

Corner

Diameter Extenders

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There are products that will improve existing antennas, and as a result, Paraclipse makes a number of retrofit and upgrade kits. On the other hand, it is not to our advantage to offer a product that does not improve, and can even damage, the antenna. As a result, Paraclipse does NOT make or recommend diameter extenders or extender panels on our antennas.

Diameter extenders have been offered by some to increase the diameter and therefore the gain of our Classic series antennas. While in times past, reports on these products have been passed along to me (none of them positive), we have recently received a surge of calls from customers running into seri-

ous problems with these. What is particularly disturbing about this recent trend is that these diameter extenders have been passed off as genuine "Paraclipse" products. This has led to customers calling us to find out why their diameter extenders are not performing as a Paraclipse product should.

Why don't we recommend diameter extenders? 1) Paraclipse antennas have mounts that are engineered to match the stresses that are put on the reflector. Adding additional diameter to the reflector adds to the strain on the mount. This has caused and will continue to cause structural damage to the mount and will compromise its integrity as to tracking accuracy and locking onto a satellite. 2) Cus-

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tomers are having great difficulties positioning their feed electronics in the proper location. Since the diameter and depth of the reflector is changed by diameter extenders, the customer has to recalculate the focal distance and F/D ratio. Also, Paraclipse maintains a high accuracy in the parabolic curve. The difficulties customers are reporting appears to indicate that the parabolic accuracy of these diameter extenders is highly questionable. As a result, it should be easy to see why

using diameter extenders immediately voids any warranty the customer may have from Paraclipse.

If a customer wants to increase and improve his signal, there are a number of things that can be done to optimize the reflector and feed electronics that will not cause problems.

For more information or a package of Technical Support Newsletters, contact Michael McGee at 402-563-3625 or fax: 402-564-2109.