

cabanas



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

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.

The striped cover is awning material, hung over a pull-out supporting frame made from $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. i.d. galvanized pipe. The cover is stored inside the camper. The frame slides in two 1-ft. lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. plastic pipe attached to the underside of the camper's roof. These sleeves are clamped with pipe straps to 1 x 4 braces fas-



When the flap is raised to form a patio for your camper, the cabana offers a shaded space for a card table and chairs



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

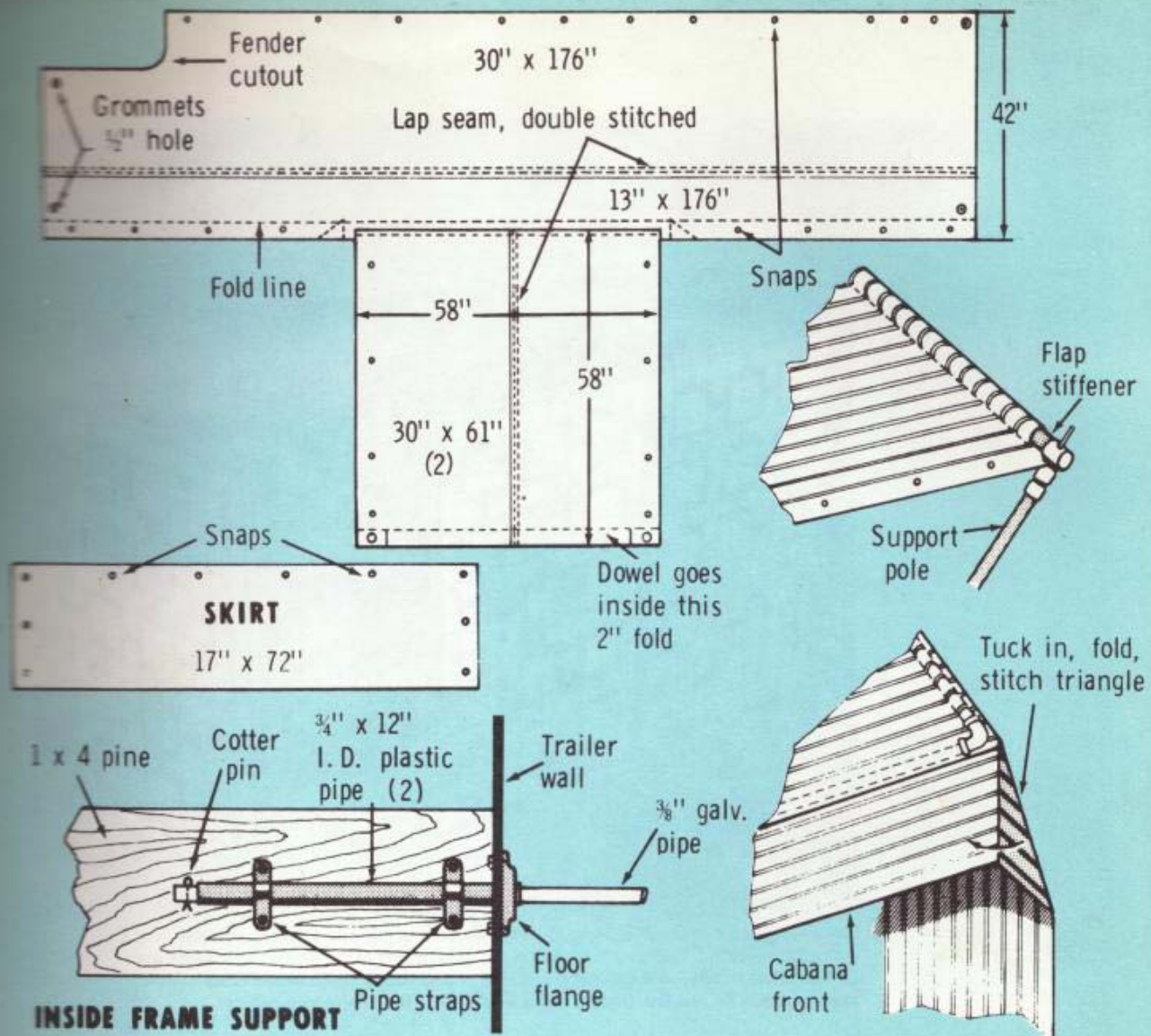
tened with calked machine screws to the roof.

Outside, the plastic pipes extend $\frac{1}{16}$ -in. through a pair of reamed-out $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. floor flanges bolted to the camper's side. When tucked away, the pipe framework makes an effective water-tight 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.

To support the flap, buy tent poles or make your own. For compactness, cut four 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ft.



lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. dowel. Cut two 1-ft. lengths and four 3-in. lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ -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 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4-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 $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. dowels and copper tubing in the same way. On the outer ends, however, force on 1-in. collars and drill $\frac{5}{16}$ -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 through the canvas.

Besides serving as a convenient portable dressing room, the cabana can be used as a patio for your camper. When the flap is raised, it provides a shaded area for your card table and chairs.

Remember to build and stitch the frame and canvas carefully. Although the cabana is easy to set up and take down in a hurry, an unexpected wind will put a lot of stress on it.

You also may find it helpful to buy some extra canvas and build a bag for storing the cabana awning. Since the canvas is kept inside the camper, this will keep it neat and out of the way.