

A new sleeping bench for a new market



Aguti, a German company that is part of the AL-KO VT Group, has developed a sleeping bench for several types of vans, that is as versatile as a Swiss Army Knife

Words Paolo Galvani

There is no European recreational vehicle manufacturer that is not on Aguti's list of customers. The German manufacturer is a leading provider of seat systems and seat connections for motorhomes, vans, electric vehicles, and special vehicles and has been part of AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group since 2020. Aguti also offers sleep-

ing benches, belt frames, swivel consoles, substructures and more.

The company has been experiencing great success in the motorhome and van conversion sector. Furthermore, the market for motorhomes and camper vans (including Fiat Ducato, Mercedes-Benz Sprinter and likewise) has grown surprisingly in recent years. In 2020, Germany is the largest European market, with more than 78,000 motorhome registrations. In comparison to 2019, Camper vans reached a market share of 47.5% and a growth of 64.1%. Low-profile motorhomes experienced an increase of 37.1% and integrated models by 26%.

Individual needs

The needs of multifunctional vans are quite different to those of traditional motorhomes and require specific solutions. Each element has to be individually designed according to specific dimensions, especially for

the rear seats or the rear bench. In "normal" vehicles, the main focus is the ergonomic aspect. However, when it comes to multifunctional vans, a bench needs to be ergonomic, versatile and functional, and it is fundamental that it can be easily converted into a bed.

Aguti has developed the S2 sleeping bench, with two individually adjustable and foldable seats, that fulfils all those requirements. It offers the well-known comfort of Aguti seats and can accommodate 2 persons, with just a few hand movements. Intelligent folding kinematics offer a continuously variable adjustment of the backrests. In combination with a special extension or an integrated flex board, a quick and simple folding mechanism turns the two seats into a sleeping bench and a comfortable lounger. The location of the seat belt buckles is underneath the seat. Also, the integrated 3-point seat belt and Isofix guarantees all required safety standards.

Multiple options

The backrests and the headrests can be in-





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Company profile

Since January 1st, 2020, Aguti has been part of the AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group, that is active around the globe and continuously expands its growth. The group focuses on technology, research, and development in the area of vehicle technology. Aguti's products complement the existing range of services and products from AL-KO and its partners by seating technology, such as individual seats, benches, swivel consoles, substructures, and mountings for vans, motorhomes, or special vehicles. An innovative and powerful team of in-house designers and a development department create innovative products and functional solutions on a daily basis. Aguti Produktentwicklung & Design GmbH continues to operate under the existing company name and is managed as an independent unit within the AL-KO Vehicle Technology Group. As a result, Aguti is also part of DexKo Global Inc., which was formed in 2016 from a merger of Dexter and AL-KO and is the world's leading manufacturer of axles and chassis components in the light segment.

dividually adjusted. Like most Aguti products, the S2 sleeping bench can be customized with several options, such as one or two integrated 3-point seat belts or different headrests ("G2000" and "Comfort"). The dimensions of the S2 sleeping bench including adapters for Aguti's Rail-in version measure 100 cm wide, 80 cm deep and 122.5 cm high, with a weight of approximately 62 kg.

The angle of the backrest adjustment can be set between 15 and 90 degrees. The ASBC (Aguti Safety Bend Control) belt frame ensures a controlled deformation in case of a crash.

The S2 sleeping bench is designed to be compatible with the original rail system from Toyota and PSA ("K0" = Peugeot Expert + Traveller, Citroen Jumpy + Space Tourer, Toyota Pro Ace + Pro Ace Verso, Opel Zafira Life), MB Vito + V-Class or can be fitted with the Aguti Rail-in system for all other types of vans.

Currently, Aguti is developing a holistic approach for all sleeping benches. This will also include a 3-seater sleeping bench and a specific rail system.

A unique philosophy

Aguti, certified to DIN EN ISO 9001:2015, has its own philosophy that can be summa-

rized as: "flexible and reliable, for innovative products with know-how & quality". Aguti's values are knowledge and know-how regarding the importance of ergonomic, comfortable, and healthy seating as well as the adaptation to individual customer requirements.

To keep up quality standards, the company primarily manufactures in Germany and attaches particular importance to close co-operation with its customers. The in-house development department researches innovative products and functional solutions to enable a quick response to market demands and turns the company into a perfect business partner for all kinds of challenging individual products.

Today, the Aguti team counts about 50 people and supplies approximately 50,000 front seats per annum, which accounts for just over half of its revenue. The other half is generated by belt frames, swivel consoles, substructures and more. Such a high output, generated by such a proportionally low number of employees, is only possible due to the company's core activities: design, development, prototyping, purchasing, logistics, sales, and marketing. For the manufacturing of its products, Aguti is co-operating with 12 core suppliers.

Aguti seats are all-rounders in terms of

comfort, safety, and ergonomics. The seats and benches are specifically customized to the needs of motorhome and van users and fulfil all travel and comfort requirements. The anatomically shaped seating surfaces ensure healthy, comfortable, and body-supported positions. Hardly any other seat manufacturer offers such a wide range of specifically designed upholstery foams. In addition, the amount of multiple swivel consoles and substructures enables the installation of all common vehicle types.



S2 SLEEPING BENCH TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions	W 1000 x D 800 x H 1225 mm
Weight	approx. 62 kg
Backrest inclination	+15° +90°
Longitudinal adjustment	on rails
Compatible rail systems	MB, PSA "K0", Rail-In (Aguti)

