

2015-present Auto-Sleeper Nuevo

Each month we focus on a great secondhand mainstream motorhome, telling you which is the best of the bunch, what to pay and which problems to look out for

Auto-Sleepers is based in Worcestershire, near the village of Broadway – which is why you will sometimes see their motorhomes referred to as Broadway Babes.

Although the firm may lack the glamour of New York's Broadway, it shines brightly in its own way as the UK's oldest volume builder of motorhomes.

Nuevo was first unveiled in 2002 to fill a gap in the range, which was lacking a compact coachbuilt.

This was to address the onslaught of successful shorties from Autocruise, and the growing demand among Auto-Sleepers' loyal PVC-owning customer base for something with the same footprint as their current 'vans, but better insulation.

Nuevo hit the ground running, and hasn't slowed since its inception. Currently the offer consists of two layouts, with three overcab styles.

All have the same offside wardrobe ahead of the corner washroom with swing-wall shower compartment. The kitchen is also common to both layouts, placing the oven and sink along the rear wall and the fridge on the nearside, just forward of the entrance door.

Both models feature a lounge and swivelling cab seats. The EK provides two inward-facing settees, while the ES replaces the settee on the offside with a double travel seat half-dinette.

Both lounges convert to a transverse double bed, or – if the cab seat squabs are

included – two easy-access longitudinal single beds.

You could order the low-line overcab with either a panoramic rooflight or extra high-level lockers, whereas the Luton option offered an additional (full-size) double bed, increasing the sleeping accommodation to four or offering a bed for folk who wished to leave the lounge undisturbed.

The original purchasers would have been able to choose any of the roof options with both layouts.

Originally the base vehicle was a 130bhp Peugeot Boxer, but for the current crop featured, the default choice was the 150bhp Euro 5 engine, followed by the 160bhp Euro 6. The option of a two-pedal drive was offered courtesy of Fiat's Ducato with Comfort-Matic automatic transmission.

Standard spec was fine, but most will have opted for the £2500 Premium Pack, consisting of alloy wheels, cab air-con, cruise control, wind-out awning, reversing camera and monitor/sat nav head unit, solar panel and leather steering wheel and gear knob. Currently, the Fiat automatic option with a 150bhp engine is £4000 extra, so expect a premium for a pre-owned example.

ESSENTIALS

🔍 Auto-Sleeper Nuevo on Peugeot Boxer (Fiat Ducato optional) 📅 Built 2015 to present in Willersey near Broadway, UK 🚐 Overcab low-profile and Luton coachbuilt 📏 Overall length 5.75m (18' 10")

Short and sweet, Auto-Sleeper Nuevo ES and EK is a gem of a compact coachbuilt. Most are low-profile, although a full overcab Luton (inset) was available on both layouts



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

Base vehicle

Well sorted by now, but prospective purchasers might wish to know who makes the engine fitted in the Boxer. The original 2.2-litre examples were built by Ford; later Euro 6 2.0-litre models were made by Peugeot. Both Euro 5 and Euro 6 Ducato models have Fiat's own Multijet engines.

Look for a full service history and, for those buying newer examples, check the warranty documentation is present either as hard copy (paper) or online.

Conversion

Generally well put together, but do insist on evidence of

regular habitation services and damp checks (essential yearly for the extended body integrity warranty).

Note that the gas tank should have been inspected regularly, and that the cab blinds and insulation for the wheel-arch linings were an extra-cost option. Both can be retrofitted.

🟢LIKES

- Compact length
- Option for any overcab with each layout
- GRP exterior cladding
- Strong residuals

🔴DISLIKES

- Only one armrest on each cab seat
- Although still compact,



BUYING ADVICE

WHERE TO BUY A PRE-OWNED 'VAN

AT A DEALERSHIP

Dealerships are great for seeing a lot of used motorhomes in one place in a short span of time. The prices will be higher than from private sellers, but in return, a dealer must tell you about any problems and the cost of rectifying them, and give the 'van a pre-delivery inspection (PDI) before you collect it.

You'll also be offered at least a few months' warranty on used models, which is something you're unlikely to get from a private vendor.

See as many motorhomes as you can before making your decision; you'll soon start to get a feel for what represents good value for money.

If you can, build up a relationship with a local dealer. If problems arise or if it needs maintenance, the cost of return visits shouldn't be too high.

PRIVATELY

The surest way of getting a bargain is to buy from a private owner, but there are few legal safeguards – and potential pitfalls. You must be sure of what you are buying, unless the 'van is still within its warranty period and the seller can prove this.

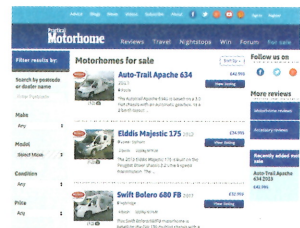
Have a specialist firm run mechanical and habitation inspections, as well as checking whether there is any outstanding finance.

AT AN AUCTION

You can find superb bargains at auctions, but you must know exactly what you are looking for and what you are looking

at. You should have experience in noticing faults because you'll only have a limited time to inspect the vehicle before bidding, and the lots are 'sold as seen' – there is no comeback if you've failed to spot a serious problem.

You'll need to pay in cash within a couple of days of sale, so you must arrange your financing beforehand.



Search for 'vans at www.practicalmotorhome.com

ONLINE

There are great deals to be found online. Before you buy or bid on eBay or another auction site, though, research the prices thoroughly to avoid paying over the odds.

Set yourself a clear limit, and stick to it. It's very easy to get carried away when you're bidding. Finally, be very suspicious of any motorhome offered for sale that seems too good to be true – it probably is.

AT A SHOW

Regional motorhome shows take place all year across the country. Dealers and specialist importers run stalls so you can view a vast range of used 'vans in one place.

Dealers can tell you about other 'vans they have on their forecourts. They may even offer special show discounts – it doesn't hurt to ask.



Both floorplans have similar kitchens and washrooms. Wine glasses (visible above fridge) and quality crockery were included in the standard spec



Nuevo EK has two inward-facing settees, whereas...



...Nuevo ES replaces the offside settee with a double travel seat half-dinette

it has grown since the original sub-18ft model.

OUR PICK

If this is to be your 'only' vehicle, the ES, because of the extra travel seats. It will have to be on a Ducato if you want automatic transmission, and these are rare. Don't buy a Nuevo without the Premium Pack: you'll only regret it.

OR YOU COULD TRY...

On Peugeot Boxer and under 6.0m, Elddis Accordo 105; Bailey Approach Compact 520 and 540