

Motorcaravanabout



Martin Johnson (left) and Managing Director Bob Edwards in Diamond components store.

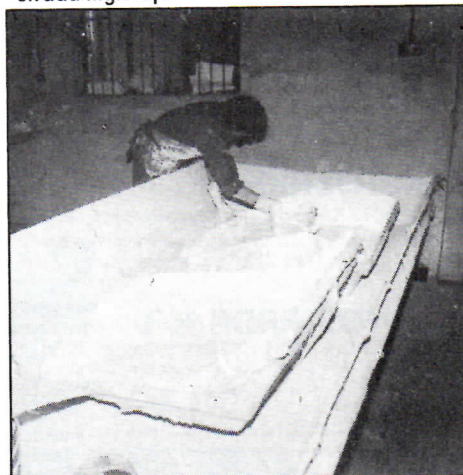
Man-made Diamonds

Tucked away in a couple of small units on a trading estate in Leighton Buzzard, men are making Diamonds. Their raw materials are sheets of plywood, rolls of carpet, lengths of square tube, mats of glassfibre, buckets of resin, tins of paint and bales of cloth. From them they produce some unusual motorcaravans,

based mainly on Volkswagen Transporters with a sprinkling of Mercs and an occasional Mazda. Apart from refrigerators, cookers and sinks, very few complete items are bought in. "We can make exactly what we want," said Alister Whitmore. "It's more efficient than having to adapt our designs to suit components made by outsiders."



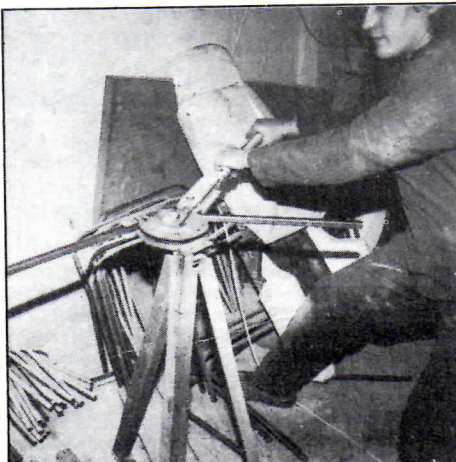
Awaiting final inspection: Diamond Autostrada high top.



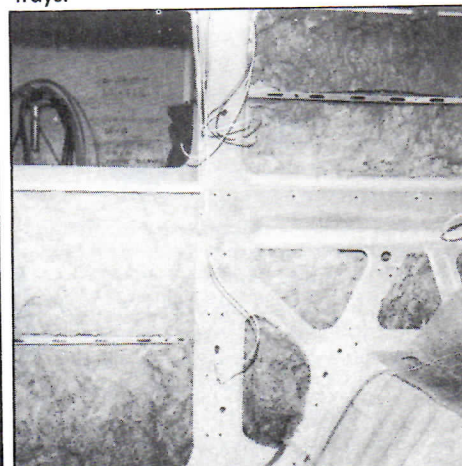
During manufacture: GRP roof and shower trays.



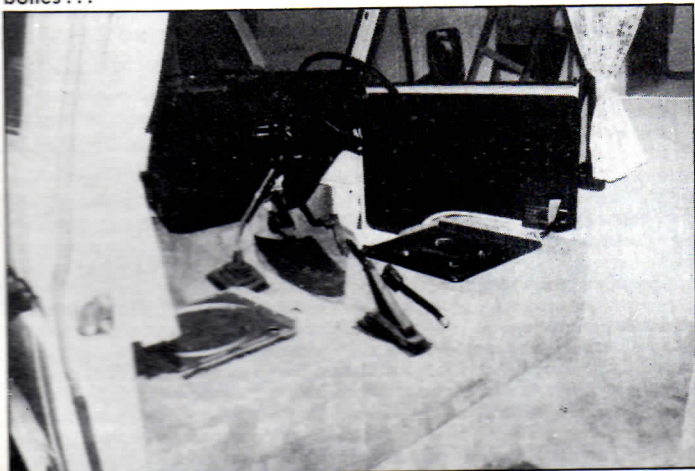
Start with standard VW seat and strip to bare bones...



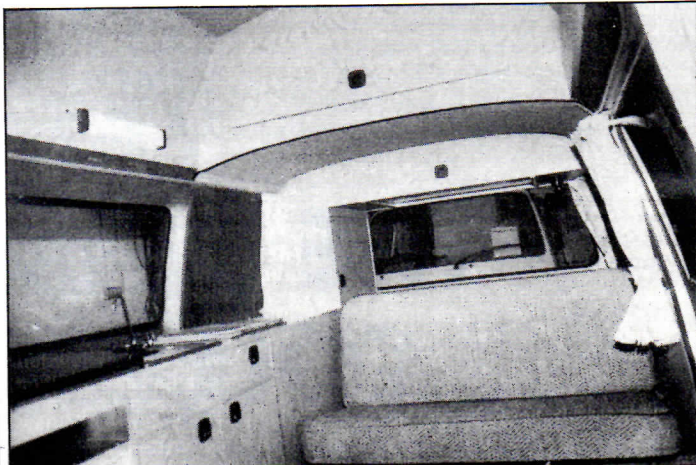
... then make up a special sub-frame for Diamond seating.



Side walls are thoroughly insulated with glass wool.

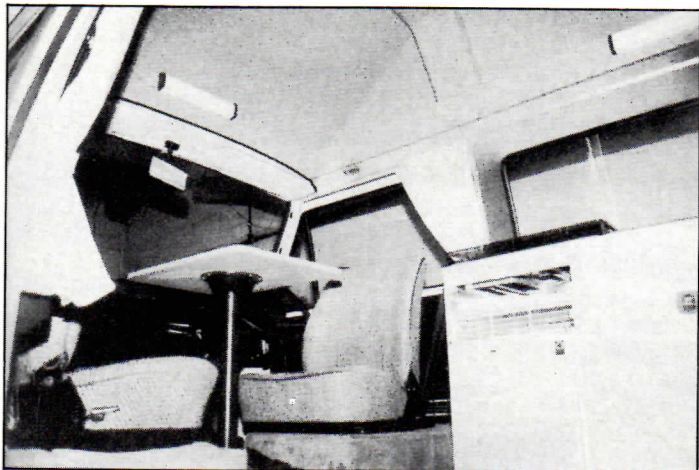


While front seats are being re-made, carpet and swivels are installed in the VW's cab.

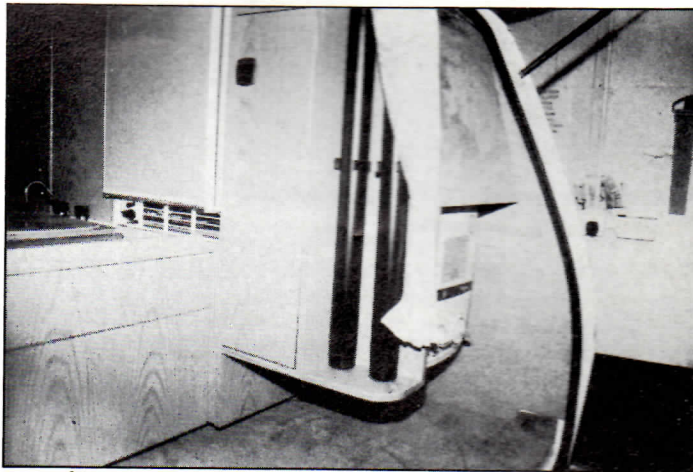


Rear view of Autostrada nearing completion.

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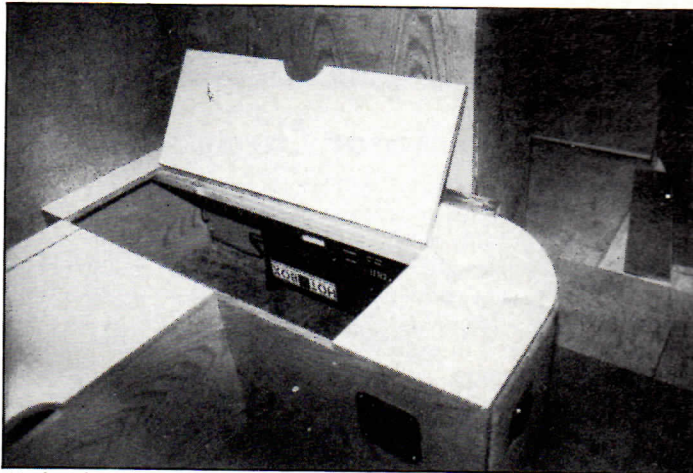
Cutaway cab roof, swivelling cab seats in Autostrada.



Rear of VW Autocruiser, showing water heater for shower and two table legs stowed.



Mock-up in Merc, viewed from rear.



Hotbox heater sits unobtrusively in Merc's Camp Locker.