

THE TRUMA SHOW

Imagine taking the guesswork out of gas bottle levels in seconds with the push of a button ... you can with the Truma LevelCheck!

 by Grant Hanan

When we've found a sensational place to set up camp for a week or more, this normally means we're away from a 240V supply. This isn't an issue when we can rely on LP gas to keep food and some drinks cold in an absorption three-way fridge.

Then when you add heating the hot water service, firing up the gas heater and cranking up the barbecue every night into the mix – this is where things can start to get a little tricky. The last thing we want is to pack up and move on from this patch of paradise we've found because we're running low on gas. So naturally we'd like to know how much gas we've got left in the bottles before running out



leaves us in a complete mad panic as we frantically try to keep our favourite bevvies cold.

A nifty little gadget we've come across for checking gas levels is the LevelCheck by Truma. It weighs as much as a decent size chocolate bar (100g), but unlike chocolate it fits comfortably into the palm of your hand without melting. With something that's so small and light, it's easy enough to check gas cylinder levels anywhere you go to.

For the LevelCheck to do its stuff, you first need to have steel or aluminium LPG cylinders with a diameter anywhere from 200mm to 350mm – the unit doesn't work on plastic gas cylinders or

It's like a portable Xray machine!

automotive propane tanks. A simple 9V battery does the job for the unit to check the approximate level of LPG inside the cylinder using an acoustic signal and a range of coloured LEDs.

By no means is using the LevelCheck rocket science. It's designed to be held horizontally, so point and press it against the side wall of the gas cylinder and press the button. If you've nailed it correctly, you'll hear a beep to confirm a reading is being taken and the unit's LED status lights flash orange while it searches for LP gas.



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A photograph of a yellow Uniglide Trailer Coupling attached to a motorhome. The coupling is a large, heavy-duty metal component. The motorhome has a license plate that reads 'T-10-GE'. There are purple plus and play button icons overlaid on the image.

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A photograph of a 2 Tonne Bolt-On/Weld On Drop On Platinum Coupling. It is a silver metal component with a yellow box labeled 'McHITCH.com.au Uniglide Trailer Coupling' next to it. There is a purple plus icon in the top right corner.

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A photograph of a 4.5 Tonne 'Easy Fit' Caravan Automatic Coupler. It is a silver metal component with a yellow box labeled 'McHITCH.com.au Uniglide Trailer Coupling' next to it. There are purple plus and play button icons in the top right corner.



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If the unit emits a small beep and the orange light changes to green, you're on a winner. This means there's gas at the point you measured. Get a beep with a red light, and you know the drill; there's no gas there. Simply repeat the process up and down the cylinder side wall to find the point where the gas is sitting in the bottle.

To make sure the readings are right every time, keep the rubber ultrasound sensing head clean with a quick wipe-over with a detergent-free damp cloth. Has your regular torch run out of batteries? Let the LevelCheck help here too ... as the unit can double as a handy torch with its LED lights.

While our camping cupboard may be overflowing



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with all sorts of stuff we've accumulated over the years and don't use, this is one gadget that doesn't fall into the useless category.

No longer do we suffer the embarrassment where we run out of gas during the middle of a barbecue, or need to cut a sensational campsite stay short because we didn't calculate our usage correctly. With its compact size our only dilemma is remembering to pack the unit for a trip.

RRP: \$99.

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