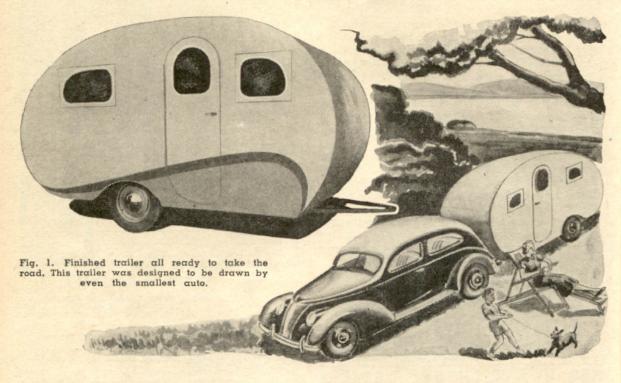


WILLIAM JACKSON, Editor



An Easily-Built Cabin Trailer Let's Call It "TERRA CRUISER"

Craft Print Project No. 89 PART I.

TIME was and not so long ago when trailers were heavy and hard to handle, and they offered little comfort or convenience to their owners. The changed demands of the traveling public, however, are adequately supplied today by this easily built streamlined trailer.

Adapted to construction by homecraft workers, it is comparatively inexpensive, light in weight, and due to its efficient streamlining adds an insignificant burden to any auto. It has a distinctive appearance. It provides ample space inside and is adaptable for travel anywhere, any time, with comfort, convenience and safety.

In building the Terra Cruiser, SCIENCE AND MECHANICS has had the cooperation of both the Hammer Blow Tool Company and Trotwood Trailers, Inc. The complete under chassis (axle, springs, wheels, Warner electric brakes and controls), hitch, sink, pump, and beds were furnished to Mr. Jackson through the courtesy of Hammer Blow Tool Company. The "Step Action" axle was furnished by Trotwood Trailers so that Mr. Jackson might design the body frame to fit either unit, as well as others which might be desired.

The basis of any safe and efficient trailer is the axle assembly, and this trailer is not an exception. This particular part should be selected carefully with a view towards not only easy riding qualities but the ability to track

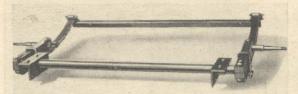


Fig. 2. "Terra Cruiser" is designed to take any popular axle, such as the Trotwood "Step Action" shown above, made by Trotwood Trailers, Inc.

surely and evenly at all speeds. Many cast off auto axles lack these necessary qualities, and as most standard trailer axle assemblies are sold at low prices, there is no reason to handicap one's Terra Cruiser with inefficient parts.

Two representative axle assemblies are indicated on the plans. Either type is more than satisfactory, and as legislation is being expanded enforcing the use of brakes upon trailers, the axle purchased should be machined so brakes may be added at any time not only for conformity to the law but also for super safety. The axle utilized on the Terra Cruiser is of 70-inch tread width. This is wider than standard car tread, but will occasion no difficulty as all roads are now smooth, and even those not so smooth may be traveled with comparative ease with the broader, more stable tread. The trailer will pull more easily in loose sandy soil with the wider tread.

To begin the construction, the material list of axle assembly parts should be scanned close-

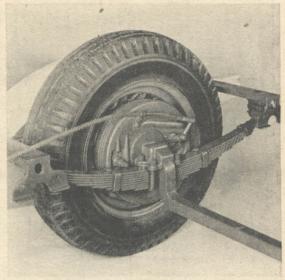


Fig. 3. Integral bracket castings are provided for fastening frame to Tor-Q-Les Under Chassis, made by Hammer Blow Tool Company.

ly. With the various parts collected, the axle assembly and wheels are set in place and the 1/4" x 2" x 2" x 9' lengthwise angle irons bolted in place to the spring hangers. The center line of the wheels is measured to square the axle assembly with the angle iron frame. These measurements are indicated upon the plans. The remainder of the axle frame assembly is quite

MATERIAL AND PARTS LIST

Chassis Frame and Axle
Assembly

All metal fastenings to be rustproof

Sizes 4 frame angle irons.2"x2"x1/4"x6'6" 2 frame angle irons.2"x2"x1/4"x9'0" 2 frame angle irons. .2" x2" x1/4" x5'6' 2 frame wooden sills....2"x4"x4'3' l frame wooden sill....2"x4"x9'0" 2 frame wooden sills....2"x4"x1'8" 2 frame wooden braces. 13/4" x13/4" x9' 4 wheel house strips T&G..3/4"x8"x8' 2 sheets plywood floor..1/2"x48"x96" 2 galv. iron sheets..13½"x60"x22 ga. 25 machine bolts3/8" x11/2" 25 lock washers 2 gross wood screws. 11/2" No. 8 f. h. 2 quarts asphaltum paint
2 lb......casein waterproof glue
1 70" tread, 4" drop center axle
assembly, with two wheels and

tires. Be sure brakes can be added later.

1 ball and socket coupler.....1 ton 1 third wheel assembly (retractable) Optional. If desired to substitute

T & G flooring for plywood, order 24 wood floor strips T&G.34"x6"x6'6" 7 wood floor strips T&G.34"x6"x4'4"

Walls, Wall Frames and Roof Assembly

Sizes No. Parts 4 wall wooden posts. 15/8" x15/8" x6'6" 6 wall wooden posts. 15/8" x15/8" x6'0" 8 wall wooden posts. 15/8"x15/8"x4'0" 5 roof wooden beams. 15/8" x15/8" x6'6" 10 roof wooden beams. 3/4" x15/8" x6'6" 14 roof edging strips....3/4"x6"x6'0" 1 door frame board....\2"x3"x10'0" door corner filler....15/8" x8" x3'0" 2 sheets plywood wall. .1/4" x48" x84" 2 sheets plywood wall. .1/4" x48" x60" 2 sheets plywood wall. .1/4" x30" x84" sheets plywood wall . 1/4" x30" x60" sheet plywood door . 1/8" x24" x66" 6 sheets pressed wood..1/8"x48"x84" 2 sheets pressed wood. .1/4"x18"x21" crystal window glass....15"x18" crystal window glass....15" x27" l crystal window glass. 171/4" x191/2" 2 crystal window glass....13"x38" 6 gross wood screws...1" No. 8 f. h. I gross wood screws..5/8" No. 6 r. h. 15 yards heavy unbleached sheeting 3 gal. canvas or airplane cement 2 gal. alcohol or thinner for cement I gal. paste paint, selected color 1/2 gal. turpentine thinner as needed 1/4 lb. bronze carpet tacks, 4 ounce

Cabinets and Interior Fittings

Parts 3 sheets fir plywood . . . 1/4" x48" x84" 2 sheets fir plywood....\(\frac{1}{8}\)" x36" x84" 1 sheet plywood\(\frac{1}{2}\)" x48" x60" cabinet strips T&G...3/4"x13/4"x12' sheet pressed wood... $\frac{1}{4}$ " x24" x54" gross wood screws $\frac{1}{2}$ " No. 7 f. h. lb. cement coated finish nails 11/2" sets..... window regulator arms 4 bronze window screens as specified 5 feet.....continuous hinge for door automobile door lock, with handle 24 ft. oval body molding .. 3/16" x5/8" 2 sets upholstered spring mattresses two burner Inst Lt gasoline stove built-in trailer icebox (enameled) enameled steel sink and drainpipe 5 to 15 gallon water storage tank 1 marine type water pump, with hose Selected hardware to suit cabinets Selected interior paint, varnish,

enamel, lighting fixtures, switches. Selected stop, tail and margin lights, turn indicator, connecting cable, plug, socket and watertight cover.

Optional. If desired to insulate, add 6 sheets insulating board....48"x84" 2 adjustable jack type parking leys 4 wheel blocks to hold trailer securely when on hill or slope.

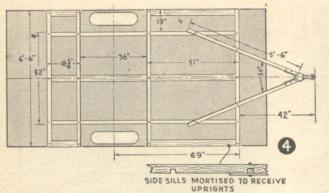


Fig. 4. Bottom view of angle iron frame, tonque and coupler assembly. Detail shows how outside sills are mortised to receive posts on side-wall assembly.

simple and consists of

squaring the angle iron

crosspieces with the

lengthwise pieces at

the front and rear ends

clamping the pieces

and drilling for 3/8"

frame parts and allow

two inches clearance

between each side of

the tire and crosswise

angle irons and bolt

these 1/4" x 2" x 2" an-

gle irons in place with

3/8" machine bolts. The

ends of these angles

receive and support

the wheel housings

later. Each end of the

Square

temporarily

of wheel wells,

shown in Fig.

together

bolts.

GALVANIZED SHEET METAL 24 GUAGE CUT OUT FOR TIRE - INSID IS SOLID CENTER TRAILER FRAME

Perspective sketch of trailer frame and axle assembly. Details show sill strips fitted to angles,

also composite sheet steel and wood wheel housings.

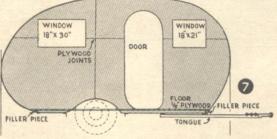


Fig. 7. Side view of trailer frame assembly with floor and walls in place. Names and positions of parts, together with their arrangement, are given.

Fig. 5. Close-up of finished trailer chassis after 1/2" plywood floor has been attached. Wheel housings have also been attached.

1/4"x2"x2" angle iron, each 5'6" long, bolted in place as shown with a standard ball and socket trailer coupling adapted for use with angle iron. Your frame will be improved greatly by welding all connections where angles bolt together. However, this is not imperative if you do not have access to welding facilities.

Floor and Wheel Housings

The trailer frame is now ready for the attachment of wood body sills. All sills are cut from 2" x 4"'s, the center and outer sills be-

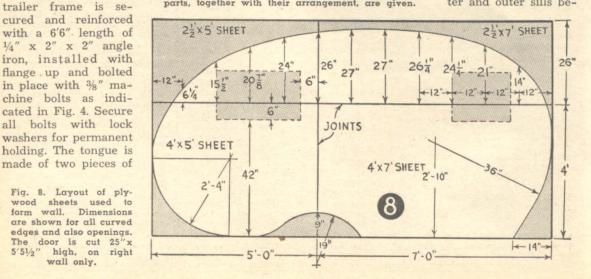


Fig. 8. Layout of plywood sheets used Dimensions form wall. are shown for all curved edges and also openings. The door is cut 25"x 5'51/2" high, on right wall only.

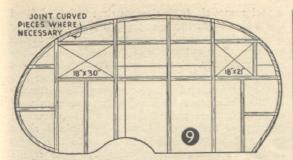


Fig. 9. Left wall cut and assembled with posts, frames and edge strips. Plywood batten strips must be fastened over all joints on inside of wall.

ing of fir, pine, or oak, while the sills along the spring hangers consist of a 2" x 4" ripped in the center, each half fitting inside of the trailer angle iron, as shown in the sketch at Fig. 6. Sills in contact with angle iron should be coated with asphaltum paint before attaching, clamped in place, drilled and bolted to angle irons with \\\\\\\\'' x 2\\\\\\\\\\''_2" carriage bolts. The outer sills must be shimmed underneath with small pieces of thin hardwood to make all sills even and level. Nail the shims to the sills to prevent moving. A straightedge across the sills while attaching will insure a level floor. The entire frame should now be coated with two coats of asphaltum paint for utmost protection.

Laying the floor is next. This floor may be either 5-ply 1/2" thickness plywood or 3/4" x 6" tongued and grooved porch flooring laid crosswise. The original was floored with plywood, and this was laid with a seam down the center sill, while the waste cut from the sides and wheel openings was used for the rear end of the floor. Coat the under side of plywood with asphaltum paint, clamp the floor in place and fasten to the sills with 11/2" No. 8 f.h. screws. Let the flooring extend about three inches over the edge of the frame, both front and rear ends. The wheel openings are now enclosed as shown in Fig. 6, and if the openings vary from the plans due to other axles being used, adapt the wheel housings to the required openings. The wheel enclosures are made with 3/4" x 6" tongued and grooved flooring, making the inside of the enclosure solid and cutting out the outside for

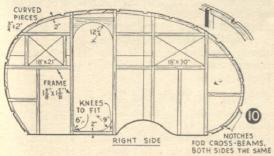
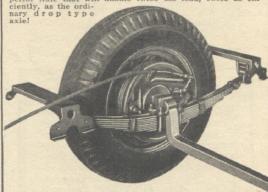


Fig. 10. Right wall, showing changes for door opening. Edging strips only are notched to receive ends of roof beams. Notch both wall edge strips at one cut.

FAMOUS TOR-Q-LES AXLE As Used in Building the Terra-Cruiser

Many other of the vital parts used in building the Terra Cruiser are manufactured by Hammer Blow Tool Company. See article entitled, "An Easily-Built Cabin Trailer" on Page 58 of this issue.

The Tor-Q-Les AXLE is one of the many Genuine Hammer Blow Trailer Parts such as are regularly used by leading Trailer manufacturers in both U. S. and Canada. A far superior Axle that will handle twice the load, twice as efficiently, as the ordinary drop type axle!



Note that springs are close to spindle so that overload or sudden braking will not tend to bend or break axie or wear inside edge of tires. This Axie is safe. Use it when you build! COMPLETE TRAILER BUILDERS' GUIDE AND CATALOG

you build!

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many other items including UNIVERSAL DRAW BAR, another great Hammer Blow part used by large Trailer build
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wheel removal. Strips measuring 3/4"x1½" bind the ends of the inner enclosure boards together and are fastened with screws to the floor at the opening. The outer side of the enclosure is fastened similarly. To obtain strong joints, coat the grooves of the boards with casein glue before fastening, and before securing the enclosure to the floor, coat both adjoining surfaces well with asphaltum paint. The tops of the wheel enclosures are covered with galvanized sheet iron and screw fastened in place to the edges of the enclosure sides. With the axle frame

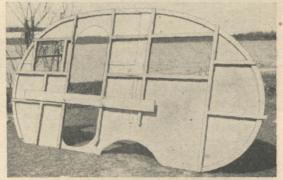


Fig. 11. Close-up of right side wall with all posts, frames and edge strips. Wall must be braced with a 2"x4" or heavy board while mounting.

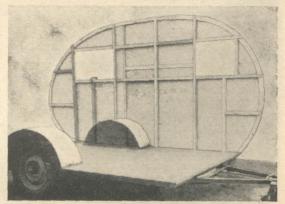


Fig. 12. Trailer chassis with left wall fitted and bolted in place. Floor and outside sills have been mortised to receive posts. Bolts go through sill.

assembly finished, coat the floor with equal parts of linseed oil and turpentine, or if it is to be insulated later, coat it with asphaltum paint. Before further construction work is done, set up the trailer bed where it may be built without moving and block it in a level position at the four corners.

Building the Walls and Side Frames

Constructing the sides is next. The plans indicate details of these, and it is only necessary to lay the four sheets of plywood that comprise the sides down on a flat space, as shown in Fig. 8. Then lay out and mark the curved shape with the aid of a long thin batten sprung around so as to touch all points and saw to shape. One



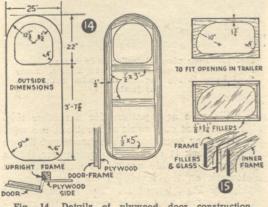
Fig. 13. Rear view of trailer body before attaching roof. Note arrangement of roof beams. Every third beam is 15/8" square to receive both edges of joints,

side will serve as a pattern for the other side. With both sides cut, mark and cut out the window and door openings. It is important before the framework is attached to remember that a right and a left side are to be made with the framework on the inside of each as indicated clearly by Figs. 9 and 10. The outer edge of each side serves as a guide to enable the marking to shape of the 3/4" x 2" edge strips. Mark and cut the inner edge parallel to the outer edge so that the strips will be two inches wide. Lay out and cut the notches for the roof beams before fastening the strips in place on the wall. Roof beams must be spaced accurately to receive the 48" widths of pressed wood. Every third roof beam is a 15%" square beam, to receive both edges of adjacent sheets. Coat these edge strips with casein glue, clamp in place and fasten with 1" No. 8 f.h. screws, inserted from the outside or plywood side. The fastenings are to be spaced about three inches apart. With these border pieces in place around the edges of each trailer wall, the 15%" square framing is next cut to fit, coated with glue on the side next to the trailer wall, and fastened with 1" No. 8 f.h. screws. The posts at the doorway should overlap the edge of the opening 1/2" on either side, to provide a ledge for the door to close against. The pieces of plywood cut from the door and window openings are saved for constructing these parts later. A 2" x 4" should be attached temporarily across each side of the trailer to reinforce the wall until braced and fastened to the trailer floor.

Attaching the sides to the trailer platform or floor comes next. Set one wall in position so you can mark the exact position of the notches on the sills and floor. The side sills and floor are notched to receive the 15%" square posts of side wall and then 14" x 444" carriage bolts are inserted through the trailer side and sill with the nut on the inside. Attach both sides similarly, although posts must be cut to fit at wheel housings and doorway. At each end of the trailer

floor, it will be necessary to attach-filler pieces cut from 2" x 4"'s so as to conform to the curvature of the sides, providing a means of attaching the roof covering at each end of the floor. Bolt the filler pieces to the frame and screw fasten to the plywood floor, trimming the floor even with filler pieces.

With the two sides attached to the sills, plumb and brace the side walls together temporarily with wood crosspieces and proceed to fasten the roof beams in place. Pressed wood ½" x 48" x 84" is laid crosswise to cover the roof. As



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Fig. 14. Details of plywood door construction.

Note "sandwich" method of building a strong door.

Provide weather strip to exclude dirt, rain, etc.

Fig. 15. Details of window construction similar to that used on the door. Note how curved border on frames accentuates streamlined effect of trailer.

the sheets are 48" wide, this will allow a space of three roof beams on 16" centers to each sheet. The roof beams are 3/4" x 15/8" fir strips with a 15%" square crosspiece at each roof joint. The procedure to follow is to attach three roof beams and then a width of pressed wood, notching the crosspieces halfway into edge pieces, coating the joints with glue, and fastening with screws. The pressed wood is fastened to the roof beams and the edges of the side walls with 1" No. 8 f.h. screws spaced about three inches apart. Continue in this manner until the entire roof is covered. Square up and brace the sides in alignment while attaching the pressed wood to insure square, even walls. Round the edges of the pressed wood smoothly and prepare for covering.

Fill all screw holes and any irregularities with plastic wood or casein glue to which fine sawdust is added, and sand all surfaces smooth. The trailer shell is covered with heavy weight muslin cemented in place with any good grade of canvas cement. Muslin 80 inches in width is tacked in place along one edge. The surface of the plywood is coated with cement, and the cloth is pressed and smoothed onto the cement with a block. Cover the sides first, then the top, lapping the side material over the top and bringing the top material even with the sides. As the cement has considerable body by itself, the

use of heavy canvas is not necessary, and heavy weight muslin is quite satisfactory. The surface of the cloth is filled by adding alcohol to the cement and coating the entire cloth surface. When it is dry, sand smooth and apply four coats of paste paint which has been thinned with turpentine. Leave the final finishing coats until last. These should be enamel colors of preferred shades. The roof should be painted with standard exterior aluminum paint.

(To be concluded in next issue)

• Craft Prints in enlarged size for building cabin trailers are available at 25c a set. If you wish a list of approved sources for securing trailer supplies, send a 3c stamp for our Service Bulletin. Address Craft Print Dept., Science and Mechanics, 800 N. Clark Street, Chicago.

New Invention Helps Avoid Accidents



Often, all too often, one reads news items about a father killing his child while backing the family auto out of the garage, or a pedestrian struck by a backing auto, or a backing car killing a child in the street. Now however, this sort of thing need no longer happen. A clever new invention enables the

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motorist to see the ground directly behind his auto. This is done by the simple process of looking into his rear-vision mirror. It is as simple as that. What the periscope is to the submarine, this new invention is to the motor car. When used, there is absolutely no excuse for injuring a child or a dog or anything behind the auto.

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SCIENCE AND MECHANICS

JULY-AUGUST, 1940

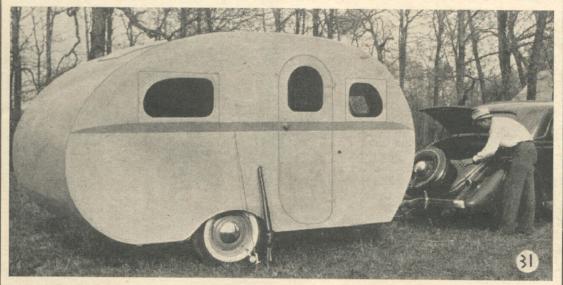


Fig. 31. Parked in a favorite spot, with camp gear safe and ready, assuring comfortable sleep. Note the variation in color scheme from that shown in the first installment. Others may be chosen.

An Easily-Built Cabin Trailer Finishing the Interior

Craft Print Project No. 89

Part II

COMPLETE instructions for building the under chassis, floor, walls, and roof of this cabin trailer were given in the July-August, 1940, issue of SCIENCE AND MECHANICS. Directions were also given for applying the fabric covering. The construc-

tion of the interior fittings is completed in this issue.

Cover the inside edges of the window openings with ½" x 2" strips of pressed wood. Cement the underside and screw fasten in place. The windows are made like a sandwich with the outer shell of ¼" pressed wood, while the inner shell is the ¼" plywood cut from the openings, as shown in Figs. 14 and 15 in the July-August issue. Cut to shape as shown,

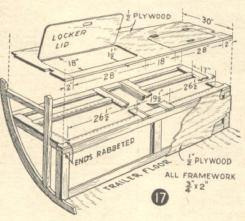
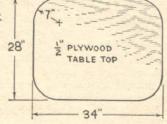
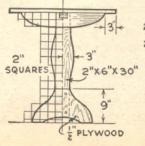
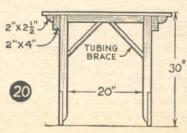


Fig. 17, Picture drawing of framework and facing of "daveno" combination bed, with storage lockers for bedding and clothing.

Fig. 20. Three views of dinette table. Top may be hinged to legs for folding away when using seats as extra bed.







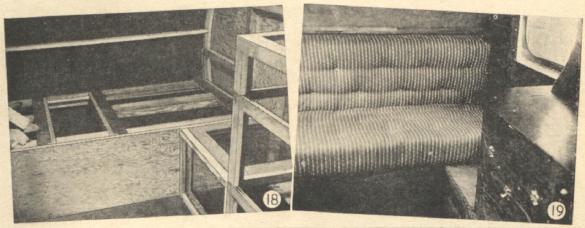


Fig. 16. Side view of completed trailer, showing door and doorway construction. Full-size door allows easy entrance while large windows provide ample light and ventilation.

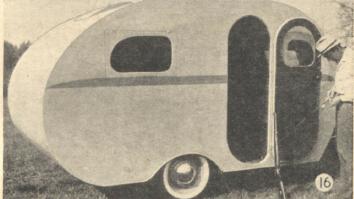
Fig. 18. Close-up of partly finished "daveno" bed with facing panel in place. Also shows part of framing for galley.

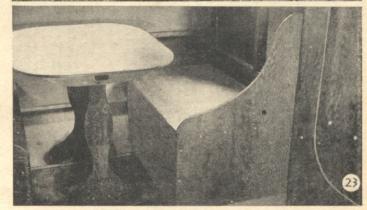
Fig. 19. Completed "daveno" bed with cushions arranged for day use as davenport. Also shows corner of galley worktable.

Fig. 23. Close-up of dinette made up for meal-times. Cushions have been removed to show construction. Ample space is provided to seat four persons at once.

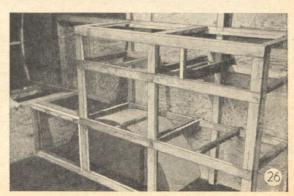
Fig. 26. Close-up of framing for galley and cabinets. Joints shown are made with T. & G. flooring strips.

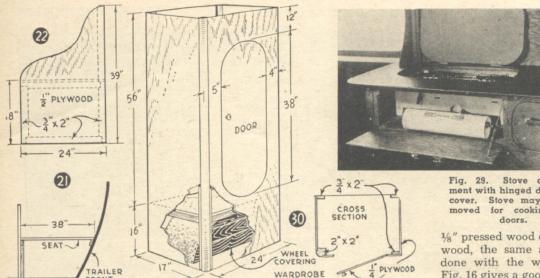
Fig. 27. Close-up of galley and cabinets. Note generous space for all galley equipment, food and staples, also ice box for perishables.











WARDROBE

Fig. 21. Framing for dinette seat.

RONT

Fig. 22. End view of dinette seat, with framework shown by dotted lines.

Fig. 30. Picture drawing of clothes wardrobe, showing plywood panel construction with strip reinforcements at corners. Top fits against roof.

imbed glass between the shells with cement, and use 1/8" x 11/4" pressed wood strips for fillers to retain and position the glass between the shells. Fasten the window shells together with 5/8" No. 6 r.h. screws. Trim the windows to fit the openings. Provide a 1/2" square stop strip behind each window and attach hinges at the tops. Screens and frames are provided to fit on the inside of the window opening with a window throwout arm working through the screen frames to actuate the windows.

Installing the Door

The doorway is fitted with fillers, or knees, as indicated in Fig. 10 of the July-August issue, and the door itself is then fitted into place. Use separate or continuous hinges to hang door, and cover the inside edges of the door frame with

compartment with hinged door and Stove may be recooking out-

1/8" pressed wood or plywood, the same as was done with the window. Fig. 16 gives a good view of the finished door and doorway. An auto type

door handle is suggested for the door, although a regular key lock may be used.

If desirable for through vision, cut the front and rear windows to line up with the windows of the tow car. Imbed these in cement and construct as indicated upon the plans.

The interior, its fittings and arrangements allow a variety wide enough to be adaptable to any purse or purpose. The windows and outside edges may be trimmed with aluminum angle molding, and it does enhance the appearance of the exterior to trim with 3/16"x1/2" half oval aluminum molding after the painting is done.

Planning the Interior

The interior arrangement shown in our plan is comparatively simple and convenient and one that has been used for years with satisfaction. The large seat at the rear is furnished with two cushions of the inner spring type. One cushion serves as a back rest; the other as a comfortable lounge, as shown in Fig. 19. The drawings and illustrations here shown are full explanation of

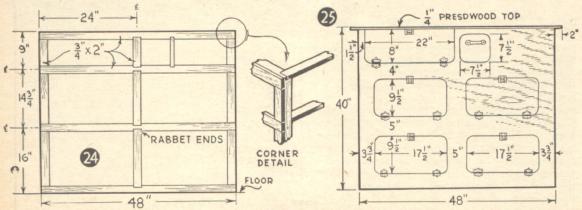


Fig. 24. Front view of framing and corner detail of galley, with space for stove and sink.

Fig. 25. Front view of galley panel, showing arrangement of doors and drawers, with hardware.

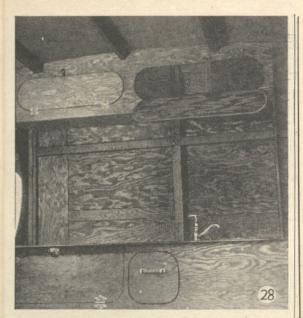


Fig. 28. Extra locker space can be added above galley, in the corner of the roof, if desired.

the method of construction. When pushed forward over the lounge seat, the two cushions form a double bed. The framework for all seats and cabinets is 3/4"x2" strip material with one edge rabbeted as shown in detail in Figs. 17 and 24.

The outer face of all cabinet work is covered with ¼" plywood. If round corner doors and openings are cut in all cabinets, a more uniform streamlined design, in keeping with the exterior, will be effected. The breakfast nook sides and table are the only pieces constructed of ½" thickness plywood, and incidentally, the table may be secured to the wall with regular trailer brackets and a plywood leg or nickel-plated pipe and floor flanges.

The cabinet or galley contains all culinary and food storage needs and is built as indicated. The top is covered with 1/4" pressed wood. The galley is arranged to hold the regular two-burner trailer stove with removable lids in one compartment, Fig. 29, providing a fireproof enclosure when lined with sheet metal. The sink occupies the front top half of the cabinet and is also fitted with a pump which is connected with a 5 to 15gallon water supply tank with baffle plates and hand hole cleanouts. This tank should preferably be located in the rear of the trailer. For ordinary purposes a 5-gallon jug will suffice. The roof ventilator is built over the stove to ventilate and carry away odors. Additional leaves of 1/4" plywood may be attached to the end of the cabinet top for greater working table space. The icebox rests upon the floor at the front and is first lined with thick insulation material. Then a sheet metal container is inserted to hold ice and perishables. A drain is provided through the floor. Just to the rear of the doorway is the wardrobe, which is made to hold all articles of apparel, Fig.

30. The wardrobe door is fitted with a mirror. Cup and glass racks are provided over the cabinet. Roof lockers are built in as needed, Fig. 28.

Electrical wiring is carried in the walls. One dome light should be supplied and a wall fixture on each side of the breakfast nook. A light over the cabinet is a convenience. The wiring should be for both 6-volt and 110-volt current. When parked at points where this current is available, outlet plugs will enable the use of electric irons, toasters, etc. Stop and tail lights are fitted to the rear. Four red clearance lights are also fitted at the front and rear to outline the exact width of the trailer. Many states require two stop lights and a safety chain from the tow car to the trailer to insure safety.

After all the interior cabinet work is completed, for better insulation, the inside may be ceiled with regular fiber wall board and all joints covered with thin wood strips. The inside should be finished in a bright color to aid vision. The cabinet work is stained or varnished in the natural finish or painted if so desired. The floor is covered with linoleum or carpet. When parked, parking legs at the corners will be of material assistance. A retractable third wheel parking leg attached to the tongue will aid in ready maneuvering of the trailer with the tow car absent.

Striker plates of galvanized iron should be fitted to the lower front part of the body to reduce damage to the surface from flying stones.

• Craft Prints in enlarged size for building cabin trailers are available at 25c a set. If you wish a list of approved sources for securing trailer supplies, send a 3c stamp for our Service Bulletin. Address Craft Print Dept., SCIENCE AND MECHANICS, 800 N. Clark Street, Chicago.

New Traps for Furbearers

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AME traps have been known and used for countless years. Occasionally a new model appears with features said to hold game better, but trappers as a whole are a critical lot and not easily convinced. An escape-proof trap should recommend itself to all trappers affording easier trapping and more catches. Simple and foolproof, the escape-proof trap includes such desirable features as a delayed action guard setting after animal is caught preventing wring offs and lost catches and easy and quick setting.

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