

# techsavvy

HANDS-ON | HOT LINE | COACH & CHASSIS | POWERTRAIN



## WHOA THERE!

When it beeps and lights, it's time to stop

**There are times when an extra set of eyes helps.** This is especially true when it comes to backing into a site. Because all motorhomes should be level when parked, it can often be necessary to use some form of blocks for those that don't have power or automatic leveling systems. Invariably, your helper manages to be out of your rear vision when climbing leveling ramps, or screams for you to stop after it's too late.

Until recently, mechanical products to help with solo leveling have been relatively nonexistent, making trial and error part of the

HANDS-ON | *by* KEVIN LIVINGSTON

process — and yelling at your helper a frequent ritual. To make peace in the family, I tried out a device made by RV Insite called the RV STOP (MSRP \$39.95) — a compact portable parking alarm that takes the frustration out of stopping in the right place or climbing on leveling blocks.

The standard kit includes an alarm unit, a 12-inch sensor strip with 3-foot cord, 9-volt battery, mountable bracket and a nylon storage pouch (6-foot extension cables are available for \$7.95). RV STOP is constructed out of molded plastic and houses an extremely loud alarm and a bright flashing LED light. The key to the system is the 12-inch waterproof sensor strip, reinforced by 1/6-inch hard rubber that's intended to take the abuse of irregular terrain.

To use the RV STOP, simply plug in the sensor strip to the alarm and apply light pressure by hand to test the battery. Then place the strip at the desired stopping point, making sure to leave the alarm out of harm's way and in your rear vision, if relying on the flashing light. When your tire contacts the prepositioned sensor strip, the alarm or light lets you know it's time to stop. Although we prefer to refrain from using the high-decibel audible alarm when parking at night in a campground, RV STOP works as designed, and certainly limits arguments with your helper — at least those that involve backing and leveling.

**For more information,** contact RV Insite at (800) 445-1781, or visit [www.rvinsite.com](http://www.rvinsite.com).

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