires acute agility and patience. This specialty bracket mounts on any horizontal surface, such as a counter or inside a cabinet, and allows the TV to be extended 7 inches from its installed position. Once out, the TV can be swiveled 30 degrees, depending on the size of the screen and clearances.

In our case, the original TV was mounted on a steel tray that was bolted to the cabinet floor. This tray could be pulled out and swiveled so that occupants could view the TV when in the cabover bed or while sitting at the dinette. It worked beautifully, and allowed the tube to be concealed inside

the cabinet when not in use.

Our goal was to make the new LCD TV as unobtrusive as possible when not in use, while still retaining the adjustment



With the sliding arm fully extended, the TV can be rotated for viewing from just about any location in the camper. A small hole was cut in the bracket to allow access to the connecting cables.



The original sliding/swivel bracket provided additional articulation, but the MOR/ryde bracket itself should offer enough versatility for most installations.



The cover keeps the TV free of dust that seems to be easily attracted to the plastic housing. An adjustable stretch cord keeps the cover in place.

versatility. So we simply bolted the base of the MOR/ryde bracket system to the existing bracket so that the new TV could rest against the cabinet opening in the same relative position as the cabinet door, which we removed before starting the project. This required a careful measuring exercise to make sure the TV could be locked in place after the arm that slides into the base is installed.

We drilled out the existing base in the cabinet and used bolts and nuts rather than the ¼-inch lag bolts that came with the kit. Obviously, most RV cabinets will not be outfitted like the one in the camper, so it's important that the floor of the cabinet is strong enough to handle the weight of the bracket and the 50-pound TV rating.

The last step was mounting the TV to the swivel plate on the end of the sliding arm. Here we used the provided plate

with the popular VESA industry standard hole patterns. A good selection of bolts, spacers and washers makes it easy to find the right combination for virtually any TV. At this point the tilt adjustment can be used to position the TV for best viewing. There are two options for the sliding arm mechanism. The recommended procedure is to put a bolt in the back hole of the arm so that it can be locked into place in the out and in positions. If the bolt is placed in the front hole, the arm can only be locked in the retracted position. A simple latching device with access from the front is used to lock and unlock the arm. Also, the base can be ordered in two sizes to accommodate various size cabinets and TVs. We chose the shorter version, which is 12½ inches tall (Part No. TV40-001H-S); the larger version is 17 inches tall (Part No. TV40-001H).

The existing bracket allowed our installation to be almost “double-jointed,” offering more extension and swiveling than really necessary. But it simplified the installation. Clearly, the MOR/ryde bracket will provide plenty of adjustability for just about any cabinet installation by simply mounting directly to the cabinet floor.

We finished off the installation by ordering a cover for the TV to provide a more custom look and to keep the dust off its black plastic surface, which seems to be a dust magnet. The cover (www.originaldustcover.com) is made out of 100-percent microfiber and uses an adjustable stretch cord for a snug fit. The online company will advise on size based on the TV; the one for this install is 22 inches and was delivered for \$31.

MOR/ryde's Slide-Out and Swivel TV Mount, which is part of an extensive line of TV mounting systems, retails for \$200 and is made of top-notch — and solid — materials. And everything works and fits as designed. 🛠️

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