

# Vanessa operating instructions

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## Introduction

Thank you for renting Vanessa. Although we will walk you through the van, we encourage you to read these instructions before heading out. You will hate it when the VERY BAD things happen. We know Vanessa very well after 100,000 miles and over 1000 nights camping. Problems? Call or text Andrew at 765-413-6422 or David at 765-412-2174. Call RV Share customer

service at 888-482-0234. If you need 24/7 roadside assistance call Quest at 855-229-9696 and have your RV Share papers handy.

The Sprinter van and interior are in excellent condition. We will make our best efforts to ensure all appliances are functioning normally at the time of rental. However, we cannot guarantee that everything will be working throughout your trip because, as you know, anything, new or old, can fail at any time. If something fails before your rental starts, we will try to fix it and let you know if we can't. If something fails during your rental, please tell us right away so we can start ordering parts.

## Breaking camp checklist

NOTE: We have left things in campsites and had them stolen while hiking.

Turn off generator and air conditioner.

Disconnect and stow the power hookup cable, hose, and dump line.

Lower the TV antenna.

Drive off leveling blocks and stow them.

Turn off water heater and propane supply switch.

Close all windows.

Turn off ceiling fan so lid closes.

Open curtain on sliding door.

Rotate seats and lock in forward position.

Close and latch all drawers, doors, and refrigerator.

Clear loose things off counters.

Check you have important things: keys, phones, purse, these instructions.

Fasten everyone with a seatbelt.

## Summary of **VERY BAD** things that can ruin your trip

*These may lead to loss of deposit and/or payment of insurance deductible*

Not following breaking camp checklist

Pumping gas instead of diesel into the fuel tank

Pouring DEF into the wrong tank

Riding the breaks when going down a mountain

Driving with underinflated tires

Driving under a low underpass or off-road

Placing tissue or other improper things down toilet

Overfilling the black tank

Running batteries down below 12.0 V or SOC below 50%

Using furnace or generator with less than 1/4 tank of diesel fuel

Aiming electric heater too close to flammable object

Freezing water pipes

Failure to react to leak in propane system

Closing the cooktop when burner is hot

Opening rear doors all the way with windows open

Driving with the TV antenna raised

Using the awning in hard rain or high wind

## Purchase diesel fuel

Be very careful to **never put gas into the fuel tank** which will destroy the engine (**VERY BAD**). If you add some gas by mistake, **do not start the van** and call for help. The engine requires ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel which is the only type of diesel fuel that is available in the USA. More than half of "gas" stations carry diesel fuel. It is best to avoid 20% biodiesel but that may be all that is available in some states such as Illinois and many truck stops. Do not run the diesel furnace with biodiesel in the tank. The diesel fill door is just behind and locked by the driver door as shown. The tank holds 26 gallons which should take you 300 miles before the "Reserve fuel" message at 1/4 tank.



## Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF)

The Sprinter van has a special tank of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) that it uses to reduce exhaust emissions. We top it off before rentals and it should last over 4000 miles. If it starts to run low, you will get a message on the dashboard about 500 miles before it will run out. No need to purchase until you get this message. When it runs out you will not be able to start the engine, so if you have many miles left for your trip, you will need to purchase DEF soon. You will find it at many gas stations and at car parts stores, Walmart, and truck stops. Purchase a 2.5 gallon container (about \$15), pop the hood, and find the DEF fill cap on the left near the front. **Do not put into the fuel tank or any other tank (VERY BAD)**. Screw the spout onto the container and get someone to hold the spout tube in the pipe as you pour slowly. It should take the whole 2.5 gallons so you can then dispose of the container. No need to buy more to fill the tank all the way. If any spills, rinse with water and wash your hands.

## Security alarm system

When you lock the van with the key fob it will arm the Sprinter security system. The alarm will sound if the driver door is opened by the key, a door is forced open, the van moves (including sometimes by strong winds), or if there is any movement inside the van. If you open the driver door with a key (say if the battery in the fob runs down) then the alarm will sound. You can cancel the alarm by pressing the unlock button on any key fob or placing the key in the ignition. We recommend locking the



van at night when in public places, in which case you will need to bypass the internal motion sensor. To do this, press the left button as shown in the overhead console then lock with the key fob while the red light is blinking.

## Parking brake

You should set the brake when camping, especially if you are on leveling blocks. Pull up hard on the lever to the right of the driver seat, then push it back down so it will not be in the way of rotating seats. To release, pull up while pushing on the end with your thumb – if successful you will feel the spring pull the lever back to the floor.

## Gear shift

The automatic transmission has the usual Park Reverse Neutral and Drive settings. Press the brake while in the park position to start and remember to put in Park before turning off the engine or if leaving the driver seat with the engine running. While in Drive, you can force lower gears by pressing the gear shift lever to the left several times and go back to higher gears by pressing to the right several times. The current gear number will be shown on the dash. The main use for this is for going down steep grades. When descending a mountain at 5% or steeper grades, you will need to slow down and shift into second or first gear while keeping the tach rpms below the red line at 4000 rpm. If you ride the brake all the way down you could set the brakes and tires on fire (**VERY BAD**).



## Skid wheels

There are steel skid wheels on the back to protect the generator. They may hit the ground on rare occasions when leaving a drive that is on an angle down compared to the road surface. This will make a loud noise in the back but is nothing to worry about. To help avoid this you should go slow and approach the dip at a 45-degree angle.

## Toll roads

Vanessa has EZ-Pass so you can go through some tollbooths without paying. We will add any toll charges to your bill on your return.

## Overhead and ground clearance

Vanessa has 11 feet of overhead clearance and 7 inches of ground clearance. Low underpasses on roads will always list the clearance; do not drive under if less than 11 feet, since you will lose the cell antenna and air

conditioner which is **VERY BAD**. **Do not drive off road and on 4-wheel drive roads** since you could lose Vanessa's drain plumbing which is **VERY BAD**.

## Parking Vanessa

Vanessa will fit in most surface parking spaces, but **do not enter any parking garages** because they will not have enough overhead clearance. When parking at a grocery store or mall, it is best to find a double end-to-end space and park in the middle. This gives you extra room behind Vanessa for loading purchases.

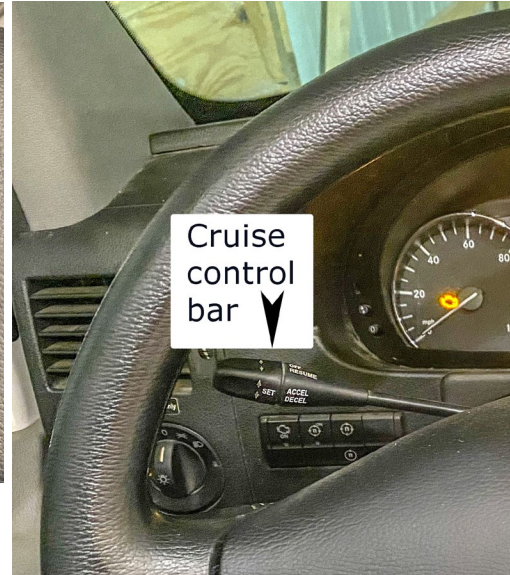
## Steering wheel controls

**Cruise control** is always enabled. Use the lever on the high left behind the wheel: UP set the current speed or increase by 1 mph, DOWN set the current speed or decrease by 1 mph, TOWARD YOU resume a previous speed, AWAY FROM YOU (also the brake pedal) cancels cruise control.



**Turn indicator lever** on the left, up or down to turn, push in to clean windshield, rotate to activate wipers when raining.

**Buttons on sides of the wheel** operate the in-dash display and adjust settings such as time. Use the left bottom two buttons to select a menu and the top two buttons to go up and down in the menu and the +/- buttons on the right to select an option. The radio and phones are not connected to the steering wheel.



## Tire pressure monitoring system

Each of the six tires has a sensor inside for reporting the pressure and temperature to a small overhead display. If a reading is outside the acceptable range, an alarm will sound. You can silence the alarm by pressing any button on the top of the display, then you should pull over to assess the situation. We normally leave the power switch on the right side of the display off so the unit runs only when the ignition is on. If you turn the switch on, you can unplug the power cord and bring the unit down for close inspection. **Driving with an under-inflated**



tire can destroy it quickly (**VERY BAD**). Do not leave the power switch on overnight because the alarm might go off as the tires cool down.

## High gusty winds

Since the van has a width similar to a full-size car but is much taller, strong gusty winds can make driving difficult. To be safe you should slow down in these situations, and in really bad cases stop until the wind subsides.

## Rotate seats

Find the lever with a black round end on bottom rear of seat. Push this lever sideways towards the center of the van and turn the seat slightly in the direction you want it to go. Then slide the seat forward to give the seat back clearance from hitting the door. After turning, slide the seat all the way back.

## Seat belts

In addition to the two in the front, there are 4 more seat belts for the rear seats. Remove pillows from behind the seats to find them. Note that riding in the pack may be uncomfortable and facing sideways is generally unsafe.

## Cell booster

To boost cell phone reception and increase data rates, you can turn on the cell booster power switch located in the overhead cabinet behind the driver seat. The signals received on the white roof antenna will be amplified and re-broadcast from the small antenna on the ceiling above the center console. For best results, hold your phone near this antenna. Remember to turn it off when done because it uses a lot of battery power.



## Curtains

The sliding door curtain rolls up and secures with a tab and snap. The five other rear windows have a pull-string with a loop to attach to a hook at the bottom. A curtain slides across behind the front seats to provide quick privacy. The windshield and front door inside blinds are stored in the cabinet above the front seats. The sun visors hold the windshield blind in place and the door blinds snap into place (note left and right doors are different). The white canvas curtain also above the front seats goes outside the van and wraps across both side windows and the windshield. The top outside corners hook around the top rear of the driver and passenger doors and the rest is held in place with magnets.

## Marine toilet

This toilet will consume very little water when used as instructed on the cabinet door across from the toilet.

Never put toilet tissue or anything but human waste down the toilet or there could be leaks onto the

ground when things get caught in the valve (**VERY BAD**). Clean the toilet bowl not by holding the flush valve open but instead using the spray bottle

provided. If you insist on flushing down used toilet

paper (not recommended), use special RV toilet paper available at Walmart and camping stores, and follow the special dumping instructions below.



## Shower

The bath sink faucet also serves as a shower head and the floor has a drain which needs to be opened. Remember to turn on the hot water heater at least 10 minutes before your shower. The hot water is temperature

regulated so you will probably need to use only the hot water tap. First remove towels from the bathroom, then cover the window, lower cabinet, and door with the vinyl curtains. You can operate the water flow from the

shower head by either pressing down on the lever or locking it all the way up. If you have a water and sewer hookup you can use the water freely, if not you can probably limit use to a few gallons per shower.

## Holding tanks

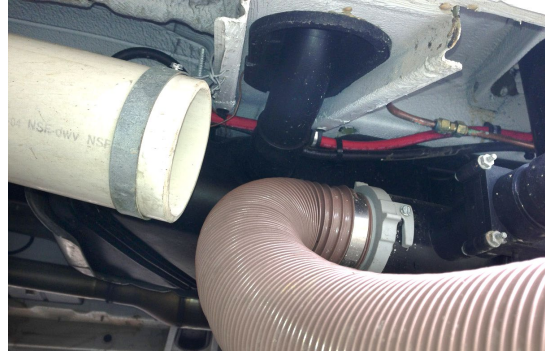
The sinks and shower drain into the two connected gray holding tanks (20 gallons total) and the toilet drains into the black holding tank (15 gallons). The freshwater tank is 38 gallons so when it is half full the gray tanks might be nearly full. When the gray tanks fill up, they will overflow out the top of the tanks under the van onto the ground which is a violation at many campgrounds. If the black tank overfills it will drain onto the floor inside the van (**VERY BAD**). You can check the black tank level by holding the flush toilet valve open and looking down the hole with a flashlight. If you conserve water use with two people, the tanks should last 4-5 days. You must dump before returning Vanessa to avoid a large dumping charge.



## Dumping the holding tanks

To be safe, you should dump when the tanks are 3/4 full. Find dumping stations at campgrounds, truck stops (flying J), and some gas stations. Pull up close to the drain hole and stop when the rear of the driver door is adjacent to the drain.

Open the back doors and put on vinyl gloves. Pull out the slinky dump hose from the storage pipe and place the end aiming down into the drain. The dump



hose always stays connected to the van drain. First cut the cable tie then open the black tank valve by pushing on the lever. You will hear the rush of water lasting just a few seconds. Inside, run the flush valve to help wash out the tank. You may need to lift up the slinky hose to help the last bit flow down the drain. Then close the black valve by pulling on the handle until you feel it hit the end of its range. Be sure the valve is totally closed since **if toilet paper or a foreign object is caught in the valve, it will leak onto the ground later** which is **VERY BAD**. If you insist on flushing down toilet paper, we recommend dumping twice: After dumping once, close the black valve, fill the black tank over half full (use the wood stick provided in the bathroom to hold the flush valve open and watch the level very carefully with a flashlight down the hole). Then dump the rinse water.

Now open the gray valve by pulling it towards you (opposite direction from the black valve). The gray tanks drain slowly and may take a few minutes. While waiting, add a cable tie provided to secure the black valve closed. When gray water stops flowing, lift the slinky hose starting near the van and walk it along if needed to drain the last bit. Close the gray valve. The gray water will tend to wash out the foul black water, but you might want to rinse out the hose if water is available by holding the end up and filling it. When done, push the slinky hose all the way back into the holding tube.

## Reducing holding tank odors

After dumping, put some gray water chemical (provided, read instructions) into each of the two sinks and wash down with some water. Then flush a dose of black tank chemical down the toilet with some extra water. If odors bother you later, especially in hot weather, you can add another dose later.

## Fill the freshwater tank with gravity inlet

After dumping is a good time to fill the freshwater tank. Usually there will be a potable freshwater hydrant near but not right next to the dumping station. There is clear flexible "gravity fill" hose resting near the freshwater tank. Pull it out, open the large ball valve on the end (turn until valve is parallel to the hose), then place the end over the top hinge in the back door. If a hose is not provided, connect the hose stored in the back door to the hydrant and place the other end stub into the gravity fill hose. Run the water at a rate that does not spill out and watch the water level in the tank. To overfill is not a problem since it will just run out the overflow pipe onto the ground. When done, use a paper towel to dry the hose as you coil it up, then put it back into the door pocket. Be sure to close the ball valve on the gravity fill line (valve perpendicular to the tube).



## Fresh water system

The battery-powered water pump under the bed supplies water to the sinks, toilet, and rear hose. There is an accumulator tank to keep the pump from needing to run continuously whenever a faucet is open. Although the freshwater from the tank is generally safe to drink, we do not re-sanitize with chlorine between rentals and recommend that you purchase water for drinking. We provide one gallon of drinking water to get you started.

## Water hookup at a campground

If you have plenty of water left in the tank and you are conserving water, then you do not need to hook up the van water supply. However, if you want a long shower or use lots of water for dishes, then you should hook up **both** the water supply and the sewer connections. The water hose hooks to the inlet on the right rear of the van (see photo) and the other end to the supply. Place the slinky dump hose into the drain and open **only the gray** dump valve. You should dump the black tank only when you leave, and first run the toilet flush for a while first so a significant amount of water will clear out the tank.



## Fill the freshwater tank with hose hookup

If you are already connected to city water in a campground, you can fill the freshwater tank by opening a valve under the bed. Lift the foot part of the mattress on the driver side then reach down a hole in the bed support and open the ball valve directly under the hole. Watch the tank and close the valve when full.



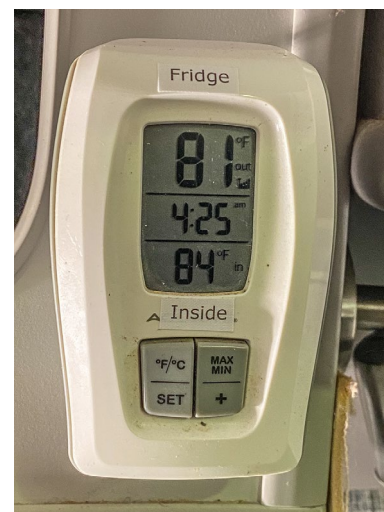
## Electrical hookup at a campground

If your camping spot has electrical service, you need to connect up since the batteries will be charged and you can use all appliances such as microwave and air conditioner. If you are camping without a hookup, you will need to run the generator for an hour a day or drive a few hours every day to keep the batteries charged. The main user of the battery is the refrigerator but the cell booster, inverter, laptop computers, TV, etc. will also run it down. The power hookup cable is in the right rear door pocket. One end goes into the socket on the right rear of the van (see photo). Line up the special tongs, push all the way in, then turn a little to the right to lock it in place. The other end will plug into the 30-amp receptacle at the campground. If 30 amps is not available, you can use the adapter in the rear door pocket to plug into a regular 20-amp receptacle. With 20 amps you can use everything except not the air conditioner and microwave at the same time or the electric heater and microwave at the same time.



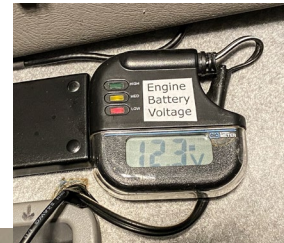
## Refrigerator

The refrigerator is electric and runs on battery power. You should generally leave it set at 4 but you might need to turn it to 5 if it is not cold enough or 3 if things are freezing. You can read the temperature on the gauge across from the fridge (see photo). A safe temperature is 40-43 degrees.



## Engine battery

The battery for starting the Sprinter diesel engine is below the floor under the driver's feet. When the engine is off it is isolated from the house batteries and so there is little chance of running it down. However, it is a good idea to keep an eye on the voltage on a display above the passenger seat. As with the house batteries, the voltage should never drop below 12 volts.



## House batteries

Vanessa has four 100 amp-hour lead-acid batteries. When charged they should read 12.6 volts or higher, and you should never let them get below 12.0 volts because this significantly increases the chance that the batteries will be damaged and go dead on you (**VERY BAD**). You can read the voltage on the battery monitor above the sink by pressing any button. You can also read the State of Charge (SOC) following the instructions below the monitor. The SOC will be accurate only if the main battery disconnect switch has not been turned off since they were charged last. **Do not let the SOC get below 50%**. When parked in the full sun, the solar panels on the roof will automatically charge the batteries. The batteries will also be automatically charged when driving, when plugged in, or when running the generator. You cannot overcharge the batteries.



## Main battery disconnect switch and fuses

This red rotating switch is located below the dinette seat on the passenger side as shown. It has four positions 1-2-1&2-OFF. You should leave it on 1&2 unless there is some major electrical problem that might cause a fire. With most 12-volt electrical problems you will blow a fuse. The fuse box is over the sink.



Spare fuses are in the drawer behind the driver seat.

## Generator

The generator will be needed only if you are not plugged into 110-volt power at a campground or someone's house. Use it for charging the batteries or to run the air conditioner. When charging batteries, the last 10-15% takes a long time so it is best to run the generator for about an hour per day to bring the SOC from 50 to 85%. It runs off the van diesel fuel tank and can draw fuel only if the tank is over 1/4 full, so if you expect to need it, be sure to fill up before camping. **If the generator ever runs out of fuel (VERY BAD), it will require special maintenance** to bleed the injectors to restart it after refilling the fuel tank.

**To start the generator**, press down and hold for 1 second the rocker switch below the passenger side dinette seat (see photo). It should start after a short delay. Let it warm up a few minutes before starting the air conditioner. To turn off, first turn off the air conditioner then push down the generator switch again and hold for 1 second. If the generator fails with a blinking light error code, call us for instructions.

## Inverter

The batteries supply 12 volts for LED lights, refrigerator, furnace, roof fan, and inverter. If you are not plugged in at a campground, then for the microwave and TV you will need to turn on the inverter which supplies 110 volts to these and all the electrical receptacles. For this, press the button on the lower left corner of the battery monitor. For the air conditioner you will need to use the generator. If you are plugged in you can use the electric heater – if not use the diesel furnace for heat. The inverter draws power from the battery all the time so turn it off when not needed.

## Roof exhaust fan

This fan runs on the 12-volt batteries and does not use much power so you can run it on batteries for hours. You will get the greatest benefit by closing the sliding door and only open the rear awning windows or leave the rear doors open. You can even set the temperature so it will turn off when the van cools down. If it rains while open, the vent will close automatically as long as the speed switch is not set to zero. The awning windows can be left open in the rain. When driving insert the foam pad under the fan to reduce wind noise.



## Air conditioner

The roof fan keeps the van surprisingly cool, but when the temperature is in the 90s or higher you may want to use the air conditioner. For this you need to run the generator or be connected to at least 20-amp 110-volt power. Before starting the generator, let it warm up for 10 minutes, then first turn off both the inverter and charger.



These buttons are on the lower left of the MAGNUM battery monitor above the sink. Turn the AC knob on the left clockwise to Max AC and the other one to max cooling. If running AC overnight you will want to turn the left knob to the low AC/FAN setting and the temperature setting to about 2/3 the way up. If using the generator, you can turn the charger back on after the AC starts.

## Diesel furnace

This furnace is located under the passenger side dinette seat and runs off the Sprinter diesel fuel tank. The fuel tank must be over 1/4 full and it is best to not run the furnace on biodiesel. The furnace control is located high above the passenger side dinette seat. To turn on, press the upper right button. It will briefly show the temperature it is set to and then the current room temperature. It is best to leave the furnace set to a very high temperature over 80 degrees, then turn it off (press the same button) when you are warm enough. Since it is noisy, you will not want to run it overnight, but start it up first thing in the morning.

## Electric heater

A small electric heater is located in the lower cabinet behind the driver seat. You will prefer this over the diesel furnace when you are connected to shore power. Never use with the inverter on or you will run down the batteries very quickly. Plug the heater into the outlet behind the driver seat and control the temperature with the thermostat next to the outlet. Make sure the heater controls are turned all the way up. Set the heater on a level firm surface and make sure it is not aiming close to a wall or curtain or it could start a fire (**VERY BAD**).

## Hot water bypass

When you want hot water, especially at the kitchen sink, you will waste a lot of water down the drain waiting for the hot to come. To bypass the sink and conserve water, pull the knob below the kitchen sink. This runs water from the hot water tank directly back to the freshwater tank to be reused. After doing this for 15 seconds or so you will then have hot water at both sinks. In very cold weather below 20 degrees you need to crack this valve to dribble hot water throughout the system to keep the pipes from freezing. **Frozen pipes will not run water and will cause leaks later (VERY BAD).**



## Propane system

The propane gas tank located under the van fuels the cooktop and hot water heater. These do not use much gas. **In case of a gas leak there could be an explosion (VERY BAD).** The van has two propane detectors that will give off a loud alarm if any gas is present in the air. You may also smell gas. If there is a gas leak, shut down the cooktop, water heater, and main propane switch, then leave the van immediately. When outside, open all the doors to air out the van and call for help if the leak continues.



## Water heater

First turn on the propane supply with the switch over the sink and check the tank level. Then turn on the water heater with the switch near the floor behind the driver seat. To save battery power and propane, remember to turn it off overnight and when driving. The capacity is 6 gallons and it takes about 10 minutes to bring water to temperature.



## Propane cooktop

First turn on the propane supply with the switch over the sink and check the tank level. Raise the glass cover over the burners. **Never close the glass when the burners are on** and wait a few minutes after they are off because the heat will break the glass (**VERY BAD**). The right burner provides more heat than the left one. To light the burner, push the knob, turn it to start the gas flow, then continue to press the knob in until a few seconds after you light the gas with the butane lighter provided. The sparker button between the knobs usually does not work.



## Fill the propane tank

The cooktop and hot water heater are the only appliances that use propane and it is very unlikely you will run low. If you do need to have it filled, find a supplier such as Flying J and direct them to the fill port behind a small door on the rear left side of the van. Save the receipt and we will reimburse you for this purchase.



## Screen door

Slide the screen door closed with the handle until the magnetic latch holds it. To open, pull towards you to unlatch the magnet, then continue to hold the handle to ease it open to avoid letting it crash back with a bang. Note there is a screen at the foot of the bed so you can leave the rear doors open to allow more air circulation. The front van windows do not have screens.

## Sliding door power step

The step will automatically extend when the sliding door is opened and retract when the engine starts. If it hits a curb, it will stop and not get damaged. The switch above the step should remain in the down position. When up, the step will retract every time the door is closed rather than just when the engine starts.





## Rear storage compartment

In the back you find the spare tire, card table, two folding bag chairs, and levelling blocks. Above the foot of the bed are large shelves for packing your stuff. The rear doors can open all the way back to the side of the van, but first make sure the rear awning windows are closed or you could break them (**VERY BAD**).



## Leveling blocks

Try to find a level spot to park the van when camping. Check with the two bubble level indicators from the driver seat. If you want to make the van more level, there are both wood and rubber drive-on leveling blocks in the back. Place them staggered as shown then drive onto them while someone directs you. Don't forget to pack them when you leave. If your stack is high, place them in front of the tire to avoid hitting the mud flap.



## Microwave oven

The microwave requires 110-volt power which you can provide with the inverter if not plugged in. The power use is not too great so you do not need to start the generator unless cooking for longer than 10 minutes.

## Sound system

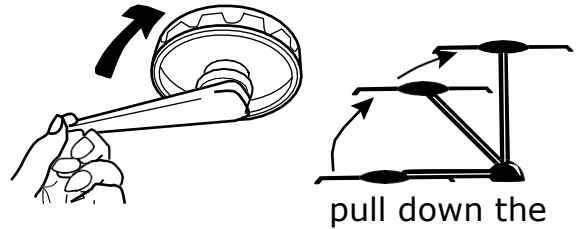
The Kenwood radio on the dash is powered by the house batteries so you can use while parked. The power switch is above the windshield. It has Bluetooth so you can use your phone as a music source. The radio in the back has TV sound, SiriusXM, and CD/DVD. The switch to the left provides system power, and to turn on the stereo use the power switch to the left of the LCD screen. Instructions for all sound system components are available on our website [davidelmore.com/Vanessa](http://davidelmore.com/Vanessa)

## TV

The TV requires 110V so turn on the inverter if you are not plugged in. It is a smart TV so you can stream from the internet by using campground Wi-Fi or make your phone a hotspot. The TV can also work from a campground cable connected on the left side of the van, or you can raise the roof TV antenna with the crank inside the cabinet above left of the refrigerator. With the latter two possibilities you will need to scan for local stations. **The roof antenna needs to be lowered while travelling** or it will be destroyed by branches or high winds (**VERY BAD**).

## Raise roof TV antenna

The antenna crank is in the top of the cabinet to the left of the microwave. Turn the elevating crank clockwise in the "UP" direction by about 13 turns or until some resistance is noted. Then disk with both hands to disengage the ceiling plate. Rotate the plate towards the TV tower for best picture. **IMPORTANT: Do not leave the antenna up while traveling.** To lower, rotate the antenna plate until the pointer on the directional handle aligns with pointer on ceiling plate. Turn elevating crank counterclockwise in "DOWN" direction about 13 turns or until resistance is noted. Antenna is now locked in travel position.



pull down the

## Dinette

To set up the dinette table, insert the center post stored on the floor into the hole provided. Then slide out the table from under the TV in the back and place on the post. You can rotate the table to make it easier to get in and out of the seats. Use pillows for backrests.



## Bed

To convert from dinette to bed, first stow the table and post. Lift one of the seats a little and pull it toward the center. Remove the pillows from behind the seat and fit the smaller bed section down into the open space. Pull the top sheet on that section over the seat and stretch tight. Repeat on the other side. When done there should be a few inches of space in the center for your legs while making the bed and for later when climbing in and out of bed. If you don't want that center access space, the bed cushions can be moved all the way to the center.



## Awning

If you expect you will want to use the awning while camping it is best to ask for a demonstration. The awning is for shade from the sun, not for rain. **Rain will puddle in the awning** with hundreds of pounds of force which will destroy it (**VERY BAD**). Close the sliding door before starting. Rotate the crank as shown to open and if the right end gets stuck you will need to pry it away from the van using the crank. After opening the awning halfway, set up the support legs so as not to place too much torque on the roof mounting. Take care when bringing down the support legs since their joint to the horizontal beam is a tricky one. Always secure the legs to the brackets on the van. If not, **a wind gust could throw the awning over the top of the van** and destroy it (**VERY BAD**). Be sure to take down the awning if the wind comes up or if a thunderstorm is forecast, and always put away before bed.



## Smoking and pets

We do not allow smoking or pets in Vanessa. We charge a large extra cleaning fee to clean out any odors.

## Towing a trailer

We do not allow towing without permission in advance.

## Bicycles

Vanessa has a 2-inch receiver hitch that normally has a step to help you reach the top storage shelves in the back. On request we can provide a bicycle rack as shown that holds up to 4 bicycles but note that it is much easier to attach only 2 bikes. With the bikes mounted, access to the rear storage is limited, so when you get to camp you should remove the bikes and bike rack then replace the step.

