

A motorhome made for two

■ WORDS AND PICTURES Mark Sutcliffe

The Auto-Sleepers Broadway sports four beds and a quartet of forward-facing travel seats to match, but is it an authentic family-friendly four-berth van?

Take a popular and proven low-profile two-berth motorhome, bolt on an overcab containing a big bed and suddenly you've got yourself a four-berth family van, right?

Well, not necessarily. As anyone who has shared the confines of a motorhome over a wet weekend with two turbo-charged kids will tell you, getting the layout right is almost as important as having four beds and proper rear travel seats.

Auto-Sleepers' Broadway coachbuilt is now available in four different guises – two low-profile couples' vans and two four-berth overcabs: the EL and EK. The former has a more spacious end lounge layout but it's the latter we're focusing on here.

Our test vehicle had the more muscular 120bhp engine with plenty of power in reserve for overtaking. On a 400-mile trip to Northumberland, the Broadway averaged just over 30mpg and felt very stable cruising

at 60-65mph on the A1 in spite of the extra height of the overcab.

The cab has comfortable height-adjustable ISRI rotating captain's seats with armrests either side and a full suite of electrics but disappointingly, no passenger airbag or air conditioning.

The £684 'launch pack' includes a reversing camera, microwave oven, 15-inch LCD television with Freeview and a solar panel. A CD player, radio and integrated awning are also standard, meaning the Broadway wants for little in the spec stakes.

Potentially, the lounge could seat 10, but seven is probably a more realistic number. The front passenger seat rotates almost the full 180°, but the driver's seat only goes 90°.

Dining is easy for a couple, as they can use the side dinette, into which the standalone table slots nicely. Alternatively, it will also fit longitudinally between the dinette and the nearside bench, which certainly is a more comfortable way of

PRACTICALITY 8/10

The Broadway's four berths, flexible sleeping options and four travel seats would seem to tick all the boxes for a family van, but in reality, life with four on board would be cramped. In sunny climes during summer, with the awning extended and a table and chairs outside, it would probably cope, but for year-round touring, the Broadway is effectively a well-appointed couple's van with a great kitchen and sufficient sleeping space for the occasional summer sortie with the grandchildren.



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VAN ON TEST
Auto-Sleepers Broadway

£42,301

£43,939 as tested

Auto-Sleepers Broadway

£42,301 OTR



A great layout: this roomy lounge could potentially seat 10!

BASE VEHICLE

Peugeot Boxer chassis cab

BERTHS

4

BED DIMENSIONS

Lounge double 2100mm x 1900mm (6ft 11in x 6ft 3in)
 Nearside single 1930mm x 680mm (6ft 4in x 2ft 3in)
 Offside single 1900mm x 930mm (6ft 3in x 3ft 1in)
 Overcab double 1920mm x 1150mm (6ft 8in x 3ft 9in)

MTPLM

3500kg

PAYLOAD

449kg

GAS

3 x 7kg

BATTERY

110Ah

FRESH WATER

78 litres inboard

WASTE WATER

53 litres underslung

BASE VEHICLE

Peugeot Boxer, 2.2 litre HDI diesel 120bhp at 3,500rpm, 320Nm at 2000rpm with six-speed gearbox

CONSTRUCTION

Overcab coachbuilt with insulated GRP bodyshell and double-glazed windows

STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Two swivel cab seats, adjustable steering wheel, traction control, Truma gas/electric blown-air and water heaters, 86-litre absorption fridge, four-burner hob with separate grill and oven, crockery set, stainless steel sink/drainer, electric windows and mirrors, driver's airbag, remote central locking, electric step, Thetford C-200 toilet, rear corner steadies, partial LED lighting.

MANUFACTURER

Auto-Sleepers Limited, Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr Broadway, Worcestershire WR12 7QF
 ☎ 01386 853338 🌐 auto-sleepers.co.uk

RIVAL MODELS

Bessacarr E435, Auto-Trail Tracker EK, Compass Avantgarde 130, Swift Sundance 590RS

FOR

Flexible sleeping options, value in optional launch pack, traditional Auto-Sleepers attention to detail

AGAINST

Small fresh and waste water tanks, restricted storage space, plasticky washroom

seating four for dinner rather than squeezing them into the dinette.

By night, the lounge can offer two very generous twin singles or the dinette can be converted into a generous double. It's a very flexible arrangement, which offers lots of options for adults, which is useful, because the overcab is too tight for two grown-ups with little in the way of headroom and no side windows. There's only one light, but a substantial retaining net should stop nocturnal roll-outs. A small roof light helps relieve the claustrophobia, but in reality, the bed is better suited to a couple of children to accompanying their grandparents. While the beds are comfy, there aren't any cab blinds and the cab curtains aren't really thick enough to black out the interior.

The Broadway has a total of seven overhead lockers with internal illumination,

some with splitter shelves and the traditional Auto-Sleepers crockery set in a locker over the fridge. The optional microwave replaces the cocktail cabinet and there are two more overhead lockers over the end kitchen, which is fully equipped with a four-burner hob (one electric), a separate grill and oven, stainless steel sink, cutlery drawer and storage cabinet with a neat bi-fold door underneath.

The fridge sits under a secondary worktop in front of the door and while at first sight this well-equipped kitchen appears to lack worktop space, closer inspection reveals flip-up and pull-out extensions on this worktop, which compensate for the lack of space on the back wall.

The washroom uses a pair of swinging partitions to form a separate shower compartment, but space for ablutions remains tight and in contrast to the traditional woodwork of the lounge, it's all a bit plasticky. Storage space is limited to a shallow cabinet and the odd tiny recess for shower gel. It does however, have a rather neat retractable clothes line. □

BUILD QUALITY

8/10

Auto-Sleepers have an upmarket image so expectations are always high and the Broadway doesn't disappoint. The interior feels solid and well screwed together but still exhibited a fair amount of habitation noise – principally from the usual places: kitchen and cassette blinds. Externally, the rear panel and side skirts all feel very solid but there were signs of premature fading of the decals on the bonnet and the narrow gauge drain-down tap on the waste water tank was easily blocked.



We've teamed up with Shield to give you an idea of how much it costs to insure a new Auto-Sleepers Broadway.

Premium Indication £296.47

Our premium indication is based upon a 55-year-old man living in Harrogate and driving on an insured and spouse basis, with unlimited mileage and a £400 excess.

**For a personal quote contact
 0844 847 4478 or
 www.shieldyourmotorhome.co.uk**

Scores

Exterior features	8/10
On the road	8/10
Lounging	7/10
Dining	8/10
Night-time	7/10
Storage	6/10
Kitchen	8/10
Washroom	7/10
Practicality	8/10
Build quality	8/10
Overall mark	75/100