

VEHICLE BODY UNIT

The invention relates to a vehicle body unit designed as an independent self-contained unit which can be mounted behind the cabin of a vehicle having an independent driver's cabin e.g. a pick-up, rest either on the platform of that vehicle or chassis (or frame) of that vehicle and be fixed to the vehicle by known means, such as over-centre fasteners and rigging screw assembly. A body unit according to the invention can also be used elsewhere, e.g. on a boat.

Known vehicle body units have various disadvantages known to persons skilled in the art, one of them being that they are either insufficiently specialised and can be converted for a specific purpose only with difficulties and considerable expense, if at all, or they are excessively specialised and cannot be converted for other uses.

The invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows the basic form of a right-hand side of a unit;

Figure 2 shows the right-hand side of Figure 1 with a worktop module added thereto;

Figure 3 shows the basic form of a left-hand side of a unit and a removable stretcher platten;

Figure 4 shows the left-hand side of Figure 3 with the stretcher platten in position;

Figure 5 shows the left-hand side of Figure 4 with a worktop module situated on top of the stretcher platten;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a unit

adapted as a dental suite;

Figure 7 shows a unit adapted as an ambulance;

Figure 8 shows a unit adapted as a clinic;
5 and

Figure 9 shows a unit adapted as an X-ray unit.

The overall shape of a unit according to the invention is best apparent from Figures 6 to 9.
10 As can be seen from those Figures every unit comprises a right-hand side 1, a left-hand side 2, a top including a ceiling 3, a bottom including a floor 4, a front wall 5 and a rear wall 6.

As is shown in Figure 1, the right-hand
15 side comprises a right-hand wall 10 including a window 11 and carrying a cabinet 12 which is moulded integrally with the wall 10 and a paper towel dispenser 13 attached to the wall 10. Moulded integrally with the walls 5 and 10 and the bottom is
20 a fixed platten 14 which comprises a planar main top 15 and a raised top 16, the latter being provided with an upwardly open cavity 17. The tops 15 and 16 rest on a downwardly receding support 18 provided with a laterally open cavity 19. Along the upper
25 part of the wall 10 and the adjacent part of the ceiling 3 (Figure 6) extends a panel 20, which is oblique to the ceiling 3 and wall 10 and integral therewith, whereby a hollow (not shown) is defined between the panel 20 and the associated portions of
30 the ceiling 3 and wall 10 behind it. The panel 20 is provided with openings 21 in which may be mounted e.g. lamps or parts of a ventilating or air conditioning equipment.

Figure 2 shows the right-hand side
35 illustrated in Figure 1 provided with a worktop module 24 resting on the main top 15 (Figure 1) and

extending between the raised top 16 and the rear wall 6. The module 24 is provided with a top 25 and laterally open cavities 26A and 26B.

5 Figure 3 shows the left-hand side of the unit which is in many respects similar to the right-hand side described in connection with Figure 1. It comprises a left-hand wall 30 which may be provided with a window (not shown) or an area of reduced thickness (not shown) which can be easily cut out
10 when a window is desired to be fitted at a later stage. The wall 30 carries a cabinet 32 integrally moulded therewith. The side comprises a short fixed platten 34 having a planar top 35 resting on a downwardly receding support 38. Along the upper part
15 of the wall 30 and the adjacent part of the ceiling 3 (Figure 6) extends a panel 40 arranged in the same way as the panel 20 described earlier and provided with openings (see Figures 4 and 5) having a similar purpose as the openings 21. Along the wall 30 is
20 provided a long step 36 which extends between the fixed platten 34 and the rear wall 6 and is slightly lower than the fixed platten 34. Along the long step 36 extends a short step 37 which extends from the fixed platten 34 in the direction to the rear wall 6
25 but ends a certain distance from the wall 6.

A removable platten 41 may be fitted and fixed on the step 36 between the short fixed platten 34 and the rear wall 6 as shown in Figure 4. In the illustrated embodiment the removable platten is
30 substantially a mirror image of the part of the fixed platten 14 provided with the main top 15 at the right-hand wall 10. It has a receding support 42 carrying a top 43 (situated at the same height, and forming continuation of, the top 35 of the platten
35 34) and provided with a laterally open cavity.

The left-hand side may be provided with a worktop module 44, provided with a top 45 and laterally open cavities 46A and 46B. In the illustrated embodiment the worktop module 44 is a mirror image of the worktop module 24 shown in Figure 2. In this arrangement a "recess" is provided between the worktop module 44 and the front wall 5 below the cabinet 32.

All the removable parts mentioned, namely the worktop modules 24 and 44 and the removable platten 41, are fixed by means of quick-release attachment means (not shown) known per se. As can be seen from the drawings the receding supports 18, 38 and 42 are provided at the floor 4 with a recess to accommodate the feet of persons working at the plattens and facing the associated sidewalls.

To the unit may be attached at its front part a so-called Luton front 51 (Figure 6) which may be made accessible through a first opening (not shown) in the front wall 5. A second opening (not shown) in the front wall 5, situated below the first opening, may serve for direct communication between the body unit and driver's cabin. The rear wall 6 is provided with a large opening providing access to the unit. The opening is closable e.g. by a double door (not shown). At the rear bottom corner parts of the body unit are situated two substantially L-shaped elements 52A and 52B connected to the unit e.g. by bolts and each comprising a direction indicator and stop and tail lamp unit.

Figure 6 shows diagrammatically a body unit according to the invention adapted as a dental suite. In this variant the left-hand side is without a removable platten (as shown in Figure 3) while the fixed platten 14 of the right-hand side carries a

worktop module 54, so that the arrangement is similar to that shown in Figure 2. The worktop module 54 is substantially the module 24 (Figure 2) adapted for the needs of a dentist. In this embodiment the cavity
5 in the raised top 16 accommodates a wash basin 55.

All water, air and electric services are contained within the dental worktop module 54 and connected by an umbilical cord to the rear wall 6 to allow external connection to main services outside
10 the body unit. Central system is available for dental equipment, such as syringes, suction drill and air turbines.

In the variant shown in Figure 7 the body unit is adapted to serve as an ambulance. In this
15 variant the right-hand side is arranged as shown in Figure 1 and the left-hand side is shown as arranged in Figure 4.

A stretcher rests on the platten 14 and is retained thereon by known mechanical means (not
20 shown).

In the variant shown in Figure 8 the body unit is adapted as a clinic. In this variant the right-hand side is arranged as shown in Figure 2 and the left-hand side as shown in Figure 4.

25 The illustrated worktop module 64 comprises a refrigeration equipment 65 and electric sockets 66.

In the variant shown in Figure 9, the body unit is adapted to serve as an X-ray unit. For this
30 purpose the right-hand side is arranged as shown in Figure 1 and the left-hand side as shown in Figure 3.

6



CLAIMS

1. A vehicle body unit in the form of an independent structurally self-contained unit arranged for mounting to a vehicle and designed for easy convertability to a specific purpose, the unit comprising a first side, a second side, a top including a ceiling, a bottom including a floor, a front wall, and a rear wall defining an access opening, the first side comprising a first side wall and a long fixed platten extending therealong between the front wall and the rear wall and providing a first surface parallel to, and spaced from, the floor, the width and length of said surface being such that the surface can support a stretcher, the second side comprising a second side wall, a short fixed platten and a stepped structure extending along the second side wall between the short fixed platten and the rear wall.
2. A unit according to Claim 1, wherein the stepped structure comprises a long support step, extending along the second side wall, and a short support step extending along the long support step.
3. A unit according to Claim 2, comprising a removable platten sized, shaped and adapted to be positioned on, and fixed to, the long support step to form continuation of the short fixed platten while extending from the short fixed platten to the rear wall, the removable platten providing a second surface parallel to, and spaced from, the floor.
4. A unit according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the first surface of the long fixed platten is stepped and provides a main top and a raised top, the platten having a downwardly receding support.



7

5. A unit according to any one of the preceding claims wherein, the short fixed platten has a planar top and a downwardly receding support.
 6. A unit according to any one of the preceding claims comprising on at least one side a panel oblique to the ceiling and one of the side walls and integral therewith.
 7. A unit according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the first and/or second side wall includes a window.
 8. A unit according to any of the preceding claims wherein the first surface of the long fixed platten is stepped and provides a main top and a raised top, the unit comprising a module which is sized, shaped and adapted to be positioned on the main top to form continuation of the raised top and extend from the raised top to the rear wall.
 9. A unit according to any one the preceding claims wherein the long fixed platten is moulded integrally with the front wall and the first side wall and the short fixed platten is moulded integrally with the front wall and the second side wall.
 10. A unit according to any of the preceding claims wherein the first and/or second side wall carries a cabinet moulded integrally therewith.
 11. A vehicle body unit constructed, arranged and adapted to operate substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.
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