

AUTO-SLEEPERS ARISE

Martin Chapman looks at a Limited Edition range of VW T4-based motorcaravans, whilst Graham Hambly reports on the birth of the Vivanti line-up



Trident, Trooper and Topaz are all offered in LE form, with alloy wheels and metallic paint as standard.



Cloth trim on the doors is part of the VW cab Comfort Pack.

The last T4s have already rolled off the production line in Germany. Don't expect T5-based motorcaravans just yet, though - we first have to wait for right-hand drive and then for the motorhome industry to do its stuff. Auto-Sleepers hope to launch one short wheelbase T5 conversion at Earls Court in November, but long wheelbase and coachbuilt models will take longer.

In the meantime, some rather special T4s have been used as the basis for a batch of Limited Edition motorcaravans. The panel van conversions - Trooper, Trident and Topaz - are the really interesting ones as they differ most from standard specification. And they come in

a range of three metallic colours - Reflex Silver, Nebio Blue or Elegance Green. Looks are further enhanced by alloy wheels; colour-coded bumpers, roofs and mirrors; and front foglamps - all as standard.

Inside, the new models (badged LE) have driver and passenger airbags, cab comfort pack, auxiliary battery and mains charging system, removable carpets, and blown-air heating - taking the total value of options fitted to over £5000. Prices of LE models have been set at more competitive levels, however, to reflect the fact that the base vehicle is an outgoing model. Trident LE, for example, is priced at £29,754 on the road - a saving of

In brief

Trooper LE	T4 Kombi SWB	Rising roof	£29,959
Trident LE	T4 Kombi SWB	High top	£29,754
Topaz LE	T4 Kombi LWB	High top	£33,181
Gatcombe LE	T4 chassis cab SWB	Coachbuilt	£37,750
Clubman LE	T4 chassis cab SWB	Coachbuilt	£37,435

Options

Panel van conversions - choice of three metallic colours, 88bhp or 102bhp TDI engine, roof bed, extractor fan (Trident/Topaz only), rear ladder (Trident only), Status TV aerial (Topaz only).
Coachbuilts - extractor fan, overcab bed, optional upholstery.

For more information on Limited Edition models telephone 01386 842603 or visit www.auto-sleepers.co.uk.





£2958 against the same specification on a standard Trident. Ninety Tridents, sixty Troopers, and seventy-five Topaz will be built in LE form.

Auto-Sleepers' T4-based monocoque coachbuilts - Gatcombe and Clubman - will also bow out in Limited Edition versions. These have slightly fewer upgrades and remain in white. Specification includes: 102bhp turbo-diesel engine, cab seat armrests, driver and passenger air bags, moulded waste bin fitted to the caravan door, electric hot plate on the hob, full-width freezer compartment to refrigerator, and vinyl flooring with overlay carpets. Sixty Clubman LEs and forty Gatcombe LEs will be built; prices will represent a £2428 saving against previous models.

June saw the launch of the Vivanti motorhome brand (manufactured by the Auto-Sleepers Group). A network of independent dealers will sell this new range. The Vivanti brand will provide 'high quality, British-built vehicles with Continental styling at value-driven prices'. The range is specifically aimed at the family market and first-time buyers.

At the outset there will be three models: a two-berth high top (V2S - from £28,515), a four-berth coachbuilt (V4S - from £29,448) and a five-berth coachbuilt (V5S - from £35,544). The V2S layout includes a forward-facing seat with inertia reel seatbelt, while the V4S and V5S include a twin dinette that provides two passenger travel seats. The top of the range V5S also offers a fixed rear double bed with large storage area beneath.

All vehicles have been designed with practicality and durability in mind (given Vivanti's experience in the rental market). Standard specification includes fully fitted kitchens, well equipped shower rooms with cassette toilets, reflex foam upholstery, and space and water heating systems. A range of

▲ Cabs come with wood-effect trim and twin airbags.

Vivanti V4S. ▶

options is also available for each model, enabling the purchaser to tailor the specification without buying extras that are not needed or wanted.

For more information contact one of the following dealers: Euro Motorhomes, Unit 6, Bradley Corner, Jackson Place, Wilton Road

Estate, Humberston, Grimsby DN36 4BG (01472 811036); Pullingers Leisure Vehicles, 11 First Avenue, Bluebridge Industrial Estate, Halstead, Essex CO9 2EX (01787 472747); and Southern Motorhome Centre, Leisuretrack Centre, Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 0NX (01628 660888).



Traditional Auto-Sleeper interiors are enhanced by diesel-fired heating as standard.

TOP TAKE-AWAY
McKenzie 2011 on 1500 Plus Diesel 1.9TD
Jonathan Lloyd leaves the floods to see whether this highest pretender is good enough to join the club!

SIX APPEAL
The Hobby 750 belongs to the rare breed of air-ventilated motorhomes. Thanks to its Air-Aid benzene-free chassis, Peter Vaughan spent his nights in the Yorkshire Dales to see if the Germans' van is as good as it looks.

HELLO HYLO!
Remember the Hylo on Citroen Berlingo 1.9D? Peter Vaughan took the van in a long line of Citroen-based motorhomes, and finds that the same basic Island Plastics design just seems getting better.

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