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WINNER Best high-top van conversion

Auto-Sleeper Symbol Plus

Clever use of space and design innovation make the new Symbol Plus a really comfortable choice for two, packing a surprising amount into a small space

Auto-Sleepers' Symbol has been one of Britain's most enduringly popular van conversions since it was launched, combining a lounge with a side-facing sofa and a forward-facing travel seat for an extra passenger - all within the 5.41m-long Peugeot Boxer.

But our judges were most impressed with the version Auto-Sleepers has just brought out, which makes everything just that little bit more spacious.

The Symbol Plus takes that lounge but puts it in a longer, six-metre Boxer - and uses the extra space for the rear kitchen from the now discontinued Stanway.

So, along with that comfortable front lounge, you get a spacious L-shaped kitchen, with a pull-out flap above the fridge, a triangular sink, a three-burner gas hob and a microwave. There are lots of neat touches to be found in this motorhome, such as the coffee maker taken from the Stanway model.

You also get a corner shower room with a large amount of space around the toilet and a generous shower tray. You can even close off a dressing area with a locker door and a fold-out panel.

All this makes for clever use of six metres to provide a great touring experience for two. The driving is pleasurable, too - Auto-Sleepers fits the more powerful 160bhp Boxer engine as standard. But if you prefer automatic transmission, you can have this layout on a Fiat Ducato with Comfort-Matic. The extra seat also makes this 'van more usable as a day-to-day vehicle.

This market has been hotting up, with many big names entering the game. But the Symbol Plus proves there is still plenty of home-grown innovation to be found in the sector.

■ Read our full review of this 'van on p116



DETAILS

- 🔗 **Price**
From £53,700
- 🔗 **Berths** 2
- 🔗 **Belts** 3
- 🔗 **Base vehicle**
Peugeot Boxer
- 🔗 **Length**
5.99m
- 🔗 **MTPLM**
3500kg
- 🔗 **Contact**
www.auto-sleepers.com

WHAT THE JUDGES SAID

"Practical Motorhome was the first publication to view the Symbol Plus 'in the flesh'. It's an intriguing blend of Symbol front lounge and the Stanway's L-shaped end kitchen and corner washroom - all in a 6m-long Boxer."

"Melding together popular floorplans is a clever move by the Broadway crew."

OTHER FINALISTS



Chausson
Twist V594

Web chausson-motorhomes.com



Devon
Arizona

Web www.devon-conversions.com

WINNER Best rising-roof camper

Randger

R535

This ingenious camper ticked all the boxes for our judges, with its clever combination of great kit and a layout that makes maximum use of space

Campervans are incredibly tricky to design: all the kit that the discerning motorcaravanner demands must be fitted into what's invariably a small space, all while keeping the price as low as possible for the buyer.

That's where the R535 is so clever. Within its 5.4m length, the Trigano Group company has managed to fit a good-sized lounge, a very impressive kitchen and even a small washroom area. What's more, there are four berths, with the belted seats to match. It's clever stuff.

Marquis Leisure introduced two Randgers to the UK earlier this year, and we loved them from the start. The R535's sister, the R499, features a more traditional campervan layout, but it was the former that caught our eye.

Our judges were impressed by the high level of kit available in this 'van, given its £44,000 price tag; it includes fresh- and waste-water tanks, Webasto diesel air heating, a seven-inch touchscreen media display with sat-nav, 17-inch alloys, driver and passenger airbags, cab air-con and more, all as standard.

The R535, like its sibling, is based on the Fiat Tolento, which offers a great drive and is a real alternative to a Volkswagen conversion.

The layout makes maximum use of the small space available. A double bed can be formed from the dinette cushions, while two kids can sleep in the roof bed.

The side kitchen is well equipped, and that washroom area - with basin, toilet and shower tray - really did tick all of our judge's boxes. The rear-rising roof allows easy use of all facilities.

In our opinion, with the Randger R535, Marquis has brought a real winner to the UK market.



DETAILS

- Price £43,995
- Berths 4
- Belts 4
- Base vehicle Fiat Talento
- Length 5.4m
- MTPLM 3010kg
- Contact www.randgeruk.co.uk

WHAT THE JUDGES SAID

"This motorhome looks great on the outside and feels brilliantly spacious on the inside. I want one!"

"The Randger R535 has a great base vehicle. It's good to see a correctly handed for the UK import at such a sharp price, too."

OTHER FINALISTS



Wellhouse
MS-RT

Web wellhouseleisure.com



Dreamer
Select Cap Land

Web www.dreamer-van.co.uk