

The Wild Stanley Clan Van Kit

The Stuff That Keeps Our Family Of Six Functioning In A Campervan

We didn't build a show van.

We built a home.

Over the last few years we've lived, travelled and worked from a campervan as a family of six. We've made plenty of mistakes, wasted money on things that didn't work and slowly figured out what actually matters.

This isn't a list of everything in our van.

It's the equipment that genuinely made life easier.

Disclaimer - there are some links for you to look at the products, I do earn a tiny commision.

It helps us keep rolling.

1. Pop Top Roof

The single biggest upgrade we made.

Originally bought to give the two eldest children a place to sleep. These days I usually sleep up there myself.

Extra sleeping space changes everything when you're living in a van full-time.

Cost: Around £2,500 fitted.

C & H Campervan Conversions, Shepley Huddersfield

2. Swivel Seats

Sounds boring.

It isn't.

Being able to spin the passenger seats around instantly creates a living room.

For a family van this is one of the best value upgrades we made.

Cost: Around £400.

R & H Campers York/Harrogate

3. Lithium Battery & Victron B2B Charger

The biggest game changer in the entire van.

We started with a 100Ah lead-acid battery and constantly worried about power.

Upgrading to a 300Ah Eco-Worthy lithium battery and Victron B2B charger transformed the van.

Now we can work, charge devices and live normally without constantly watching battery levels.

Battery Link £339 on amazon at time of writing this

[ECO-WORTHY 12V 280AH LiFePO4 Battery](#)

[Victron B2B Charger 30A](#)

4. Chinese Diesel Heater

One of the best purchases we've ever made.

Ours cost about £90.

Despite all the horror stories online, it has run for years with very few issues.

The only failure was a fuel pipe touching the exhaust.

I upgraded the fuel pump and had the heater professionally installed because I had children sleeping in the van. I also got the heater plumbed into the van diesel tank - I didn't want the smell of diesel every time I split it .

Total installed cost: Around £400.

[This is what we use and its £70 now on Amazon here is a link for you to look at](#)

5. Bus seats with over shoulder belts

We fitted three bus seats with shoulder belts.

Not exciting.

Absolutely essential.

Again I had these fitted professionally fitted by Olly at MVS in Huddersfield.

I got these off Facebook marketplace I think I paid £180 plus £50 for fitting.

6. Storage

Storage is survival.

After six different van layouts we've discovered that organisation matters more than fancy gadgets.

We copied the IKEA Kallax design in plywood because the originals didn't survive family life.

The homemade version was stronger and cheaper plus looks rustic which fits very much with my lifestyle!

7. Simple Gas Stove

£20 from Halfords.

One of the best value purchases in the entire build.

It has cooked meals in rain, hail, snow and gale-force winds.

As space was a premium when we started out, I cooked outside. Yep in all weathers.

Then I built a cabinet and moved it inside. I still cook with the door open but i dont get soaked. and its bliss.

I know have in my head how i'll redo the kitchen area and fit it properly with vents. I hadn't planned on the midges in Scotland.

This is the link (I dont get commision for this one) 

[Halfords Stove](#) PPS it was £20 in 2023 when I bought it in store, same model in outdoor shops is £49-£69

8. IKEA Skorva Bed Frame

A massive upgrade from the pallet bed I built previously. Adjustable to any width of van. I'm 15 stone and stood on them to see if strong enough. Yup

More storage.

More strength.

More space.

No splinters.

I then used planks from a timber merchant -

Reason I used pallets was that i could remove the bed easily and still have decent van space.

I saw these on tiktok and holy moly they can just lift out - once you've bought the brackets which Ikea dont sell anymore separately - Ebay does - no commission link 

[Ikea Skorva Beams](#) £20 at this moment YOU NEED BRACKETS 

[Skorva Brackets](#) 6 for £11.99 at writing this.

9. Pod Flares

These allowed me to sleep fully stretched out across the van!

If you're tall, these are worth every penny.

Don't watch them getting fitted you will cry. The extra room you gain is worth it.

My only regret is not having the windows fitted at the same time

Supplied and fitted by “too busy Tony” from 🙌

[A2Bconversions](#)

10. Sliding Pod Windows

The windows themselves are useful.

The built-in bug screens are brilliant.

Except in Scotland.

Nothing stops Scottish midges. Nothing..

Again fitted by ‘Too Busy Tony’ 🙌

[A2B Conversions](#)

11. Solar & Charging

Current setup:

- 300Ah Eco-Worthy LiFePO4 battery
- Victron B2B charger
- Victron MPPT
- 2 x 100W solar panels
- Upgrading with a 460W panel

This setup allows us to stay off-grid for long periods without needing campsites.

I am currently adding a 460W panel and another Victron MPPT controller for it.

[Victron MPPT 50](#)

[Ecoworthy 100W Solar Panels](#)

[460w Upgrade - Bargain](#) £92 im just waiting to pick it up

12. Pure Sine Wave Inverter

I have two inverters in the van just in case!

One of those purchases you don't appreciate until you need it.

Allows us to use normal household appliances from the battery bank.

We mostly use a toastie machine and air fryer

[4000/8000w Inverter](#)

This isn't our specific model its 3500w but same manufacturer and we've had this since 2023. No issues. Just works.

13. Battery Isolation & Protection

I use Red Wolf isolation switches and protection devices.

Simple.

Reliable.

Makes maintenance and fault-finding much easier.

[Isolation Switch](#) these make my life easier!

[Circuit Breaker](#) - please check what you need for your set up!!

Joolca Hot Water System

Hot showers.

Enough said.

Probably the most luxurious thing we own.

We have the nomad system - £500 with its own case that houses everything. Wash up sink with two drainers. Shower head and a tap.

Setup takes a few minutes but having proper hot water while living in a van is worth it. When I get back to our base in Portugal I'm adding a shower unit inside.

Alfresco in winter is a bit more tricky!

I don't get commission for this

[Joolca Nomad System](#)

If you don't need all the above this is similar.

[Hot Water system](#)

DONT FORGET THIS IS FOR USE OUTDOORS!!

Final Thoughts

Most people focus on Instagram-ready campervan builds.

We focused on making life easier for a family of six.

If I were starting again, Pop Top Roof then I would prioritise:

- 1. Lithium battery**
- 2. Diesel heater**
- 3. Swivel seats**
- 4. Solar**
- 5. Storage**

The Joolca Nomad is great but in winter it becomes a chore - i find boiling a pan of water does the trick.

Everything else comes afterwards.

These are the upgrades that genuinely changed our daily lives.

Made it this far? Pull up a chair, you can listen to our podcasts here
www.thevantable.me