

## Gromit's Access Ramp:

'Gromit' (or 'Sprocket' as one of my friends calls him), is our Border collie who we have had from new, he is of course a valued family member and goes everywhere with us. We have had him from just under six weeks old, too early I know, but his mum was a working collie and went back to work and the farmer was eager to get rid of the puppies.

Our family car at the time was a Nissan X Trail and poor Gromit couldn't manage to jump high enough to get in the back so I made him a ramp which he used for the first six months or so of his life. He will be ten years old next month and although still reasonably fit he has lost a bit of his former agility and cannot now jump high enough to get in and out of the back of the TD without scratching it. What was needed was another ramp!

The fitment of a luggage rack on the back of Emma makes the ramp construction relatively simple. I had kept the original ramp which was made for the X-Trail and all it needed was to remove the hinges and alter the original one piece fold up affair into two shorter ramps.

The photos show the ramp in action. The car is used with the hood down and the ramp only goes in the car when Gromit joins us. Gromit is very well trained and will do what we tell him; pointing to the bottom of the ramp and saying "UP" resulted in him getting in the car. You will note that his ears are down, which means he is not happy; this was his first use of the ramp, I am pleased to report that he now has sticky-out ears again which means he likes going in the car

Gromit has his own seat belt which connects to an eyebolt in the floor; to connect it at his end we bought a cheap dog harness from LIDL for £8.95. The ramp fits neatly in the car once Gromit is in. "He's got a lot to answer for that dog!"



