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# Owner report



*Melanie & Stuart Gill...*

move from campervans into the world of coachbuilts and love having a fixed bed

## 2015 Marquis Majestic 125



**M**uch as we loved our 2005 Trigano Tribute panel van conversion (see Nov 2015, p153), we'd become unenamoured with having to make up the bed every night. I also have back problems and really needed a decent mattress.

But we didn't want a coachbuilt as we love the camper's wide, side-opening door. Our house also has a narrow drive, so we didn't think we had space for a larger 'van with a fixed bed. We'd seen panel vans with fixed transverse beds but, with Stuart being over six feet, they didn't give enough legroom. They also tended to have small, relatively sparse washrooms.

Then, we went to our local dealer, Marquis Sussex, and got talking to Adam, one of the friendly sales team, who suggested we look at a new Marquis Majestic 125. This is a narrow, 2.14m coachbuilt and met all our requirements and more.

Stepping inside, we were impressed by the light interior thanks to the large overcab skylight. We decided there and then that, if it fitted on our drive (and we had room to open the door and get out of it), we would have it, as it was such a good deal.

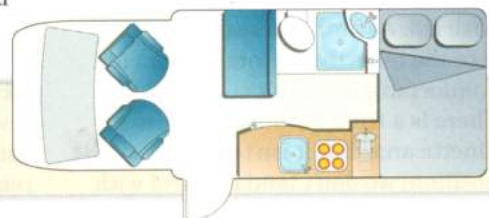
Adam drove it the few miles to our home and onto our drive; although tight, it did fit, so we agreed the deal

and, within a week, the new, smart Majestic 125 was ours.

What it hasn't got would probably be a much shorter list than the list of all the great features this 'van does include! Even before we went inside, the exterior livery won us over with its smart aluminium cab and decals. The 'van does look quite plain from the rear, but the smart front and sides certainly compensate for this.

The list of extras for the offer price was impressive, including driving aids, automatic air-con, Media Pack, etc. The 10-year body integrity warranty is a bonus, too. >

**Price from:** £44,495 **Berths:** 3 **Travel seats:** 4  
**Base vehicle:** Peugeot Boxer  
**Length:** 5.99m **Gross weight:** 3,300kg





The front dinette has two travel seats but the table wasn't large enough for us

We always take bikes but did not choose to add a bike rack – it would deny access to the rear storage hatch and the 'van had already had a towbar so we use our towbar-mounted rack.

### LET THERE BE LIGHT!

As we now don't have the wide, slide-opening door of a campervan, it was important to still feel a sense of light, bright space inside the 'van, and the Majestic 125 certainly achieves that.

There is a 'Sky-view' opening cab sunroof, an extractor fan rooflight above the kitchen and another large opening skylight in the bedroom, so the 'van is flooded with light. All have blinds for night-time and keeping cooler in very hot weather.

### DINER DELIGHTS

We were particularly looking for a dinette arrangement as we like this set-up for dining, planning and journal writing. Having a fixed table we could leave up was high on our wish list. As both cab seats swivel to face the table there's lots of room for comfortable lounging.

There is a fixed TV bracket in the dinette area, but it isn't in a very good position; we don't tend to travel with

a TV anyway, so we keep this folded away. We use a laptop if we want to watch DVDs, which sits on the table for viewing from the swivelled cab seats.

There are removable carpets throughout with bamboo-effect vinyl flooring beneath.

### CLEVER COOKERY

We find the kitchen works well for two, although worktop space is limited but there is a pull-out top for extra work space. There are three gas hobs and an electric one. There's also a full oven/grill and the three-way fridge is ample with a clever, removable freezer compartment. The sink has a removable drainer rack and the hob and sink have glass covers, which create additional work surface.

Two deep cupboards above the kitchen area provide storage for food and crockery and we use one of the two cupboards above the table for food, too. The cutlery tray drawer is below the oven, which is rather low.

### SELECTED FOR SLEEPING

It was the 6ft 7in long, fixed bed with comfy, memory foam mattress that really sold the 'van to us. The mattress

### Why we bought it

It has everything on our wish list and more, it fitted on our drive and we were given such a great part-ex offer, we couldn't resist!

### What we love

The fixed, rear double bed that is 6ft 7in long; dinette lounge; light, spacious feel; great decor; good storage in bathroom; loads of garage space

### How we would change it

It looks ugly from behind! We would want a larger factory-made dinette table; plus, we need better lighting in the lounge

### When we buy our next 'van

If we were planning to change we would go for a large campervan with sliding door and a long-enough fixed bed



The huge storage area beneath the double bed

is split in the middle to lift for access into the huge storage area below, but we don't feel the join at all when in bed. I have made split fitted sheets for each half of the mattress so that we can easily access the garage area without stripping the bed.

The bed's quite high so we use a low stool for access. As the bed is transverse, it means the person on the inside has to climb over the other to get in and out, but we don't mind.

There are ample cupboards all around the bed at ceiling height, which we use as additional wardrobe space. Between the bedroom and kitchen is a floor-to-ceiling wardrobe, too, with two rails so we have plenty of room for clothes.

The dinette converts to a short single bed using the driver's cab seat, but we have never used it. >



The kitchen is well-equipped although worktop space is limited



Both cab seats swivel to make the front a comfortable spot to relax



The large transverse double was the main reason to buy

### LOVELY LITTLE ROOM

Many campervans have little or no storage space in the washroom, let alone for all the toiletries we need for longer trips, so we love the cupboards under and beside the sink and the cabinet on the wall above the loo.

The Thetford toilet, with flush water from the onboard water tank, is ideal and the separate, adjustable, chrome shower is powerful and draws on hot water from the rapid heat-up eight-litre Whale water boiler. There's not loads of space for a shower, but it works for us.

### DRIVING KIT

The Peugeot cab feels spacious and has a Euro V+ 150bhp engine. It has an impressive list of features as standard, including cab air-con, alarm, tyre pressure monitor, reversing camera, tracker, hill assist, automatic lights and wipers, cruise control and heated wing mirrors.

We love the fully integrated touchscreen DAB radio/MP3 player with Bluetooth and USB and the speaker quality is reasonable, too.

The hill assist works well and saves the reach down to the handbrake. A reversing camera seems essential now we have one.

At first we weren't keen on the six-speed gearbox. We seemed to always be changing gear and never quite sure what gear we were in (a dash indicator would help) but we're now used to it.

The chassis feels noticeably harsher than our old 2005 Ducato and we could hear a varied collection of rattles and creaks but we've now eliminated virtually all of them.

Our fuel economy is gradually improving, from 28-30mpg on a run, to nearer 32 as the engine frees up.



### YEAR-ROUND USE

The 'van is made from one-piece GRP sides with a GRP underskin to the floor providing a water-resistant barrier. It's insulated to the latest standard and came with the Winter Pack - tank heater, waste pipe insulation and fridge vent covers - which mean ski holidays are possible!

With the 110Ah leisure battery and

ducted gas/electric Whale heating, living conditions are very comfortable. We carry two 6kg CalorLite gas bottles. There is also a factory-fitted awning for sunny days.

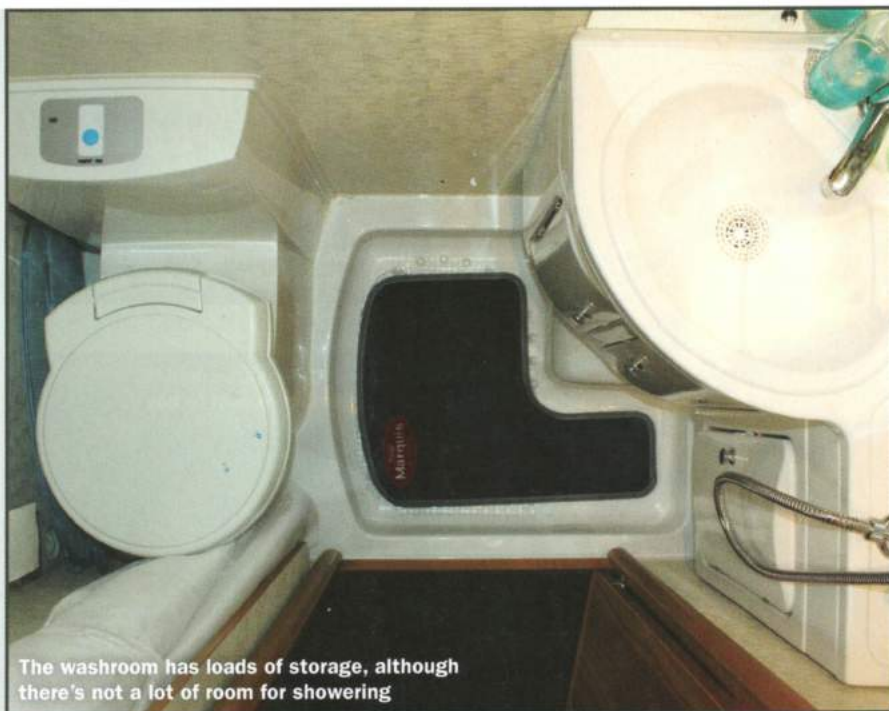
Another great feature is the huge space under the raised, rear double bed with access from inside by raising the bed or from outside via a large, lift-up rear door. We comfortably fit our two folding bikes and an inflatable canoe, along with camping chairs, picnic table, boot store, etc.

The large dinette table also stows neatly under the bed frame when not in use. There is drawer and cupboard space in the garage area, too, but this can be a pain to get at once you load up without raising the bed frame. A decent payload helps give some peace of mind as we load up.

### NIGGLES

There were a few niggles. The main problem was with the dinette table. The standard table is too small, whereas the larger dining table is so big it's hard to get in and out. Our solution was to create our own table the perfect size for us and we are very pleased with the result.

In the bedroom there's only one reading light so we fitted another on ▶



The washroom has loads of storage, although there's not a lot of room for showering

the other side, together with a small shelf, which has proved very handy.

The lights in the lounge are not well positioned when using the swivelled cab chairs and more overhead lights for reading would be good.

We also found that the bedroom's window and skylight blinds are not close fitting enough and so let in the light, but this does mean we avoid unplanned lie-ins!

The habitation door has a catch to keep it open in good weather, but the slightest breeze causes it to bang shut, so we have to tie it open.

When driving, the dashboard instruments are obscured by the steering wheel and the speedometer is sometimes not easily visible. We also had an issue with some warning lights being on faintly.

Peugeot has now fitted a new dashboard, although the speedometer is still not that much easier to see when driving.

Another annoyance is that the cab skylight blinds rattle and are noisy when driving so we have to stuff pieces of foam under them.

Finally, emptying the waste water takes ages as the pipe bore's too small.

We also noticed the cab skylight handle did not shut properly and the water tank gauge didn't work, but Marquis Sussex quickly fixed both of these problems under warranty.

We had two service recall issues from Eddis in the first year. One to replace a halogen bulb with an LED in the bedside reading lamp.

The other was that the heated tank, which operates automatically, can remain 'on' and flatten the leisure battery if not on hook-up. We nearly always keep ours plugged in over winter when not in use – the one time we didn't, hey presto, a dead battery! There is a dealer fix for this which is now completed.

On its first habitation check, a gas leak was detected. It was narrowed down to the Whale gas heater. The heating system was isolated so we could carry on using the 'van but with no heating. A few weeks later after a couple of cold-ish trips, and awaiting the results of testing by Whale, it was fixed and reinstalled. **MMM**

## FACTS AND FIGURES



### PRICE

Price new today: £44,495  
Price of similar aged 'van today: £39,995



### BASICS

Berths: 3  
Travel seats: 4  
Length of ownership: 1 year 6 months  
Annual mileage: 7,000



### DIMENSIONS

Length: 5.99m (26ft 3in)  
Width: 2.14m (7ft 0in)  
Height: 2.62m (8ft 7in)  
Gross vehicle weight: 3,300kg  
Payload: 631kg



### BASE VEHICLE

Type: Peugeot Boxer  
Engine: 2.2-litre 150bhp six-speed HDI turbodiesel  
Fuel economy: 32mpg



### BEDS

Rear double: 2m x 1.3m (6ft 7in x 4ft 3in) Lounge single: 1.7m x 0.8m (5ft 7in x 2ft 7½in)



### RUNNING COSTS

Base vehicle service cost: N/a  
Insurance: £330  
Habitation service: £220  
Road tax: £245

### OPTIONS

Accessories added: Bed reading light, shelf and a mid-sized dinette table

### WHAT WENT WRONG

Water tank gauge and cab skylight repaired; dash replaced as warning lights remained on. Gas leak in heater repaired



### FURTHER READING

What Motorhome tested the 2014 version in the November 2013 issue

## WANTED

Want to earn £250 for writing about your motorhome? Send up to 1,700 words • Info for 'Why we bought it', 'What we love',

'How we would change it', 'When we buy our next 'van' and details for our facts and figures panel • Ten or more photos, including one of yourself.

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