



# Ergonomics and design

Simple solutions to go beyond the conventional limits of RV components in an increasingly automotive perspective. This is the mission of FAP, that will be presenting the new Orus Pro flush flap range and a handy garage door stay system at the CSD.

*Words Andrea Cattaneo*

After the COVID-19 emergency, FAP is ready to take on the 2021 season with refreshed momentum. There is plenty of news on way to product improvement that tends to adopt an automotive perspective more and more on motorhomes in terms of comfort of use and looks. FAP will be at the Düsseldorf Caravan

Salon with two interesting new features, the flush service flaps and the garage door stay system.

### Flush flaps

For the 2021 season, FAP has developed a new range of exterior sockets for water and electrical connections and the news

is that they are almost invisible from the outside making the side of the motorhome look clean and sharp. The traditional service flaps for loading water and connecting to the 230 V mains that have been in use for many years are usually applied above the sides so that they have a part inside the vehicle in addition to exterior bezel frames





and hinges. FAP wanted to take a step forward with this solution giving the flaps an automotive makeover.

*"The Orus Pro system provides doors flush to the side panels for water ports and connecting to the external power supply, including connection to the TV network",* explained Lapo Ermini, General Manager of FAP. *"To achieve this result, a new hinge that is invisible from the outside has been studied and patented. The system consists of a main body that is screwed from the inside, and not inserted from the outside, and this is a major innovation. Once the body is fitted on the inside of the wall, the door is fixed flush with the side panel, equipped with a reliable and concealed hinge that is not in view from the outside of the vehicle. We are satisfied with our work. I think it is something never seen on a normal production motorhome before. We have already received orders for this item from a French and a German manufacturer for installation on their 2021 motorhome models".*

FAP has begun a process of renewal and expansion of the product range and has set the goal of going beyond conventional solutions, in an increasingly automotive key. The new flush-fitting service flap can also be applied to the fuel tank cap of motorhomes.

#### Garage door stay system for the hatch

Everyday life can be improved through the smallest innovations. This is why FAP wanted to concentrate part of its design and production efforts to develop a system created to help users open the garage door. The new mechanism essentially consists of an aluminium telescopic arm and holds in the desired position, responding to a need expressed by thousands of European motorhome users. The possibility of opening the door and holding it at any angle, not only in the all-open position, is useful when the vehicle is parked close to another motor-

home or near a wall or a tree, but it is also convenient in windy conditions to prevent accidental opening. This new FAP mechanism goes beyond the limits of the systems currently on the market. FAP has already received a major order from Laika that will be fitting this system on various models of the 2021 season line-up.

#### FAP at the Caravan Salon

*"Despite the problems of the post-COVID phase, we decided to attend the Düsseldorf Caravan Salon and we have booked even larger spaces than last year to display our products in the way they deserve",* explained Lapo Ermini, General Manager of FAP. *"At this stage, being at the Caravan Salon is more important than ever and will contribute to the growth of the RV sector."* Fifty years of substantial experience in the camping sector have allowed FAP to organise activities into various lines. The largest part of the turnover is for living pod entrance door locks, with the range spanning from the tried-and-tested two-point lock (sold both in Europe and America) to more innovative proposals, such as automatic electronic locks for high-end motorhomes. FAP also makes locks for furniture elements, locks for exterior flaps, water plugs and fillers, as well as side panel service flaps.

*"Next year we are planning to supply a significant amount of products Trigano group, with a focus on garage door locks",* said Lapo Ermini. *"New is the collaboration with the camper van division of the Rapido group. At their request, we have started making a closing mechanism for camper van pop tops. The system, with a handle for snap-closing the pop top will be fitted on various motorhomes of the Rapido group, including some Westfalia models. This is a very important project for us because it demonstrates the ability of FAP to work on-demand to create specific, customised products".*

Lapo Ermini  
with an example  
of a flush flap



## Company Profile

Since nearly half century, FAP is involved in the production of plastic accessories, but not only. The founder approached R.V. market in 1968, listening suggestion of two entrepreneurs (namely Mr. Luano Niccolai from Rimor and Mr. Giovanbattista Moscardini from Laika) that made history on this field. In 1982 FAP entered also the rail way sector supplying interior decoration. Production and ware house is located in Florence in a building of 4.000 covered square meter. FAP is today covering 80% of European market needs for R.V. door locks, having good and friendly connection with door manufacturers and Motor home manufacturers.



The garage door stay system  
allows users to choose exactly  
the desired position