Camper Cabana

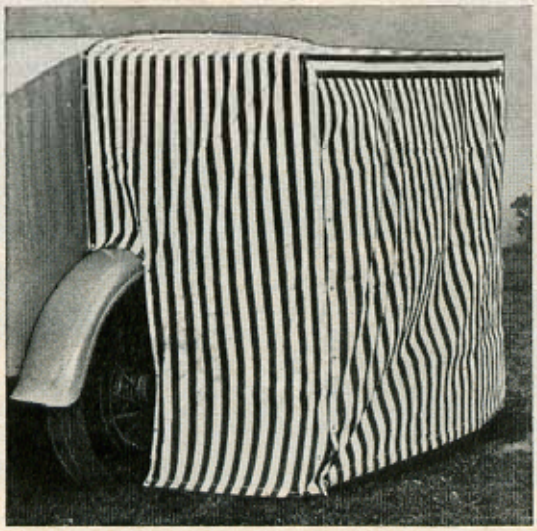
From Popular Mechanix, August 1966
For Reference Only… Do not use to build a trailer.
Check on Teardrop and Tiny Travel Trailers for up to date building information;
http://www.mikenchell.com/forums

Tuckaway Camper Cabana

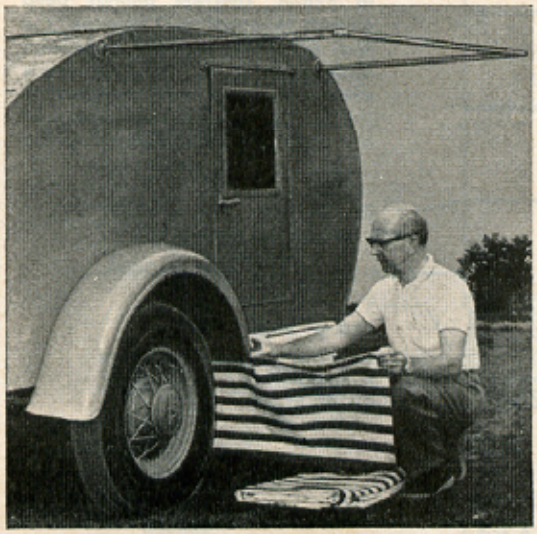
BY JACK STOWELL

HAS YOUR SLEEPING CAMPER got you down, literally, when it comes to dressing? You can solve your cramped-space problem with this canvas-and-pipe cabana, which not only provides the convenience of a stand-up dressing room, but converts to a dining fly as well.

While designed for the teardrop camper shown, the cabana can be adapted to any hard-top or bus-van camper.



AS A DRESSING ROOM, the cabana provides an area 3 ft. deep and nearly 5 ft. high and wide. The camper's threshold makes a handy seat. The rear of the fabric is snapped to the camper body all around



FOR COMPLETE PRIVACY and protection from drafts and rain, a skirt is snapped in place on the camper and at the lower ends of the cabana sides as well. The fabric is reinforced wherever snaps are mounted

The striped cover is awning material, hung over a pull-out supporting frame made from ⅜-in. i.d. galvanized pipe. The cover is stored inside the camper. The frame slides in two 1-ft. lengths of ¾-in. plastic pipe attached to the underside of the camper's roof. These sleeves are clamped with pipe straps to full-width 1x4 braces which are fastened with caulked machine screws through the roof.

Outside the plastic pipes extend 1/16-in. through a pair of reamed-out ¾-in. floor flanges bolted to the camper's side. When tucked away, the pipe framework itself makes an effective watertight seal. To keep it from being pulled out, run cotter pins through holes near the pipe ends.

Sew the canvas cover with heavy thread, lap-felling and double-stitching all seams. Add 2-in.-square reinforcing pieces where grommets are to be placed. Make a skirt to fit from the bottom of the camper to the ground.

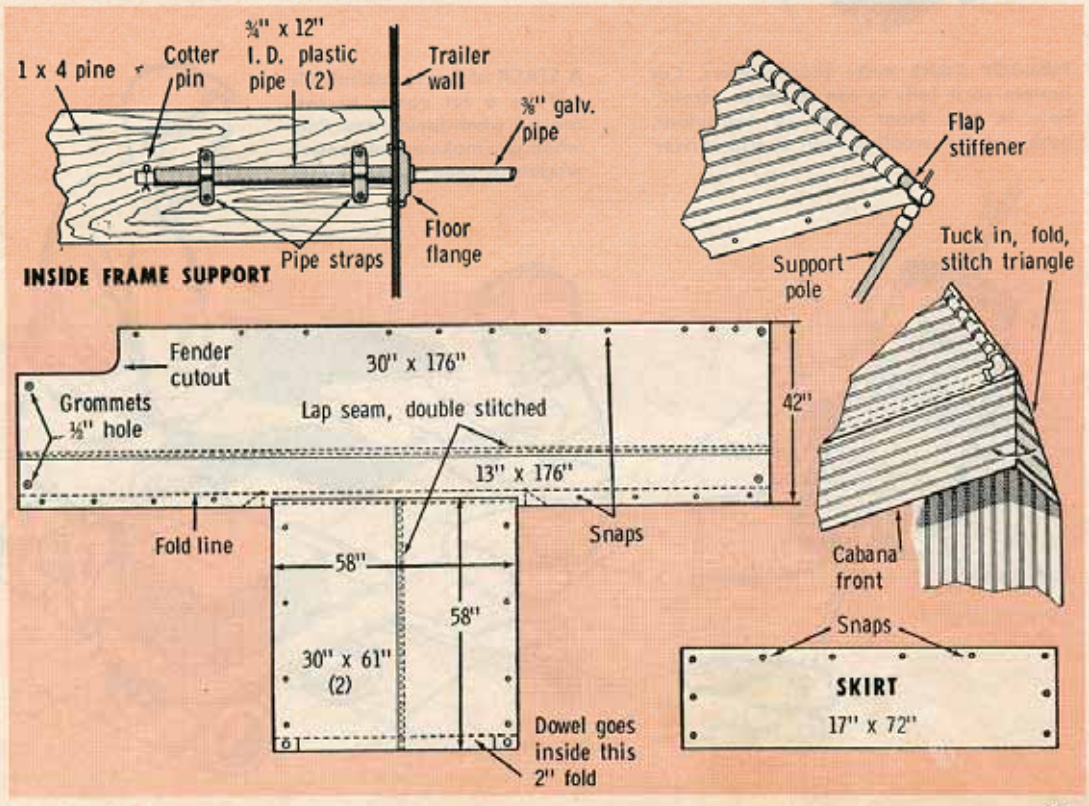
Take the cover and skirt to an auto-top shop. Buy screw-in studs for the camper body from this source.

To support the flap, buy tent poles or make your own. For compactness, cut four 2½-ft. lengths of ¾-in. dowel. Cut two 1-ft. lengths and four 3-in. lengths of ¾-in. copper tubing. Drive a 3-in. piece onto an end of each dowel for reinforcement; crimp it into the wood in two places, using a wheel tubing cutter. On the other end of two dowels, push on the 1-ft. tubes 6 in. to create female sockets for joining the poles. Crimp.

Drill into the four ends with the 3-in. collars so as to force-fit ¼x4-in. cold-rolled rods 2 in. deep. One pole tip goes into the ground; the other through the grommets.

To stiffen the front edge of the flap, use ⅝-in. dowels and copper tubing in the same way. On the outer ends, however, force on 1-in. collars and drill 5/16-in. holes through copper and wood to accept the pole tips. This stiffener is slipped into a stitched fold. A slit near each end short of the grommet lets the stiffener project. ★★★

AS A CAMPER PATIO, the cabana offers a shaded space for card table and chairs when flap is raised



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