



El Campo

CONTEMPO VOLKSWAGEN VAN CONVERSION

El Campo . . . completely new. New in concept, new in design and new in equipment. A unique compact conversion that shines with clever features. A sink that is located so it can be reached from inside or out. A fold down outside table for a portable stove. Even the ice box can be reached from outside. Comfortable seating on both sides of a large sturdy table. A convenient cabinet for a portable flushing toilet and a full length wardrobe. Original seat belts in the rear insure a safe journey for all passengers. And quality workmanship and materials as you would expect in a Volkswagen.

This is just the beginning. There are many new options for custom ordering your new El Campo. New ideas . . . new equipment . . . new materials . . . and new colors. El Campo . . . a product of Contempo Campers, makers of the West's finest van conversions. El Campo is sold only through selected Volkswagen dealerships. Write for the dealer nearest you.

Features

FOLD AWAY ONE PIECE BED WITH MATTRESS AND LINENS - 50 POUND ICE BOX - 8 GALLON WATER SYSTEM - STAINLESS STEEL SINK AND DRAIN - LARGE CLOTHES CLOSET - PORTABLE TOILET CABINET - COMPLETE CURTAINS - LARGE DINING TABLE - CROSS TABLE SEATING - VINYL FLOORING - MAR RESISTANT COUNTERS - ABUNDANT STORAGE - REAR STORAGE SHELF - DECORATOR COLORS.

Options

110/12v ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR WITH 110 OUTLETS - 2 BURNER RANGE WITH PROPANE - PORTA-POTTI TOILET - CONTEMPO TOP - CONTEMPO CUSTOM TOP - UPPER DOUBLE BED FOR TOP - CAB HAMMOCK - REAR DOOR SCREEN - CONSOLE - PORTABLE DINING SEAT - INST-AWN AWNING - ELECTRIC WATER PUMP - REPLACEMENT LOUVER WINDOW - ROOF VENT.

CONTEMPO CAMPERS, INC.

1030 ARROYO STREET, SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA 91340
2314-D BATES AVENUE, CONCORD, CALIFORNIA 94520

By **NORMAN PHILLIPS**
Western Outdoor News Staff Writer

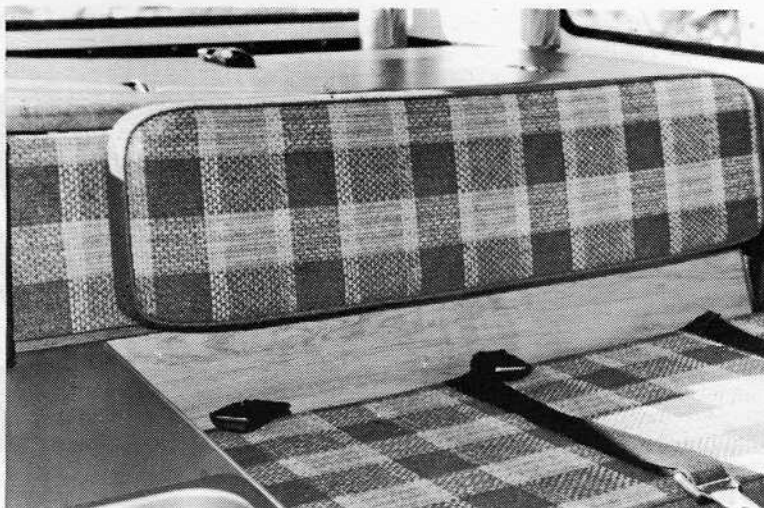
At the other end of the scale from the luxury motor home which this reporter evaluates elsewhere in this issue is the little Contempo van conversion of a Volkswagen bus, as made by the company of that name located of 1030 Arroyo St., San Fernando, Calif., and placed at our disposal through the courtesy of Norman Jacobson, president of Contempo.

It is own way, the Contempo-VW recvee, called by them the El Campo model, is also an absolute delight to live in and to drive. It's handy, compact, comfortable and for two people who want to travel fast, far and wide, and do it inexpensively, this little rig would be hard to beat.

Contempo also makes van conversions having similar features on Ford, Chevy and Dodges, for those who prefer the greater speed and room (and don't mind the lower gas mileage) afforded by these vehicles.

Personally, this reporter doesn't even like VW's; that is, the beetle, the fastback or the station wagon. At least, I know a lot of small imports I like much better. However, I do admit that I love the bus. As currently produced the VW bus highway performance is adequate; at least, if you are in no more of a hurry than I am. It will cruise along at about 60; fast enough to suit me. In the hills you will of course gear down and growl along at 25 or so; especially on a good climb, such as coming up from Mexicali to Rumirosa, or going into Death Valley by way of the Trona entrance.

For the western sportsman who plans some off-the-road operation; going in over a logging road in deer season, or turning off onto a desert trail after jack rabbits, the VW bus in darn near ideal. It's not only the fact that the suspension system is probably the best ever designed for a light weight vehicle. It is also because of that fine rear-engine, rear-wheel-drive setup. What this means is that all the moving parts are clustered at the rear of the car. From there forward all you have beneath you is a big flat piece of sheet steel; practically a skid. You don't have a drive



SPACIOUS rear seat has two pairs of seat belts; could seat three easily. Upholstery is of the new material that looks and feels like the finest wool but is actually a stain-proof resin-based synthetic.

shaft and U-joints to worry about; no forward crankcase under the engine to knock a hole in, or knock off the drain plug and lose all your oil on the ground.

The living unit which Jacobson and his engineers have dreamed up the VW is an absolute gem. It features — get this, now — a made-up double bed which is complete with sheets, blankets an even a vinyl dust-flap to keep the top of it clean. No turning over seats, rearranging cushions and unfolding sleeping bags come bedtime. With the Contempo El Campo, you merely unfasten a safety locking strap, pull the rear panel toward you and the bed unfolds in one second. A heavy web strap supports it on one side; the other rests on the counter top alongside the sink.

Furthermore, this bed is so designed that when ready for slumber, it does not block access to the Porta-Potti under the rear-facing dinette seat. If you have to

use the john during the night, you can do so without putting the bed away.

Standard living equipment on this unit, in addition to the fold-away one-piece double bed, includes a 50 pound ice box; an eight gallon water system with rocker-type hand pump; stainless steel sink and drain; hanging clothes closet; lots of drawers and storage cupboards; dinette with table and complete curtaining for privacy. For a stove you use your regular camp stove. A fold-down table is provided for it on the outside of the ice box cabinet, which folds up for use when the van door is opened.

Our test unit still had the original factory top. Two raised-roof options are available; a canvas-sided pop top or a permanently fixed raised roof of fiberglass.

Naturally a long list of options is available. The El Campo may be



PORTA-POTTI is located under the single rear-facing dinette seat; can be used even when the double bed is down, in sleeping position.

ordered with system — include propane stove, a 110v./12v. pressure water practically even self-contained a mini-motor home.

My own definitely be again. For one they add the weight; hundreds of pounds. VW doesn't have the guts to carry the base price goes to the cost gets that bettah you should dollars with it motor home.

If you take this as it is, you will camping unit. burner pump-up still the best can get, and if you Matic propane is perfect for the Jacobson uses with three or four weather, which will take to eat perishable food store.

In keeping with the out nature of the best of materials is used throughout is done with hard surfaced hardware upholstery is done synthetic fabric floor is covered vinyl-surfaced attractive pattern available as an personally I much surfaced vinyl in type. One swipe in camp will make new.

The liveability amazingly high unit. The dinette table pulls an overhead shelf the pedestal pulls the clothes closet the way, you have seat-four living while away a conversation with nine inch battery would fit nicely galley counter.

a full propane
ding a two-burner
gas/electric or a
refrigerator; a
er system and
ry other item of
t you would find in
me.

decision would
inst these options.
d considerably to
literally many
nds and the little
ve all that much
em. Secondly, the
up sharply and if
t high, much mo'
d put a few more
and buy a mini-

e little Contempo
have a delightful
A modern two-
Coleman stove is
aping unit you can
add the Bernz-O-
conversion unit it's
job. The ice box
ill keep a cake for
days in normal
is as long as you
up the supply of
it has room to

h the well-thought-
e conversion, the
s and wormanship
out. All cabinetry
nds some poly-clad
wood pannelling;
one with the best
e available. The
with a handsome
material in
rns. Carpeting is
optional extra but
h prefer this hard-
n a recvee of this
with a damp rag
ake it look like

ty factor is also
for such a small
pedestal-mounted
lls off and stows in
elf provided for it;
lls out and goes in
et. With this out of
ave a comfortable
area in which to
cold evening in
th friends. A little
y-powered TV set
on one end of the

As for its handling qualities in city traffic, the Contempo unit is a sheer joy. All interior fittings have been so laid out that the driver's view is unobstructed. You can turn your head and look over your right shoulder when backing up and see all around you. Even the hanging clothes locker behind the driver has been cut shallow enough so that you can see around it and out the left side windows. Forward visibility, through the big panoramic windshield and with your high sitting position, is almost as good as when driving a Greyhound bus.

The front-mounted spare, an item of standard equipment on the El Campo conversion, is also a nice safety feature. In case of the front-end impact it gives you something extra in front of you besides the VW's sheet metal shell. However, it's always better if you don't run into things.

So to this reporter, the Contempo El Campo is about the ultimate which can be done within the confines of a VW. I don't see what could be done to improve it, without adding prohibitively to weight and cost. With these factors in mind it's just about perfect the way it sits.

As for handling qualities, this 1971 VW is incomparably the best yet. I rolled it down the freeway easily at 60 mph and a little above, staying in the right hand lane and letting the cowboys whiz past me. In city traffic it will keep up with anything, and do so more safely than most because of the excellent all-round visibility. Braking is the best yet; real stoppers so long as the Gross Vehicle Weight is not exceeded.

The VW of course has a four-on-the-floor stick shift and as always on VWs, it is absolutely crunch-proof. VW has always had about the best transmission ever made; you simply stuff the shifting lever in the general direction of the gear you wish to engage and you'll hit it every time.

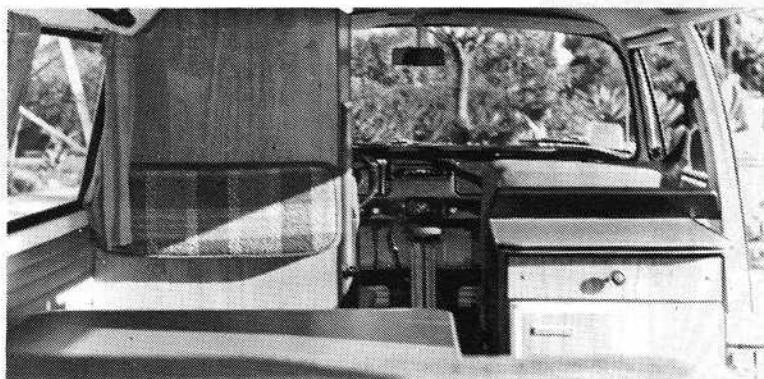
In mountain driving and some dirt road testing, I found the typical VW handling qualities; the deeper the ruts the better the ride. On really sharp turns the steering is a little heavy but this would never be noticed in normal

touring. The van corners beautifully at any speeds of which she is capable.

The slab-sided body is still wind sensitive, of course. When a puff hits you amidships as you pass the mouth of a canyon the bust wants to veer. When you become an experienced VW bus driver you

learn to expect this and you compensate for it without even thinking.

The Contempo-VW combination is a real swell little rig; fine for cross-country touring; great for hunting and fishing trips; as nice a family car as you could get around town.



INTERIOR is spacious when touring; driver visibility excellent. He can look over his right shoulder and see around the wardrobe locker easily, even out of the left wide windows.



IN NICE WEATHER, cooking is done outdoors with a portable stove set on the handy swing-up table mounted on the side of the ice box, thus keeping fumes and grease out of the unit. On a nasty night, the stove can be moved inside, to the top of the ice box. Sink, water pump and food storage cabinet are seen on the left of the van entrance.



BED is kept made up with sheets and blankets; folds out in a second with just one movement.



SPORTSMEN ON WHEELS



A SUPPLEMENT TO WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS

WE TEST DRIVE THE

CONTEMPO VAN CONVERSION



THE CONTEMPO — VW combination is a fine long-range touring vehicle, as nimble as a goat back in the boondocks, but also a handy vehicle in heavy city traffic.

Reprinted from Western Outdoor News