

Anne and John Adams jra@adamsj.com 404-786-0113

Our usage model appears to be a little different from many van lifers:

We tend to wander and “tour”, taking short and long trips from our home base in Atlanta GA. We mostly visit small towns and out-of-the way places, punctuated by visits to family and friends. We don’t generally “camp” (that is, we don’t stay in one place for a long time, and *we definitely don’t hang out in or around the vehicle during the day*). Instead, when we park somewhere, we get outside and wander around on foot or on bikes, and use the campervan mostly for sleeping, and breakfast/lunch. We generally avoid campgrounds; instead, we use Harvest Hosts, Boondockers Welcome, stealth parking, and driveway surfing. We want to be able to function without plugging in whenever possible (we have not plugged in since we added the second alternator 6 months ago!). We don’t plan on going into the deep woods, and prefer a stealth look (without the fancy accessories).

The overall concept:

2020 Sprinter 2500/170 cargo van with 4-cylinder diesel and swivel seats

Substantial sound-proofing and insulation, including over the headliner.

Bed runs length-wise to front edge of wheel well; bed will generally stay in-place but can be removed (in sections) if needed for hauling. Garage underneath for bikes etc.

3 BattleBorn GameChanger3 batteries for 810 Ah

Charging provided by 3x175 watts solar, and a second alternator (*we can*, but never do, plug in to shore power)

Victron MultiPlus 3000 to power water heater, induction cooktop, etc. We generally don’t need 120 VAC.

MaxxAir roof fan at rear, Dometic RTX-2000 AC unit in front of fan, then 3 x 175 watt Renogy solar panels.

Espar diesel furnace

Electric water heater, portable induction cooktop, microwave, 12 volt refrigerator/freezer

No propane

Mule bags for upper storage cabinets (reduce weight, fewer sharp edges, simple to re-configure, etc.)

Wet bath (shower with Laveo Dry-Flush toilet)

Large freshwater tank (30 gallons) inside; with filler located inside

Smallish grey tank underneath, with easy dumping (10 gallons?; maybe one for sink and other for shower?)

Extra seating for two -- folding bench seat behind driver-seat (complete kit from Fenton Mobility)

Slide-out bike tray from Flatline Van Co.

Headliner shelf with curtain rod from White Top Adventures

No brush guards, search lights, lift kits, tow accessories, ladders, etc. – remember, we’re simply *touring*

We are not seeking a “deluxe” finish – instead we prefer more and better **functionality**. For example, avoid tile (it’s heavy, and cracks in a vehicle) and heavy countertops, and instead use lighter materials. Where appropriate, use aluminum instead of heavy and bulky wood (eg, for the bed frame). Use the weight savings for better soundproofing and insulation, more fresh water and batteries, etc.