

K-Z Introduces Escape Mini

By David MacNeal

K-Z is debuting the Escape Mini, an ultra-lightweight, fiberglass-roofed trailer designed to fill a hole in the market.

The Escape Mini – a proficiently utilized version of its Escape predecessor – comes with a standard feature list that outshines many lightweight fiberglass RVs without feeling shoehorned, according to the RV manufacturer. It's been in development with the input of multiple engineers for the past year.

Assembled within the 2,800-pound RV, just shy of 21 feet in length, is a myriad of amenities. To list a few, the Escape Mini comes packed with: a convection microwave, a 6-gallon gas/electric DSI water heater, a 4.2-cubic-foot LP electronic refrigerator, a 20,000-BTU furnace, a power awning, an LED light strip, exterior speakers, solar and backup camera prep, and an electric tongue jack. Notably, the Mini's shower and toilet are not combined, like they are in a lot of lightweight trailers.

"It's very amenity-packed. ... That's what impresses me most about the Mini," says Brent Froman, product manager at Shipshewana, Ind.-based K-Z. The travel trailers are "packed with a lot of standard features that some of the other competitors put in as options," he adds.

The Mini is narrower in size on the inside than the Escape, which has been on the market for about six years. But it doesn't

feel cramped, Froman says. A slide in the floorplans (of which there are four) expands the interior, which comes in a decent, head-clearing height at 82 inches. The roof is comprised of one whole seamless piece of fiberglass. Its weight is something a quarter-ton pickup, SUV, or minivan can handle.

"A lot of people are wanting to go camping, do the RV lifestyle, but it's a matter of not wanting to buy a big SUV or bigger pickup," Froman says. "A lot of people have minivans or smaller crossover vehicles as their everyday vehicle. And they want to be able to ... get a laminated trailer that's lightweight and easy to tow, so they can get out and enjoy the RV lifestyle."

At an MSRP of \$18,000, the Escape Mini succeeds in answering a growing niche of people afraid to commit to buying a sturdier vehicle with a high GVWR, but who also want to venture outdoors in an RV, according to Froman.

For the more adventurous, K-Z answered back with the off-road package.

"What the package consists of is 15-inch mud tires, extra ground clearance, electronic leak control, heated holding tanks, and a double entry step," says Froman. It's essentially tailored to a Jeep owner or hunter going off the grid in the woods on the weekend, offering a lot more clearance over rugged terrain. According to K-Z's statistics, its popularity is more regionalized to Colorado, Wyoming and the West. **PRO**



K-Z's new Escape Mini offers many of the same features found in the RV maker's Escape line, but in a smaller, lighter-weight package. K-Z anticipates the Mini, available in four floorplans, will start showing up on dealers' sales lots in mid-May.