

HAPPY SIGNALS

TRIED AND TESTED



How often do you set-up your RV in a new site and wonder which direction to point your TV antenna? I usually wander around checking other antennas for direction, or ask my neighbour. The trouble is, the surrounding antennas are often pointing in different directions, depending on whether they are tuned to the UHF or VHF signal.

When analogue was the only signal, the wide band meant near enough was good enough. With digital, however, the band is much narrower, and if you are slightly off direction your picture will become pixelated and often unwatchable.

SA caravan accessories company Happy Wanderer has had a signal finder out for some time, but they are about to release a new model, which features 12 LED lights in its signal gauge and is set out in dBuV form, which means it's more sensitive than

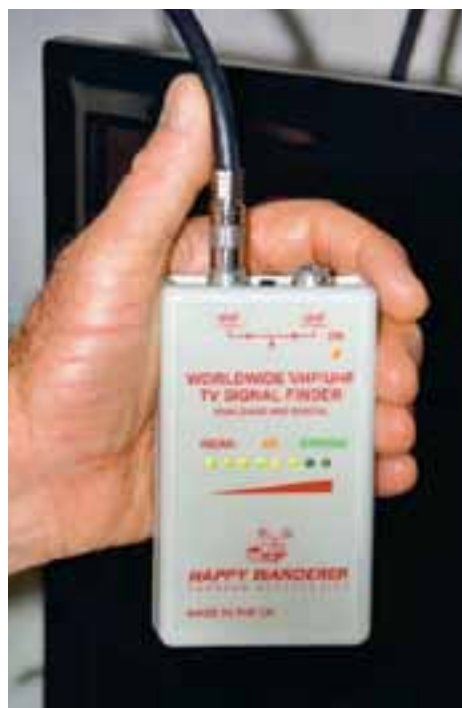
the past model, and detects a lower range. It is also more accurate and will provide more precise alignment. The previous model had an eight-LED signal gauge, categorising the signal as 'Weak', 'OK', and 'Strong'.

The new signal finder has a connection for both UHF and VHF signals and covers both analogue and digital signals. You just connect your TV antenna to either plug, turn the device on and rotate the antenna. The LEDs light up as you move it and when the right number is lit you've found the ideal position for your antenna.

When up to four LEDs are lit, it means a weak signal; five to 10 means optimum signal; and 11-12 is too strong (and you need to turn off your amplifier). The Happy Wanderer website (www.happywanderer.net.au) is very good with this kind of information, and I found my emails were answered quickly and technical information provided promptly.

OUR TEST

We recently spent a couple of days at a coastal van park north of Mackay, Qld, where digital TV reception is okay on three channels and fair on the other two. After erecting our antenna we plugged the lead into the UHF plug on the signal finder, turned it on and rotated the antenna. The signal gauge soon told us we had nine LEDs and optimum position. We then



Above: Watching the telly in your van has never been easier. **Left:** New model. **Below:** The previous version of the Signal Finder.

plugged the lead into the VHF, where we received only four LEDs, but the antenna position was still optimal.

After plugging the antenna lead into our TV we found we had an excellent picture on all channels using our antenna amplifier. No walking around or asking other people what reception they had.

Happy Wanderer also sells a dual Signal Finder for both UHF, which covers most TV channels in Australia, plus satellite. It is also both analogue and digital. This is a very useful piece of equipment for those who carry an antenna and satellite dish. Both signal finders come with batteries and full instructions.

I can highly recommend this device. It's a product that's very useful to all caravan TV watchers, as well as park owners who are often asked in which direction guests should point their antenna.

– Tony Allsop

TV SIGNAL FINDER

RRP: \$66 (normal analogue and digital finder); \$94 (satellite/TV combined)

Where: RV dealers and accessories stores.

More info: (08) 8376 2411 or www.happywanderer.net.au

Rating: ★★★★★