

Mr Squirrel's Patented Vanagon Fuel Economy Survey

Your Vanagon's nickname?	Please describe the kind of driving you normally do (highway, city, mixed, mountains, flats, leadfoot, poke along, etc.)	This Vanagon's Model Year?	Model?	What engine?	Transmission?	Tire Size?	MPG MIN (if provided)	MPG TYP (if provided, if not calculated from min/man and shown in italics.)	MPG MAX (if provided)	How sure are you about your mileage numbers? Where do you live (sea level, mountains, etc.) Are there any other notes about your Vanagon or driving conditions which you think might influence your mileage?
1.9l engines with auto transmissions							Summary			
							Min =	13		
							Max =	20		
							Mean =	17.36		
Mellow Yellow	City and highway	1984	Westy	1.9l	Auto	185R14	11			15 Odo checked w/ GPS not sure
Hop-a-Long	Mixed	1984	GL	1.9l	Auto	185R14	14			19 Highway = 18, city = 15, fairly reliable. I'm a California driver, so freeway speeds are 65 or so average. Speedometer is dead on accurate, not sure about odo.
Cinco	Mixed	1985	Westy	1.9l	Auto	185R14	15			Very sure. Live at sea level; I get pretty much the same mileage whether locally or in the Sierra.
Betty	mixed	1985	Westy	1.9l	auto					I measured it faithfully on a recent trip from Winnipeg to Toronto and back. On the way there, it got 24.5 (Canadian) mpg and on the way back 23.5. I attribute the better mileage to the prevailing westerly winds, and the general downhill trajectory to Toronto. Seriously! I always get better mileage traveling east than west.
Van	Usually either one or the other. Not usually mixed.	1985	Westy	1.9l	Auto	195/75R14				numbers just off the odometer.
b	mixed economical	1985	GL	1.9l	Auto	195/14				17.5 I am quite sure of the numbers. I live just outside of Detroit, MI. It is mostly flat. Mileage numbers use corrected miles traveled (odometer PLUS size error factor)
Butternut	city	1985	GL	1.9l	Auto	235/75R15(r ear)/215/75R15(front)	16.5			
1.9l engines with manual transmission							Summary			
							Min =	15.9		
							Max =	29		
							Mean =	20.08		
carrie van	commuting	1985	GL	1.9l	Manual 4sp	195x14	15		15.85	16.7 I keep a log of all the gas used and calculate it for this test using an Excel spread sheet. I don't know which tanks are highway vs driving about town as I don't track the trips just the cost of gas and how much purchased along with the miles done. [Converted from provided Can gallons.]
Hershey	Highway	1984	Westy	1.9l	Manual 4sp	185R14D			16	Atlanta GA. Mild rolling terrain. 75 mph cruising speed
Nada	Mixed	1984	westy	1.9l	Manual 4sp	185-14			17	I get around 15-16 city. Lots of variations on highway: Last week driving 70 up 505/5, 18.5 mpg; through Shasta, same mpg; Yreka to Eureka 22.5 mpg (slight downhill, 50 mph); Eureka to Oakland, 19.5 mpg. Fully loaded, light foot. 15 north is slightly uphill tho you can't notice it, but there's a 2 mpg difference.
carrie van	daily to work and distance for pleasure and business	1985	Vanagon	1.9l	Manual 4sp	14" 175	18		19	20 Got records from original owner and my own mileage log since 2005
Lola	highway, flats, poke along	1985	ASI Camper	1.9l	Manual 4sp		14		18	19 Has been consistent since I've had Lola. I live pretty close to sea level. Only time it drops is when I do a lot of mountain driving. Then I get 16-18. I try to keep the speed at a constant 55, don't do jackrabbit starts, anticipate stops and use the brakes as little as possible.
Blue Christmas	Balls to the Wall	1984	Vanagon	1.9l	Manual 4sp	195/75R14			21	YEEEEEEEE HAW! We're gonna git them Dule boys. Boss Hogg! G-g-g-g-ggggg
Grey Van	This is my daily driver work van now, but was our everything van for many years.	1984	GL	1.9l	Manual 4sp	195/75-14	25		28	31 I've been running MPG checks on this van for 15 years and I'm sure. I live 6 feet below sea level (!) but we've taken it to 8300 feet in the Tetons. When I got Dixie, it was immediately apparent to me that the gearing was different, but I didn't have an Empirical way to check it. I recently bought a little tach on sale at Canadian Tire and hooked it up to each van in turn. This gave me visual evidence of a different R & P ratio, as the grey van runs about 10% less RPMs for a given speed. This verifies my feeling that the grey van has a 4.57 R & P. When I do the Suble swap in Dixie, I'll swap this long-geared transaxle in there too. :)
The Brown Bomb	poke along	1985	GL	1.9l	Manual 4sp	14x84			29	Pretty sure
brown van	mixed	1984	Westy	1.9l	manual 4sp	185/R14			17	21 Pretty sure. did 2700 miles from San Francisco to Vancouver Island roundtrip and was getting about 21 on the highway. Did a move and around town got 16-17 in the hills of SF. Last couple tanks I was at about 19mpg. 151 K on original engine with new amc heads
--	poke along 55mph max	1985	Westy	1.9l	Manual 4sp	185R14			20	24 I do a lot of coasting. On the hwy as long as I can maintain 50, and in the city when I see a red light ahead.
Bulli	Highway	1985	Syncro	1.9l	Syncro	205R14C			15	(15.5 L/100km, converted to mpg) very sure, measured since 1988
2.1l engines with auto transmissions							Summary			
							Min =	13		
							Max =	20.5		
							Mean =	17.01		
Mystery Machine	city	1986	GL	2.1l	Auto		14	12	13	14 21 YO daughter's driving. I only fix it and buy parts/fuel/etc.
Mom's Van	Mixed	1991	Westy	2.1l	Auto	185/R14		11.7	14.2	16.7 Same locale, different usage mostly. The MPG numbers are from when I borrowed the van for a few trips before we got Dixie and when Dixie was down. The steep gearing made me want to drive at 50 MPH to keep the buzzing down but the mileage sucked anyway. [Converted from provided Can gallons.]
Milkbus	Mixed	1987	GL	2.1l	Auto	205/70R14			15	Very sure. 660 ft above sea level
otto	mixed	1991	GL	2.1l	Auto	195R14			16.5	very. kept records of each fill-up since purchase.
Rolling Refrigerator	city	1991	Vanagon	2.1l	Auto	195/14			17.5	I drive very slowly and let others beat me away from traffic lights. My "city" is very flat with only a little stop and go traffic.
Skippy	mixed, poke along	1990	Westy	2.1l	Auto	185R14			17.9	Positive: I've kept a log since I bought the van with 4,500 miles on it. Live at about 800'; go to Mammoth a lot.
--	mixed	1987	Westy	2.1l	Auto	regular		15	18	21 S. CA (Southern California?)
JoesVan	poke along	1987	Westy	2.1l	Auto	185R14			17	18 19 Really Sure about the numbers - we track the mileage and every fill up Level Midwest Our Vanagon has been in our family since it was bought new at dealership. It has been hyper-maintained over the years. Runs well!
--	mixed, hilly, conservative acceleration	1991	Wolfsberg	2.1l	Auto	205/70/14			19	19.5 20 I take accurate mileage readings at random fill ups to calculate mileage. I drive conservatively on acceleration but drive 70-75 mph on the highway. I rarely use a/c and I put the Vanagon away for the winter. I live in the White Mountain area of Maine and there drive in the foothill region frequently. I had a 1987 Wolfsburg 4 speed for several years and it did roughly the same for mileage or a bit worse at times I think due to my more spirited acceleration.
The Girl	Highway, Mountains, Poke Along	1987	Westy	2.1l	Auto	15" Rims Mich. Agilis			19	20.5 22 Usually travel fully loaded for two people and two dogs for camping.
2.1l engines with manual transmissions							Summary			
							Min =	15.5		
							Max =	21		
							Mean =	19.46		
Milko 3	mixed	1987	Westy	2.1l	manual 4sp	185R15			15.5	I live in AZ on the flats, and have been running the AC a lot, however my first tank of non-AC driving was only 16. My mechanic claims it ought to be getting better, so will give him another try next oil change. PS Glad you are doing this survey!
Gold Brick	mixed	1986	Wolfsberg	2.1l	manual 4sp	185R14			16	17 elevation 1400 ft.
Esmerelda Blanc	mostly highway, about half of that is mountains (plus the occasional city shopping trip)	1987	Westy	2.1l	manual 4sp	185R14			17	Each time we fill up, we note the mileage and keep a log, so we're absolutely certain. We live at 500' altitude.. We travel as high as 7000' occasionally. We travel as high as 4000' often. Because the van is used for occasional local shopping trips, it gets worse mileage overall than it would do if it were only used for longer trips. Under these circumstances, it reliably gets about 20 mpg, especially now that we have a new catalytic converter and the fuel leaks fixed!
Jack's Wolfie	Highway, Flats, highsPEEDS +70MPH	1984	Wolfsberg	2.1l	Manual 4sp	185R14			17	600ft to 900 ft above sea level. Newly changed wheel bearings resulted in improved mileage! I also run a K and N filter. 10W50 Elf Synthetic Oil.
--	Highway	1991	GL Carat	2.1l	Manual 4sp	195/75R14			14	17 I'm pretty sure of them. I generally calculate the mileage at each refill so I can be aware of other issues - Central Illinois - maybe 500 above sea level. None 541 feet above sea level. One fully measured tank when the odometer worked the entire time.
Greta (aka HOME VEE, BLZBUS, etc.)	Mixed	1987	Westy	2.1l	Manual 4sp	185/14			17.25	
Blue Tractor	short drive windy coastal road	1988	GL	2.1l	Manual 4sp	196/75/14			15	17.5 20 Not 100%, will confirm when new cluster shows up.
Dufus	mixed	1987	Westy	2.1l	Manual 4sp	185R14			17.8	pretty sure. kept records for five years
Last Flight Out	mixed	1987	Westy	2.1l	Manual 4sp	205x17x14			16	18 20 Very sure about my numbers. I live at sea level, but travel through the mountains of northern New England, upstate NY. I keep pots, pans, hoses, extension cords, pillows, sheets, blankets, towels, etc. always in the Westy so that it can go at a moment's notice. Also have dual battery setup. So I would say, its on the heavy side. I also try to coast whenever possible, and try to shift at <3000 rpm. I cruise w/cruise control at 4000 rpm, approx. 70 mph on the highway
Chilipepper	65 mph highway with hills and mountains 7000 cross country trip this summer	1990	Westy	2.1l	Manual 4sp	185/70/14			16	18 20 tracking mileage the whole 4 week trip. extreme altitude [Wyoming] really did a number on it. engine is a Boston bob rebuilt with 30k miles on it. at rebuild time - everything was replaced - exhaust, cat, OXS, fuel injectors....
Herbie	HIGHWAY, CITY, DIRT ROADS	1990	90 GL/Carat-a-version	2.1l	Manual 4sp	205/70 R14			19	yes, sea level, it is a square box!!!
Sloan	city	1987	GL	2.1l	Manual 4sp	196/75/14			19	2K ft altitude
My VW van	city mixed	1990	Westy	2.1l	manual 4sp	195-14			19	mileage is average of 20,000 in a 2yr period currently has 220,000 miles on odometer Chula Vista, CA - mostly sea level, flat. speed never exceeds 60 mph
--	mixed	1987	GL	2.1l	manual 4sp	185/14			18	19 20 Check mileage every fill up Sea level Usually go 65-70 on freeway
Goldbox	23 mile commute avg 45 mph	1987	Wolfsburg	2.1l	Manual 4sp	225/70-14			19	Very. just had odometer/speedo recalibrated; tire RPM is within 2%, calculate after each fill-up
Whitey	mixed	1986	GL	2.1l	Manual 4sp	185R14			19.3	very sure. kept records for the two years I had it.
--	Mixed	1990	Westy	2.1l	Manual 4sp	205/70/15			19.5	CONSTANTLY AVERAGE 19.5 MILES PER GALLON CITY OR HIGHWAY DRIVING. COMPUTED WEEKLY.
MultiPass	Highway bit o town	1991	Wolfsburg	2.1l	Manual 4sp	195R14			19.5	These are daily drives of 45 miles round trip to work. Been tracking mileage for several years. Drops 18 mpg in winter 21 in summer. Nice poll.
Gus-Gus	mixed	1988	GL	2.1l	Manual 4sp	185R14			19.8	very. kept records of each tankful for 12 years.
Mudskipper	100% highway - 250 mi at a whack	1990	GL	2.1l	Manual 4sp	185R-14			19.85	Mileage based upon weekly drive from southern Connecticut (sea level) to central Vermont (1200') and back. Empty bus with driver only, middle seat removed, cruise control used the whole way @ ~62mph (3700 rpm), super unleaded fuel (91 octane). Note: winter mileage will be much worse, with Vredestein snows + 140lbs. of tube sand in the back.
Westy	mixed	1987	Westy	2.1l	manual 4sp	205/65R15			18	20 22 Averaged over >5,000 miles. Calculated at each fill-up. Varies from 18mpg (local) to 22mpg (long runs to mountains and back at < 65mph). Live at Sea level. Freeway cruising speed 65-70 (Vanagon mph, ie 62-67mph).
Peggy-o	Highway	1986	Westy	2.1l	Manual 4sp	Stock			20	Not adjusted for speedometer error- this is based on odometer distance traveled over gas put in.
Rosebud	Mountain	1984	GL	2.1l	Manual 4sp	205/65 R15			20	I am certain about my mileage. I live at 9100 feet elevation in Colorado, and I keep my van as light as possible.
--	mixed	1991	Westy	2.1l	Manual 4sp	14"			18	20.5 23 approximate guess - have not checked lately Orange County, CA but live up 1 mile hill. have fuel spill problem that needs to be corrected
slalom van	mostly highway (80 miles a day / 5 days a week)	1989	Vanagon	2.1l	Manual 4sp		14		20.6	Averaged out over a 4 year period. Pretty consistent with a high of 24mpg and a low of 17mpg.
Dixie	Our camping van and my "car", so mixed use.	1986	Westy	2.1l	Manual 4sp	205/65 R15			20	21 22 We've only put 10,000 miles on this one, but its been consistent. I try to keep to 55-57 MPH because the 4.86 R & P in this one makes it really buzzy at hwy speeds, but I've blasted along at 65-70 a few times. I forgot to say in the Grey Van survey that I mostly drive 55-59 MPH on the hwy in that one.
Syncros							Summary			
							Min =	15.5		
							Max =	21		
							Mean =	18.54		
westie	mixed	1987	Syncro	2.1l	Syncro		15		13	sorta sure. odometer might be off.
--	60% city 40% freeway	1986	Syncro	2.1l	Syncro	LT 185-14			14	17 Pretty sure on mileage up to here but I just changed to the 185's from 27x8.5 Br Sure! Engine now at 251K. Power is down. Mileage still about same as new.
Fun Bus	Highway, typically fast	1987	Syncro	2.1l	Syncro	215/65-16			17	JAC and 70+ driving will bring it close to 15. Winter use for work brings it down to 13-14.
Ole Blue	Leadfoot highway and city	1986	Syncro	2.1l	Syncro	27x8.5x14			18	I have driven this van for 472,000 miles since new and have kept checking the mileage on just about every tank. 200 ft above sea level!
Hidalgo	mixed	1989	Syncro	2.1l	Syncro	229 2/3			18	Very sure about mileage after several years of ownership. Using the cruise control, even on short sections full access highway, can better the mileage, yielding 19 mpg (US) when highway driving predominates. Driving is at sea level, rarely cold, and very flat. Mileage drops to 17 on trips when heavily burdened with camping gear, passengers etc.
Big red bus	mixed	1978 (?)	Syncro	2.1l	Syncro	205/70 R14			19	19.5 20 I keep track of fill-ups, so the mileage is correct according to the odometer. The odometer is about 3% optimistic, so my readings of 20 to 21 have been translated to 19-20 in real MPG. Most of my driving is around sea level, but mileage doesn't seem to go down driving around the "mountains" in New England. The highest elevation the Syncro has been at is one trip up Mt Washington, which is only 6288 feet, so thin air hasn't been a concern. I've had it from 70K to 240K miles and all three of my sons learned to drive on it.
Other engines, etc.										
A.B.	mixed, leadfoot on highway	1985	Westy	2.2	Subaru manual 4sp		15	18	19	20 I keep a notebook and have checked mileage every time I have filled up for the last three years. I live in New Mexico at 7000 ft. elevation. My mpg goes down a little at lower altitude (16-18). It goes up when I slow down on the highway (20+).
--	20% mixed and 80% highway	1989	Westy	2.2	Subaru Manual 4sp with taller than stock 3rd and 4th gears	215/60-16			19	I've been very curious about my mileage since conversion and kept careful track. High confidence that 18.85 mpg is accurate average. This includes trips to mountains, heavily loaded, and lots of trips between LA and San Diego (relatively flat topography). Highway cruising speed 75 with occasionally 80-85. Best mpg was 22.25 (tailwind coming back from Mammoth) and worst was 16.23 (headwind with kayak on top).
Angry Anker	Mountains, Poke along, mixed city and hwy	1988	Wolfsberg	2.2	Subaru (1994) - eJ22	Manual 4sp	195/75R14		22	24 26 I'm pretty sure - though it does not account for crazy headwinds or tailwinds on t
--	mountains, flats, leadfoot	1989	Adventure Wagon	3.3	Suble SVX	Syncro	27x8.5x14		15	16.5 18 mileage computed over 15k miles. Odo checked with gps and found to be correct to 1 mile/100 300 ft above sea level AW is driven hard up mountains and generally faster than surrounding traffic.
tdwesty	Mixed	1982	Westy	aaz1.9td k24 intercooled	4.57	stock gears	27/8.5/14		24	i log my fuel sea level fast lane heavy foot
LUCY SHORT FOR LUCIFER Antelope	MIXED/ 60-65 FREEWAY SPEED	1985	Westy	GoWesty 2.2	Auto		205/65 R15		16	16.5 17 60MPH MATCHES REAL WELL WITH A HAND HELD GPS
Bessie the Charolais Camper	Mixed	1987	westy	Subaru 2.2	Manual 4sp		205/65 R15		16	I have been getting 20 Miles per gallon for 3 years so they should be right I live at sea level
Fritz	Highway, mountains (always leadfoot) and lots of 4wd roads	1989	Syncro	3.3l	Syncro with O. 77 top gear	215/75-15			13	GPS measured. Sea level or mostly level except for the waves and swells. I often drive off road
--	Mixed	1990	Adventure Wagon	Tiico	Syncro	215/70/15			20	I believe the odometer is more accurate with these tires, so am pretty sure about reported mpg. I live in the rockies. I drive balls to the wall all the time. I never give the motor a rest. I believe, with this engine as I do with the 2.1, that you have to keep it balls to the wall or it's a death sentence for the engine.
Oso Blanco	mixed, mountains, speed limit	1985	Westy	Tiico 2.0	Auto	235/60/15			16	Fairly sure - they don't seem to change much, even on the freeway (lead foot). Sea level.
Kenny Haung	Mixed	1985	Westy	Zetec	Auto		14		18	Pretty sure about the numbers. I live in the mountains of Western North Carolina, where it is hilly everywhere, including up the drive to my house.
--	city with 10 block commute, or back road long treks, a bit lead foot due to Zetec punhiness	1987	Syncro	Zetec	Syncro	215 70 R16			17	Usually, I'm alone or with one person and have a few pieces of heavy sound equipment in there with me.
poppie	mountains	1982	Westy	1.9TD	4sp 4.57 final drive	195R14			28.8	Gotten as low as 16 driving 80mph and as high as 21 driving 55. All depending on the RPM's at 0 to 1000 ft above sea level.
banana slug	mixed, mountains	1980	Westy	2.0	aircooled	Manual 4sp	185R14		17	Pretty certain but speedometer reads about 5 mph too fast so odometer is off by 10-15 percent. The number includes my calibration
der Bus	mixed/mixed/leadfoot	1980	Vanagon	2.0	aircooled	Manual 4sp	185R14		17.6	Measured average over 80,000 miles. Every gallon out in counted.
--		1991	Westy	2.0	lir dohc Ford Zetec (Bostlig)	Auto	215/70/16		16	17 Quite sure - one fill up checks can run over 20 or 15 but on a trip of 1000-2000mi it falls in the mid 17 range consistently. If I coast home from the top of Ebbetts Pass I get excellent mileage
My Van	city	1986	Vanagon (9 passenger)	2.0l	Bostlig	Manual 4sp	Stock		19	very. kept records for six years.
Gandalf	90% city 10% highway	1987	Wolfsberg	2.0l	Tiico	manual 5sp	185R14		20	18 I'm pretty sure about mileage I just got my conversion done. More so I'm enjoying a lot more power than the old 2.1 boxer. I also have the ability to change tunes on the ecu. It's tuned for max power now (can change to max mileage, which I