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Auto-Sleeper Broadway FB

A traditionally British approach to a French bed layout



FACT FILE

BASE VEHICLE Peugeot Boxer

PRICE FROM £59,700

BERTHS 4

TRAVEL SEATS 2/4

LENGTH 7.20m

WIDTH 2.32m

HEIGHT 2.93m

GROSS WEIGHT 3,500kg

PAYLOAD 388kg



WHEN fixed bed layouts started to appear in significant numbers on the UK market – around 20 years ago – it was the French bed that was the norm. So what exactly is a French bed? Well, it's a double bed placed lengthways against a side wall of the motorhome, usually with a washroom alongside.

The downside of this format is that bed and bathroom need to share the width of the 'van – give away too much to the former and the latter suffers, or vice versa. Then there's the issue of getting to the loo in the night – fine if you're sleeping on the 'outside' but not so easy if you're against the wall and need to clamber over a

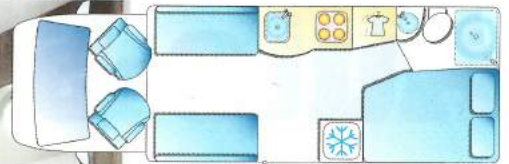
slumbering neighbour who may not appreciate being woken!

It's for all these reasons that the French bed has been usurped in the motorhome hit parade by top-selling island bed and single bed formats. But hang on, for French beds still feature strongly in the ranges of UK manufacturers, and can still be found in some continental catalogues. Overall lengths are usually more compact than for island bed equivalents, while interior space often feels greater as the bed is not so separate from the rest of the living area. There's still the superior sleeping comfort of a proper mattress, still no

faffing about making seats into beds, but less of a feeling of having an actual bedroom.

The spacious, open plan feel is intensified when a French bed is combined with a side settee lounge up front – as is usually the case from British builders. With no fixed table and a wide aisle through to the cab, the side-facing lounge seats make for a roomy interior in this Auto-Sleeper.





BUY AN AUTO-SLEEPER FROM...

As the largest manufacturer of van conversions in the UK (as well as building a range of coachbuilts), Auto-Sleepers has retail outlets throughout England, Wales and Scotland, including both independent dealers and the 12 branches of sister company, Marquis Leisure. The extensive Auto-Sleeper dealer network is shown in full at auto-sleepers.com/find-dealer/



WHO IS AUTO-SLEEPERS?

The small village of Willersey in the Cotswolds seems an unlikely home for a motorhome manufacturer, but Auto-Sleepers has been here for over 50 years.



All Auto-Sleepers' models have obtained European Whole Vehicle Type Approval – and, indeed, the company now has a small network of dealers in Germany. Today, it offers UK buyers a range of seven Peugeot Boxer van conversions, a further nine Peugeot coachbuilts, plus six coachbuilts on the Mercedes Sprinter chassis.

Auto-Sleepers (along with sister company, Marquis) is now part of the French-owned Trigano Group.



Of course, as standard, there are no rear travel seats, though you can turn the front lounge into a second double bed if visitors arrive under their own steam and wish to stay over. Or, as an option, you can order a Broadway FB with the less common half-dinette seating that adds two more rear belted seats. Then you might also choose to eschew the lowline overcab (with built-in sunroof) for a traditional luton with 'upstairs' double bed.

It's in standard form that you're most likely to come across the FB, though, with side sofas and a lowline body. It's sure to have the Premium

Pack, too. At £2,500 extra, that adds alloy wheels, cab air-conditioning, cruise control, an Omnistor awning, a colour reversing camera, sat-nav, leather steering wheel and 80W solar panel. With a 25-litre underslung gas tank, external skirt locker, outside barbecue point and Trackstar Leisure security tracking system, it all adds up to a pretty comprehensive spec. The 2018 model also received a redesigned rear panel to bring the styling up to date.

The base vehicle is a Peugeot Boxer with the 160bhp engine giving plenty of performance for this mid-sized motorhome. The badge on the

grille switches to Fiat if you prefer to let the 'van sort out the gearchanges for you.

Cooks will love the linear kitchen with full domestic-style cooker (including a mains hotplate and separate oven and grill). There's a decent amount of worktop, too, as well as a pull-out worktop to increase preparation space.

Unlike some of its rivals, the Broadway FB also boasts a proper separate shower in its rear corner washroom, while the fixed bed only narrows slightly at a foot – this is an aspect that you need to watch out for when comparing French bed layouts.