

Shop front

Clive White finds some useful kit for caravanners

SOCKET AND SEE

SOME YEARS ago Laser Tools' Alldrive sockets featured in these pages. These clever sockets are internally splined (as opposed to traditional hexagon or double-hex designs) enabling one to fit a variety of fastening sizes. This versatility enables an apparently small set of sockets to fit popular metric, AF, BA, Whitworth, Spline and Star sizes. Laser has now combined Alldrive with Go'thru – hollow sockets and accessories that let long studs pass through the centre of the socket and attachments (45-tooth ratchet and 75mm extension bar), enabling access where a normal socket (or sometimes, even a deep socket) cannot reach. The new 1/4in-drive Alldrive Go'thru 17-piece set includes adapters for standard 3/4in-drive sockets and bits. Typical price around £47, see lasertools.co.uk or call 01926 815000.



CURRENT STATUS

THE TROUBLE with indispensable gadgets is that they need power, a commodity not always available when on the move. Freeloader Classic is billed as the 'ultimate mobile universal charger', capable of powering the most popular mobile devices. Its advanced electronics and solar panels charge the internal battery in eight hours, or via USB in three, to then power an iPod/iPhone for 18 hours, a smart phone for 44 hours, a PSP or DS for 2 1/2 hours or an iPad for two hours. Nine connector tips are supplied, including the new 'standard' micro USB, and there's a direct input USB socket. A built-in LCD data panel indicates battery level, power input and connectivity. Sturdily encased in aluminium, the compact charger is ideal for travel and costs £39.99 – see solartechnology.co.uk or call 01684 774000.



REST ASSURED

NEED TO ensure the baby/toddler won't roll out of your caravan's bed or bunk, but find conventional bed guards cumbersome to use and store? The purple daisies polyurethane foam Bed Bumper weighs just 350g, can be folded or squashed into the smallest of storage spaces and is simplicity itself to use: just place it on the edge of the mattress, pull the bed sheets over it and tuck in. Bed Bumper is 13cm high and creates a soft 'barrier' along the open edge of the bed. Three lengths are available – 50cm (recommended for use across the end of the bed), 100cm and 150cm, priced at £5.99, £10.99 and £14.99 respectively plus p&p (free delivery on orders over £35). See bed-guards.co.uk or call 07887 501403 for further information.

BOTTLED SWISSNESS

A WATER bottle might be an unassuming object, but Swiss manufacturer SIGG has been making them for more than 100 years and turned this humble container into a fine art. As well as being beautifully made, lightweight yet tough – qualities that first attracted climbers and hikers – they are now also a fashion and lifestyle accessory, available in 'Design', 'Active Life' and 'Kids' ranges. As a tribute to its Swiss homeland, SIGG has launched the EdelSwiss bottles (£16.50 each), featuring edelweiss, the Matterhorn and, of course, the Swiss cross, as part of its summer 2011 collection. For the full ranges see sigg.com or call 01284 774740.



FULL OF BEANS

COFFEE-SHIRT doesn't quite work as well as T-shirt, does it? Timberland has grounds – well, coffee grounds – for success in producing its most environmentally-conscious range of clothing. Its new Scafe collection is made from used coffee beans and PET yarns from recycled plastic bottles. The collection includes the Microfleece Full Zip (SRP £45) and Microfleece Half Zip (SRP £40), available in four colour schemes. Coffee grounds' odour control ability can be combined with fabric, which is also fast drying as moisture spreads across the material, speeding the drying process. In addition, the coffee grounds in the fabric refract and diffuse the sun's rays, offering natural UV protection. From leisure clothing retailers, see timberlandonline.co.uk or call 0800 023 2478.

