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ON TEST



at a glance

## Auto Campers Pop Top MRV

CANDY EVANS checks out this practical campervan from a Berkshire-based family business

**AUTO CAMPERS** has been creating campervans since 2011, originally on the old boxy Ford Transit base. It's always looked to produce practical, cost-effective campers - normally built to your own specification. Today's ranges still mainly use the Ford base vehicle and today's Transit Custom is a great driver's van, being comfortable and remarkably car-like. Nevertheless, you can choose a VW if you prefer, for a £5,500 or so premium.

This Multi Recreational Vehicle (MRV) now sits at the top of Auto Campers' ranges. The one I tested is the company's current demonstrator and doubles as a support van for company owner Steve Wood and his son's BMW Z4 racing car. As a result, it sports

bright Auto-Campers green, inside and out. Add its grey pop-top roof and this becomes a very smart addition to any campsite or event.

The cheerful furniture is well built and clearly designed with the camper in mind. The main units are along the driver's side of the vehicle and include a drawer fridge, several storage spaces and a wardrobe towards the back of the van. This wardrobe is shelved but the shelves fold flat to give a decent hanging space if you need it.

The kitchen is compact with a two-burner gas hob and a small sink. Workspace appears to be at a premium but there is a sink cover that matches the worktop along with two additional pull-up worktops. One is on the outside of the kitchen unit and highlights one of my favourite features of this MRV. It's designed to be used from the outside as well as in. The fridge, cutlery drawer, hob and sink can all be used from both sides, so this is a great vehicle to use as a day van.

At night it's also very flexible. There is a double bed in the roof and another that's made from a frame and cushions stored at the back of the vehicle. These can be removed completely if you don't need them or used at one of two positions, giving more or less space underneath for storage as required.

As far as seating is concerned, you can choose up to three individual travelling seats in the back, all fitting into the floor rails, meaning you can transport up to five people, including the driver. Or on site you have the option to use the bed as a sofa.

It's pretty much impossible to show all the flexibility of this motorhome on a single page but there is a video online at [www.myccc.co.uk/videos](http://www.myccc.co.uk/videos) if you'd like to see more.

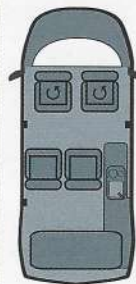
<b>Price as tested</b> £47,495
<b>Club Care insurance</b> £491
<b>Base vehicle</b> Ford Transit Custom
<b>Engine as tested</b> 2-litre, 168bhp, six-speed manual gearbox
<b>Emissions category</b> Euro 6
<b>Electrics</b> Two 230V sockets; 12V socket; 115Ah leisure battery
<b>Gas locker</b> Space for 0.9kg cylinder
<b>On-board tanks</b> 40-litre fresh water; 40-litre wastewater
<b>Length x width x height</b> 4.97m x 2.25m x 2.1m
<b>Berths</b> Five travel/four sleeping
<b>Bed sizes</b> Double 1.9m x 1.22m; roof double 2m x 1.2m
<b>Mass in Running Order</b> 2,400kg
<b>Maximum Authorised Mass</b> 3,000kg
<b>User payload</b> 600kg
<b>C1 licence required</b> No
<b>Warranty</b> Three years base vehicle; one year conversion
<b>Converter</b> Auto Campers
<b>Web</b> <a href="http://auto-campers.co.uk">auto-campers.co.uk</a>
<b>Tel</b> 0118 979 0202



The kitchen is accessible from inside and out



It has twin sliding doors and a flexible kitchen



verdict

A practical, flexible campervan built to your own specification at a competitive price.