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BC Thomson

Andy Jenkinson spends a short break with this popular panel van for two – and an assistant reviewer

Auto-Sleepers Warwick Duo

The idea was to take a few days in one of my favourite parts of the UK, Herefordshire. Then my daughter fancied a few days away too, and before I knew it her bags were in the Duo as well as mine! We arrived at Marquis Preston to find the team had the van all ready to roll (thanks, guys) and I quickly realised I was going to enjoy this trip. But Georgina, no stranger to road testing, always has an opinion of her own. How would she take to the Duo?



Exterior On the way back home from Preston ★★★★★ to get the rest of our belongings for the trip, we stopped off for some food. After five minutes, a chap came across to comment on the Warwick Duo. 'Lovely,' he said. He'd spotted the van a mile off and loved the bronze paint job.

It was the first of several reactions from random people to the Duo, which is undoubtedly an attractive panel van with great looking graphics. Alloys complete the impression, and features like the BBQ point and side awning add to the spec. Rear doors allow access, and since we had good

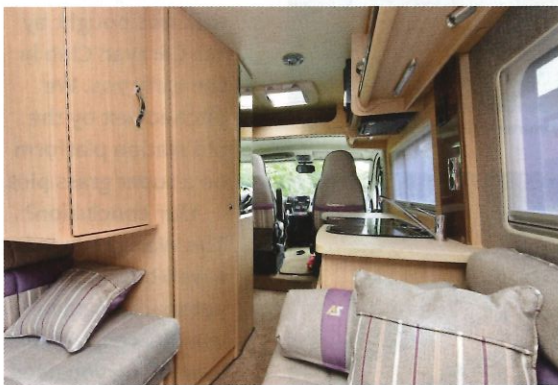
Clockwise from above: Pitched at the old station in Moorhampton, we had the rear doors open for breakfast; Dinmore Forest made a scenic stopover; the interior feels spacious, with the Heki roof vent letting in plenty of light; the wardrobe (left) is a tad tight for two on anything more than a weekend trip; the rear lounge is super, but the cushions were too small and awkward to use

weather we had them open, letting the sun come in as we had our breakfasts. The Peugeot Boxer base vehicle looked good in its Auto-Sleeper livery.

Lounge ★★★★★ What a lot of folk particularly like about the Duo is the rear lounge area. It's great that you can pop up a small table here, ideal for a brew in the morning. You have classy-looking side privacy windows, too, which allow a view out while nobody can see in. The Duo also has a Heki roof vent, letting in more daylight. Seating for two is ample; in fact, we reckoned six could easily use the lounge area. Overhead roof lockers offer good storage, but under-seat storage, especially on the offside, is filled up by the Truma heater and boiler, leaving little space to store anything. LED spotlights are provided as well as ceiling lights and power points. For us, the lounge scored well, proving great to relax in after a long drive.



PICTURES ANDY JENKINSON



Kitchen ★★★★★ The side kitchen in the Duo is placed on the offside of the van. It comes with a good worktop, which we found useful for cereal packets and as a general place to put plates before washing up. The cooker is an oven/grill, and the three-burner hob was fine for our needs, but the Duo also has a microwave, slotted in neatly above the sink area, which was just the right height for us. Both the hob and the sink have glass tops, adding to the work surface when closed down, and we also liked the mains socket with USB points.

The kitchen excels in storage, too, with a large cupboard and drawers which proved very handy for bulky packets and pans. Only one overhead locker is fitted in the kitchen area itself, to hold your crockery, but close to the microwave is another overhead locker complete with glasses, serving

as the drinks cabinet. The kitchen was ample for two to use, and impressed visitors with its size and facilities for a motorhome of the Duo's dimensions.

Beds and seating ★★★★★ The rear lounge is a great place to sit and relax. The seating was comfortable, though Georgina reckoned it was a tad hard to sit on, but as a single bed quite comfy. The only annoying thing was that the scatter and bolster cushions were a little small to be of much use. On twisty roads we found they moved around and fell onto the floor.

Generally, the seating around the van was very supportive and should withstand many years of use. We used the two settees as single beds, leaving that handy small swivel table in position for an early morning cuppa to be placed on. We also looked at the double bed option, which is →

Price	from £49,995
Length	5.99m
Width	2.26m
MIRO	2,857kg
MTPLM	3,500kg
Payload	643kg
Berths	2
Engine	2.2 diesel
Power	150 bhp
Gearbox	6 manual

We like
Great storage in overhead lockers, good kitchen area, high spec, excellent lighting, quality build, ideal for two

We dislike
Little under-seat storage, scatter cushions not very comfortable, small washroom



The Duo looked good on our grass pitch at Moorhampton, one of our favourite sites, and passers-by weren't slow to let us know it!

→ set up by pulling out the two seat base frames to create the bed base – all easy to do, and completed in less than a minute.

Storage If we had a storage complaint, the ★★★★★ wardrobe would be it. Even for one, there isn't much room, especially for more than a weekend away. Four days' worth of clothes for two was a tight fit. We used the rear seat bases as storage for bedding. The offside base, with the Truma and so on stashed in it, had no space for anything else. The seat base opposite was more accommodating, and the Duo has plenty of overhead roof locker storage, where I could fit my laptop case along with some camera equipment. Overall, the storage is adequate, but that wardrobe does make it feel cramped.

Washroom The side washroom is as you go in ★★★★★ by the main sliding entry door. It's understandably small. You can shower in it, but we used site facilities instead. It has a fixed electric flush cassette loo below a small moulded vanity unit with a tip-up sink. The LED light is bright, and although no window is fitted, a roof vent allows in natural light and adds to the air flow. The washroom is not fully lined, so it isn't as easy to wipe down as a fully lined unit.



The washroom is inevitably small, with a basic shower, flush loo and tip-up basin

Overall impression



We got used to the Duo pretty quickly. It's compact and easier to park than a coachbuilt, so the narrow Herefordshire back lanes weren't too much of a problem to negotiate, even when meeting large tractors. We managed 37mpg on a new engine, which meant fuel stops were kept to a minimum.

The trip was enhanced by the site we stopped on at Moorhampton, an old railway station that was bought by the Caravan Club in the early 70s. We pitched just by the old station platform on a super grass plot.

Our conclusion? The Warwick Duo is a well-built, compact yet spacious panel van. It's cosy and has everything you need for a pleasant few days away.

More information
auto-sleepers.com

Our thanks to the Marquis Preston team (www.marquisleisure.co.uk) for the loan of the Duo and to the wardens at Moorhampton Caravan and Motorhome Club site, near Hereford



The hob has an oven/grill; the nearside seat base offers storage