

Extreme Soft-Top:

We went for a run out to Ferry Meadows recently, a wildlife habitat, Country Park, nature walk and lake etc. Of course Gromit had to go. This little visit resulted in two minor problems; the first was the car parking number plate recognition system. We were about to get out of Emma when a Park Ranger walked over and said "you might have some trouble getting out" I thought he was taking the P**s but he didn't mean getting out of the car he meant getting out of the park. It transpired that the automatic recognition camera doesn't work on black and white number plates as it cannot recognise them and listed our entry as a 'blank'. I wonder if this applies to speed cameras as well but I'm not inclined to try and find out.

When we were ready to leave the automatic computerised ticketing machine didn't recognise 'BXZ 644' and asked me to make a honesty payment of £1.80 which I did. It would appear that the barrier lets 'blanks' in and out free gratis as half a mile down the exit road later the barrier raised. "I've only got to visit the park another 164 times and the future savings will pay for the new number plate.

The second problem revealed itself when Margaret decided she would like to call in at Sainsbury's on the way back home, not a great problem you would think? Wrong! as when Margaret goes shopping 'she shops for Britain'! Of course me and poor old Gromit are left sitting in the sun quietly roasting as we cannot put the hood up as it was under the carport at home. After Margaret finishes her food shopping she visits the clothing section, "yet more stuff for the charity shop!"

Back home I decided to make a bracket to take a golfing umbrella just in case our next trip out results in another shopping expedition, which it almost certainly will. All I need to do now is invest in a really big fishing umbrella and then if it rains we can park up and put the brolly up.

The bracket for the umbrella was a recycled table leg; I knew it would come in handy one day. The green net is attached to the front of the board and we just throw it over any shopping etc. in the back and tuck the sides in. The tennis ball protects Gromit from the sharp edges and the cheap Karabiners are for his harness tie down.



