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2010 Ford Transit Connect XLT

Have you ever attempted a home project without the proper tools? Kind of a pain, trying to find a tool that will only come close to the task at hand. Well the small business owners today have been looking for that special tool to get their small delivery job done in a timely fashion without breaking the bank by driving a vehicle that doesn't fit their needs for a very long time.

Ford must have been listening, they had a small van in Europe that they felt would fit nicely here in the US and with that being said, we now have the Ford Transit Connect, silly name, but will this rig do the job? In the short time I have been driving it I have seen a lot of applications this little truck could fill. I'm not going to name the possible jobs all you have to do is take your tape measure down to El Cajon Ford or your nearest Ford dealer and see if the TC (That is the new name I just gave it) will fit your needs. You can haul items 6-feet long, 4.9-foot tall and 4.7 feet wide, pretty impressive or like I saw in LA make a taxi cab!

Oh and let's not forget payload, how does 1,600 pounds sound to you? The TC comes with a 2.0-liter inline four cylinder gas burning Duratec engine that produces 136 horsepower and 128 pound foot of torque. Backed by a 4-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission with overdrive you can expect 25 miles per gallon on the freeway and 22 miles per gallon in the city all from a front wheel drive van with a wheel base of just 114 inches.

When you first look at the TC most folk's think it is a little on the ugly side, but for a work van and a little self promoting graphics down the side and over the top you could be that "positive eye sore" advertising your business every time you leave the house or drive down the road. The TC is all about small practicality where you have big back door that open 180 degrees with the push of a yellow button located on the rear doors themselves. A big beefy rubber nubbed floor mat keeps everything in place. Since we are in the interior let's talk about driver and passenger comfort, great manually operated seats, 6 adjustments for the driver and 4 for the front passenger with the driver getting a nice armrest on his or her right side. Of course you get A/C a great sound system and climate control, but what is a little different is this large slot above the dash, what is this I asked Mark Melton Fleet Manager at El Cajon Ford, he stated that a lot of deliver business have computers that track their delivers and Ford decided this would be a great place for the driver to keep the keyboard where they enter their delivery information, pretty cool whether you have a keyboard or not. Another nice feature is the overheads bin that is pretty massive and Ford threw in a catch net for those items that may want to wander. You get two side sliding doors along with the back barn doors; you can go with no windows on the sides and rear or get full window package with seating for two, four or five passengers depending on your requests.

The TC also has a great work ethic by going to your Ford dealership and sitting down with the TC representative you can work with Ford Works Solution, your answer to a real work van, custom interior design to fit all your work needs. You can have an in-dash computer terminal with a printer attached to the unit so repair orders or invoices can be printed on the job site. You can also get navigation for those drivers that always seem to get lost and end up at the beach. One last point worth mentioning is this van is designed for city work with a turning radius of just 39 feet and parallel parking is a snap with the TC.

The TC is long over due and the future is bright for this little hauler, base priced at \$22,180 plus tax and license. If you need to advertise your business or services I can't think of a better rolling billboard. As far as outfitting your TC, El Cajon Ford can meet all your expectations with a complete turnkey conversion system right down to wrapping your TC and with exterior colors like Red, Blue, Black Silver and White you have a great pallet to start with.

Now how did it handle on the road? Excellent, acceleration was good braking was excellent, parking a snap and if you do need a little more horsepower the EcoBoost is on its way!