

Last January our family decided to take the Cortez and head from Maryland down to the warm weather of Florida. The trip turned out pretty well, but I came to the realization that the heating system was not up to what I had expected. The radiator type heater/defroster by the dashboard puts out gobs of heat, in fact, enough to melt the driver, but the heat does not get down to the floor at the rear seats.

The Southwind gasoline heater puts out plenty of heat but the unit is noisy and the thermostat anticipator is very sloppy. When the temperature is set for 70 degrees the unit does not shut off until the thermometer reads over 80 degrees. It doesn't turn on again until the temperature falls to about 65 degrees.

After being alternately hot and cold for 2000 miles of travel, I decided that there had to be a quieter, cheaper, and more comfortable way to travel in the Cortez.

My solution has been the installation of an auxiliary heater on the floor under the forwardmost rear seat. I utilized the existing engine heater hose system that is routed to the hot water tank heat exchanger. The engine coolant travels from the engine to the auxiliary heater then to the hot water tank heat exchanger and finally back to the engine. I put two valves in the system so that during the summer the hot coolant can be stopped from flowing thru the auxiliary heater and diverted to flow only to the hot water tank heat exchanger.

The installation of the auxiliary heater requires that two holes be made thru the firewall for the copper plumbing to be routed to the heater. Other than those holes, there are no modifications necessary to install the unit. The rerouting of the heater hoses is simple and either of the hoses to the hot water tank heat exchanger can be utilized for the auxiliary heater. At present, I am taking my electricity from the 12 volt adaptor socket over the table until I decide where to hook up permanently. I plan to put in an in-line fuse for safety purposes.

A recent cool weather trip has shown that the auxiliary heater keeps the back section of the Cortez warm from floor to ceiling and the driver's heater is only necessary when it is relatively cold out.

If anyone knows how to adjust the anticipator for the wall thermostat, I would appreciate hearing from them.

