



2010 Modified T5
Forge Motorsport's
T5 Workhorse
130 bhp LWB van
now runs at 175 bhp.



**1966 Westfalia
S0 42**
Immaculate condition
and loaded with
period accessories.



**1977 Grawo
Mobil Camper**
Only around 600
versions of this German
Camper were built.

VW Camper

The Original & Best VW Camper Magazine
HOME IS WHERE YOU PARK IT.COM & Commercial



1952 Barndoor
complete with early
style Camping Box.

Vintage Camping



VANFEST
Bolder, Bigger, Better.



1981 DEVON MOONRAKER
Original condition, early
air-cooled T3 is a rare beauty.



**1968 T2 with handcrafted
wood interior**

£3.95
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PLUS TREATING WINDSCREEN ROT EVOLUTION OF VAN A TRIBUTE TO IVAN HIRST

Text: David Photography: Gary Davies

1968 EARLY BAY CAMPER

BESPOKE BAY



This bespoke camper started life as a Westfalia conversion, and was built in December 1968. Now completely refitted with a bespoke wood interior it is both demonstration model and daily driver!

Adrian and Jo Gilliland had wanted a VW Camper for ages, so when an inheritance came their way in 2007 they jumped at the chance to buy a lovely, original condition Westfalia, which had been imported from the USA. They couldn't quite believe how solid the metal work was, with practically no visible signs of rust or rot and Adrian had to climb under the bus several times to look at the floor pan to believe that it hadn't been replaced and was actually as good as it looked! The paint was a bit thin and faded and window rubbers perished

as you'd expect from 30 odd years in the Californian sun, but all it needed was a bit of TLC. The original interior was intact and complete, though not perfect, meaning it was not sacrilege to remove and replace! The bus had only had two previous owners, the last being an elderly UK man who had imported but rarely used it. The first owner must have studied or taught on the campus of UCLA, as a parking permit sticker was still on the window and, in the back of the wardrobe, they found a travel expenses claim form to the local Board of Education. Volkscraft of Lincoln were selling it on behalf of the

current owner and had carried out minor mechanical work and added a new single port 1600 engine before advertising it. Adrian lowered the bus and upgraded the brakes to disc versions so that it was more practical for Jo to drive, which necessitated a change from the 14 inch standard wheels to 15 inch ones. Jo had wanted to keep the wheels as simple and retro as possible, but Adrian fancied some funky alloys, so they compromised and fitted a set of original Porsche 356 speedster wheels OE style. The bus was christened Den the Dub (after Jo's Uncle Denis who had left the money to

her) and, for that first summer, they used the bus in its original state "to get to know what we wanted to do with it and use it for." In winter 2007 they decided to repaint the bus and design a new interior for it. A bad experience with an alleged VW restorer did not dismay them however, and Mark Walker from MW body works in Elvington stepped in to do a perfect respray for them. They had toyed with the idea of replacing the original Pearl White with two tone Sage Green and Cream but, as Jo says, "Then we got all sentimental and wanted Denis to still look like Denis! In the end we plumped for the single colour and chose Cream White (L90H) as a as it gave a slightly warmer cream tone." We did make sure however that it was consistent with a period '68 only VW colour!" With a temporary bed frame made by Adrian, the mattress from the back bedroom and a picnic coolbox they just managed to make Vanfest 2009; work started on Denis's current bespoke interior as soon as they got back... Given Adrian's vocation as a bespoke furniture maker (running his business All Things Timber, near York, making handmade kitchens and home interiors), there was no one better to design and build >>



The cab has been trimmed to co-ordinate with the living area.

"Then we got all sentimental and wanted Denis to still look like Denis! In the end we plumped for the single colour and chose Cream White (L90H) as a as it gave a slightly warmer cream tone."



This rear unit is slotted to allow the R/R bed, on original Westy hinge and brackets, to be fully extended.

"The patterning on the burr oak can be quite amusing at times, especially after a beer or two, as you start to see "ink blot" images coming to life. We have an afro man on the panel to the left of the microwave and some people see a puppy on the curved unit, whilst others swear it's an alien!"

the interior for Denis. They had previously looked around for inspiration from other interior layouts and had found very little that they felt mirrored the soft curviness of a T2 they wanted to capture or displayed the quality craftsmanship and solid wood of the furniture Adrian was used to producing. They also wanted something truly bespoke to stamp their own personality on, which didn't seem to be an option elsewhere, as many "bespoke" interiors offered are actually just modifications of what are in fact standard units! With the business now starting to shift away from home interiors and towards ATT bespoke bus furniture, they also recognised that Denis needed to be a bit of a mobile show room, something a bit different to catch the eye whilst trading at shows.

With this in mind the furniture has been made in American white oak for the frames and burr oak veneer for the panels and the doors. Adrian says, "The patterning on the burr oak can be quite amusing at times, especially after a beer or two, as you start to see "ink blot" images coming to life. We have an afro man on the panel to the left of the microwave and some people see a puppy on the curved unit, whilst others swear it's an alien....not sure what the psychologists would make of it!"



The furniture has been made in American white oak for the frames and burr oak veneer for the panels and the doors.



The unit as you step through the sliding door has been built to lead you into the bus with a soft curve. (What do you see in the burr oak panel?)



The cabinets themselves make the most of the space available. A double burner hob and sink is housed under a curved frame lid which is held up by a replica of a Westy stay (fabricated by local engineers) when in use. All of the gas, electrics and water are housed in the cupboard below and by its side is a CR50 Waeco two way fridge. Adrian also dismantled the front fascia so as to insert a much nicer wooden panel than the original grey plastic. The same style of lid conceals

the two storage floor deep bucket accesses in the stepped back side unit. This is stepped to allow the R n R bed to be fully extended. This side unit also houses a microwave, that is used from hook up, and a low level cupboard that Jo describes as "Tardis Storage!"

The unit as you step through the sliding door has been built to lead you into the bus with a soft curve. It also allows enough room to get your hand to the sliding door handle when it is shut. The main carcass frame is

cut from a laminated solid oak. The panels are burr oak veneer, vacuum pressed onto laminated plywood. The same process has been used to mould the replica Westy hinge cover for the rear tailgate and also the kick boards in the cab.

The R n R bed is on original Westy hinge and brackets, which means with a bespoke bed panel on the floor, they have been able to set the width. It has storage underneath for chairs, table legs, and bedding etc. The piped upholstery of the bed (including "the most luxurious memory foam ever") was done by Pete, Angie and Stu at Bromsgrove Auto Trimmers. Using the same material, Jo sewed the curtains for the bus, covered the windscreen visors to match and made the piping that finishes off the pop top roof opening around the headlining. They admit to having become quite obsessed with finding green accessories for Denis: co-ordinating BBQ, found in France last year, kettle and spotty crockery all take the green theme a bit further! They even found a bit of Brintons carpet that is a perfect colour match for the front cab....it means Denis has poster floor coverings than their own home, but, as their business tag line goes.....love your bus!

Even though the interior has been replaced, some of the original accessories have been retained. The Westy stool is about

to be recovered in the same fabric as the upholstery, the original rear fly mesh screen is used in the summer and the luggage net, spare wheel cover, full set of curtains, cab and roof hammocks with all of their fixings are safely stored away.

Adrian says, "One of the worst parts of having had the bus lowered whilst keeping the original shock absorbers is the teeth rattling and bouncing that we have to put up with when travelling on some of the country roads around Yorkshire," so sometime in 2011 they intend to have a Red 9 Design front end fitted. Realising the need for a trailer to carry all their gear to shows, Adrian is also currently making a bespoke replica of Westfalia hearse trailer (without the windows).

The bus was "finished" for 2010 and has been a magnet for the crowds at shows. Jo says, "Launching ATT Bespoke Bus Furniture has been an amazing experience, allowing us to be able to combine our passion for buses and making a living. We have had the best welcome and friendliest responses from customers and visitors to the ATT stand at shows. It's just like being part of a great big club!" Responses have been such that Jo has now started to develop a new branch of the business, making hand sewn bunting, cushions, blankets and other soft furnishings and gifts with a VW theme to complement the buses. ☺



Adrian and Jo would like to thank:

"Pete, Angie and Stu at Bromsgrove Auto Trimmers (www.bromsgroveautotrim.com) who have given us so much help and support in developing the business, as well as giving us the most comfortable bus bed anyone could ask for!
Mark Walker from MW Body Works, Elvington, York for being a god with a paint gun and turning Denis from an ugly duckling into a swan; Ben Adamson, for wrestling with all of Denis's electrics;
Gary Davies for taking some great pics of Denis on a cold October morning and all of our ATT customers who have given us the opportunity to be creative in their buses."

