

at a
glance**Auto Campers
Classic Day Van 4****Price as tested** £24,995**Club Care insurance** £272**Base vehicle**

Ford Transit SWB

Engine as tested2.2-litre turbo diesel, 86bhp,
five-speed manual gearbox**Emissions** category Euro IV**Length x width x height**

4.86m x 2.37m x 1.99m

Berths Two sleeping and

four travel (five optional)

Mass in Running Order

2,000kg

Maximum Authorised**Mass** 2,600kg**C1 licence required** No**User payload** 600kg**Warranty** Three years base

vehicle; one year habitation;

lifetime water ingress

Manufacturer

Auto Campers

Tel 0118 979 0202**Web** auto-campers.co.uk

White van fan

IAIN GEDDES takes a wintry look at a panel van conversion from a new player in the market

We're often told to not judge a book by its cover and this Day Van is no exception, as the simple white exterior conceals a versatile machine.

Versatile? Yes I believe so. The rear bench seat converts easily into a bed, and though not the most comfortable compared with some I've tried, it's still somewhere to sleep and with the added pad sections it builds up to a full double. The fittings as supplied do not take up a huge amount of the van so it can be used as a load lugger and as a short-wheel-base Transit – and the footprint is not significantly different from a family estate car so parking it in a supermarket car park slot wasn't difficult.

My first trip out was with the Club's Reporter Mark Round. This was his first opportunity to drive a campervan and starting with such a modestly proportioned unit was beneficial. When on site the Day Van is a truly self-contained unit so there's

no gas or mains electricity to worry about. All power comes from the leisure battery, except the hob, which is powered by diesel taken from the standard fuel tank.

The bulk of the leisure facilities are carried within a single robust polypropylene unit. Running from the rear barn-doors to just behind the driver's seat, this incorporates storage for clothes and a small portable toilet. By the sliding side entrance door there's a pantry, water tanks and other kitchen appliances. I liked the way the off-side sliding door is used to make this facility alfresco if you wish, with the optional wind-out awning offering shelter.

The Weaco compressor fridge runs on 12V from the leisure battery, and also has a 230V mains option. It pulls out from under the hob. On a trip out to the National Forest's cycle centre (as featured in December's issue) I was able to take advantage of an almost empty car park to indulge in a little outdoor

lunch preparation that was the icing on the cake of an excellent day out.

Auto Campers are converted by Roy Woods Transits, which offers a huge range of options so if the equipment level as featured is not to your liking there's every chance something will be. In fact, if you buy a new Day Van today you'll get a Euro-V standard 101bhp engine and six-speed gear box for the same £24,995 plus a £630 delivery charge, though the awning and a couple of other upgrades are optional extras.

I have to admit I like the simplicity and the way that as a tourer all I had to do was add food, water and a sense of adventure.

Verdict: A great van for day trips and slightly longer stays, as well as useful around the town.



Main picture: The Auto Campers Day Van at Kingsbury Water Park Club Site. **Above:** Preparing lunch in the National Forest. **Right:** Mark Round unfurls the practical awning

