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Symbol of success

Combining the existing Symbol lounge with the kitchen and washroom of the Stanway creates a spacious new two-berth campervan



THE Auto-Sleeper Symbol has been around since the 1990s in various forms and continues to be a key part of the firm's Peugeot-based campervan range. Throughout, it has offered a classic British front lounge with a single forward-facing seat and a long side settee, while the choice of a double bed or twin singles has been another attraction.

Meanwhile, the Stanway (which debuted much more recently, in 2015) offers an alternative front lounge/rear kitchen format in the long-wheelbase (5.99m) 'van. Its galley and washroom are undoubtedly enhanced by the extra space but its pullman dinette is not so comfy for lounging and can only make a double bed.

What if you could have a Symbol lounge and a Stanway kitchen and washroom? Essentially, now you can; as of 2019, out goes the Stanway and in comes Symbol Plus.

Typical of an Auto-Sleeper campervan, the Symbol Plus comes very well specified – as long as you bear in mind that the £2,500 Premium Pack is an essential fitting. Once you've added the pack, it has alloy wheels, metallic paint, an electric step for the sliding door, an awning, 25-litre gas tank, ESP, cab air-con, Al-Ko Air-Top rear suspension, external gas point, solar panel and new DAB radio with sat-nav.

The design of the Peugeot cab is ageing but there's no doubt that the Euro VI Boxer now has

superior power units to its sister van from Fiat. The latest 2-litre Blue HDi engine here is also spec'd up to 160bhp (rather than the usual 130bhp), so not only is it smoother and more refined than most rival Fiat-based campers but it's quicker, too.

It's easy to see why the Symbol has been so popular for so long when you sit on the side settee with the sliding door wide open to enjoy the view. And, while we test so many settees that seem to be designed to suit only the tallest folk, here the sofa is not too high. The single forward-facing seat is also well-proportioned, with a headrest and raked back and it comes with a three-point belt. There's also a neat little island leg coffee table, as well as the full-sized dining table. The latter works best if you sit

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FACT FILE

PRICES FROM	£53,700
PRICE AS TESTED	£56,890
BERTHS	2
TRAVEL SEATS	3
LENGTH	5.99m
WIDTH	2.26m
HEIGHT	2.64m
GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT	3,500kg
PAYLOAD	525kg
BASE VEHICLE	Peugeot Boxer long-wheelbase window van
ENGINE	2-litre, Euro VI, 160bhp
BEDS	Lounge double 1.86m x 1.62m, offside single 1.89m x 0.71m, nearside single 1.81m x 0.65m
FRESH WATER	69 litres
WASTE WATER	40 litres
SPACE/WATER HEATING	Truma Combi 6E gas/electric blown-air
MOTORHOME SUPPLIED BY	Auto-Sleepers Ltd

VERDICT

The Symbol Plus is a better all-rounder than the standard Symbol if the extra length is not an issue, but it works best if you sleep singly rather than in the double bed. Its lounge is a strong feature, as is the spacious and very well-equipped kitchen, but there are some minor issues regarding storage.



side-by-side, meaning that only one person can get to the galley for those forgotten condiments.

Peugeot's athermic glass is great for providing privacy and there's plenty of LED lighting should it feel dark inside. The Limewash furniture shown here also creates a brighter feel than the alternative Verada Oak.

A big plus is the ease of making up the twin single beds. On the offside you just need to have the driver's seat facing forwards and pushed as far as it'll go towards the steering wheel. An extra cushion then slots in at the end of the settee.

The nearside seat makes the second bed in seconds. Just release a catch and the base and backrest slide forward and flatten. Again, there's

an infill cushion required but both can be stored conveniently behind the single seat's backrest.

The Symbol Plus also offers a double bed. A slatted base pulls out from the settee and on top go the long backrest and two more infill cushions. Therein lies the rub as you need to store these cushions. On the plus side, however, the double bed is very generous of width.

The kitchen will be the feature most likely to win buyers over, especially with whoever wears the chef's hat in your household. There's plenty of room and a decent amount of worktop, too, plus a hidden slide-out surface that appears from a slot betwixt wardrobe and fridge. The chef also gets three gas burners, combined oven/grill, roof vent with

extractor fan, 96-litre automatic energy selection fridge, eye-level Russell Hobbs microwave, cupboard fitted with crystal wine glasses and even a 12V coffee machine. Storage space is pretty good, too, (including a large pan drawer under the oven) but a proper utensils drawer is a strange omission.

Alongside the kitchen, in the rear nearside corner, is the washroom, hidden from view behind a tambour door. Slide that back and you'll be pleasantly surprised to find a not-so-little 'little room'. There's plenty of space to use the swivel cassette toilet and fixed corner basin, while showering should be a lot less of an ordeal because you'll not be tightly enveloped by a wet curtain trying to act as the skin on a human sausage.