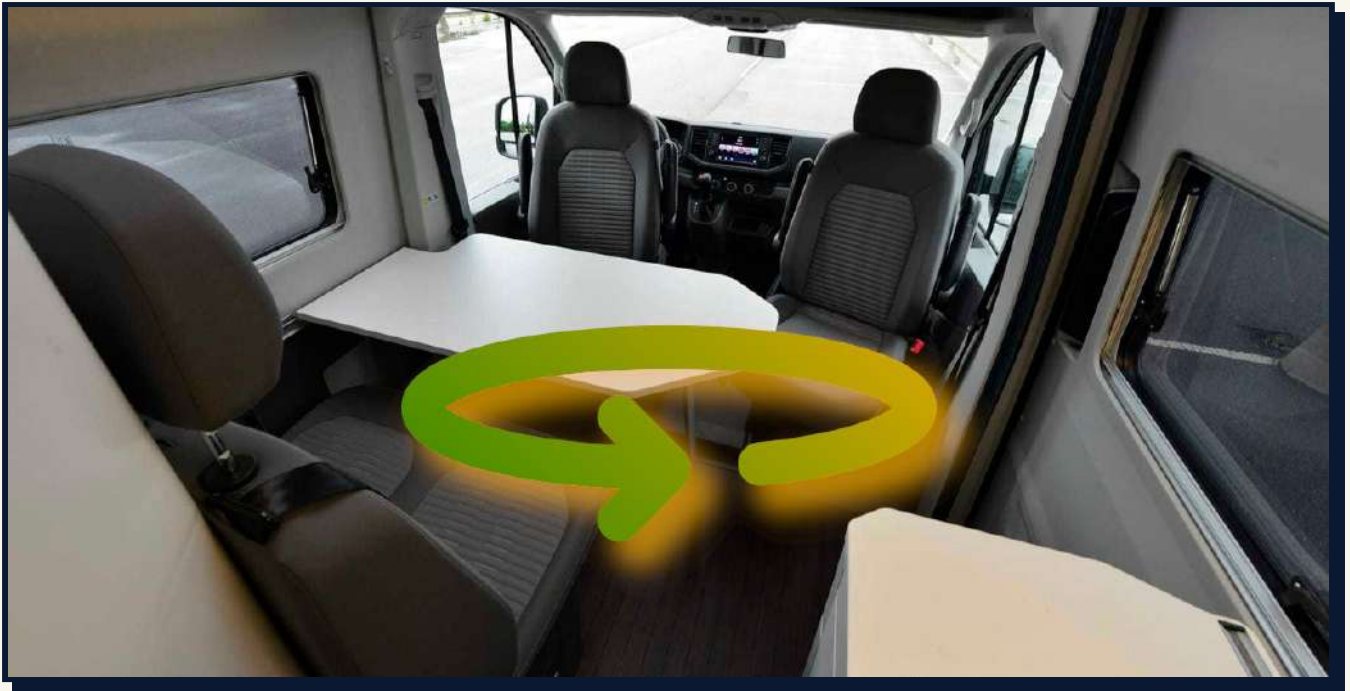


MAKE ROOM BY TURNING

How to significantly improve storage space in a camper van. Inexpensive, quick & easy to do



In a panel van camper, every centimeter of space counts. So it makes perfect sense to include the driver's cab in the space planning. To achieve this, many manufacturers use swivel brackets as standard equipment to allow the front seats to swivel. But DIY builders can also purchase these swivel brackets and install them themselves or have them installed.

One manufacturer that has been producing swivel consoles for over 30 years is Scopema from France. A new generation (Version 3) has recently become available, offering further improvements in height, weight, and ease of rotation. This is a good opportunity to take a closer look at this interesting topic once again.

What Really Matters

When it comes to swivel brackets, even DIY enthusiasts shouldn't focus solely on price. It's much more important that the swivel brackets have the necessary certifications to be legally installed in a vehicle. In addition to obvious factors like the actual swivel function and durability, there are also important differences in seemingly minor details. If the swivel console is too heavy or raises the seating position too much, the joy will quickly fade.

What to Look For

Key considerations when making a purchase:

- Are there any documents for the swivel console that allow for legal installation?
- What are the technical specifications? How well is the rotating mechanism implemented?
- How complicated is the installation? Does the manufacturer provide instructions?
- Is there any long-term experience with the manufacturer's product quality? Does the manufacturer or retailer offer good customer service?
- Will the swivel console fit my vehicle? Specifically, the model, year, and trim level?

Editor's Note: The manufacturer, Scopema, provided us with two swivel consoles for this review. This fact does not influence our editorial opinion or our coverage of this topic.

WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

It's only at second glance that you realize how important the details of the swivel consoles are

In fact, every millimeter matters when it comes to the height of the swivel console. This is because it significantly affects the seating position. Not only can a swivel console that's too high make the seating position uncomfortable for shorter drivers, but it can also raise the entire seat so high that the table in the seating area suddenly becomes too low. A preliminary review is therefore essential.

Here's How to Install It

- Remove the original front seats. Depending on the vehicle, disconnect the battery first
- Place the swivel console on the original seat consoles and screw it in place
- Install the front seats on the swivel brackets and secure the seat rails with screws
- Depending on the model, this may be necessary: Lowering the parking brake

Furthermore, the additional weight should not be underestimated and must be taken into account when calculating the possible payload. It is therefore important that the swivel mount be as light as possible.

Scopema V3 Swivel Consoles

Thinner:
Only 21mm now

Lighter:
Starting at 8.5 kg (depending on the model)

Seamlessly integrated:
Use of the Original Mounting Points

Very safe:
Automatic forward-facing lock



Conclusion

In our test, Scopema's RIB swivel consoles proved to be a perfect solution. The high-quality craftsmanship and well-thought-out technical details completely won us over. Installation is quick and easy. Even the need to lower the parking brake — as required on the Volkswagen Crafter— is no problem thanks to the included parts. The swivel mechanism feels secure and durable. We can therefore wholeheartedly recommend the new Version 3. Scopema swivel consoles are available for many popular panel vans by Fiat, Citroën, Ford, Mercedes, Nissan, Opel, Peugeot, Renault, Toyota and Volkswagen. If you'd rather not do the work yourself, you can find a Scopema dealer that's right for you.

About the manufacturer

Year Founded:
1981

Country:
France

Revenue:
15 million euros

Brands:
RIB