

ROMINI

**PETERBOROUGH TOW BAR
AND
TRAILER CENTRE**
Empson Road, Eastern Industry,
Peterborough, PE1 5UP



312088

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SMALL CAR CARAVAN

LOW COST RELAXED TOURING

Insulated all-weather grp body



The ROMINI lightweight GRP Caravan has been designed for use with most cars including those as small as a MINI!

It only weighs around 375kg and with its short overall length of 3 metres, brings low cost relaxed touring within the range of most families. It is cheaper on ferries, easier to park and with its stylish, double skinned low maintenance glass fibre body, a truly all year round holiday home.

It is surprisingly roomy, with the standard version accommodating a full size double berth 73" x 48", galley with sink and cooker, cushioned seats, collapsible table and plenty of storage (including a hanging locker and outside gas compartment).

Many optional extras including 3rd bunk, oven, refrigerator, chemical toilet, heater and fire extinguisher are available. We can also supply a self supporting rear Awning for further sleeping accommodation or as a natural extension when your friends arrive for dinner!

Why not try the ROMINI for yourself. Our factory at Ryde is only 10 minutes from Portsmouth by Hovercraft and we'll happily meet you by appointment at the Quay.

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Boatbuilders Island Plastics of Ryde, Isle of Wight, brought their skills and experience in GRP manufacture to the caravan world with the Romahome demountable, designed to fit the little Honda Acty pick-up and its similarly-sized Japanese cousins. Now they have added a tourer to their range, the Romini, which like its pickaback stablemate sets out to provide basic caravan facilities in the absolute minimum of space.

With an unladen weight of just under 7.4cwt the Romini is within the towing capabilities of virtually any car, even Citroën's 2CV. It brings caravanning within the reach of the mini car owner and those who are daunted by the prospect of towing a 'full-size' caravan. With a shipping length of 9ft 10in and a body length of just 7ft 1in it still manages to look small even when coupled to Austin Rover's famous Mini! Width is a shade under 6ft 3in and the height to the top of the rooflight is

7ft 5in, which gives a bare six feet of headroom inside.

Island Plastics have had a special, box-section chassis built for their new miniature (there was nothing small enough around) and have then incorporated chassis and securing plates in the GRP moulding giving strength and protection against corrosion. There's nothing novel about the running gear, however. The Romini rides on an Al-Ko axle with independent, maintenance-free rubber suspension, and brakes with automatic back-up operated through an Al-Ko overrun unit and coupling. Wheels are shod with 145 x 10 Uniroyal radials.

Those who know the Romahome will have no trouble pinpointing the origins of the Romini. The outfit is boxy, of necessity to preserve interior space, but a rounded roofline and front corners and a smart, integral, gas bottle locker and front valance give an illusion of sleekness. A waist moulding with rubber-in-aluminium strake and brown and orange coachstripes break up the expanse of white GRP which, reflecting the company's long experience of the medium, is



The Romini's glazed stable door is at the back; an awning is available.

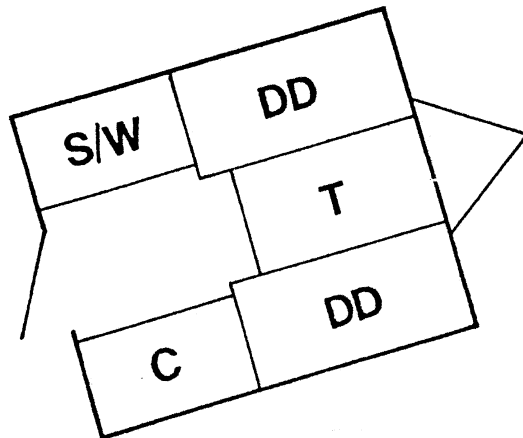
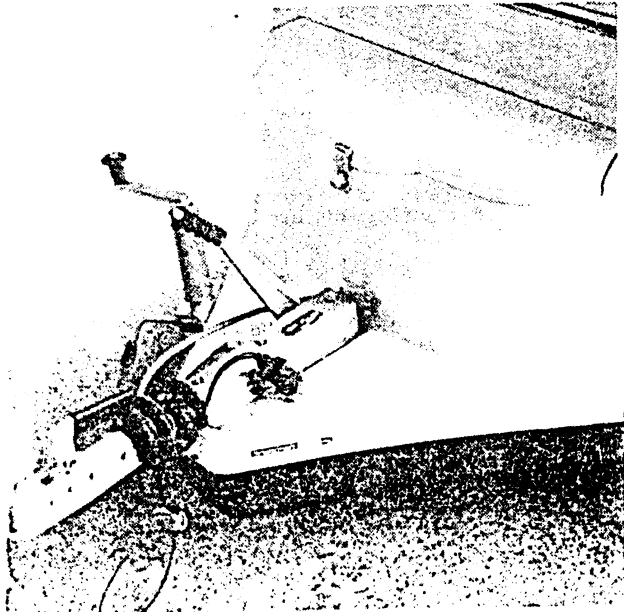
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Neat drawbar shroud and faired-in gas bottle locker are indicative of the manufacturer's expertise in producing well-finished GRP mouldings typical of the Romini.

Romini at a glance

Price £1695 Body length 7ft 1in Shipping length 9ft 10in
 Body width 6ft 3in Overall height 7ft 5in Headroom 6ft
 Ex-works weight 7.4cwt Maximum gross weight 11.8cwt
 Body double-skinned GRP Chassis steel, with Al-Ko
 rubber suspension, Al-Ko coupling and overrun unit
 Tyres radial ply on 10in steel rims
 Beds one double, 6ft 1in x 4ft
 Makers Island Plastics, Edward Street, Ryde, Isle of
 Wight PO33 2SJ; phone 0983 64911

Layout plan S/W sink unit/wardrobe DD dinette/double bed T table C cooker



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finished to a very high standard. The Romini body is in fact double skinned with polyurethane foam providing an insulating core. There's 25mm of foam in the floor and 16mm in sides, ends and roof to keep the occupants warm in winter and cool in summer. The acrylic windows, openers at the sides and a full-width unit at the front, are single glazed with double glazing available at extra cost for the side windows only.

With such a small space to play with it can't have taken the designers long to decide on the layout! Entrance to the Romini is through a rear stable door, its upper section glazed. In the rear corners cabinet units provide storage and galley facilities, while forward is a conventional dinette arrangement and a pair of roof lockers over the front window. All furniture units are in GRP and integral with the body, adding to its strength and stiffness, with conventional material - a simulated teak-finish chipboard - used only for the cabinet doors.

Dinette seating is nicely proportioned and with raked seat-backs which set an example not seen in many larger and more expensive vans. The table top, carried on wall clips and a folding leg, drops between the seats, and cushions (4in thick, medium-density foam) rearrange to make a 6ft 1in x 4ft double bed. Underseat storage is supplemented by a drop-front locker in the box section which adds strength to the forward part of the body moulding.

At the rear the nearside cabinet unit is topped by an integral sink and tiny drainer. Water is provided by a Whale V pump from a lift-out container in the cupboard below, which also has a moulded crockery rack and a handy door moulding to take bottles, eggs and butter. A door above the nearside unit opens to reveal not the expected cupboard but a slim 'wardrobe slot' disappearing into the side of the caravan and offering hanging space for just two or three garments. The base of the wardrobe contains a hammock-like arrangement at the back of the cupboard below and makes possible the retrieval of anything dropped into the seemingly inaccessible depths of the tiny wardrobe.

On the offside a Lytham Explorer two-burner-and-grill cooker tops the cabinet unit. There's a handy cupboard above and a particularly spacious cupboard be-

low, the latter having room to accommodate an Electrolux 122 fridge if required. With a permitted gross weight of 11.8cwt the Romini has an ample margin to accept such extras, but the fridge would waste much of the space of the deep cupboard. The single, flyscreened rooflight in the caravan is sensibly sited over the galley area and the only internal light is here too, over the door. Most owners will no doubt choose to supplement the fluorescent unit with the two spotlights which can be fitted below the forward rooflockers as an extra-cost option.

The Romini is small, simple and basically equipped but it has an

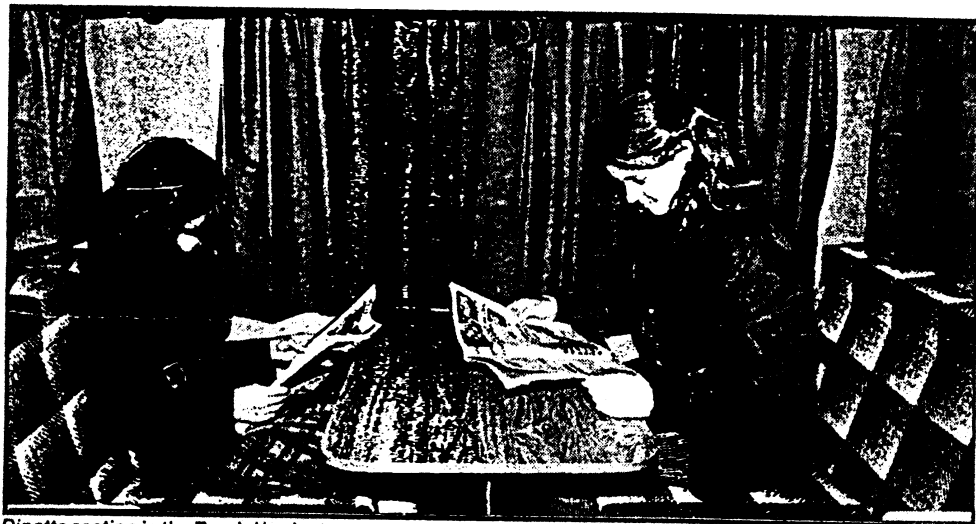
air and a genuine feeling (just tap those sides or the neat interior cabinetwork) of solidity. It makes no pretensions of luxury but what is done is well done. A flocked lining to the interior walls and a carpeted floor give a cosiness which is enhanced by the warm autumn colours of the upholstery. The neat pelmet/shelf extending around the dinette is trimmed in the same material as the cushions to add colour to what, with the bare white of the GRP units, might otherwise be a rather stark interior. Curtains are generously cut and close to leave no peepholes to the outside world.

Island Plastics offer a rear awning for the Romini and suggest that one carry a couple of camp beds, chairs and a table to furnish it. That implies for the tiny van a rather improbable role as a family unit. More likely the Romini

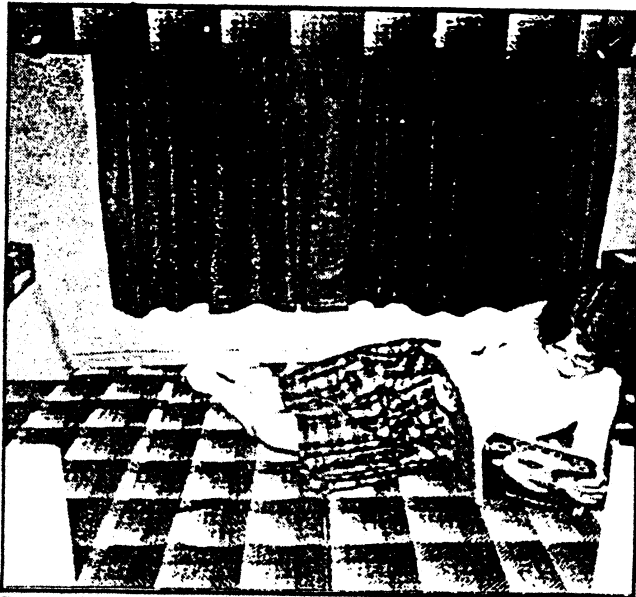
will be the choice of couples, and from the 'senior citizen' bracket. The optional awning if bought will be to increase living space for longer on-site stays, and the optional third berth bunk will accommodate a grandchild for weekend treats.

Light, easy and economical to tow and easy to handle off the car, the Romini will appeal to existing caravanners looking to trade space for convenience and economy, to newcomers wary of towing a 'full-size' caravan or to those who might otherwise have chosen a pint-sized motor caravan.

At £1695 the newcomer from across the Solent is cheap in absolute terms but not if one considers the price in terms of pounds-per-inch! It is, however, a very well made product and you're paying for the quality, not the width. **CB**



Dinette seating in the Romini is nicely proportioned and features comfortably raked backrests; check upholstery in autumnal colours together with matching pelmets add colour and warmth to the interior.



The dinette converts to a comfortable and reasonably-proportioned double bed; curtains are generously cut and leave no gaps.

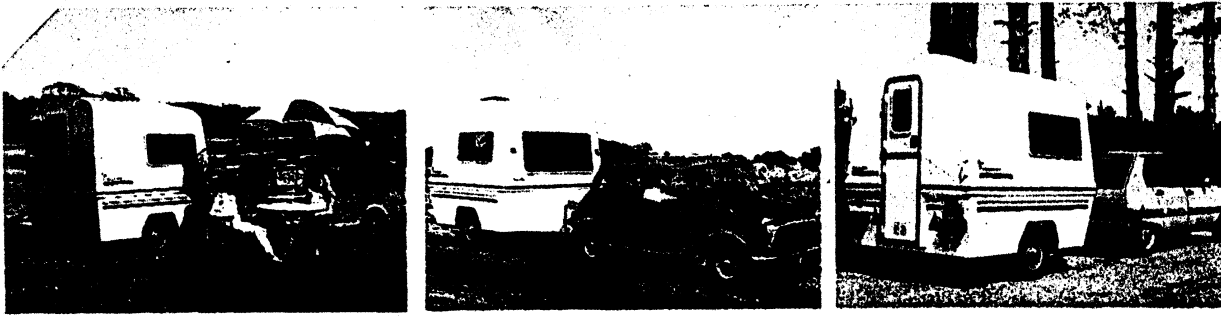


'Fridge-door' storage rack in kitchen cupboard (fridge is extra).

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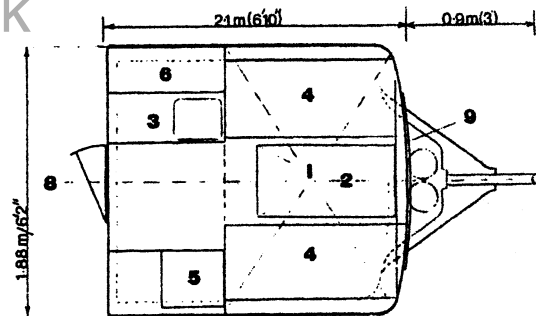
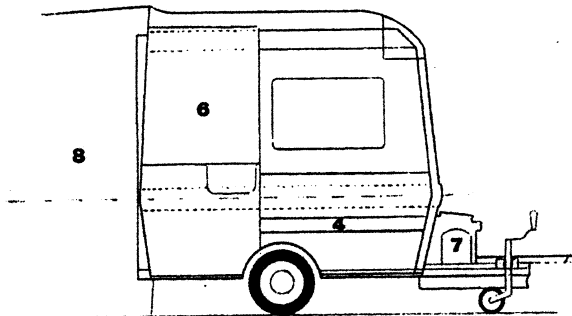
SPECIFICATION

Overall length	3 metres (118")	Overall height 10" wheels	2.28 metres (90")
Body length	2.16 metres (85")	12" wheels	2.34 metres (92")
Overall width	1.88 metres (74")	13" wheels	2.37 metres (93")
Max. gross weight	650 kilos	Headroom	1.84 metres (72½")

Fully insulated foam sandwich reinforced plastic construction with fixed double glazed acrylic front window and opening side windows. The stable door is fitted as standard. Galvanised hitch fitted with Jockey wheel. Metal chassis fully encased within body as proof against corrosion.

Moulded GRP furniture with simulated teak doors, upholstered seats, fitted carpet, flock lined washable interior finish, fitted cooker/grill, moulded sink with hand pump and water storage.

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- KEY
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Double Berth 73" x 48" | 5. Cooker, storage above and below |
| 2. Collapsible Table | 6. Hanging Locker |
| 3. Sink and drainer, storage below | 7. Gas Storage |
| 4. 4" Cushioned Seats, lockers below | 8. Optional Awning |
| | 9. Big 48" x 21" Double Glazed Window |

In the interest of development we reserve the right to alter the design and specifications.

The details quoted in this brochure do not form the basis of a contract.

All business entered into by this company are in accordance with our conditions of sale, a copy of which may be inspected upon request.



manufactured by:

ISLAND PLASTICS LTD.

Edward Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight. PO33 2SJ

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