

**VOLKS  
WORLD**

THE **MAGAZINE** FOR THE VW BUS FAN

# Camper & BUS

## Stunning Samba

23-window Deluxe  
Microbus

**FREE**

MONTH TO VIEW  
CALENDAR

Pull-out & stick  
on your wall



**PLUS  
POSTER  
INSIDE**

**Boost  
your bhp**

How to fit a  
performance exhaust



**Complete  
& original  
'66 Westy**  
Unrestored gem



**22hrs of  
mayhem**

**SPLIT WINDOW**  
mountain-top snow trip

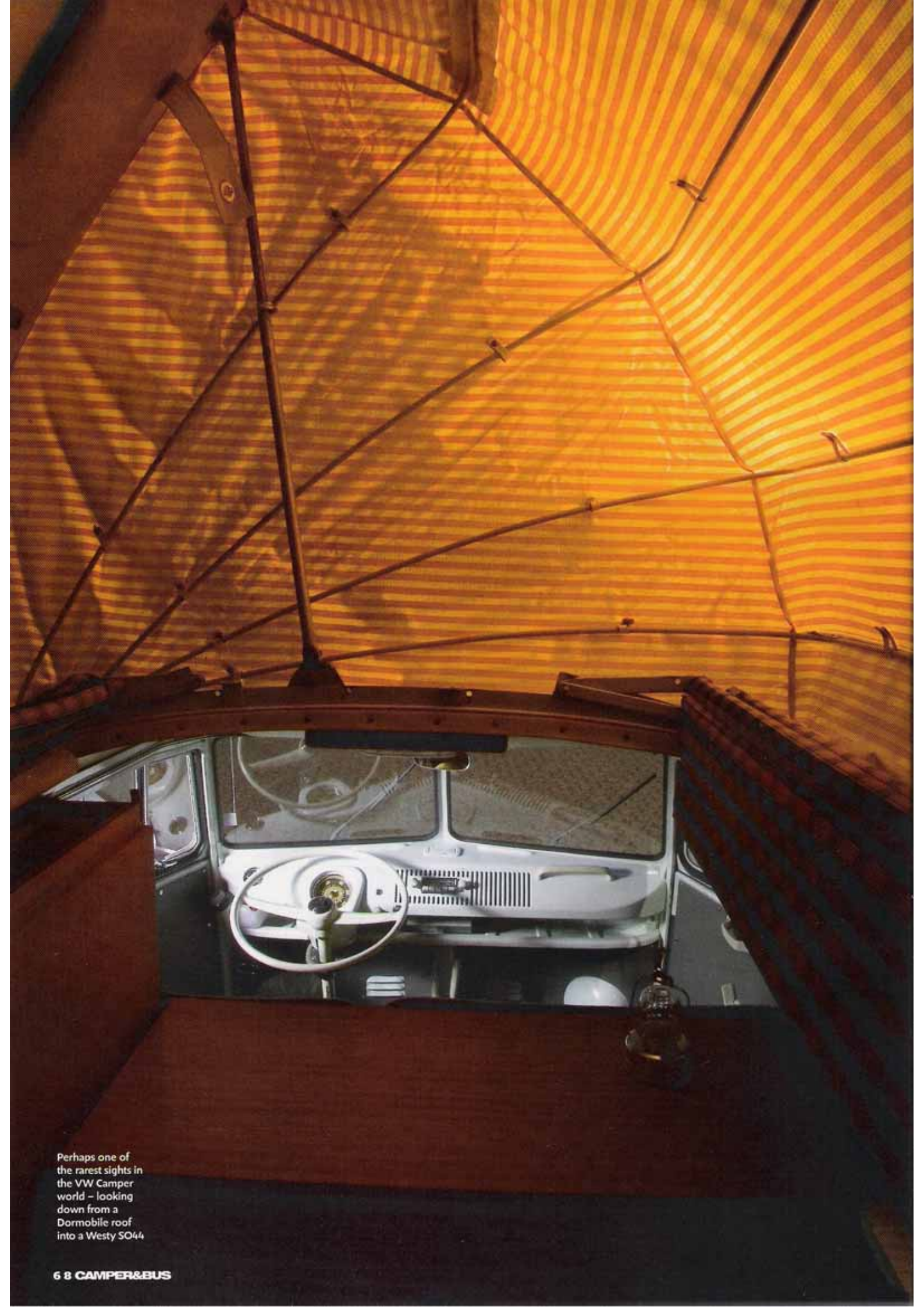


**Loud  
& lairy**

**T4 SHOW BUS**  
Lambo' Yellow  
Transporter







Perhaps one of the rarest sights in the VW Camper world – looking down from a Dormobile roof into a Westy SO44



# SO Original

CLAUS MISSING WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO TRACK DOWN this incredibly original SO44 Westfalia when it came up for sale – here's the story in full

Words Bryn Musselwhite Pictures Stefan Bau







## SPLIT SCREEN

**T**here are some names in the VW world that still make aficionados swoon and drool, years after their introduction. Hebmüller and Karmann are two that spring to mind. But when it comes to Campers, Westfalia is the name that tops the desirability list. Over the past half a century Westfalia has put together some of the coolest Buses available direct from the dealer. In fact, it never ceases to amaze us how a dealer-sourced Bus can be so unique. It's hard to imagine how many different configurations are possible – factor in the passing of a few decades and suddenly what was once an everyday item becomes truly unique.

Westfalia labeled the T1 series of Vans with an SO prefix, the one here being an SO44, for the uninitiated.

Claus Missing is one of those guys



**This could easily be the ultimate Split Screen Camper!**





that understands Volkswagens. He's not a diehard Bus or Beetle enthusiast, but a VW guy through and through, thanks to his dad, as Claus explains. "My father's first car in his shop was a new 1967 Split Screen Transporter."

So what was it about VWs that so hooked Claus? "I like the older Volkswagens because they are so simple and easy to repair."

Considering Claus has such a down to earth approach to Buses, it's astounding

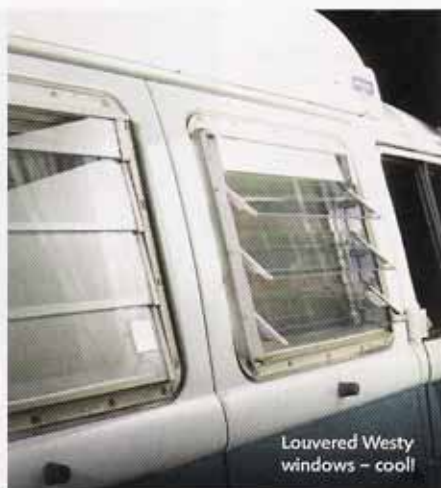
how his appreciation of the more mundane aspects of their design can lead to such an amazing Bus. We'll let Claus talk us through his involvement with the marque. He says "I had a 1967 Beetle as my first car in 1989. After several Beetles, I bought this Bus." So why the sudden change? "The family grew, so I needed a larger VW," he explains.

Claus may come across as a pragmatic guy with a practical approach to getting down life's road on four wheels, but don't be fooled. He's got some serious

Wolfsburg blood running through him, as becomes clear when he shows us what else is in his garage.

"I've got a Split Convertible from 1952, restored by myself over 12 years, plus a Split Sedan from 1952 and an export Beetle from 1963 with lots of accessories."

So naturally, when Claus went looking for a Bus he wasn't going to settle for any old Van. But where did he discover this



Louvered Westy windows - cool

## A little bit more about this S044

Claus Missing, Germany

For more information and pictures on Claus' Westfalia S044 Camper with Dormobile roof and his other VWs, plus loads of really cool period pictures, check out his very good website [www.karmann1952.de](http://www.karmann1952.de)

- just click on the 'Union Jack' banner for the English version. Cheers, Claus!

Claus would like to thank his friend Jan-Peter Henkels, who put him in contact with the seller Michael Steincke in December 2006.



Under the original seat covers, the original VW seats are unmarked



The wooden headliner in the cab is like new

It doesn't get much better! This is an unrestored original example, and a very rare find.





## SPLIT SCREEN MISSING IN ACTION

gorgeous SO44?

"My friend Jan-Peter Henckels gave me a tip-off that Michael Steincke from Frankfurt was selling his 1966 Westfalia Dormobile."

Michael Steincke has written many books on the VW Bus, and is considered an aficionado on the subject. As Claus says of this Westy, "I was the lucky guy that bought it."

### UNTOUCHED ORIGINAL

And when he says lucky, just check out how original it actually is.

"I bought it in untouched condition. This Bus has its original paint and has never been welded. Only the bumpers have been resprayed and the original seat material is still under the yellow covers."

Having covered 130,000 kilometres, this isn't a ridiculously low mileage example



The classic British Dormobile roof was fitted to very few Westfalias

either. OK, it's not huge mileage, but neither has it been stored away in a barn somewhere, hidden from sight. This is just a well cared for old VW, which even came with its original small awning.

Moving inside, the curtains aren't original to this Bus, but they are original items. Claus explains. "When Michael Steincke 'cleaned up' the Westfalia archive in Wiedenbrück, he met an old lady who worked for Westfalia during the Sixties and Seventies in the sewing rooms. After the curtains changed colour in the early Seventies she took the last original material home with her and made some kitchen towels. Michael got this 'new' stuff from her and put it in this Westfalia."

With just two previous owners prior to Claus, and one of those being Michael, we can only assume this Westy's first owner kept and cherished it for a few decades. That doesn't mean that Claus has had nothing to do to it, although we're not talking about a complete strip down and rebuild here. "I took the Bus to a professional car polisher and he worked for over a week on it, polishing the original paint. The result is awesome."

### BEST IN SHOW

Given that Claus lives in Germany, he attended the 60th Anniversary meeting in Hanover last year, getting a prize in the Original T1 category – that's no mean feat given the turn-out. It's also no great surprise when you look at the detail and originality his T1 exudes.

Details such as that Dormobile roof, for example. This is an extremely rare addition, as Claus outlines, "VW sold only 500 units with the expensive SO44 interior. Just a few dozen of these 500 units had the equally

**Only about  
500 SO44  
Westfalias  
were sold**

It won't matter how hard you search, you probably won't find a better SO44 with a Dormobile roof!





expensive Dormobile roof and there are only nine cars in this combination known worldwide."

We just love that original side awning too – forget about how unstable it would be in the wind, just imagine how cool it would be to sit under it sipping your favourite brew.

The SO44 wasn't a great seller, and as Claus mentioned it was expensive. But there were other reasons, too: "There is the cabinet in the back of the car. When you look in the rear view mirror, you can't see outside." But as any Split Screen owner will tell you, they're deceptively spacious once you get inside one. Although Claus is still looking for the front cot, because with that you can sleep six people in the Dormobile, which though it may be pushing it a bit, is just another option Claus can't resist.

## It's all in the detail

The Westy SO44

The SO44 Westfalia Camper was one of the best appointed VW Campers of them all – although only ever available as a non-walk through Van – the storage space was very ingenious; the cupboard, left, was behind the driver's seat



Interior paintwork is unmarked



Pun alert: Unlike the owner, the original motor is not 'missing'



Cupholders? They're nothing new



The Martin Walter Dormobile roof looks like it was fitted yesterday



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Pic: Stephañ Bau

