

AUTO-SLEEPER

Nuevo II EL

A late season tour of the Peak District gave this latest Neuvo the chance to impress. NICK HARDING reports

⊕ Price £42,495 ⊕ Sleeps Two ⊕ Belts Two ⊕ Base vehicle Peugeot Boxer
 ⊕ Engine 2.2-litre turbo diesel ⊕ L/W/H 5.63/2.32/2.88m ⊕ Fuel economy 31mpg
 ⊕ MTPLM 3300kg ⊕ Payload 506kg ⊕ Water (fresh)/(waste) 102 litres/60 litres
 ⊕ Battery 110Ah ⊕ Gas Two x 6kg propane/7kg butane

Start with the outside of this Auto-Sleeper Nuevo (mark II, so it's slightly bigger than the original, now badged Classic). Even the quickest walk around this compact vehicle will reveal Good Things, such as the electric step at the caravan door. Then there's the door itself, with its opening window and remote central locking. Rear corner steadies are standard, and there's an

extension to the spare tyre so you can inflate it without crawling underneath. There's exterior access to the nearside underseat box, as well as a locker on the lower offside.

Auto-Sleepers are never 'cheap' – the price for this one kicks off at £42,495. That's with a 100bhp engine. We're looking at the 130bhp version which adds another £920 but seems worth it. Only one in 10 customers so far have stuck

with the standard offering – although it must be said we'd find it perfectly adequate in a compact vehicle like this.

Do more Good Things lie inside? You bet. The unusual rear twin-settee floor plan will appeal to caravanners trying motorhomes for the first time. Motorcaravanners who have outgrown their 'van conversions will also approve.

There's plenty you won't see, too, such as 3M Thinsulate

insulation. The wide-bore water piping is a boon and the underslung tanks for 91 litres of fresh-water and 60 litres of waste are ample for a 'van this size. There's a hidden safe, too.

On the safety front, Auto-Sleepers has it absolutely right, with a smoke alarm, sensibly located fire extinguisher (by the door), and a carbon monoxide alarm (above the lounge/bed area).

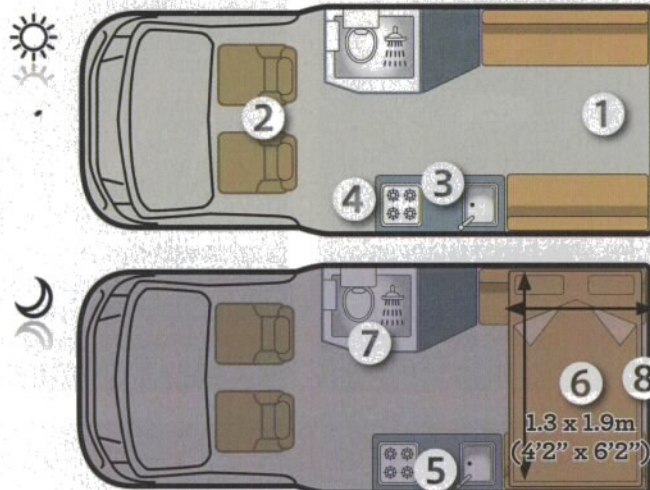
Perfection is some way off, however. The cab's thermal screens were such a tight fit it was impossible to affix all the press studs. What's more, as good as the lighting is overall, we missed having a main light over the lounge.

The biggest issue is that the Nuevo II rattles in transit. It's not the first time this has worried us in a recent Auto-Sleeper model. It's not just the blinds and cooker, but the whole kitchen, and that is after putting a towel between the hob and its glass lid, and removing oven shelves, grill pan and more. It's a real pity, because this Nuevo is otherwise an absolute pleasure to pilot.

Rivals? Bessacar's E460 or Auto-Trail's Apache 700 maybe. You're unlikely to encounter any imports with this kind of layout.

PRACTICAL MOTORHOME SAYS...

Strictly two-berth. A good compromise of kitchen, washroom and living space in a well put-together, good-looking package, that's a pleasure to drive.



WIDTH
2.32m (7'7")

LENGTH
5.63m (18'6")

INTERNAL
HEIGHT
1.64m (6'4")

HEIGHT 2.88m (9'5")

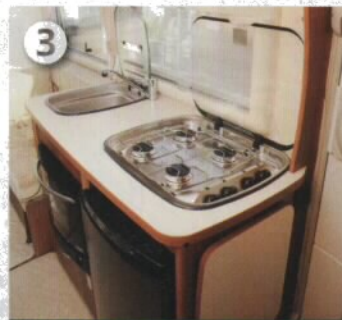
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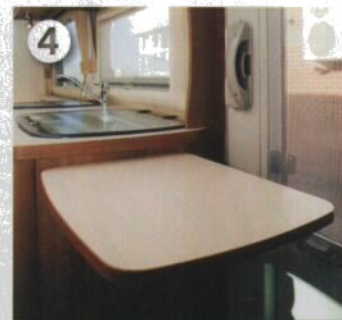
1 SHED LIGHT ON LOUNGING
This large, wind-up rooflight over the lounge lets in lots of light and gives plenty of ventilation, helping the main seating area seem spacious



2 CHOICE OF TWO TABLES
Free-standing and pedestal tables stow in the wardrobe when they are not needed, but it's tricky to access them when clothes are also there



3 COMPACT BUT CLEVER
The roomy sink has a removable drainer (not shown), and a dishrack on the underside of the glass lid. Just be careful not to overload it



4 WELCOME EXTENSION
There's good work space in the well-specified kitchen. The fold-up worktop is a real bonus. At 88-litres, the fridge is a generous size, too



ARAVANGUARD
INSURANCE
QUOTE
254.75*

END LOUNGE
Lighting is good in the lounge, with four reading lamps and ambient lighting at the top of the lockers. We'd have liked a main light overhead, though



5 DRINKS CABINET
It simply wouldn't be an Auto-Sleeper without a full set of proper crockery, and a dedicated locker for a wine bottle and four glasses



6 BE IN CONTROL FROM BED
Space and water heating run off mains or gas. The heating controls are in the lounge – ideal for operating from the comfort of the bed



7 SWING-WALL SHOWER
Auto-Sleeper's designers have made good use of the 'van's compact footprint in the washroom with the clever swing-wall shower



8 TV CABINET
The flatscreen TV can be concealed neatly in its hinged locker when not in use. It's a simple alternative to sliding mechanisms or brackets