

**ON TEST**

Auto-Sleeper M-Star motorhome | Dometic Santorini tent | Bailey Discovery D4-2 caravan ▶



**Torchlight is back**  
We preview the festival ▼

# CAMPING & CARAVANNING



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## Auto-Sleeper M-Star

**Huw Hopkins** gets a look at a prototype Mercedes panel van conversion from Auto-Sleepers before its release later this year

**Auto-Sleepers has** many Mercedes coachbuilt motorhomes in its catalogue, but after introducing a Ford-based campervan at the Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show in 2022, the company returned to Birmingham's NEC earlier this year with the promise of a new premium offering – a panel van conversion on the Mercedes Sprinter 417.

The Sprinter panel van, on which the conversion is based, has a length of 7.15m and the living quarters is packed with a range of features that have a quality that you would struggle to find in campervans.

The M-Star I saw at the show was a prototype, but Auto-Sleepers suggests the unit is likely to weigh more than 3,800kg – so you might need to pass an extra driving test to be allowed to drive it.

Only one of the cab seats rotates because the driver backs on to the washroom. With the length of the vehicle, the pivoting passenger seat may be a little unnecessary – you'll be a long way from the rest of the social space at the rear – but it could be a useful option when you have the sliding leisure door open, or if you want a bit of peace and quiet away from the other van occupant.



**WE LOVE:**  
Fold-up table cup holders that keep access to USB ports

▲ When the table is folded up into its wall position, cup-holders still allow access to USB ports

See Huw's video review of the M-Star online at [myccc.co.uk/videos](http://myccc.co.uk/videos) or in the magazine app

## REVIEWS & ADVICE AUTO-SLEEPER M-STAR



### At a glance

Berths Two

Travel seats Two

Length x width x height

7.15 x 2.02 x 2.9m

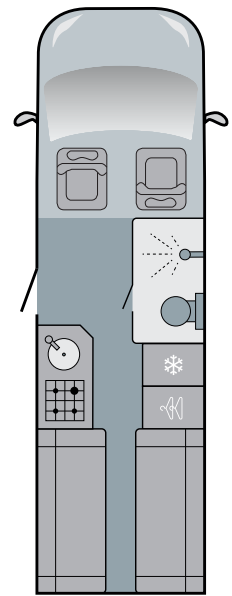
Maximum Authorised Mass

3,880kg

User payload 480kg

For more information

[auto-sleepers.com/mstar](http://auto-sleepers.com/mstar)



▲ Clockwise from top left: Of the two cab seats, only the passenger one can be turned towards the living space; the kitchen is well-equipped with a large fridge and microwave; there's also a full oven and grill; the washroom is well-designed; the large double bed is made up from the rear bench seats

### Plumbing and heating

Behind the driver's seat is the washroom, which has a stand-up shower that sits over a wash basin – at 5ft 11in, I could just about angle the shower over my head. There is also a Thetford toilet and some eye-level cupboards plus a towel hanger and the first of six Alde Flow radiators.

Auto-Sleepers has received great feedback from Alde on how it has installed the Flow heating system. The shape of the Mercedes van narrows slightly at the top, so it allows the heat to circulate well, and you shouldn't have to wait for the system to warm up straight after someone has had a shower.

### Kitchen facilities

Opposite the washroom is the kitchen section. There is a full Dometic cooker with an oven, grill, an electric hotplate and three gas burners, plus a sink, and you also have two fold-out surfaces on either side

to extend the food preparation space. The extension on the right folds up from the side of the kitchenette. The table on the left folds down from the wall, and it is neatly designed so the cup holder allows access to the USB charging socket.

There is also a tall Dometic fridge freezer that opens from both sides, and it sits below a head-height microwave.

### Living onboard

You can walk comfortably through the cabin to the rear social space, even if the passage between the two sofas gets a little narrow. They turn into two single beds, that

you can extend into a large, comfortable double with ease.

There are great little features throughout – the TV, pockets on the inside of the barn doors, USB and USB-C charging points and more.

### Pricy, but worth it

It's so cleverly put together that we expect to see the production model come with a hefty price tag, but for a great built-in feel that straddles the gap between a campervan and a luxury motorhome, I wouldn't mind paying it – if I had the money. If money's no object for you, sign up for more details at [auto-sleepers.com/mstar](http://auto-sleepers.com/mstar). 