

Innovation takes the forefront

Project 2000 is responsible for many of the major innovations integrated into motorhomes in recent years. Now is the benchmark in the recreational vehicle sector for the production of retractable steps (electric, electronic and manual), brackets for LCD TVs, and bed lift mechanisms



Project 2000 was founded 16 years ago by Davide Nardini and his wife Susanna Azzolini. "In 1992 I bought a second-hand motorhome and on the first trip I left the step down while I was manoeu-

ring in the camping ground - explains Davide - I hit a tree, ruining the step. That's when I decided to design an automatic electric step. Later I modified the system to have two steps. This invention, which was based on a mechanism with two connecting rods that enabled the first step to slide under the second and the whole to fold up under the body of the motorhome, gave birth to Product No. 10570, which is still in production today and is covered by a European patent".

Article 10570 was the first automatic electric step produced by Project 2000 and was initially supplied to the motorhome builders Mobilvetta. These days the manufacturing process is industrialised to produce parts and components of a consistently high quality, and Product No. 10570 has become a key product in the aftermarket sector. Although the non-slip steps, which are coated with soft polyurethane, are over 40cm deep, the whole system is only 28cm deep when closed.

As the range evolved from one to two or even three steps, the technology also improved. The new-generation steps are constructed in non-slip anodised aluminium and the opening/closing mechanism has hinges



Article 10750

rather than sliding tracks. The cold-galvanising and painting process produces a finish tough enough to withstand even salt fog, offering a durability coefficient comparable to that obtained with hot galvanising. The biggest sellers in the first range were Product No. 10571 and Product No. 10750, a single electric step that was surprisingly compact for the size of the tread.

In 2000, Project 2000 participated in the Düsseldorf trade fair, and moved its operations to Via Antonio Vivaldi in Calenzano. The company also acquired a punching machine and started working with CAD designs. From here Project 2000 grew significantly, establishing partnerships with motorhome manufacturers throughout Europe. The next products developed were television brackets, the first of which were



Article 10570: The Pioneer



Article 10574

Exhibitions:

Caravan Salon Düsseldorf (DE) - 31.8 - 8.9.13

Salone del Camper - Parma (IT) - 14.9 - 22.9.13



Article 12731



Article 12541

for cathode TVs (Product No. 12421, Product No. 12522 and Product No. 12623).

With the advent of LCD TVs, the range was expanded and more elaborate brackets were developed. In 2003 and 2004, a range of retractable ceiling, wall, and inset brackets for installation behind furniture panels were produced. Currently Product No. 12538 and Product No. 12731 are the biggest sellers.

The first electric bracket (Product No. 12541) was developed in 2005. It was designed to fit behind a panel and can be operated by a remote control.

Project 2000 also produces a range of bed lift mechanisms, which are now an essential feature of semi-integrated motorhomes with height-adjustable rear double-beds. Unlike other manufacturers who only offer motorised pantograph mechanisms, in 2004 Project 2000 invented a system using side columns for greater ease of use and stability of movement, with the motor attached directly to the bed base. Around the same time, the company produced a system that is currently still the most versatile and flexible on the market (Product No. 12600) and gives manufacturers more freedom of design when installing height-adjustable beds. The system is installed under the bed base and the bed is secured only to the wall or ceiling with four straps. In 2012 model 12600, has been awarded an international patent.



Article 12600

The new website



Project 2000 is launching a new website with an original graphic layout. The most remarkable features of this new project are its modern appearance, its unobtrusive colours, its clearly legible characters and simple, intuitive navigation. At its centre, two spherical windows show the lines of products for motorhomes and caravans offered by the Tuscan company: electric stairs, LCD TV brackets, height adjustment systems for beds, devices for loading boats and dinghies onto the roof, units for controlling lights and automatic locking systems. Created in four languages (Italian, French, English and German), the website at www.project-2000.it offers a showcase of all the products of the catalogue, dedicated to both the after-market and the original equipment market. For many products, instruction and maintenance manuals can be downloaded in pdf format in four languages. The web-

site also includes a section dedicated to the company and its history, a news section and a media gallery with videos and photographs. It is possible to browse the catalogue directly on the home page and to print the most interesting pages in high resolution. The new site also includes a section for registered users containing documents of particular interest and utility for workshops and manufacturers, including exploded drawings, wiring diagrams and other important technical information. There is also a Retailer section (at present not yet active), which is one of the interesting innovations proposed by Project 2000 for the year 2013. Project 2000's network of sales and service centres is still in the planning phase. The goal of Project 2000 is to quickly create a network of professionals who are keenly familiar with the company's products and able to create reliable and qualified reference points for customers. In this way the Tuscan company aims to ensure sales and after-sales service at the level of its excellent quality standards, while simultaneously offering a wide-spread presence throughout Italy.

Multifunctional tiltable board: Item no. 099 – 30000



Project 2000 is dedicated to mechanisms for a wide variety of uses. It now includes item no. 099 – 30000, a versatile, tiltable board support. This new product features a huge capacity even with a single support, as well as several locking positions. It is particularly useful as a base for the dinette table, since it can be easily removed for better habitability of the living area when the table is not needed. The elements distinguishing it from similar mechanisms available on the market are its high bearing capacity (up to 200 kg), its ability to be locked in various positions (thus becoming a reading table or even a drawing board), and its simple release by pressing a push lever.

Technical Specifications

Item no. 099 – 30000: Tiltable board support

- Dimensions (l x w x h): 300 x 30 x 22 mm
- Height in open position: 220 mm
- Weight: 604 g
- Capacity (per item): 200 kg*
- Board holes Ø: 4 mm
- Wall holes Ø: 4.8 mm
- Locking positions: 3 (70°, 80°, 90°)

* Load tests performed with load uniformly distributed over the board in locking position at 90°

The new pantograph TV holder standard: Item no. 12587

Item no. 12587/00A3 has been the subject of unanimous acclaim ever since it was presented to the first manufacturers. Lightweight, compact, durable, versatile and adaptable to all uses thanks to the numerous ways in which it can be moved, it is one of the most flexible wall support products of the Project 2000 catalogue. Often used as a second TV support, it can be combined with the holding plate that allows a TV to be moved quickly from one support to another. Like all Project 2000 TV supports, it has a locking system that can hold the TV unit with absolute safety while the vehicle is in motion. There is a 233 mm version (when fully extended) with a pantograph that can be completely closed, and a 403 mm version with a pantograph that remains concealed behind the television set.



Fast-sliding TV holder: Item no. 12653

This item allows for extreme manoeuvrability and speed in moving the TV holder to the desired height. With a self-locking rail system, the TV set locks into the position where it stops. Height can be adjusted quickly by simply pressing the unlock handle. There is also a knob-actuated locking mechanism that prevents the sudden release of the system while the vehicle is in motion.

The TV holder is available in three versions, covering all needs and applications.

- Item no. 12653/0001 involves the use of a pantograph which (in the closed position) has the advantage of extremely reduced depth and overall dimensions, while still allowing an extension of over 250 mm in the open position.
- Item no. 12653/0002 features a rotary head capable of varying the visual angle by about 130°, allowing the user to enjoy viewing even when seated.
- Item no. 12653/D003 combines the fast guide rail with the legendary extensible arm from Project 2000, which is available in various lengths and dimensions (from approximately 440 mm to 580 mm). All supports have a maximum capacity of 8 kg and weigh from 1550 g (0001) to 1650 g (D003). The supports are available in silver-grey.



Scandinavia

Scandinavia has always been the kingdom of caravans, and it is one of the most promising and at the same time most demanding markets in terms of quality and equipment. It is home to brands such as Kabe, Polar, Solifer and Cabby (in addition to the now discontinued Matkaaja), and is now the third largest motorhome market on the Continent, with a total of approximately 7750 vehicles registered in 2012, approximately the same amount as in England. The market declined slightly last year in Sweden, showed encouraging growth in Norway and a sharper slowdown in Finland, and is particularly interesting for the high standard of living of its population and their strong propensity for holidays in close contact with nature. Caravans are often used throughout the year (typically stationed during the winter season at the many available high-quality facilities), while campers are used mostly during the more favourable seasons – a long seasonal use that can also favour the purchase of very large vehicles (typically low-profile, coachbuilt and A-Class dual-axle models on the Fiat AL-KO) with interior layouts almost exclusively designed for the needs of couples. In regard to interior layouts, in fact, the Scandinavian market clearly tends to favour twin beds, placed both in the rear and in the central section, with a full-width maxi-bathroom in the rear. The beds, which in the vast majority of cases are positioned low, thus giving priority to a good night's sleep rather than the eventual garage capacity, can be replaced by a classic central bed, while solutions with transverse beds on the garage and longitudinal French-style beds are less frequent. Though use is somewhat limited during the winter season, customers look for particularly comprehensive packages of standard equipment, beginning with the heating – strictly radiators for seamless integration with the basic mechanics and the same comfort both parked and on the road. The vast majority of campers do not make stops in the open country and prefer well-equipped camping areas and facilities. These are very common throughout the territory, and as a result, there is nearly always a chance to hook up to the mains. In this way, all the on-board climate control utilities (air conditioning in summer, heating in winter) can be powered exclusively in electric mode, taking advantage of the high power available (16 Ah) and giving free rein to the installation of accessories inspired by home automation.