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MOTORHOMES

GROWLER

THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL FOR SCUMBAGS

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Motorcaravan Security Specialists Van Bitz 10/18

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MOTORCARAVAN ALARM SYSTEMS

THE FACTS

INTRODUCTION

As a motorcaravanner, or potential motorcaravanner, you will no doubt realise that a motorcaravan is a very special vehicle indeed. Some people use their vehicles as everyday transport and some only use their vans for leisure. Many people will use them for work, as a minibus, a spare room, a shopping wagon, the list is as numerous as the owners are individual. But one fact is common to us all (yes, we are motorcaravanners ourselves), our vehicles are special. We derive enjoyment from owning and using our vans and, as motorcaravanners, we tend to be slightly adventurous, independent, and perhaps from time to time enjoy 'getting away from it all'.

It is however a sad fact of life that in this day and age crime is on the increase. Not just property theft, but personal violence is also unfortunately more prolific. This need not deter and should not dissuade motorcaravanners from enjoying the countryside and their vehicles, as most crime is opportunist, carried out on the spur of the moment. But it should make people aware that they have a responsibility to take basic steps to protect their vehicles, their belongings and, of course, themselves.

One of the most common excuses we hear for not having a security system fitted is: 'You cannot stop a really professional thief so what's the point of a security system anyway?' Our answer is that a good thief can easily pick a lock, but you wouldn't dream of going on holiday and not taking the precaution of locking your home, but if the above argument holds true, what is the point? The facts are that there are different types of crime and different levels of professionalism amongst thieves. It is true that a really good professional thief can be hard to stop, but if the system that is fitted to your vehicle is of a high standard and correctly installed, it follows that it would take a top rate thief to overcome the system. In many cases a professional thief will recognise that the system will take time to overcome and look for an easier target. We will go into some of the many impressive defensive devices in more depth later in this information. But remember, the weight of evidence is against anyone who tells you that alarms do not work. ***But it must be the right product for the job!***

One only has to read any newspaper or magazine to see an array of personal safety and vehicle alarms advertised. Some will be good, some bad and some indifferent. Some will offer a good personal security, whilst leaving the vehicle at risk, and some will offer vehicle protection at the cost to personal security. ***Most will be advertised, sold and fitted by people who have possibly never even seen the inside of a motorcaravan.*** If this is the case, then it is natural to assume that a system which is ideal for your car, boat, home, office, caravan, motorhome, garage, etc. etc. will not necessarily offer the best protection for any one application. We have found in the past that just trying to explain to non-motorcaravanners exactly what it is that appeals to us about owning and using a motorcaravan is difficult enough (try explaining to one of the non-specialist insurance companies what the vehicle is, what it does, what is in it, and you will see what we mean). So, to be fair to the uninformed, why shouldn't a system that can protect your garage protect your motorcaravan? After all, it's only a van with beds in, isn't it?

It is also a mistake to assume that thieves are stupid ignorant people. It must be obvious to a thief that a motorcaravan from another area or country is going to be a target worth going for, probably full of the goodies that people want with them when they are travelling or on holiday. Just take a second now to think about what you normally carry in your van whilst away. Start with money and credit cards and go on from there. Once you sit and think about exactly what you carry and how much it would cost to replace it, if you could replace it, it is frightening.

So, what is the solution – short of turning your van into a mini Fort Knox? A good, well tried and tested security system that is easy to use, protecting you, the base vehicle, the interior and its contents and, when necessary, your external accessories (bicycles for example). Equally, you must also think of what you **do not want**. You no more want wires and boxes all over the van than you would want in your home because, when you are using your van, it is your home. It should not be difficult or complicated to use, it should not be ridiculously expensive and, last but by no means least, you do not want a system that thieves would find easy to beat. Advertised systems that you can easily take from

vehicle to vehicle, with no wiring problems and it's own power source usually means a system that sits on the dashboard. It has no wiring problems because it is powered by a small 9-volt battery. It would be of little value sitting in a hedgerow pipping it's little head off with a thief driving your van away to rifle at a quiet location many miles away. Another consideration should be long-term service. Don't forget that many dealers will contract out alarm work to local auto-electricians. The system that they install today may not be serviceable in a couple of years' time when you may need batteries or spares!

As we stated earlier, we are motorcaravanners ourselves and, as such, realise that most of the technology used in motorcaravans is borrowed from allied trades such as the caravan or car industry. There was not a comprehensive alarm system on the market specifically manufactured to suitably protect a motorcaravan and we decided many years ago that to install a system to offer the special needs of a motorcaravan, we would need to approach the problem with a degree of innovation. We studied the market and decided that we would need to select a highly sophisticated system for the vehicle part of the motorcaravan, and supplement the technology with products from the domestic security market to protect the caravan side.

After many years specialising in motorcaravan security, we felt that our experience and reputation warranted taking this situation further. In conjunction with the manufacturers specialising in electronic vehicle security we developed the **STRIKEBACK** range of Motorcaravan Security Systems.

As we have stated, we are Motorcaravan Security Specialists and as such do not normally undertake alarm work on caravans, and never cars. We use and understand all types of motorcaravans. All work is carried out to the highest standard. All wiring is 'lost'. All connections are fully 'loomed' and soldered (except where it is physically impossible – the fuse board connections for example or where an alternative superior connection is justified) and, where necessary, the 'loomed' wires are run through flexible conduit. We are constantly aware that our reputation is the best advertisement that we will ever have. This is borne out by the level of repeat orders we receive as our customers change their motorhomes and by the enquiries we receive due to personal recommendations from existing customers. To this end we offer a no quibble two-year warranty as standard on all our components and workmanship, and a lifetime warranty on the Electronic Control Unit for our customer.

Caravan Guard has reported in January 2011 the claims for theft of and from motorhomes decreased by almost 50% between January and September 2010 as opposed to the same period in 2009. The insurance specialist attributes the fall to security conscious and ever-vigilant motorhome owners, as well as ever-improving security products such as high tech tracking devices and alarms.

**Van Bitz is the SOLE UK Distributor of the
STRIKEBACK RANGE of MOTORHOME SECURITY EQUIPMENT**

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are offered a similar system and told it is the same as Strikeback

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Whilst imitation is a form of flattery, it still is however, only imitation!

Also, Van Bitz does not sponsor links on the internet. Some of our competitors pay to have their names listed and appear as a 'pop up' when you type in our name or products. This does not mean they offer our products or services.

STRIKEBACK

MOTORCARAVAN ALARM SYSTEM

A compact integrated radio control alarm system manufactured by one of Europe's largest vehicle electronics specialists **Meta**. Meta are a quality orientated manufacturing company who decided some years ago that their success would be based on manufacturing products that would meet and exceed some of the highest and most stringent quality checks in the world. Once armed, the system monitors thousands of times per second the motorcaravans' cab, bonnet, caravan and selected locker doors.

Cars are small, so car alarms cannot cope effectively with internal movement within a motorcaravan. Even if they could, leaving the heating on when you go out for a walk in the evening or leaving a roof vent open for ventilation, could play havoc with the car derived ultrasonic movement sensor (leaving you to apologise to the warden or the angry occupants of the motorhome on the pitch next door!). You may be told that a system has intelligent ultrasonics or smart ultrasonics. In practice, this just means that they are less efficient or have to see something several times before they respond to an intruder. Strikeback uses an extremely effective radio system. This small unit can be mounted covertly usually behind the dashboard. With this unique sensor we can protect vans up to forty feet in length – safely and reliably. At the rear of the motorcaravan, an external socket is mounted under-floor to provide plug-in protection for bicycles or towed cars etc. The powerful siren 'crashes' into action should the alarm be triggered (the siren has its own permanent, automatically charged ni-cad battery - the siren will sound if the battery is disconnected) and the twin LED's (flashing red lights one inside and one outside) ensure a thief knows what he's dealing with even if all of the curtains and blinds are drawn. After all, what's the point of an alarm being on at night if those that are up to no good, don't even know it's fitted?

The alarm can be armed in a 'sleep' mode maintaining perimeter protection whilst you sleep in your motorhome. This will, in addition to giving you peace of mind when you are camping in less secure surroundings, allow complete freedom of movement whilst you are in the motorhome using any of the internal appliances. If a potential thief decides to try his luck opening any of the protected doors, lockers, bonnet, tampering with your bikes or trailer, he will immediately regret it as he triggers the system. As an option we can install a gas detector to help prevent the gas attacks that people believe they may experience whilst asleep at night when camping in France. We can offer a van to mobile telephone link that will phone you should the alarm be triggered with the added deterrent that the Devils Wail™ internal siren will make the thief think twice about staying in the motorhome.

Motorhomes are not cars! A simple statement. Yet it is surprising how many owners will allow a dealer to install a car alarm into their new motorhome. Cars are small, vans are big. Every time you arm the system an auto test function is automatically carried out on all protected zones. The system will clearly alert you if any irregularities exist, eg. a locker door left open. If, while you have been away from your motorcaravan, the alarm has been triggered the system has an intrusion indicator memory to alert you, telling you which zones have been violated. The radio control of the system uses a high security programmed radio key utilising unique software driven random encryption method to defeat scanners and grabbers. This is totally effective as the system never uses the same code twice (72 million billion combinations!). The key fobs have been designed ergonomically to eliminate the problem of accidental arm/disarm. Internally, the easily replaced lithium batteries have an expected life of three and a half years.

For additional security reasons and guaranteed customer satisfaction, Van Bitz have invested in additional computer hardware and software from Italy to ensure that spare and replacement radio keys (we do lose things after all!) can be programmed to your system's unique code and can normally be dispatched the same day.

These are a few of the many features of our systems. The following pages explain in more detail the benefits and level of protection once the system is installed. We have tried to explain the system in detail, but please do not think that the system is hard or complicated to use. On a day-to-day basis all you have to do is push a button to turn it on and again to turn it off. Once the installation is complete we explain the system fully. We prepare comprehensive instructions and we note technical information pertaining to the individual motorcaravan in our own records. This means that we can continue to maintain your security system for many years to come.

Strikeback is manufactured within the EEC by Meta Systems. You will not see Meta alarms on the shelves of the major high street car accessory retailers as Meta products are not primarily designed for DIY installation. In fact, Meta control the supply of their products and certain components in their range are only available to those installers who meet certain high installation standards and genuinely believe in the long-term benefits of customer care and satisfaction. Meta view this elitist group as suitable to receive intensive training courses and testing, on-going technical instruction and expect in return that the products are installed to the standards they set. Our customers may rest assured that in addition to the **STRIKEBACK** Motorcaravan Security System, we have full

access to any of the products in the range which, as one of Europe's most innovative electronics manufacturers, is extensive. Maserati, Ferrari, BMW, Saab, Mazda, Alfa Romeo, Renault, VW, Audi, Fiat, Peugeot are just a few of the impressive names that Meta are proud to supply with electronic components and security systems. The system we offer is extremely comprehensive in the facilities that it uses to protect you and your vehicle but, once installed, again it is simplicity itself to operate.

Please note:

Strikeback is exclusive to Van Bitz. If it is not supplied by Van Bitz, then it is not **STRIKEBACK**. If we thought that Cobra, Sigma, Laserline, Clifford, Autowatch or any other alarm was better, we would simply buy them off the shelf and avoid the huge financial commitment of ordering Strikeback. So, if you are offered a 'really good alarm' as part of a deal, please use the comparison chart at the back of this brochure to establish just how good it is if you can find out exactly what is being fitted and exactly what it does.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ARMING AND DISARMING THE SYSTEM

Two high security pocket-sized transmitters, which are built into key fobs, turn the system on or off at the press of a button. The keys are 'ANTI SCAN' and 'ANTI GRAB' making it impossible for a thief to use a grabber to turn your system off. There are over 72 million billion code combinations. The transmitter never uses the same code twice making it very secure indeed due to the 32-bit resonator transmitting at 433.92 MHz.

Van Bitz can supply additional radio keys at the time of installation and a replacement radio key at a later date that can only be programmed into the system by the owner of the motorhome with a specific key.



SILENT ARM/DISARM SIGNAL

To arm the system is extremely simple. A brief press on the radio key fob will arm or disarm the motorcaravan. The motorcaravan lights will flash to confirm (the arm and disarm flashes are different for ease of recognition). An audible tone will be heard when you arm the system if the alarm detects any abnormalities (see automatic auto test – page 9). A different tone will be heard when you arm in sleep mode to warn anyone watching that you are protected and to leave you and your van alone.

SAFETY CIRCUIT

A safety feature is built in to prevent accidental operation of the system whilst driving.

BONNET SENSOR (if applicable)

The system will be triggered if the bonnet is forced or opened as an encapsulated tilt switch is fitted. This should not be confused with the much less reliable and cheaper pin switches used in car alarm installations which are, in our opinion, totally unsuitable for prolonged reliable use in the engine area on motorcaravans. They tend to go rusty so the owner sprays them with oil that causes road dirt to clog up the switch and you either get false alarms, or the switch becomes inoperable leaving the bonnet vulnerable to attack.

NIGHT-TIME FACILITY/PET MODE

The system allows you to **sleep in your motorhome with the alarm turned on**. The system shuts down the internal sensor when arming the system in the sleep mode. Getting up in the middle of the night to get a drink or to use the loo will not affect the alarm, but a thief would try to break in or force a locker or to steal the bikes or trailer protected with the external security loop. This mode maintains perimeter protection giving you peace of mind and added safety. This is particularly reassuring when you are forced to make unplanned overnight stops in service areas for example. This facility is also useful if you intend to leave a pet in the motorcaravan but wish to have the alarm on. A simple extended press of the radio key fob when you arm the system will initiate this mode. To make it doubly easy, there is a visual signal to confirm correct operation of the night facility. Strikeback has twin LED's so even when the blinds and curtains are drawn, the external flashing warning light makes it doubly clear to leave your van alone, helping to keep you safe.

WARN AWAY™ FUNCTION

There have been incidents where thieves have been watching motorhomes, especially in Aires and less public overnight camping areas, to see if a security system is activated. To alert and warn off a potential thief, the system will emit 4 warning tones when set in the night mode. We want anyone watching to be more than certain there is a security system being used. This has the added benefit of ensuring that you are also absolutely sure that you have armed the system in the night mode.

SELF - POWERED SIREN

The system will monitor its own power source and, if a thief were to interrupt the power source, (eg. disconnect the battery) the alarm will sound using its own permanently charged built-in lithium battery. If the thief tries to reconnect the battery to silence the siren, the system will automatically re-arm and, if necessary, trigger again. Even if a thief was brazen enough to try to ignore the sirens briefly thinking he can make it into the vehicle, find the ECU and rip out all the wiring or disconnect the ECU's power supply, the siren would switch to its own internal supply, thus gaining you valuable time but wasting the thief's.

CARAVAN AND LOCKER DOOR PROTECTION

The caravan and locker doors can be protected by small discreet contact switches. These should not be confused with pin switches which, when added to a door that was not designed to accept them, tend to be unsuitable as they break very easily, are unreliable and look most unattractive. The contact switches we use will trigger the alarm immediately if the doors are forced or opened whilst the alarm is activated (the switches can also be installed on other doors where necessary – gas locker or generator cupboard doors for example). The protected doors and lockers are then clearly marked with a high grade, automotive quality resin decal, white with red lettering, making it quite clear that the door or locker is fully protected. The size of the warning decals are 70mm x 35mm so whilst being an affective deterrent to a potential thief, are not going to impact on the overall aesthetics of the motorcaravan.



EXTERNAL PROTECTION CIRCUIT (BIKE/MOTORBIKE COVER)

External accessories can be protected, bicycles on or off a rack (or the rack itself) for example. We mount at the rear of the motorhome a small resin bonded socket, usually behind the rear skirt. We also supply a resin-bonded plug that comes with two fly leads. On the ends of the fly leads are a male and female connector. When you wish to protect external accessories simply plug the supplied security loop into the socket and connect the two leads around the item you wish to protect. If the loop is broken or the plug pulled out, the alarm will trigger (if armed). When you do not wish to use the loop simply remove the plug and loop and disable the circuit from the system normally by way of a small dashboard mounted switch. Many of our customers have expanded on this simple but effective security idea and use their security loop system to protect sail boards and surfboards on the roof, back boxes, 'A' frames and small towed cars etc.

ARMED STATUS LIGHT (LED)

A motorcaravan is a very vulnerable vehicle. Highly visible flashing LED's (red flashing lights in people talk) deter thieves, warning them that the vehicle is protected and armed. With **STRIKEBACK** the lights have a dual function. When normally armed the lights will flash at a slow steady rate and extinguish when the system is disarmed. If the alarm has been triggered in your absence, the LED's will continue to flash a coded flash after you disarm the alarm. The flash code will determine which motorcaravan alarm zone has been triggered. This has the benefit of giving you peace of mind that 'everything was OK while we were out' and if not, what was tampered with (see diagnostic report – page 9). The internal LED is extremely bright, flashing in excess of 3400 Mcd. This means little to most of you until you consider that most car alarm LED's are around 200 Mcd – virtually useless during the day.

EXTERNAL WARNING LIGHT (LED)

To ensure that at night (when your windscreen may be covered by screens) any potential thief knows that your motorcaravan is alarmed, a second LED is mounted externally either in a lighting unit or in the bodywork using a flush mounted waterproof LED. The position of the external LED will be determined by ourselves, for maximum effect.



Example of a waterproof external LED

INTERNATIONAL WARNING STICKERS

When used in conjunction with a good security system, warning stickers can provide a good first line of defence along with a visible LED warning light as a deterrent. However, a professional thief can spot a dummy LED and has a good knowledge of which stickers are genuine and those that are available in every High Street car accessory shop. Also, it must be considered that a sticker on a motorcaravan stating 'car alarm installed' also sends another message to the thief. When your system is installed we provide stickers stating:

AVISO! SISTEMA DE ALARMA PROTEGIDA ELECTRONICO	
ATTENTION! SYSTEM D'ALARME PROTÉGÉ ELECTRONIQUEMENT	
ATTENTIONE! SISTEMA D'ALLARME PROTEZIONE ELETTRONICA	ACHTUNG! ALARM SYSTEM ELEKTRONISCH GESCHUETZT
WARNING!! THIS MOTORCARAVAN IS COMPLETELY PROTECTED BY A STRIKEBACK SECURITY SYSTEM	
Van Bitz Cornish Farm Taunton www.vanbitz.com 01823 321992	

INTERNAL MOVEMENT SENSOR

A covert interior movement sensor sets up a 'radio wrap' inside the motorhome. Once set, the alarm is instantly triggered if internal movement is detected. This sensor is designed to be covert so we can normally install it behind the dashboard (where possible). Motorhomes up to forty feet in length can be protected internally using a single sensor. This sensor should not be confused with Ultrasonic sensors that are designed primarily for cars. Once the system is armed, this invisible sensor can see (settings vary from van to van) the full length of the motorhome. One of the biggest causes of false alarms in car-derived systems is the unsuitability of ultrasonic movement sensors. They operate on a totally different system and will see insects moving and heat sources causing air movement (blown air heating and electric fan heaters for example!)

The sensors can be switched off to allow a pet to be left in the motorcaravan, or to allow you to sleep in it with the security system on without the nuisance of triggering the system if you get up in the night. Most modern installations permit us to hide the sensor completely. This also makes it impossible for a potential thief to break in, disable the sensors and work without the alarm triggering. Many times we see car alarms fitted to motorhomes where the ultrasonic sensors have been fitted to the pillars either side of the windscreen and normally just a few inches away from the cab curtains. These of course will partially block the sensors when open, and make them useless when drawn, thus leaving the interior of the van with no protection at all!

PANIC FACILITY

When the alarm is armed, the panic facility is actioned by pressing a button on the radio key. The siren sounds and the lights flash at your command deterring any potential thief. Deactivating the panic facility still leaves you fully protected by Strikeback.

DTI APPROVAL AND EUROPEAN DIRECTIVES

The remote controls operate on frequencies approved for use in all EU member states and all EFTA-/EAA states the main control unit meets any current legislation. The radio key conforms at the essential requirement of the directive R&TTE (1999/5/EC Directive). This may seem unimportant but it is illegal now to operate radio equipment in Europe that does not meet and is not marked to this standard.

AUTOMATIC RESET

If triggered, the system will operate on a 25 second cycle. At the end of 25 seconds the system will shut down for 3-5 seconds as it carries out a system check. If the condition that triggered the alarm has stopped, the alarm will automatically re-arm itself to deter further interference. If however, the thief is still violating one of the protected zones, the system will start up again. Whilst the system is carrying out its 3-5 second system check the independent engine immobilisation is still active. Local authorities and police forces throughout the country now have the legal right to enter and silence alarms that are causing a nuisance. The auto-reset and false alarm control facility will prevent any inconvenience or expense that this could cause.

FALSE ALARM CONTROL FACILITY

Whilst every care is taken in the installation of the system, and the components used are made to a very high standard, sensor malfunction and/or user error is possible, albeit however remote. The system will recognise a repeated false alarm situation. This need not necessarily be a malfunction. We have known cases in the past where a pet has been left in the motorcaravan and the owner has forgotten to set the alarm in the correct mode. Without the control facility, the alarm would detect the pet every time it moved around the van and the alarm could be sounding on and off for several hours. The owner then returns to the vehicle and finds a distraught pet and camp warden and annoyed, hassled neighbours. The control facility would prevent this happening because, after a pre-set number of incorrect triggers, it would shut down the offending sensor but still maintain protection for the rest of the motorcaravan.

AUTOMATIC AUTO TEST

When you arm the system automatically a protection zone self-test is carried out. If any irregularity is found by the system, you will hear four distinct audible warnings one second after you see the normal arming flash. This will ensure that not only is the system functioning correctly, but also that the motorcaravan owner has not left any doors or lockers open.

OWNER SYSTEM TEST

Every time you arm the system a function test is carried out automatically. However, you can test the system yourself if you wish, quickly and without noise. Once the system is armed, simply open any of the protected doors or lockers and the vehicle lights will flash recognition. Movement within the protected zone in the motorhome will also cause the lights to flash. At the end of the last test the system will revert back to its normal arming sequence and set as usual 25 seconds after the last test.

HIGH SECURITY OVERRIDE

The siren has its own internal battery back up in case of unauthorised disconnection or tampering. However, the system is coded and will only react to the vehicle battery being disconnected or the siren being disconnected when the alarm is armed. This means that servicing and maintenance is hassle free.

There is also a high security override switch fitted in the motorhome and you are given a unique override key. Should you lose or damage your radio key, you can use this key to turn off the security system.

DIAGNOSTIC REPORT

If the alarm is triggered in your absence, the LED will change its' flash code. The alarm will divide the motorhome into 7 alarm zones. The following is an example of how they zones may be split:

- Cab doors
- Bonnet
- Caravan door, Lockers and Loop
- Internal sensor (s)
- Ignition protection

To ensure that you are aware of an alarm condition, the system will continue to flash the diagnostic codes for 45 seconds after disarming, until the memory is cleared/reset.

INSTALLATION AND RELATED MATTERS

The installation of the system usually takes one full working day (or half a day with two fitters working). If a weekday installation is not convenient, make a weekend of it and enjoy beautiful Somerset leaving your motorcaravan with us for the day. Also, if it is more convenient for you, you can arrange to arrive with us prior to your installation. We can offer you one of our safe, gravelled and level overnight parking places with mains hook-up on our pristine campsite. We have an excellent toilet block with central heating making it suitable for all year use. We also offer one night completely free of charge when the installation work is carried out.

Set in five acres of Somerset countryside, Cornish Farm is approximately two miles from Junction 25, and the same distance from the town centre. On the installation day, once the motorhome is in one of our workshops, we have a courtesy car to drop you off in Taunton Town Centre however many there are in your party (within reason!!!). If the weather is being unkind, or you do not wish to spend time in town, we have a warm comfortable waiting area with a television. There is also complimentary tea and coffee facilities, with an adjacent loo.

Once the installation and testing is complete we never leave you in the lurch as a full explanation is given and we demonstrate the system to you. The electronic control unit (the really expensive bit!) carries a lifetime warranty for our original customer and, of course, all parts and labour are fully guaranteed for a minimum of twenty-four months from the date of installation. Terms and conditions apply and remote controls are not covered if damaged or subjected to water ingress. **GROWLER™** however has a lifetime warranty on all parts for the original purchaser. If you wish, you may purchase a maintenance contract for a third year (see option 6 – page 17).

PRICE GUIDE

STRIKEBACK system as described in Panel Van Conversions	from	£599.00
STRIKEBACK system as described in Coach built motorhomes	from	£599.00
STRIKEBACK system as described in 'A' Class motorhomes	from	£625.00
STRIKEBACK GROWLER™ see next page	from	£999.00

THE PRICE IS CALCULATED ON ONE EXTERNAL LOCKER NEEDING PROTECTION

ALL PRICES INCLUDE LABOUR CHARGES AND VAT

Whilst the job is being completed at Van Bitz, we also include one free night at

Cornish Farm Touring Park

Luxury camping in the Heart of Somerset

Web site: www.cornishfarm.com Email: info@cornishfarm.com

GROWLER

THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL FOR SCUMBAGS

If you, like us, are more than a little confused nowadays, confused because the law seems to want to consider the thief as well as the victim, please read on.

The human rights of the thief have to be considered, despite the thief showing you little or no consideration when he steals or ruins your property. In some instances, it has been suggested the victim (you) is somewhat responsible; partially responsible because you have desirable things. 'How would you feel if you couldn't have nice things' we are asked?

No thought is given to the fact that you have worked hard and saved to buy your motorhome and the accessories inside it. Human rights it would appear seem to be very one sided in that the state extends them to people that don't deserve them, it often seems! These same strange laws also prohibit us from taking physical steps to protect ourselves and our property. If a thief was to cause himself an injury whilst trying to steal your property or you caught and thumped him, you would find that it is you in trouble with the Police and possibly in court.

Madness! Does this mean that we should give up? A resounding NO is the answer.

*We are not allowed to damage the thieves or resist them, but we can make it very difficult for them. **GROWLER™** is our loudest Strikeback system yet, it simply hurts to be in the vicinity of the motorhome and it is just as loud inside. It is that loud that the natural reaction is to put your fingers in your ears in an attempt to block out the noise.*

*Based on our award winning, market leading Strikeback motorhome security system, the **GROWLER™** is insurance approved and very very effective. People often say that you cannot stop a professional thief, well maybe you can, maybe you can't, but the reality is that the majority of vehicle crime in Europe **is theft from the vehicle.***



Now, this is all vehicle crime, so in reality motorhomes are even more likely to be burgled than stolen, especially abroad. This is not a xenophobic statement as the UK has one of the worst crime rates in all of Europe, but the fact of the matter is that to a thief, a motorhome in a foreign country is easy pickings. Let's face it, when you go to the beach, where are your valuables safer? Locked in your motorhome with the security system activated, or under your towel on the beach?

So what is different about **GROWLER™**. Having all the major benefits of Strikeback, the biggest difference you will notice is the massive wall of sound produced by the five powerful sirens positioned in and out of the motorhome.

Three external sirens are fitted to create a palpable feel to the noise, making you feel distinctly uncomfortable. The rear pair are matched so they produce a distinctly uncomfortable effect, a crescendo which leaves you feeling that the noise is actually vibrating inside your head.

Imagine the affect it would have on you! OK so the initial reaction is to plug your ears with your fingers, but it is hard to vandalise or prise open doors and lockers when you have your fingers in your ears! Also, the thief is vulnerable.

With his ability to hear taken away, anyone could approach him with no prior warning. This again makes for an anxious thief, a thief anxious enough to leave your motorhome well alone and go and target an easier option!

GROWLER™ also has additional first lines of defence in that there is a LED warning light inside the motorhome and waterproof external LEDs, on the front, at the back and on the caravan door side of the motorhome as standard. These are powered by an upgraded LED system standard with **GROWLER™** enhancing the visual deterrent which alone can be enough to deter thieves. The LEDs are blue to make it a very distinctive system.

Inside, the onslaught doesn't stop! There are a further two powerful sirens mounted under the dashboard making life unpleasant for the thief and making the thought of attacking the alarm system or stealing the stereo for example, virtually impossible. These can be switched in the event of you wishing to leave a pet in the motorhome for obvious reasons. You may also feel more comfortable knowing that they are deactivated whilst you sleep.

The bonnet is protected by an encapsulated tilt sensor which will not go rusty like a car alarm pin switch. The cab and caravan doors are physically switched, as is one external locker door. Additional locker doors can be added into the system for £50 each.

Internally, to detect unauthorised movement, we use a hyper frequency sensor which is normally hidden behind the motorhome dashboard. This is a very stable sensing system that can be used in conjunction with blown air heating and Air Conditioning systems. Often, internal sensors can cause false alarms which is why Strikeback does not use an ultra sonic type sensor often found in car alarm installations. The sensor is of course switchable, to enable you to sleep soundly in the motorhome knowing that the system is on guard. In our mind, having to choose between heating or leaving the alarm on is a poor choice in a luxury vehicle.

There is a panic function, activated from the radio key fob, which unleashes the five powerful sirens positioned around your motorhome. This will really give a thief or potential attacker something to contend with and worry about the attention that the sound is creating. The panic mode is immediate once the option is used and will turn off at the press of a button,

not effecting the alarm operation. This means that if you're in your motorhome with the system armed for protection, if you think that someone is up to no good outside and you activate the panic facility, turning the panic off once the threat has gone will leave the alarm still armed in the night mode for your continued protection.



At the rear of your motorhome we will install an accessory circuit that will allow you to extend the alarm externally, allowing you to protect your possessions such as bikes on a rack, a trailer or towed car. Our technicians mount a resin bonded socket underneath the rear skirt of your motorhome and we provide a compatible plug and flexible loop system. The loop system is switchable so you can simply unplug the loop when not needed.

Turning the alarm on and off is done using a very small discreet radio key fob which also has a panic function and so you can activate the panic mode from inside or outside the motorhome. Many car alarms only rely on the original ignition key/central locking button to activate the alarm. On a motorhome we do not think that this is a good idea as you will often want to use the alarm independently of the central locking and vice versa. Doors locked on a ferry for example but, at the request of the ferry, with no alarm turned on. Also, the small radio key makes entering the system into pet or sleep mode as easy as pressing a button, whereas on many car alarm systems you have to turn the ignition on a few seconds before pushing the button. Absolutely fine in a car where you would be sat in the driver's seat, but a lot more hassle in a motorhome. Also, turning on the ignition brings down satellite equipment, parks steps etc. Just another example of car alarm fitters not understanding the specialised motorhome market.

GROWLER™ comes with a LIFE TIME warranty for the original owner. Additions to the Growler package such as the pager and gas detector come with a 3 year warranty which can be extended at the end of the three years for a fee which will include a service check. All this installed into a British or European motorhome for only £999.

You can add the **SHADOW**^{VTS} tracking system to **GROWLER™** for only £199 (plus subscription). Please see separate **SHADOW**^{VTS} information.

GROWLER™ is also wireless upgradeable! Using the wireless sensors, vulnerable sliding or unsecure windows, large Heki type roof vents and even roof mounted satellite equipment can be protected, using tiny discreet sensors that are tested and accredited by Thatcham. Wireless upgrade £100 plus £50 per sensor. Thatcham is the world leading industry approved test centre owned by the Association of British Insurers. Such accreditation doesn't come any higher than this. Please enquire about the range of wireless additions available for the **GROWLER™** system.

THE
STRIKEBACK
FITTING CENTRE



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THE FOLLOWING PAGES COVER:

1	INTERNAL UNDER DASH The 'DEVIL'S WAIL™' SIREN
2	COVER FOR ADDITIONAL LOCKERS
3	MICROWAVE SENSOR
4	ADDITIONAL RADIO KEYS
5	IMMOBILISATION
6	MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
7	FRONT & REAR EXTERNAL LED's
8	ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL WARNING STICKERS
9	BATTERY MASTER
10	GAS DETECTOR – LPG and narcotic gases
11	ANTI-LIFT/TILT SENSOR
12	REAR SIRENS
13	SHADOW ^{VTS} - VANBITZ TRACKING SYSTEM
14	ADDITIONAL DOOR & WINDOW STICKERS

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. INTERNAL UNDER DASH INTRUDER DISTRESS SIREN: The 'DEVIL'S WAIL™'

The 'DEVIL'S WAIL™' is positioned inside the motorhome under the dash. If the alarm is triggered the siren produces an ear-splitting 127db wail. The slow rise and rapid fall quickly build into a tumultuous riot of noise attacking the senses. This debilitating noise was aptly named by us as the 'Devil's Wail™'. Coupled with the powerful external siren, your motorhome quickly becomes a very unpleasant vehicle to be in for the potential thief. The siren is mounted under the dashboard to make access difficult for the thief should he be stupid enough to try to brave the noise and attempt to tackle a fully functional **STRIKEBACK**. Whilst in most cases a single 'Devil's Wail™' is installed, some of our customers have requested additional siren units. The effect then is simply awesome. The internal siren can have an override fitted when we install the system to avoid undue stress for pets. If you feel it is necessary to have the ability to disable the internal siren we would ask you to tell us when you book your system.

The cost of a single additional 'Devil's Wail™'	£85.00
If a second unit is required and fitted simultaneously add	£60.00
Devil's Wail isolation switch	£30.00

2. COVER FOR ADDITIONAL LOCKERS

The system includes cover with contact switches for the caravan door and one external locker. For those vehicles with more than one external locker needing protection, extra cover is available at an additional cost from **£50.00 per locker door**



3. MICROWAVE SENSOR

For larger vehicles, especially those with separate divided areas at the rear of the motorcaravan, a hyper frequency volumetric protection module can be installed to work in conjunction with the main system's movement sensors. This unit is small, undetectable and efficient in operation but is however, unnecessary in most vehicles.

Installation at time of main system	£99.00
--------------------------------------------	---------------

4. ADDITIONAL RADIO KEYS (2 supplied in standard package)

STRIKEBACK can have additional radio keys programmed into the electronic control unit at the time of installation. This is particularly useful for larger families (absent minded people!) or people who store the motorhome away from their home and have to leave a set of keys with someone.

Additional radio key supplied at time of installation	£50.00
Additional radio key supplied later subject to master key programming ability	£99.00
Additional radio key supplied and installed at Van Bitz	£159.00

5. M36T2 IMMOBILISER (Thatcham approved)

Although the majority of theft is carried out by the opportunist on the spur of the moment and the contents of the vehicle are the prime target, there is still a risk of theft of your motorhome.

M36T2 A dual circuit digitally controlled immobiliser with smart untraceable wiring

The system works by way of an additional coded 'Touch Key' that has to be used prior to starting the engine. The immobiliser will automatically engage approximately 17 seconds after the ignition is turned off. This is automatic so, even if you forgot to arm your main system, the immobiliser will protect your vehicle

ADDITIONAL IMMOBILISATION CAN BUY YOU VALUABLE EXTRA TIME

The wiring system for the **M36T2** is 'smart' wired. This really means that all the wires are black. This makes it extremely difficult for a thief to 'hot wire' the system as he does not easily know what goes where. However, it also means that the installation is very involved and time consuming. If the installation of a **M36T2** is undertaken at the same time as a security system the cost can be kept to a minimum. Installation times will vary from motorcaravan to motorcaravan.

A typically installed price would be	£200.00
and it can be installed as a 'stand alone' immobiliser	

As the **M36T2** is a Thatcham Class Two insurance approved product, many of the larger insurance companies will extend a discount on your insurance premium when the **M36T2** is fitted.

6. MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

You can extend your twenty-four months' parts and labour warranty to thirty-six months with a maintenance contract. This will cover the replacement costs of any of the alarm components and any labour charges incurred and includes a system check if required. A copy of our standard terms and conditions is supplied in the instruction pack you receive when we install your system, but is also available on request prior to installation.

Additional years for standard system from **£75.00 per annum**

7. FRONT & REAR EXTERNAL LED's

In addition to the ultra bright LED which is positioned inside the motorcaravan on the dashboard and the one external LED included in the standard package, it is also possible to have additional LED's. These can be installed in the rear lighting unit or as a body fixing using a low profile waterproof LED (vehicle type may determine which is suitable).

Our customers who choose this optional extra believe that the flashing LED is an important deterrent especially when sleeping in the motorhome when privacy curtains or 'Silver Screens' may conceal the normal ultra-bright LED on the dashboard.

Additional external LED mounted front or rear	from £30.00
Additional external LED mounted on the side of the motorhome	from £60.00
LED Booster for an even brighter light (recommended with more than 3 LED's)	£30.00

8. INTERNATIONAL WARNING STICKERS

The alarm package includes 4 International Warning window stickers.
Additional International stickers are available (at the time of the installation)
Please note we do not retail these warning stickers separately.

£2.00 each

9. BATTERY MASTER

Eliminate flat engine batteries and have the Van Bitz Battery Master fitted at the same time as the alarm installation.

Supply only	£ 69.95
Installed	£120.00



10. GAS DETECTOR

We are constantly being asked about the threat of people being 'gassed' in their motorcaravans whilst they sleep. We have tried to establish what exactly occurs in these attacks and have come to the following conclusions.

The frequency of the attacks is less prolific than the general public seem to believe, and the length of the attack is nowhere near as long as most people think. We have heard the same stories repeated over and over again and this leads to the assumption that the attacks happen all the time.

This also leaves people with huge misconceptions regarding the type of attack. If the gas used has a sufficient narcotic effect to render the occupants unconscious or in an extremely deep sleep, one would have to question how the thieves safely enter the vehicle and rob the occupants without falling asleep themselves. Reports suggest that narcotic gasses are used which appear to have a cumulative effect in that it takes some time to reach the point rendering the victim inoperative. Therefore, if you were asleep after breathing the gas, you would remain asleep through things that would normally wake you up.

There is sufficient evidence for some people to believe that such attacks do exist and do threaten their health and safety, so a gas detector can offer peace of mind.

However, we do believe that you are far more likely to have a gas leak in your motorhome than come across a 'gassing' thief. How many gas appliances and connections are in your motorhome? We think a gas detector is a must. In reality, a potential gas explosion or fire is far more hazardous than some idiot trying to squirt gas into your van (most people claiming to be gassed either don't have a decent alarm, or forgot to put it on before going to sleep). So, have the gas detector fitted for peace of mind and to protect you against a problem that does cause danger and risk of death (it is Federal Law in the USA that a gas detector HAS to be fitted in a RV!), and if it gives you additional protection against a narcotic gas attack, then all the better.

The unit detects the presence of heavier than air gasses such as narcotic or LPG before the build up is sufficient to cause the occupants harm. The gas will be detected by the Van Bitz Gas Alarm which will emit a piercing alert and the will not re-set until the van is safe and the re-set button is pushed preventing

the owner being at risk from being drugged and so sleepy so as to fall back into a stupor consequently allowing the thieves to enter the motorhome. The noise would also stop the owners walking into the van and blowing themselves up by activating a switch or lighting the hob. To re-set the gas alarm, the doors and the windows would have to be opened to flush out dangerous gasses. In turn this would have the added benefit of allowing your body to purge itself of any lingering gasses and sleepiness.

There is a small, discreet, dash mounted override switch installed to turn off the gas detection system when in storage, and the unit is wired into Strikeback. When the detector senses a qualifying gas present, the unit will also trigger the main system (when armed) to further deter a potential thief in the event of a narcotic attack, or anyone in the vicinity in the case of a conventional gas leak. The unit does work independently of Strikeback when Strikeback is not armed.

The Van Bitz Gas Alarm costs **£199.00** when installed in conjunction with Strikeback alarms.

11. **ANTI LIFT / TILT SENSOR**

The tilt sensor is a 'Fluidic' sensor which memorises the position of the motorhome when the alarm is armed. If the position of the motorhome changes whilst the alarm is armed the system will trigger. However, due to the complex design of the M16 anti-lift sensor the alarm will not respond to short term angle changes such as the motorhome swaying because of wind or turbulence caused by passing vehicles.

Please note this item is only available for installation on Strikeback and Growler and we would only envisage the tilt sensor being fitted to smaller vehicles where there is a more real danger of being 'lifted' or 'hoisted' (eg. panel vans and smaller coach built vans).

M16 Anti lift sensor

£99.00

12. **REAR SIRENS**

Many motorcaravans are big! Not the most original statement you may agree, but it is surprising how the size of a van can be overlooked when choosing the correct security equipment. On many of the larger coach built and class 'A' motorhomes the owners are looking for that little bit extra security. This is where the additional rear sirens come into play. Most thieves that are skulking around a car park or rest area late at night are creeping around because they do not want to draw attention to either them or the vehicle they intend to burgle. The evidence behind this is in the fact that they do not simply draw a knife and bang on the door demanding your 'money or your life'.

Strikeback has a very powerful external siren as standard. This is mounted at the front of the vehicle. Single or dual additional sirens can be mounted at the rear of the motorhome to give an incredible 'wall of sound' This creates a palpable effect when the alarm system is triggered, with a terrible din coming from both ends of the motorhome. Given that the majority of thieves that are creeping around at night are after a quiet life they certainly won't get it from your van when the additional rear siren(s) are fitted.

Double rear sirens simultaneously fitted with Strikeback

from **£150.00**

13. **SHADOW VTS**

Your motorcaravan is an integral part of your life. You use it every day, you rely on it, and you are very proud of it. Of course you want to hold on to it, so you make sure it has the latest alarm and immobiliser.

Despite all this, motorcaravans like yours are still stolen on an all too frequent basis. In fact, in this country, over 1,200 vehicles are stolen every day. That's about one every minute! And if your vehicle is stolen, you only have a 50:50 chance of ever seeing it again. Now that is alarming.

Each year vehicle crime costs an estimated £3 billion. Of course, you've insured your motorhome, so you won't personally lose out financially - or will you? Firstly, you will have to pay an insurance excess; then you may well be offered a lower insurance settlement figure than you expect; your next insurance bill will almost certainly go up and you may have to hire a motorcaravan whilst you wait to see if yours will be recovered. You will probably also lose the value of the vans' contents and accessories, and you will no doubt suffer a great deal of stress and hassle.

Apprehending a stolen vehicle as quickly as possible significantly reduces the chance of damage - The reality is, if your van is stolen, it is more than likely stolen to order. If you can get it back quickly, you would hardly notice that it had been stolen. It wouldn't be vandalised or damaged, and probably not even searched!

- Professional Stolen Motorhome Tracking
- Secure Operating Centre Monitoring
- Latest satellite location technology
- Driver ID Tags
- Engine Immobilisation (Optional)
- Journey Scoring
- Journey history
- Real-time tracking via app/web
- Smartphone App for owner monitoring and peace of mind
- Web Portal
- 3yr Warranty
- European Coverage
- Insurance Approved

*SHADOW^{VTS} is a Thatcham approved GPS tracking system that is installed in your motorhome. When the engine is started, before the motorhome is even moved, SHADOW^{VTS} will look for a dedicated driver identification device. One of the two Van Bitz supply when the SHADOW^{VTS} is installed. Should this ID Tag **not** be present, SHADOW^{VTS} will immediately contact the National Control Centre. In the very unlikely event that the motorhome should be towed away or, in the case of a smaller motorhome, be dragged onto a low loader, the system will alert the National Control Centre that an unauthorised movement is taking place. **The National Control Centre is an independent monitoring centre approved by the National Security Inspectorate.***

SHADOW^{VTS} TRACKING SYSTEM - Installation with GROWLER™	£199.00
SHADOW^{VTS} TRACKING SYSTEM - Installation with STRIKEBACK	£299.00
SHADOW^{VTS} TRACKING SYSTEM - Installation on its' own	£399.00
Annual subscription charge	£150.00

Please ask for our separate specification sheet for further information.

14. ADDITIONAL STICKERS (only available at time of installation)

Locker/door stickers automotive quality resin decals	£ 5.00
International Alarm Warning Stickers	£ 2.00



*Any of the preceding options are available as a 'mix and match' and can be added to the standard **STRIKEBACK** system. If you are in any doubt at all please do not hesitate to contact us.*

Please note that the basic system is very comprehensive in the components employed to offer a high degree of security. The options available will enhance the system but are certainly not needed on all motorcaravans. Enhancements, additional sensors and LED's can often prove beneficial once we have discussed with owners the intended use of the motorcaravan. We would ask that you discuss any options that you feel you may require with us and we will advise you based on our many years of business **SPECIALISING IN MOTORCARAVAN SECURITY.**

When you book your motorcaravan in with us, you will receive an installation data sheet and detailed directions so you can locate us easily. Please check your data sheet when you receive it to ensure that the system we intend to install notes any specified options of your choice.

We would ask that if you wish to visit us, you telephone first. We are a small specialist firm offering 'one-off' security installations, and we would like to think that if you take the trouble to visit us, there would be someone available to discuss your requirements/needs with you.

Thank you for taking the time to read our brochure and considering our products.

COMPARISON CHART

Page	ALARM SYSTEM FEATURES AND OPTIONS AVAILABLE	Strikeback	X Alarm
7	Alarm protection possible to all doors & lockers (entry doors & 1 locker inc standard)	Yes	
7	Coded battery back-up siren	Yes	
6	Encapsulated tilt switch to bonnet	Yes	
6	Sleep mode to allow you in the van at night with the alarm turned on	Yes	
7	Bike/motorcycle rack protection – also suitable for towed trailers and cars	Yes	
6	Anti scan & anti grab radio keys (2 standard)	Yes	
8	Covert internal sensing (air vent & heater friendly) – not car type ultrasonics	Yes	
7	3,400 Mcd ultrabright warning light – internal & external as standard	Yes	
17	Option for additional external warning lights	Yes	
17	LED Booster for an even brighter light (recommended with more than 3 LED's)	Yes	
9	Self test facility	Yes	
8	Resin alarm warning stickers for locker doors	Yes	
8	Multi-lingual alarm warning stickers for windows – motorcaravan specific	Yes	
8	Panic alarm facility via radio key	Yes	
9	Diagnostic facility for alarm triggers	Yes	
3/4	Spares held in stock at Van Bitz	Yes	
7	Exterior LED warning light for when the blinds are closed	Yes	
4	Conditional lifetime warranty for GROWLER™	Yes	
3/4	Well respected and long established identifiable installation company	Yes	
16	Additional radio keys available as an option (2 Radio keys standard)	Yes	
PDF	Non Starter: Remote engine immobilisation via phone app to add to Strikeback	Yes	
17	Maintenance Contract available after 2 years standard warranty	Yes	
16	'Devil's Wail' intruder distress system (optional)	Yes	
18	SHADOW VTS VanBitz Tracking System (optional)	Yes	
17	Gas detector (optional)	Yes	
18	Anti-lift / Tilt sensor (optional)	Yes	
18	External Rear sirens (optional)	Yes	
	Alarm and installation testimonials available	Yes	
13	Thatcham approved wireless sensing (optional with GROWLER™)	Yes	
	Intended originally for a smaller vehicle ie car or motorbike	No	
10	Fitted price for standard Strikeback (including vat @ 20%) ----- from	£599.00	
11	Fitted price for GROWLER™ with lifetime warranty (including vat @ 20%)	£999.00	

As we explained earlier, many dealers will offer you car alarms for your motorhome. Some will even tell you that you have to have this particular type. The reality of it is that you cannot normally establish exactly what you are going to get for your money, and what will or will not be done. Worse still is the fact that many dealers don't even bother to install the alarms themselves, relying on a third party to do the job. This may sound fine but in practice, does it work? Consider the following:

- ▶ Who will supply spares in the future?
- ▶ What happens if the installer falls out with the dealer and the dealer starts to give their work to another installer?
- ▶ What happens if the installer starts buying alarms from another alarm manufacturer?

These are all questions that you should consider. To help you establish which security system and which security firm is best for you, we have compiled the comparison chart above.