



Before operating the awning, carefully review the Owner's Manual. The manual contains important safety information, detailed operating instructions, common maintenance procedures and other useful information.



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## INTRODUCTION

From its beginning in the early 70's, Carefree of Colorado has emerged as the premier manufacturer of quality awnings and accessories for Recreational Vehicles (RVs). Our full line of products can provide the accessories that match your life style; no matter what type of RV you own. Check with your dealer to discover the products that can make your life more Carefree.

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The Mirage Patio Awning offers the coach owner an awning system that provides as much or as little shade as required. The canopies are housed in an aluminum case that easily blends in with the coach side wall. The canopy is made from woven acrylic fabric.

Each unit is equipped with Mirage lateral support arms that are the strongest available on the market. No vertical arms interfere with coach sidewalls or equipment that may be mounted on the sidewalls or sidewall graphics. These arms can also be adjusted to vary the canopy pitch up to 2 feet (it is strongly recommended that service and adjustments be performed by trained technicians).

The unique and innovative 110V electronic control system provides Carefree's *Direct Response* system with interior pushbutton controls for standard extend/retract functions. At the master control panel the auto-retract system sensitivity can be set to respond to a variety of wind speed conditions. An RF remote is included as standard.

## OPERATION

The *Direct Response* system provides a wide range of awning controls with control panel operation in one convenient location. The standard operation is straight-forward with the buttons clearly labeled. Sensitivity control is described on page 5.

### **Operational Notes:**

#### Ignition Lockout Sensors:

- If the optional Carefree EL ignition lockout is installed the system will disable the extend function while the vehicle ignition key is in the ON position.
- Special order RTL ignition lockouts will fully retract the awning and disable the extend function when the vehicle ignition key is in the ON position.
- Functions will return to normal operation when the ignition key is turned OFF.
- Coach manufacturers may install their own lockout design. Refer to the coach literature for AC power for accessories.

#### Awning Motor

- The awning motor is equipped with a thermal protection circuit to protect the motor from overheating. Operating the awning repeatedly over a short time period may cause the circuit to sense a overheat condition and shut off the motor. If this occurs, wait approximately 15 minutes to allow the motor to cool then operate the awning in normal fashion.

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## WARNINGS AND CAUTIONS

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**NOTICE** Awnings are designed to provide shade and protection from the sun. The effects of wind and rain on an awning are unpredictable and can cause severe damage to the awning and/or the vehicle. If wind or extended periods of rain are expected, roll up the awning.

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**NOTICE** It is recommended that if leaving the RV unattended for a length of time, retract the awning to avoid unexpected climate conditions.

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**WARNING** Keep all sources of heat and flame away from the awning canopy. Fabric is not fire-proof and can burn if left in contact with any flame or heat source.

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**NOTICE** The Carefree Direct Response System is a premier electronic auto-retract system that provides protection against adverse elements; but no auto-retract system is a guarantee against severe or destructive weather; the effects of wind and rain on an awning are unpredictable and may cause severe damage to the awning and/or vehicle. If wind or extended periods of rain are expected, roll up the awning.

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The auto-retract system is ON when the power is ON. The system is OFF when the power switch is set to OFF. If the power is shut off while the awning is extended, the awning is not protected by the auto-retract system.

### CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 65

**WARNING** This product contains chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm. California's Proposition 65 requires this warning to be given to customers in the state of California.

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## QUICK START

### *To Open the Awning:*

- Press the power button ON. When power is on, the Direct Response system is active and the manual controls are active. When power is OFF, all functions are disabled.
- Press and release the extend button. The awning will open completely. To interrupt the awning retraction, press the stop button. The awning will stop.

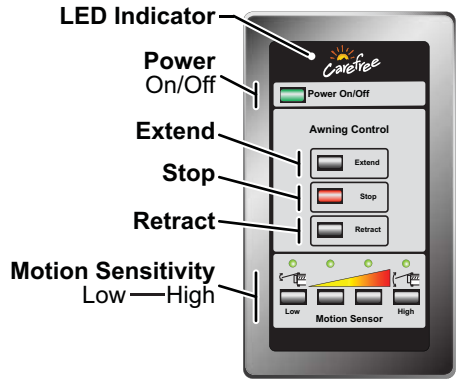
### *To Close the Awning:*

- Press and release the retract button. The awning will close completely. To interrupt the awning retraction, press the stop button. The awning will stop.
- When the awning is in the retracted (rolled up) position, press the power button OFF to avoid accidentally extending the awning.

CONTROL PANEL

**LED Indicator**

- LED is Steady ON when power is ON.
- LED will dim and fast flash when a function key is pressed.
- LED will slow flash if a motion sensor is disengaged or otherwise disabled.



**Single Awning**

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**Power**... Press ON/Press OFF. The power switch must be ON before any awning functions can be used. When power is ON, the LED indicator will illuminate. The Direct Response Auto-Retract is active when awning power is on.



**CAUTION** Set the power switch be to OFF whenever the awning is not being operated and during transport. This acts as a safety to prevent the awning from being accidentally opened.

**Extend**... Press and release. The awning will extend out to the full extension and stop automatically.

During normal operation, the awning will extend out completely then roll back slightly to provide tension to the fabric.

**NOTE:** If the optional Carefree ignition lockout is installed, the system will disable the extend function while the vehicle ignition key is in the ON position. Functions will return to normal operation when the ignition key is turned OFF. Coach manufacturers may install their own lockout design. Refer to the coach literature for AC power for accessories.

**Stop**... Press and release. During extend and retract functions, the operator may stop the awning by pressing this button.

**Retract**... Press and release. The awning will retract and stop automatically when the awning is fully retracted. When the button is pushed, the LED will illuminate and stay on until another function is activated.

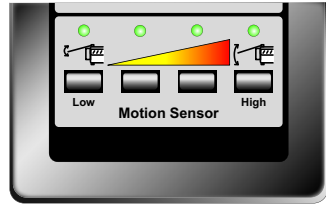
All function buttons are press ON. The auto-functions continue until the awning is fully extended or fully retracted or when the button is pressed a second time to stop the function. It is not necessary to hold the button while the function is active.

See Page 5 for descriptions of the Auto-Retract settings.

## THE AUTO-RETRACT SYSTEM

The system is active when the awning power is on and disabled when the power is shut off. To turn on the system, press the power button ON.

The *Direct Response* system detects awning motion caused by windy conditions. The motion sensor is located in the lead rail. The system operates by gauging the vertical motion of the awning's leading edge. When persistent motion exceeds the factory preset threshold, the system retracts the awning. The control panel provides 4 factory preset sensitivity values (threshold values). You may have to experiment to find the best setting for your preferences.



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**Low**.....The lower the selection, less motion is required before the system closes automatically.

**High**.....The higher the selection, more motion is required before the system closes automatically.

**NOTE:** If the Indicator LED flashes (slow pulse), this indicates that a motion sensor has been disengaged or otherwise disabled; the affected awning(s) are not protected by the auto-retract system. The awning must be retracted using the command buttons. Immediately contact a Carefree service center for service.

## USING THE KEY FOB REMOTE CONTROL

A remote control Key FOB is furnished with the *Direct Response* system. In simple terms, the Key FOB is a wireless switch that functions in the same manner that the stationary touchpad does. The Key FOB provides the advantage of allowing you to operate the awning from any convenient location. To use: turn system power ON.

**Extend**.... Press and release. The awning will extend out to the full extension and stop automatically.

**Retract**.... Press and release. The awning will retract and stop automatically when the awning is fully closed.

**Stop**..... Press and release. During extend and retract functions, the awning may be stopped by pressing this button.



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**NOTE:** Power ON/OFF and the Auto-Retract system can only be operated at the control panel.

### Key FOB Battery

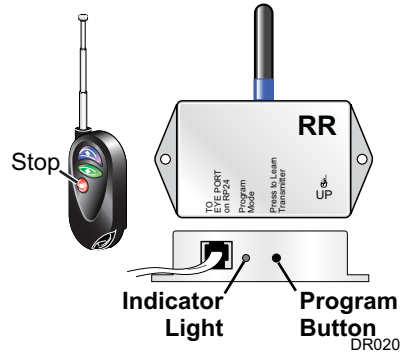
The Key FOB remote w/ antenna uses a battery (Radio Shack p/n 23-279 or equivalent) that should provide a long period of service. To access: Remove the small screw from the back of the case and carefully snap off the back. Replace battery. Batteries are available through your local battery outlets.

Battery life is dependent on frequency of use, environmental conditions and condition of remote.

### PROGRAMMING THE RECEIVER

When adding or replacing a remote control, it is necessary to program the transmitter and receiver.

1. Power to the control box must be on.
2. Press and release the "Press to Learn Transmitter" button on the bottom of the receiver box. The receiver is in program mode when the red light comes on.
3. Press and release the STOP button on the remote. The red light goes out after the receiver learns the remote signal.



**NOTE:** Pressing the stop button will cause the blue up arrow button to default as the close (retract) function.

If a function button is pressed to train the receiver, it will be programmed as the retract button. Example: Pressing the top button will program the top button for retract and the bottom button as extend.

### Remote Operational Notes:

- Transmitter and receiver operate on frequency 433 MHz.
- The receiver exits the program mode after ten seconds.
- If the light does not come on, the memory is full and must be cleared.
- To clear the memory: **PRESS AND HOLD** the transmitter learn button. While holding the button, the indicator light should be OFF for the full 5 seconds then come on.
- If the light does not go out during programming, the receiver already knows the transmitter's signal or the battery in the remote needs to be replaced.
- The system may be programmed for up to 5 remotes. Additional remotes may be ordered separately.

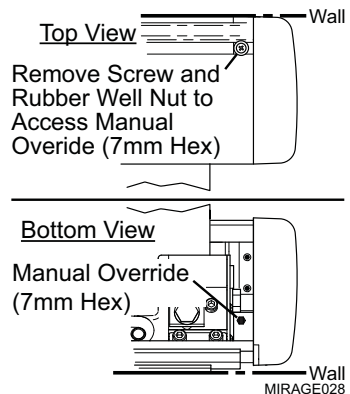
### MANUAL OVERRIDE

If 110V power is not available, the awning can still be safely retracted using the manual override. The bypass may be accessed from inside the case on the motor housing or through the top of the case above the motor housing.

*To use the top bypass access:* Remove the screw and well nut that is used to secure the end cap.

*To use the inside bottom access:* The awning must be open 6-8" to access the override.

1. Chuck the supplied 7mm hex key into a 3/8" battery powered drill.
2. Insert the hex key into the manual override on the awning. For the top access, it will be necessary to locate the hex by feel; it is not visible with the key inserted in the hole.
3. Operate the drill in the forward (clockwise) direction to close the awning. Reverse the drill to open the awning.



**NOTE:** When using the bottom override, the awning can only be closed within 6-8". It will be necessary to use the top access to close the awning completely.

4. When done, return the screw and well nut to the top of the case if removed.

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## AWNING CARE

Maintaining a Carefree Awning is easy. Just follow these basic steps:

- Always operate the awning according to the instructions.
- Periodically check that the fasteners are tight. Tighten if necessary.
- Keep the awning fabric and arms clean.

### *FABRIC CARE*

**NOTICE** Do not use oil based cleaners or any caustic, granulated, or abrasive type cleaners on your Carefree product.

1. One of the best ways to keep the fabric looking good and to delay the need for deep or vigorous cleanings is to hose fabrics off on a monthly basis with clear water. This practice will help prevent dirt from becoming deeply imbedded in the fabric. In most environments, a thorough cleaning will be needed every two to three years.
2. When it's time for a thorough cleaning, the fabric can be cleaned while still on the awning frame. Use a stiff brush and warm water with soap.
3. When cleaning the fabric, it is important to observe the following:
  - Always use a natural soap, never detergent.
  - Water should be cold to lukewarm, never more than 100°F.
  - Air-dry only. Never apply heat to the fabric.
  - Always allow the fabric to dry thoroughly before retracting the awning.

### *POOLING*

When water collects on the top of the fabric, this is known as "pooling". This can occur during inclement weather or if a running air conditioner discharges over the awning. The water is dumped when the awning is retracted. It is recommended that if water accumulates on the top; retract the awning in steps (8"-12") to dump the water. This will help prevent the fabric from stretching or distorting.

**The effects of wind and rain on an awning are unpredictable. Severe damage to the awning and the vehicle may result. IF WIND OR EXTENDED PERIODS OF RAIN ARE EXPECTED, RETRACT THE AWNING AND SECURE.**

### *ARM CARE*

The best method of keeping the spring arms operating smoothly is to clean them. Periodically wash the arms with running water (i.e. a hose) to keep them clean. If the arms still do not move easily, lightly spray the joints with a dry silicone lubricant.

# CAREFREE MAJOR PRODUCT LIMITED WARRANTY

Carefree of Colorado (hereafter referred to as Carefree) warrants to the first retail Purchaser that the Carefree Product is free of defects in material and workmanship within the terms and conditions as set forth in the warranty statement available online at [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com). Carefree's obligation under this warranty is limited to the repair or replacement, at Carefree's option, of any defective component with new or factory refurbished components.

OWNER MUST RETAIN THE ORIGINAL PROOF OF PURCHASE AND/OR HAVE THE PRODUCT WARRANTY REGISTRATION ON FILE AT CAREFREE FOR WARRANTY CLAIMS.

THIS WARRANTY IS NOT TRANSFERABLE.

**For**

- **Warranty Duration;**
- **Warranty Coverage and Exclusions;**
- **Warranty Terms of Coverage; and,**
- **Warranty Claim Procedures**

Refer to publication  
"Carefree Major Product Limited Warranty"  
available online at  
[www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com)

**Register your Carefree products on-line at [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com)**

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*Publications available on-line @ [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com):*

**052979-221 Mirage, Direct Response, Owner's Manual**

**052979-003 Mirage Installation Manual**

**052979-301 Mirage Installation Manual**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** It is strongly recommended that adjustments and repairs not described in this book be performed by trained technicians at your Authorized Carefree Dealer. Work performed by non-authorized persons or businesses may void warranty.

Electric components in this product have been tested by the following agencies:



**Motor:** UL Recognized (USA & Canada)

**Controls:** UL Listed (USA & Canada)