

# WHICH 2010 motorcaravan nominated ➔ Chausson Flash 14 awards



» The Flash 14 sits on a Ford Transit platform-cab and just manages to squeeze into the budget class

**J**UST as Ford were beginning to create a credible niche for the Transit in the motorhome market, things have been pegged back again, it seems, although contenders like this can only help the cause.

For 2010, from their low-profile Flash series, Chausson have conjured up the 14, based on a Transit platform-cab (as opposed to the taller chassis-cab). It just manages to squeeze into our budget class, but it's quite some motorhome whichever way you look at it.

OK, coachbuilts offering two fixed single beds (even when there's the opportunity to turn them into a double, as here) haven't been in sufficient demand to take over from more traditional layouts. But, there is one possible reason for this. Many such layouts feature garage storage that puts the beds above it too high and subsequently too tricky to access for many older buyers.

That's not a problem here because, although there's exterior access from both sides to the under-bed storage areas, Chausson haven't gone for the 'full garage'. There's a slight step up into each bed, but it's likely to be manageable by most.

You don't have to stick with those twin singles, either. Pull out the slats and you're on the way to forming a sizeable and comfortable double. As importantly, whichever set-up you go for, there's always the ability to sit up in bed to read or watch TV. Plus, in keeping with the twin singles set-up, there are complementary his 'n' hers wardrobes at the foot of each bed.

Moving forward, the 14's kitchen comes with a three-ring hob plus circular sink, with a useful triangle of worktop between the two. The grill under the sink should cater for UK toast-making tastes, and there's a large cutlery drawer, but overall kitchen storage space remains at a premium.

The washroom, located on the nearside and directly opposite the kitchen, continues the circles theme with a semi-enclosed shower, swivel-bowl toilet and round basin with mixer tap that doubles as the showerhead. Blown-air heating and hot water are courtesy of a Webasto unit operating from diesel.

For dining, you could actually seat five around the side-fixed (extending) table – thanks to swivelled cab chairs, the rear double and a side seat. At night-time, you



can make a third bed from the lounge seating; among the options is the facility to add a fourth sleeping berth.

You may be tempted to sneak a peek at the options list. Certainly, the extra £841 to trade up to the 140bhp engine is a serious consideration, although you might want to forego cab air-conditioning at nearly a grand, though you'd probably regret that at re-sale time. Orders to date have gone for both of these, plus the £204 cab stereo upgrade.

## ➔ CHAUSSON fact file

**Make:** Chausson  
**Model:** Flash 14  
**Base vehicle:** Ford Transit 350L platform-cab  
**Engine:** 2.2-litre TDCi (115bhp)  
**L/W/H:** 6.69m, 2.30m, 2.71m  
**Gross weight:** 3500kg  
**Payload:** 622kg  
**Berths:** 3 (optional 4)  
**Travel seats:** 4  
**Price from:** £34,950

