GOAL ZERO YETI 400



I'm using the Goal Zero Yeti 400 and Boulder 90 solar panel to provide power for all of my electronic devices in my van. It's a real step up from trying to rotate things off the car's own USB charger and/or cigarette lighter, and has quickly become an indispensable element for travel.

If you're the super tech savvy type and you're linking your laptop to your cell phone as a hotspot, having full charging capability means that you can get work done almost anywhere while on the road, and no longer be tied to a Starbucks or McDonalds for the computer communications part of your work day.

The Yeti is compact and doesn't require you to do any charging rotation because it has USB outlets as well as a build-in AC inverter which gives you two regular wall plug-style outlets. And it has a 12V outlet–personally I don't use that, but it's good to have options.

We'd talked about different mounting options for the panel on the van roof, and had been advised to consider some space-age type 3M tape (which is what a friend used for his). Goalzero makes hinge base mounting brackets that are easy to use and confidence inspiring, so definitely the most straightforward way to go, and they work perfectly for me.

James wrote a comment and asked for some photos of mounting and installation. Here's the bracket installation:

and the cable going through the roof: both involve scary drilling through the roof stuff

So far my experience with the Yeti 400 has been hassle free charging for whatever you'll be needing to power on the road, and it's one of those devices that quietly does what you need it to do without causing any trouble, which is what I like. The Boulder 90 keeps it charged all the time, so that's been quietly doing its job well too. Best of all, you don't need to be an engineer to figure the system out, which is a huge bonus from my perspective! This wonderful little setup gets an all thumbs up from me