



1973 Custom Camper
Mixing period charm and custom detailing this former Westy oozes style.



1995 Westfalia Florida
The LT28 Florida offers seriously big space as an aLTernative camper.



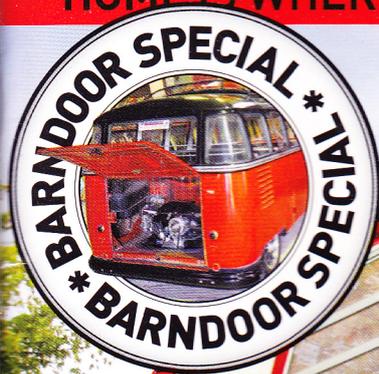
1986 Disaster Van
This Paramedic Emergency van features a stock exterior and a camping interior.

VW Camper

The Original & Best VW Camper Magazine

HOME IS WHERE YOU PARK IT

& Commercial



Celebrating

60 Years of Production

1950-2010

1973 Custom Westfalia Camper

Ruby Red

1954 RHD KOMBI CAMPER



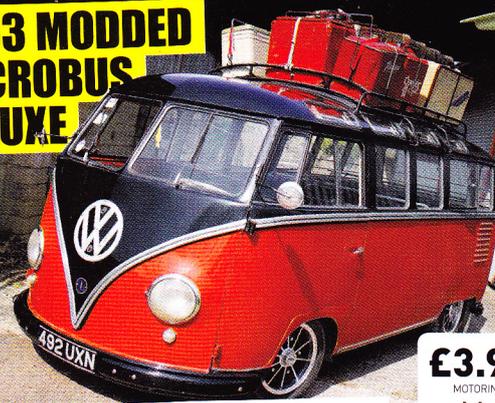
with rare opening tailgate option and a bespoke interior.



1954 RHD PANEL VAN

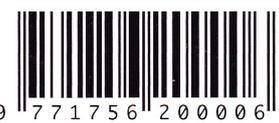
Fully restored to stock with no expense spared

1953 MODDED MICROBUS DELUXE



featuring stock interior and some rarely seen factory options.

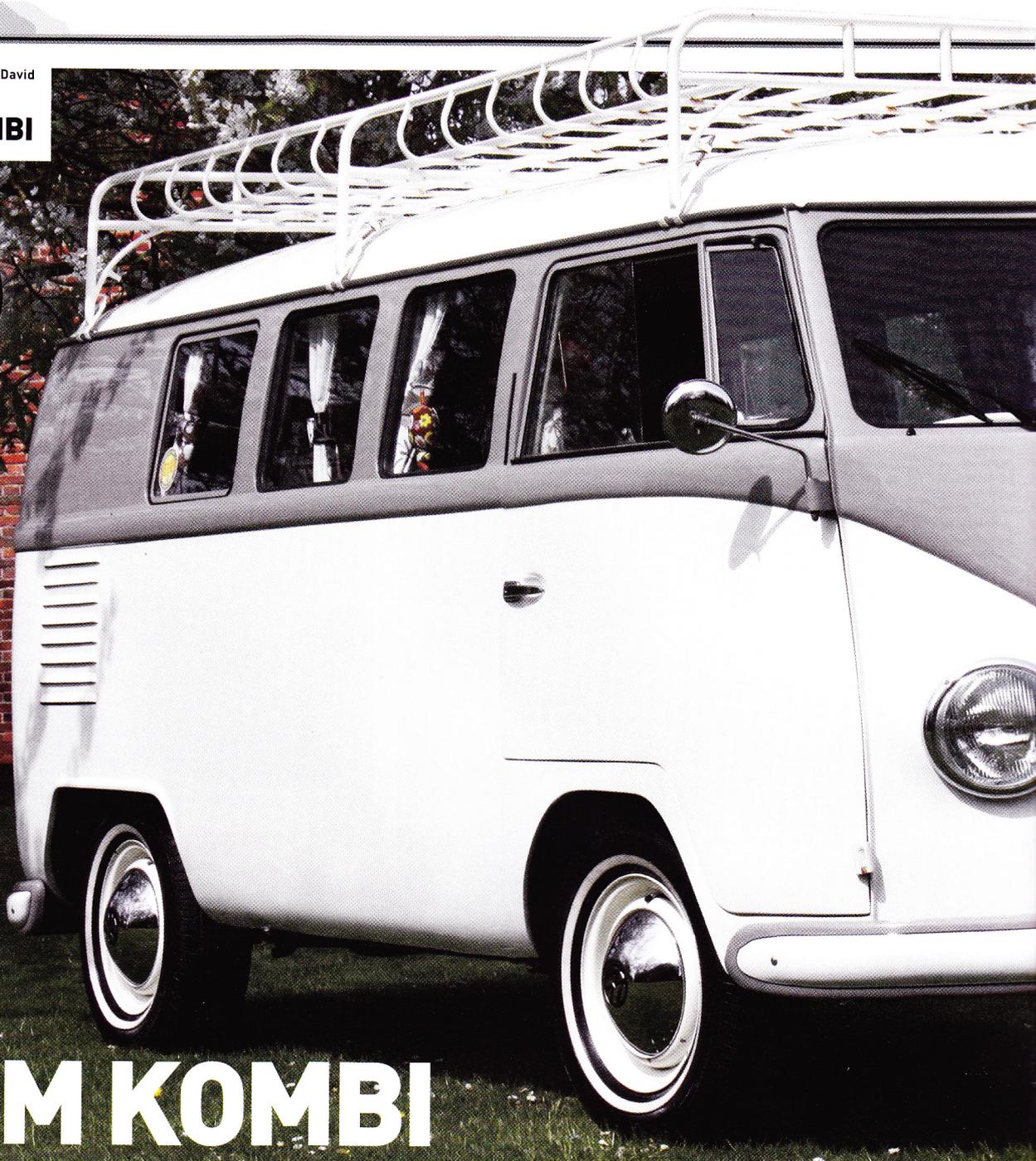
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PLUS T4S AT LAZY LOBB STANFORD HALL FITTING A GEARBOX MID-MOUNT

Text: David Photography: Cee and David

1954 RHD JAVANESE KOMBI



FROM KOMBI TO CAMPER

Restoring a vintage bus to original, stock condition is no easy task, especially when the bus in question is a one year only, RHD, pre 1955 version, and many parts simply unavailable. Whilst this 1954 former Kombi may no longer have some of its original features such as the wing mirrors, it still has many of those quirky, period details that make for the unique charm of a Barndoor bus, including that very rare option M53 – opening tailgate with window.

Pete and Ange Golding, who run Bromsgrove Auto Trimmers, were looking for something a bit different to use as both trade / show and weekend leisure bus, so when a colleague told Pete about a nice looking “restored” Barndoor Kombi he had come across on the internet Pete knew

immediately he had found something a bit special with the potential for them to create something eye catching.

Built in March 1954 on chassis 20076782 and exported to Java, it was one of the new factory RHD models and featured an opening tailgate with window, a rarely seen factory option. Very little is known about its time in

Java but at some point around 2007-8 it was “restored” and repainted in Java, before being imported to the UK in 2009. Generally the restoration had been done sympathetically, though post 55 cab doors with side mirrors fitted into the top hinges were used, and the original smooth wheel arches replaced with post 62 lipped versions, as these were



The cab has been trimmed in grey and white to harmonise with the exterior colours. Note the custom dash shelf; only the Samba had a full width dash.



Built in March 1954 and exported to Java, it was one of the new factory RHD models and featured the very rare M23 option - opening tailgate with window.

existent and had to be rebuilt from scratch, again necessitating parts making up from scratch. The electrics were updated to 12v and a leisure battery / split charger fitted (we won't mention the unsecured leisure battery breaking free and rolling onto the running engine incident!) A full length roof rack, finished in white, and whitewall tyres complete the exterior look, complementing

the paint scheme perfectly.

Pete and Ange then called in Adrian and Jo Gilliland of All Things Timber to design a wooden interior, with the brief to create a Gentleman's Club library room feel with no hard corners. Walnut was chosen for its warmth and depth of colour to create the right ambience and a hideaway sink and cooker mean the effect is maintained. The

probably more easily available. The period colour scheme of White/Beige/White echoes the classic Barndoor Microbus Light Beige / Brown Beige combination, a scheme first used on the 1949 Prototype Microbus and had generally been done well, and despite some dodgy mechanicals, Pete knew this bus could be transformed in to something even more special.

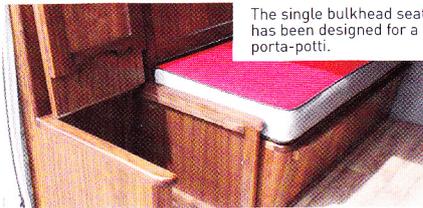
Before they could start designing a new interior however there were the mechanics and running gear to be sorted! The engine and gearbox were beyond salvage so Pete took the opportunity to upgrade to IRS and had a recon gearbox and 1600cc twin port fitted. All the running gear was ropey and new linkages had to be specially made up as originals are just not available. Likewise with the steering, which had to have a Barndoor style steering idler pin machined to special order. The brakes were non



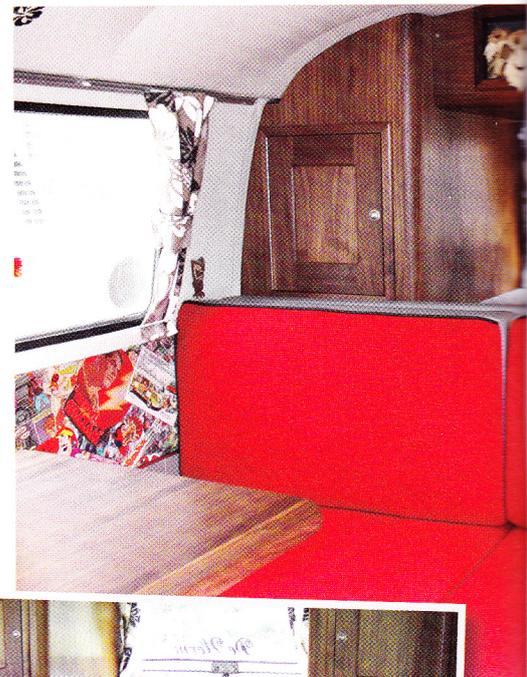
main unit curves back from the door in a styling reminiscent of the early Devons and the sink sited under a lift up walnut worktop / shelf. The hob is ingeniously housed in a slide out drawer under the sink, and split rear seat cushions make for easy access. Two deep rear seat cupboards flank the rear, with open fronted roof storage between.

Seating is dinette round a pedestal leg walnut table, with an additional single removable buddy seat by the twin bulkhead seat, which houses a porta-potti. Behind the front bench cushion is another novel feature - a secret compartment specially built to hold a period picnic set!

All Things Timber were given the brief to design a wood interior taking inspiration from a Gentleman's Club library room look and feel.



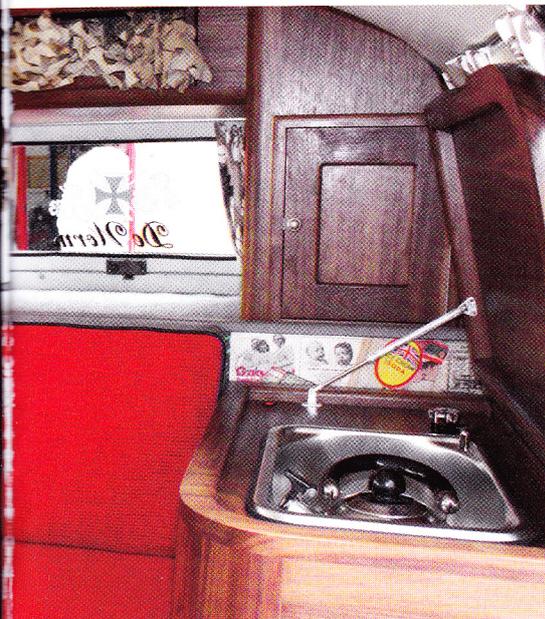
The single bulkhead seat has been designed for a porta-potti.



The bulkhead space makes an ideal place for storing a picnic set.



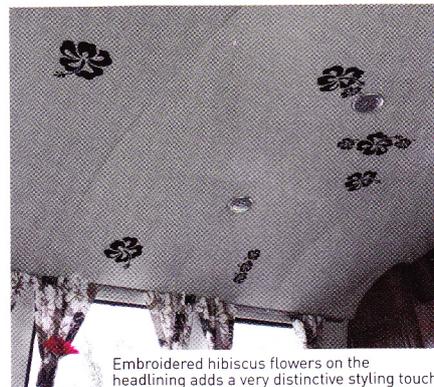
The seating can be laid out settee style; note how reversing the cushions creates a whole new feel to the interior.



Interior cabinets have been built from Walnut and all corners and edges rounded and curved. Reversible cushions make for very different looks – this is the red woven cloth scheme.



This opening tailgate with window for the Barndoor buses was a factory option that is rarely seen, adding something very special to this bus's heritage.



Embroidered hibiscus flowers on the headlining adds a very distinctive styling touch.

none originally!) add a period custom touch.

Torn between maintaining the colour palette and bringing in some colour contrast, Pete and Ange decided to compromise and have both! All the rear cushions are finished in soft grey cord fabric on one side and red woven cloth on the other, making for two very different styling looks!

The most striking feature of the interior however, is the interior panels, which have been carefully covered in a montage of characters and scenes from original 1950s comics and memorabilia from their own formative years. Dennis the Menace and the Bash Street Kids, Banana Splits and The Goodies are just a few of the most immediately noticeable in the cast! These were cut and glued to wood panels and varnished over. Hibiscus flower motif curtains in beige, grey and white add finishing detail, whilst various Polynesian Island style carvings hint at the original Java background.

After six months work the bus was finally ready for the road, and its maiden voyage was to Bus Types, which was trouble free! Pete has plans at some stage to try and return some things back to period, such fitting a three spoke steering wheel, domed rear lights and smooth wheel arches (which may mean a bottom half respray), but for the moment is happy just enjoying driving and being out and about in the bus saying "I did not buy a museum piece, I bought into a bit of fun!" ☺

With the cabinets all fitted it was time for Pete and Ange to work their trimming magic. After fitting a new headlining, complete with embroidered Hibiscus flowers, the cab was trimmed out in white and dolphin grey, to harmonise with the exterior paint, with the Hibiscus flower motif embroidered onto the bench seat. Wanting somewhere to house the stereo head unit and site the cow horn handle Pete added a small dashboard, which blends in perfectly. Leather covered chain pull handles on the cab doors (barndoors had

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Pete and Ange would like to thank:

"Adrian and Jo at www.allthingstimber.com for our fantastic bus furniture
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www.bromsgroveautotrim.com all the staff for their help with the interior
www.focalimage.co.uk Embroidery & printing specialists"