



1969 Microbus
Now fully restored, this early bay has been part of the same family in Malta for over 30 years.



1990 Autohomes Komet
Top end luxurious T3 camper with fixed high roof is in immaculate original condition.



1978 Champagne Edition II
Fully original limited edition bay, featuring distinctive upholstery and striking paintwork.

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A Special Edition T4, with added custom styling



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FLIPSEAT FANTASY

1963 Westfalia loaded with original goodies

£3.95
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PLUS BRIGHTON BREEZE REAR STUB AXLE BEARING REPLACEMENT FRIDLIN SPECIAL MODELS

Text: David Photography; Jörg Hajt

1964 WESTFALIA SO 34



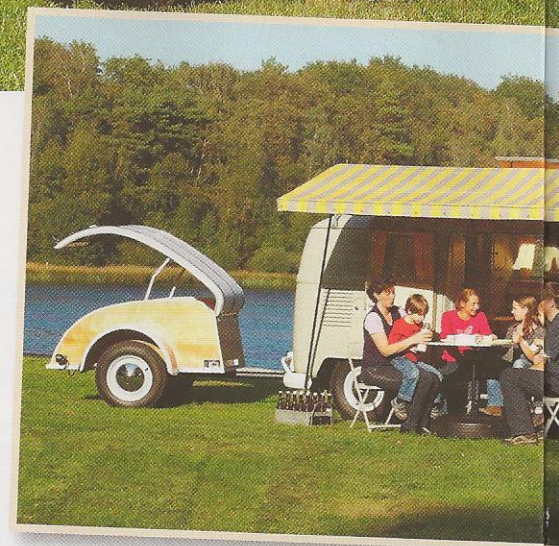
FLIPSEAT

FANTASY

From 1961 to 1965 Westfalia produced the SO 34 and SO 35 conversions; a radically different concept to the traditional dinette style camping interior. Commonly known as the Flipseat, the front seat back was hinged to rotate through 180 degrees, allowing it to become a rear facing bench seat, significantly increasing interior living space. SO 34 cabinets were finished in white, whilst SO 35 used the more traditional pear wood.

As well as the unique flipseat design, the interior features a seat running under the window, a "cocktail" bar with coloured beakers and bottle storage, a swing out rear pantry cupboard, behind which the spare wheel was sited, a folding chair and door mounted vanity unit. Because dealerships could not fulfil demand from their allocations, it was common

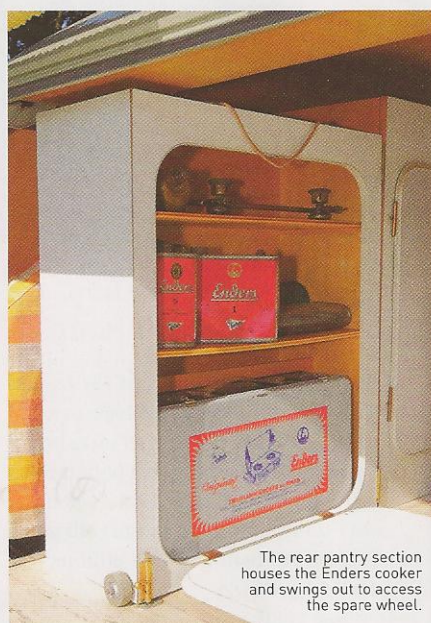
practice for some to fly to Europe, buy in Germany and import as private individuals, a practice known as the grey market. The example featured here was one of these, built in April 1964 on chassis 280423 and imported to Oregon, USA, directly by a dealer. Finished in Light Grey, it featured factory options of 1500cc engine option, Blaupunkt radio, and steering wheel lock; American sealed beam headlights, red tail



lights and a mph speedo were changed by the dealer. It was bought by a Mrs Muller who drove it all the way home Santa Barbara in California. She owned the vehicle right up until 1998, when she decided she was too old to drive and put it up for sale. During her ownership she had had the camper repainted in its original Light Grey but both her daughters had learned to drive in it and it now sported a dent in the front panel and



The table can be fixed inside for family dining.



The rear pantry section houses the Enders cooker and swings out to access the spare wheel.



The door mounted vanity cabinet features flap up mirror and drop down door cabinet, which acts as a shelf for the original washing bowl, still complete with its maker decals.



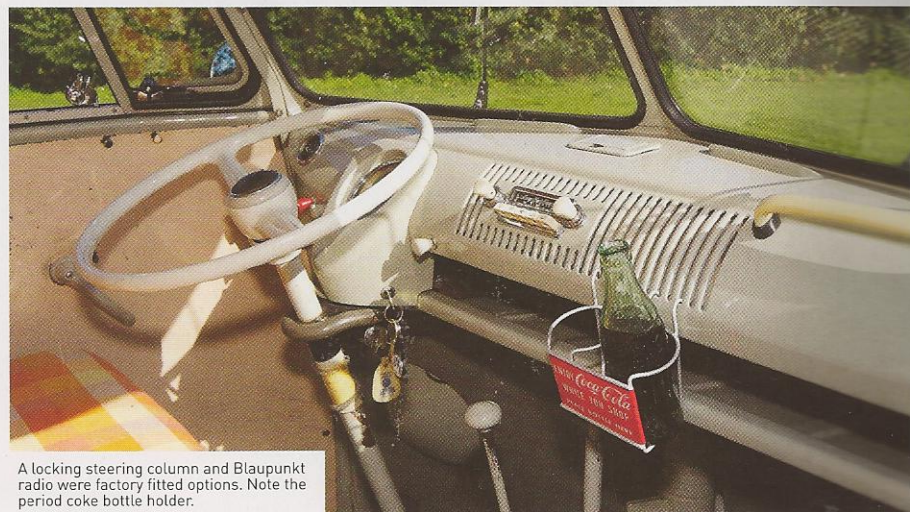
hinge on the driver front door was starting to part company with the body.

Bus enthusiasts Eric Meyer and Joe Crockett live in Santa Barbara and decided to check out the For Sale ad Eric had spotted. Though sounding rough, the engine started OK but Eric was not overly impressed; Joe however saw the potential and was impressed with the

generally intact condition of the interior, plus the fact there was no rust and the inside and underneath were still in original paint.

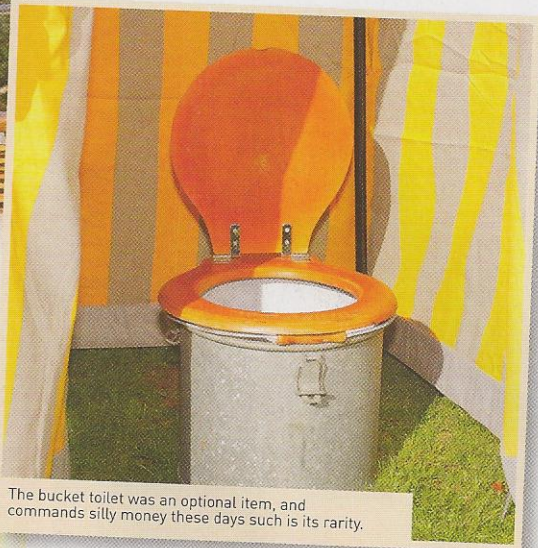
A deal was struck and next day Joe arrived to collect it. As he moved off down the steep driveway he applied the brakes only to feel the pedal hit the floor! Scary! Luckily no traffic was coming and he managed to turn into the street, and used the handbrake to >>

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A locking steering column and Blaupunkt radio were factory fitted options. Note the period coke bottle holder.

The period correct original Westfalia rack and ladder were sourced at the VW Classic show.



The bucket toilet was an optional item, and commands silly money these days such is its rarity.

As he moved off down the steep driveway he applied the brakes only to feel the pedal hit the floor!

stop. On checking the fluid reservoir he found it totally dry! Back home he took off the leopard skin print covers to reveal the original Westfalia upholstery in excellent condition. The curtains, roof rack and many interior fittings had long disappeared but the conical light, Hünersdorff water bottles and spun aluminium cocktail beakers were still with the bus and later that day Joe was thrilled to when Mrs Muller phoned to say she had found the missing door vanity cabinet.

After having the front dent professionally pulled out Joe set about finding correct period items to recreate its original look. An Enders stove was sourced in Germany via Ebay when it was in its infancy and an original Westy roof rack at the swap meet

SO 34 was the last Westfalia model to feature the roof hatch as standard.



Six coloured, spun aluminium, cocktail beakers were stored in a special compartment above the bottle storage compartment.



The rear pantry and cocktail cabinet can be seen behind the supplied folding chair.



He took off the leopard skin print covers to reveal the original Westfalia upholstery in excellent condition

at the VW Classic in California. Both tents in correct yellow / grey stripe colours were found at an OCTO meet and the folding chair traded for a Blaupunkt pull-out Derby radio. Joe then reupholstered the chair using the correct fabric. The bucket toilet was another item acquired in a swap. Two

NOS Type 2 European headlight assemblies came from Axle Stauber in Germany and amber segmented European rear lights fitted to recreate



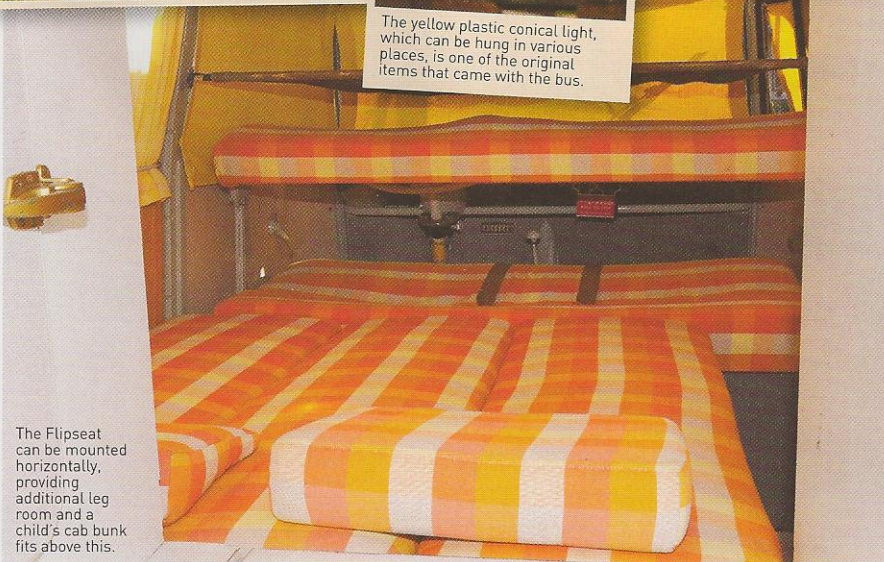
The yellow plastic conical light, which can be hung in various places, is one of the original items that came with the bus.

the original factory look. A correct year Westfalia trailer hitch was also added and original yellow Westfalia curtain material used to make up new curtains. Joe also restored the gearbox and the engine as well as overhauling the brakes.

Joe kept the bus for ten years, before reluctantly selling it to UK vintage Westfalia enthusiast Tony Best. He was selling his immaculate SO 23 and wanted a Flipseat for the increased space it offered, despite dreaming of an early camping Box! Just a few months later however Tony came across the chance of a lifetime to buy a 1955 Export camping Box and so the Flipseat had to go!

Claus Missing had met Tony at Lavenham and admired the bus there. He already owned an immaculate 1967 SO 44 with optional Dormobile roof and a 52 Barndoor (under restoration) but, with a growing family, was looking for more room inside. Knowing it would go to someone who would preserve it for what it was, Tony passed on stewardship, and in November 2008 Claus and his father flew to England, collected the bus, and drove it all the way back home to Kaarst in Germany without any problems.

Since then Claus and his whole family have loved getting out in the bus, and especially attending various shows and camping weekends. He says, "My children love driving in T1 busses and they talk nearly every day about it! T1 Camping with the family is really the best time you can have!" ☺



The Flipseat can be mounted horizontally, providing additional leg room and a child's cab bunk fits above this.