

# caravan safe

**Matt Stubbs** undertakes what is probably his simplest-ever caravan DIY job

One of the problems all caravanners have is hiding valuables such as money, passports, cameras – and even jewellery – when they are in their caravans. In most instances it's probably a case of hiding our valuables in cupboards and drawers in the hope that any thief won't have sufficient time to make a thorough search.

But if he's really determined, there's not a lot we can do, as caravans are probably among the least secure forms of habitation.

However, there are small safes on the market suitable for installing in caravans, which will probably deter the majority of thieves – so I decided it would be a good idea to fit one.

After the recent, rather involved radio/CD player DIY, it made a nice change to have a job that was just about the easiest do-it-yourself you're ever likely to come across.

## Data panel

**Product** Milenco Caravan Safe

**Cost**

**DIY fitting**

**rating** On a scale of one to 10...one!

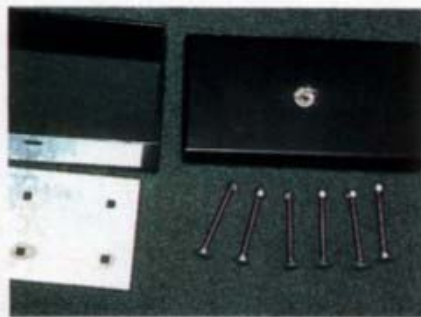
**Tools** Hand or power drill, pilot drill, 6mm dia drill, hammer, 6mm socket spanner

The first thing you need to do is decide where the safe is to be fitted. Under one of the seats is a good bet, although inside a floor cupboard or the bottom of the wardrobe are other possibilities. Do make certain, however, that there will be easy access when you want to use it.

Equally importantly, check under the caravan to ensure you'll be able to push the bolts up into the caravan without difficulty; and that there are no items of equipment or chassis members that could obstruct the installation.

I decided to fit the safe under the front offside seat, adjacent to the water heater. I also felt that having it close to the seatfront would make it more difficult for any thief thinking about cutting the floor away.

However, as the gas supply pipe to the water heater came up through the floor in the vicinity of where the safe was to be fitted, I did check very carefully to



**1** The Milenco safe comprises the safe body and lid, underfloor plate, coachbolts and Nyloc nuts.



**2** 6mm dia holes were drilled down through the floor and the coachbolts pushed up through the underfloor plate.



**3** The safe body was secured using the Nyloc nuts.



**4** The underfloor plate and coachbolts make it highly unlikely that anyone could remove the safe without first cutting the floor away.



**5** The safe is large enough for small valuables such as passports, money and even a compact camera...



**6** ...and it's fitted with one of Milenco's high-security locks.

ensure there would be no chance of the gas pipe being damaged.

I used the safe body as the template for drilling the holes. Because of its size it wasn't possible to drill all the way down through the floor, as the power drill was larger than the body.

To overcome this problem, I partially drilled the six pilot holes and then removed the safe body so I could complete the drilling part of the job. I then opened up the holes to 6mm dia.

Under the caravan, I pushed the coach bolts through the

underfloor plate and then on up through the floor. As the holes had been drilled to size, I used a hammer to tap the bolts up into the caravan.

All that remained was to place the safe body over the bolt threads and fit the Nyloc nuts, which I tightened with a socket spanner. I then covered the nuts with the piece of foam that had been supplied with the safe. Job complete!

Now I have a small (but strong) container where I can store such as passports, money, travellers' cheques and even a small camera.