



# CAR-TOP SLEEPER

By Joe Ott



After car has been parked, remove cover and raise folding frames, or bows. Insert the lugs at the ends of the expansion bar in the elongated holes in frame

Front awning over screened window is held firmly in place by cords which are tensioned by springs attached to free ends. Springs hook into screw eyes



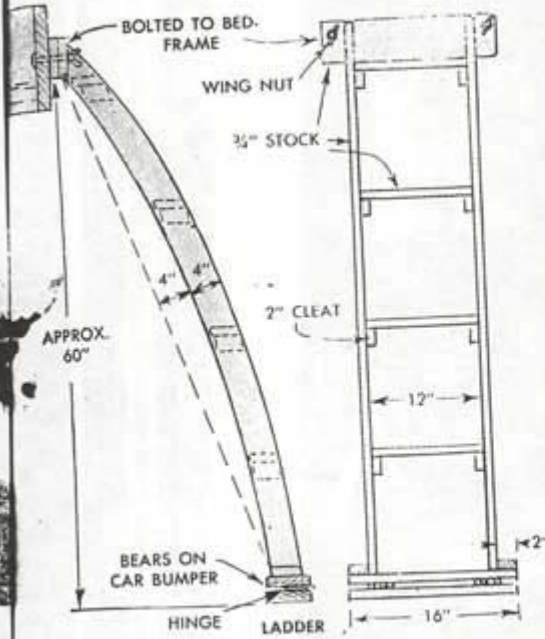
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WITH THIS weather-tight sleeper installed on your car top you can take to the back roads on fishing and hunting trips or vacation without any worry about where to put up overnight. As pictured, the unit accommodates a three-quarter (48-in.) mattress of the innerspring type, but by increasing the over-all width about 6½ in. it takes a full-size mattress. The bedframe, detailed on the opposite page, is a simple, shallow box having a plywood bottom reinforced with three equally spaced slats. The latter rest on five cross cleats spaced to provide channels for the tubular supports. Before cutting material

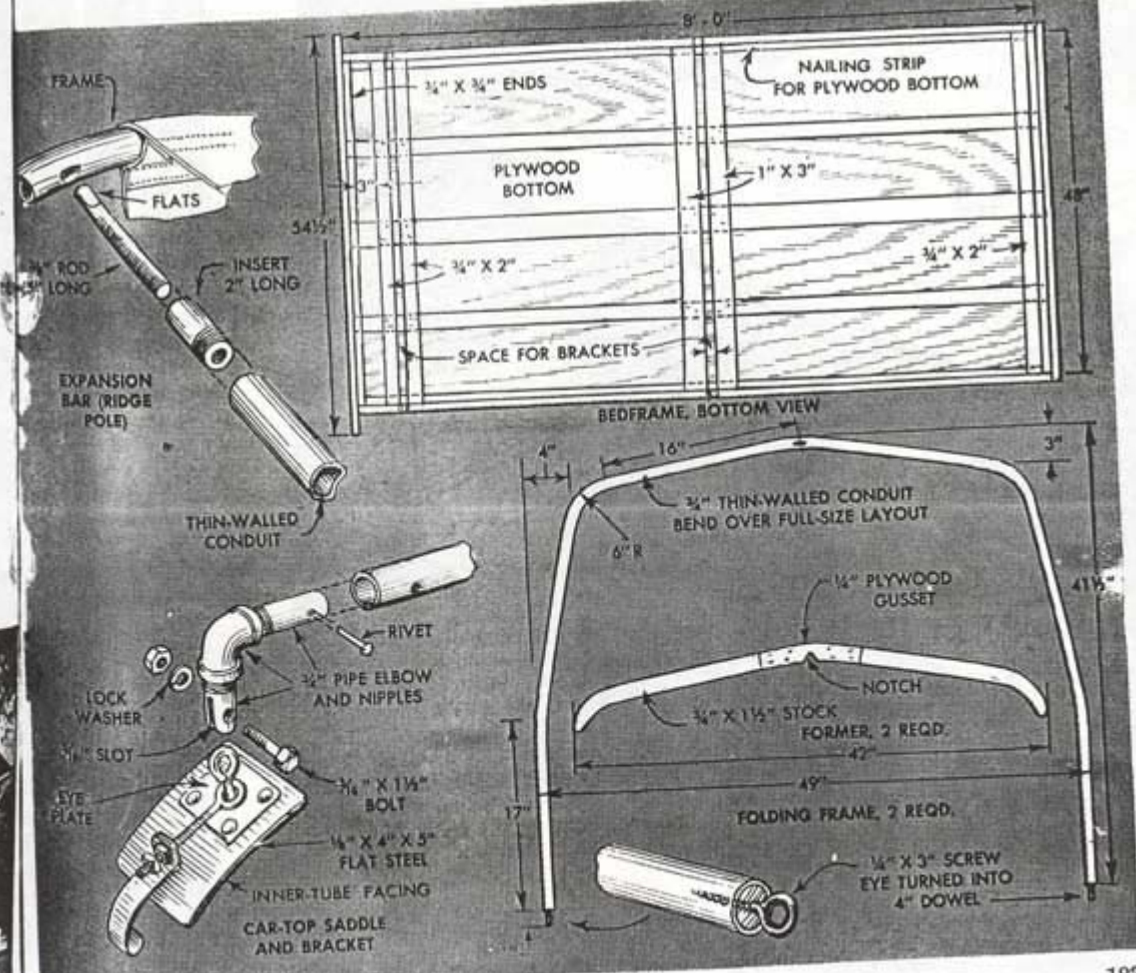
Lower end of canvas fly is supported by wooden arms. Protruding heads of nails driven into ends of arms enter holes in frame and wooden bar in fly

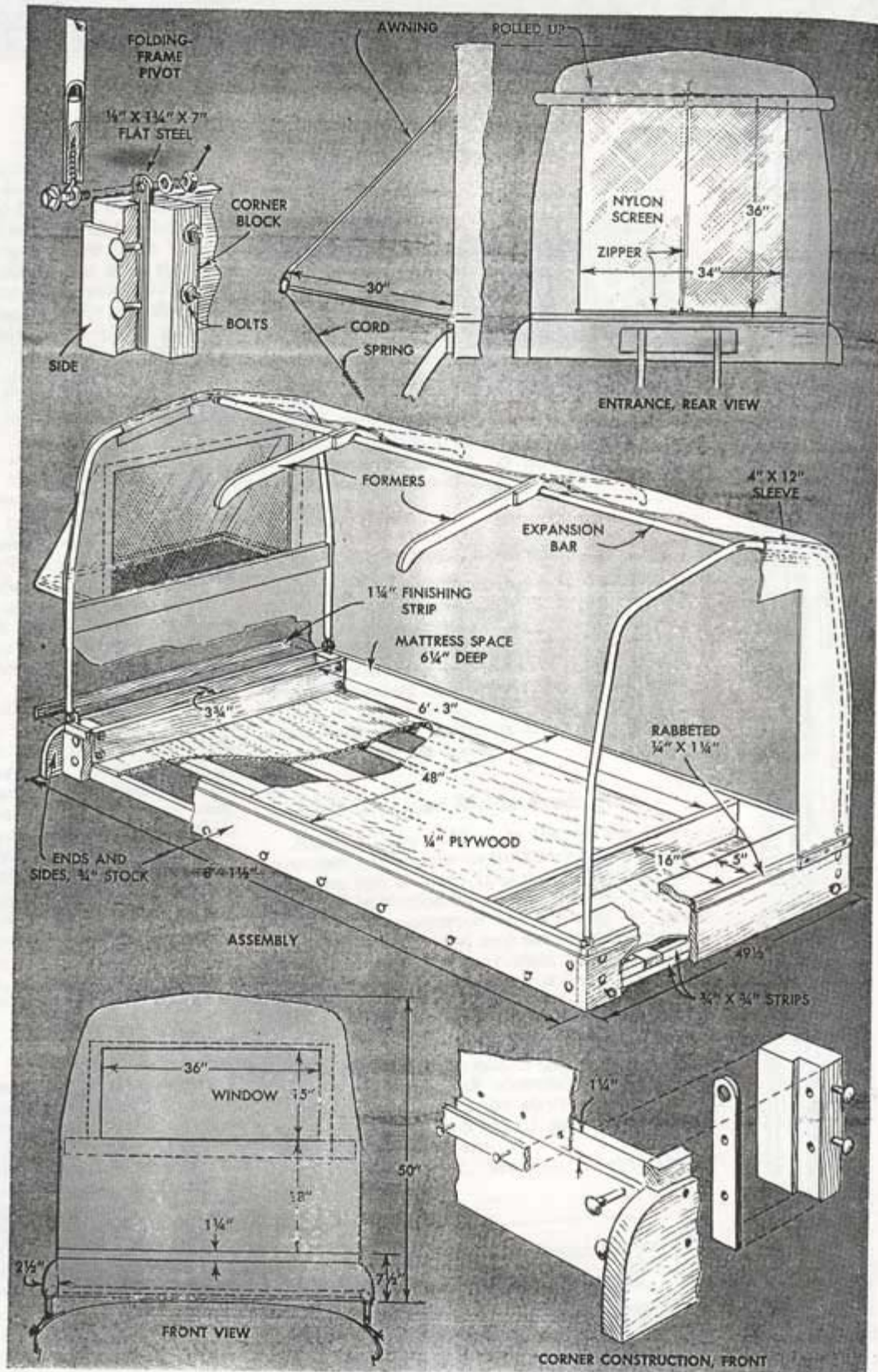


POPULAR MECHANICS



Ladder leading to entrance has curved stiles to fit over car trunk. Ladder is hinged to car bumper





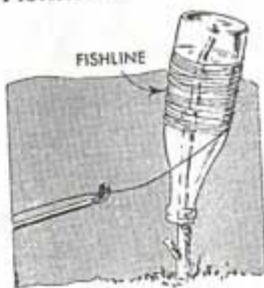
note especially the construction at the front and rear corners detailed on page 184. Flat steel lugs that fit between the rabbeted corner blocks and the sides of the box are held rigidly in place by two bolts which pass through the side of the box, the lug and the block. Two additional bolts are used to draw the block tightly into the corner. In the assembly, waterproof glue is used on all meeting faces of the parts. Note also that the ends of the plywood bottom are supported on filler blocks fitted between the slats as in the center detail on the opposite page. The slats are clinch-nailed to the cross cleats and the latter are butt-joined to the sides with screws and glue. Be sure that they are correctly spaced.

Before cutting parts for the car-top saddles, brackets and tubular supports, lift the bedframe onto the car and block it up to the correct height so that you can determine the varying lengths of the slotted pipe nipples which slip over the eyebolts on the saddles. The metal saddles are bent to the contour of the car top and faced with sponge rubber or pile fabric to prevent marring. The  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. pipe nipples which serve as studs are inserted in the ends of the tubular supports as in the lower left-hand detail on page 183. They should be shouldered in a lathe to a snug, press fit. After fitting, the parts are riveted or welded. The conduit supports are held tightly in the channels by  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. bolts which pass through both cleats and the metal tube.

The folding frames, or bows, are lengths of thin-wall conduit bent over a full-size layout to insure duplication. The formers, or half bows, are of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. plywood with curved ends. Note that each unit is notched on its lower edge to fit over the expansion bar, or ridge pole. The hardwood plugs at the lower ends of the frames should be turned to a tight fit. Screw eyes turned into the plugs provide a means of pivoting the frames so that they fold easily. Construction of the expansion bar, or ridge-pole, is shown in the center left-hand detail on page 183. As dimensioned, the ladder fits the station wagon pictured. Be sure to take measurements on your own car before cutting parts. Note that the lower end of the ladder is hinged to a separate piece of stock bolted to the car bumper, and that it is attached at the top with bolts and wing nuts so that it can be swung down when opening the car trunk. Have the canvas top, fly, awning and waterproof canvas cover made to fit the frame by a professional upholsterer. The cover is attached, as in the upper photo on page 182, by means of a cord passing through grommets in the corner and a row of screw eyes on each side and across the ends of the bedframe. \* \* \*

## Rewinding Dried Fishline

A wet fishline can be dried quickly and uniformly if wrapped around a bottle and placed in the sun. To rewind the fishline, simply slip the bottle over a branch or a stick that has been stuck in the ground so it will permit the bottle to rotate easily as the line is rewound on a reel. A tall, slender jar or can may be used in place of the bottle if necessary.



## Pocket Minnow "Bucket"

Stream fishermen using live baits find that a flat or oval-shaped half-pint bottle is just the thing for carrying live minnows. The bottle is filled about half full of water and carried in a hip pocket. Four to six small minnows can be carried for several hours in this manner as the uncorked bottle permits free entrance of air and movement aerates the water.

## Rabbit Brooder Made From Keg

Raising baby rabbits in the winter is no problem if you use an inexpensive brooder like the one shown. It is made from a nail keg and is heated by an electric-light bulb. The keg is supported horizontally by two feet cut as indicated and screwed in place. A lamp housing constructed of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. plywood is mounted over a 7 x 7-in. opening in the upper side of the keg. Size of the bulb, which should be shielded with sheet metal, is determined by the amount of heat required. The open end of the keg is closed with a plywood disk screwed in place for easy removal when the straw nesting has to be replaced. A 5 x 5-in. entrance is cut in the disk as shown.

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