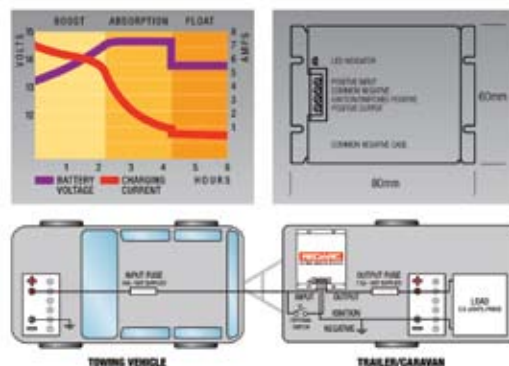


# PRODUCT REVIEW

## REDARC BCDC – 1206



## PERFECT RECHARGING FOR CARAVANS

The battery in a caravan will not fully charge from the car's alternator due to voltage drop in long lengths of wiring. The usual solution to this problem is to fit a high-current connector (known as a 'hot-wire' or Anderson plug) to the back of the car as a dedicated source of power to re-charge the van's battery.

Batteries used in caravans today are not limited to the conventional wet cell lead-acid type. High power requirements in vans lead people to use modern battery designs such as deep cycles, and gel cell and absorbed glass matt (AGM), which can be kept in confined areas. These types can require higher and more closely monitored charging to maximise their life. You may also wish to locate them even

further from the trailer connection. Hotwire connections work far better than a trailer plug, but still do not deliver an 'intelligent' charge like that produced by a quality electronic battery charger, such as one that normally runs off 240V. An Australian company, Redarc, has released this neat little device specifically designed to properly charge remote batteries.

The unit can operate effectively with an input voltage as low as 9V, so it can be run off a standard trailer plug, and located where convenient in the electrical area or fuse box of the van.

The BCDC output voltage is calculated dependent on the state of charge of the battery. A 'flat' battery will first be put into Boost mode until it reaches a certain level of charge, then be switched to Absorption mode, main-

taining that level for a pre-determined period of time before entering Float mode. Float mode keeps the battery at full charge until a load causes the voltage to drop below 12.2V, when it re-enters Boost mode.

We did some testing of charging methods, comparing three commonly used systems against this charger. Variables were controlled as much as possible, which included allowing this unit to operate from a hot-wire connection. In these objective tests, the Redarc BCDC-1206 did in fact 'out-charge' all the other methods, but its benefit would be even more greatly realised if connected to a caravan that did not have a hot-wire connection on the vehicle and was relying on the trailer alone.

Modern batteries for a van can be worth hundreds of dollars. This product is a worthy investment against premature replacement of those precious powerhouses.

For more information visit [www.redarc.com.au](http://www.redarc.com.au) or call (08) 8322 4848.

## EXPLORE AUSTRALIA BY CARAVAN & MOTORHOME

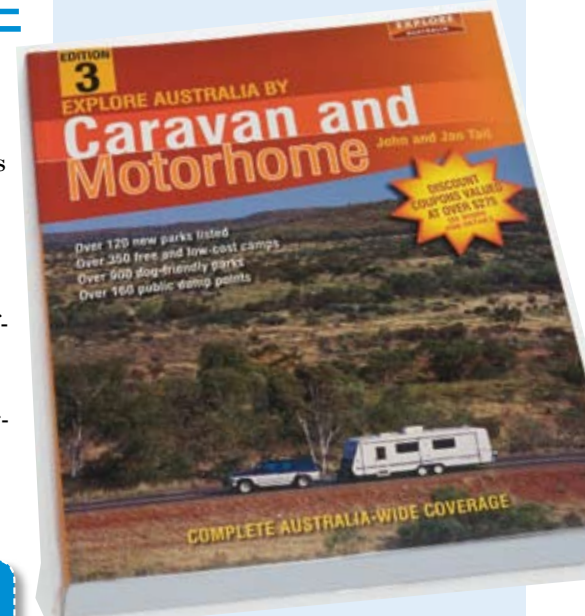
### THE RVER'S ONE-STOP REFERENCE

John and Jan Tait have been exploring the wide, brown land for over 20 years now. Originally writing 4WD books for Gregorys, they graduated to caravans and have now released the third edition of this bible for Australian RVers.

Completely re-written, the tome encompasses parks ranging from budget to lavish, and the Taites have spent time at every one! They offer priceless information on free camping, dog sites, fuel stops, better planning and enough coupons for major van parks to recoup the cost of the book eight times over!

The publication has won awards (The International Map Trades Association) for its amazing cartography. There are colourful, informative maps on virtually every page, and every location has been plotted by John and Jan themselves with a GPS, driving around the country in their LandCruiser and 18ft Bushtracker off-road caravan.

Few publications could hope to match this for sheer research and personal ambition. The authors fiercely believe in what they do, and in living the lifestyle they so proudly endorse.



The book is available at good book stores and Big W, or visit [www.hardiegrant.com.au](http://www.hardiegrant.com.au).

## CLEAN, FRESH WATER AT YOUR DOORSTEP!

Have you ever wondered how much rainwater and dew are wasted running off the roof of your van, when it could be filling up your tanks? Well, Adele and Chazz of Aussie Caravan Spouting have. With our farmers suffering and water restrictions in place around much of the country, it makes sense to preserve what you can.

Cut down to the desired size, the product attaches to the front or rear of almost any caravan to act like a guttering system for what comes off the roof. An outlet hose is clipped on and simply fed into your water tank for fresh, clean rainwater.

Aussie Caravan Spouting retails for \$90 plus postage and handling.

For more information visit [www.aussiecaravanspouting.com](http://www.aussiecaravanspouting.com) or call 0429 087 090.



Fix to the front or back with rivets and silicone



Cut the unit to the appropriate width for your caravan