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# OVERHEAD OVERHAUL

**T**ruth be told, most RV range exhaust hoods do not live up to expectations. While an exhaust hood is an important complement to any stove, the noisy fan provides little in the way of ventilation performance — and the single overhead light, often clouded by years of grease and smoke, offers barely enough illumination.

The good news is, a relatively new company on the scene, Fabulous Operating Products, is offering a range hood upgrade kit, model SAM-1, that will no doubt put a smile on the face of even the most seasoned (pun not intended) chef.

The universal upgrade kit will fit all OEM 12-volt DC direct-vent exhaust range hoods with a 12- x 9½- by 4-inch tin box insert. The specially designed three-speed fan uses a 3- x 6-inch

Fabulous Operating Products' Range Hood Upgrade Kit clears the air and lets there be light



## Breathe Easy

The Fabulous Range Hood Upgrade Kit installed in an hour and includes thorough instructions. [A] The high-speed fan and LED light-box assembly. [B and C] Black and white plastic exterior vents. [D] A specially designed wall gasket. [E] Tin box wiring harness cover. [F] Screws and electrical connectors for installation.

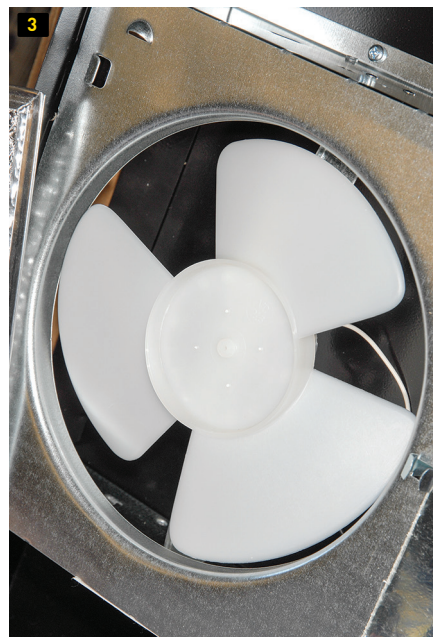


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**[1 and 2]** Remove the existing stove exhaust vent assembly and cut the positive and negative wires. Cutting the wires and removing the stove exhaust vent makes installation of the SAM-1 kit easier to install on the workbench. **[3]** The original plastic fan blades are not very effective and can be extremely noisy.

squirrel cage attached to a heavy-duty motor that provides five times more airflow than the blade fans used in stock stove exhaust hoods.

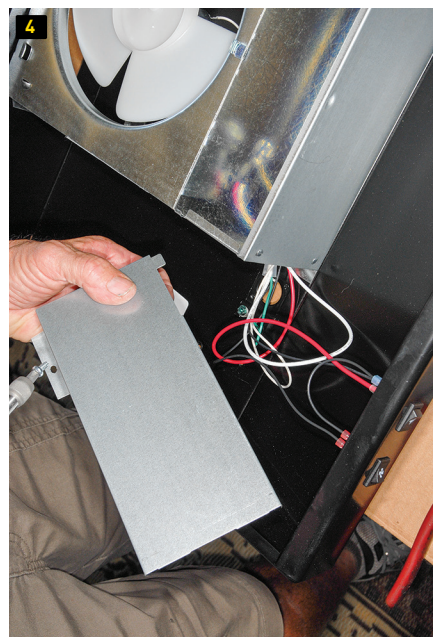
Typical range hoods use an exterior vent (mounted in the wall) that requires the user to go outside and unlatch the flap from the travel position. In many cases, a step stool or ladder is needed to even reach the flap. Consequently, most RVers don't even latch the flapper, and in doing so, the exhaust vent damper gets blown off during travel, requiring the entire vent to be replaced. When upgrading with the Fabulous Range Hood Upgrade Kit, the damper is built into the unit and is opened or closed via a simple lever that's accessed from the inside, eliminating the need for an exterior vent flapper. A nice looking exterior grille covers the hole left by the stock flapper housing. There are even optional custom exterior grilles available to match exterior design and paint.



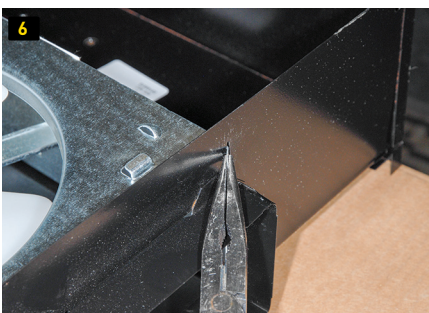
To say that we were pleased with the transformation of the range hood would be an understatement. The three-speed fan provides the ventilation versatility needed for all types of cooking and in the low mode is barely audible. Even on this setting, you can actually feel the air being pulled over your hand when it is held near the filter. The powerful fan removes smoke, steam and odors instantly, which helps maintain the integrity and look of surrounding

woodwork and backsplashes. Need a little extra ventilation? Open a window and use the medium and high speeds for a large volume of air exchange to control temperature in the galley area.

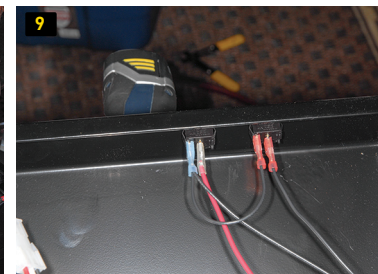
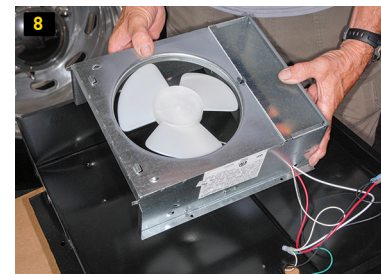
The high-intensity LED light is incredibly bright, allowing the chef to see important details when cooking meals; it was even brighter than we expected. Of course, the side benefit of using LED lighting is low current draw, which means there's little impact on



**[4]** Removing a single screw that holds the tin box in place exposes all of the wiring needed for modification. **[5]** Remove the four screws holding the original fan box assembly in place and set them aside for reinstallation; discard the box assembly. **[6 and 7]** Depending on the model of the stove exhaust vent assembly, one or two tabs may need to be straightened to remove the fan assembly.



**[8]** After removing the fan box assembly, follow the directions for the wiring process. **[9]** Carefully follow the wiring schematic in the instructions for connecting to the original fan and light switches on the new Fabulous vent fan assembly. **[10]** Temporarily fit the wall gasket over the SAM-1 kit with the paper side facing the wall. **[11]** Check the alignment of the fan kit into the exhaust opening before removing the protective paper and installing. **[12]** After installing the SAM-1 assembly and the tin box, double-check all wiring before using.



batteries when staying in areas without hookups. The LED fixture used in the kit consumes 1 amp hour over a period of 100 hours of operation and will last thousands of hours before replacement is necessary. There's even a soft nightlight feature, which is perfect for adding just the right amount of light to help those who wander into the galley for late-night snacks. The ability to open and close the damper from the inside means there will be no more temper tantrums when forgetting to open the flapper before cooking meals and smoking up the area.

MSRP for the Fabulous SAM-1 upgrade it is \$199, and the kit is made in the USA. Installation time was approximately one hour. The five pages of instructions were very thorough and are illustrated with color pictures. If you run into a problem, there is a help-line phone number available in the instruction manual. To make installation easier, the upgrade kit even utilizes existing switches for the fan and overhead light.

Basically, it's just a matter of removing the existing exhaust hood, cutting some wires, and removing and replacing a few components. Tools required are a Phillips screwdriver (or screw gun and bit), a wire cutter, stripper and crimper. Before starting the project, cover the stove with a towel or a thick blanket. This not only keeps debris from infiltrating the stovetop but can also serve as a workbench.

Preparing an ambitious meal in your RV is a big enough challenge on its own. With the Fabulous Range Hood Upgrade Kit, you'll be able to breathe easy, see clearly and cook confidently in your RV — and that can only mean better meals for you and your guests. 🍳

## Fabulous Operating Products

810-969-4450, [www.fabulousoperatingproducts.com](http://www.fabulousoperatingproducts.com)



**[13 and 14]** The Fabulous Range Hood Upgrade Kit utilizes a gasket on the exterior vent, eliminating the need for butyl tape. Do not overtighten the screws, as damage to the plastic may occur.

