

EXPEDITION AND OFF ROAD TRAILER TENT

There is finally an trailer tent for the DIY off-road trailer builder or add on to an existing trailer. The tent is of the basic design used in much of Australia. I had a few different requirements for mine as well as features the US market may want. This first tent was also a good learning experience for international trade, ocean shipping and importation.



After much work, a little retrofitting and a little beefing up I have found a tent that will easily attach to most any trailer. It uses three hinges to hold it to the trailer. It has two left handed and one right handed lift off hinges. The right handed hinge is in the center and acts as the lock. Half of the center hinge is bolted to the trailer. The rest of the hinges are welded to the trailer and tent base. This makes it possible to remove the tent from the trailer if need be. To hold the folded tent up while loading I started out with two 250 lbs gas lift struts



The tent isn't difficult for one person to set up, but two people will be helpful. Started by removing the cover, removing and setting aside all the poles, guide lines, stakes and awning (annex) walls. Next pull the tent off the trailer spreading the PVC floor out as tight as possible. The two ground length internal poles will also slide off the trailer.



Once the floor is staked down, I went inside and put the ground length poles into their pockets in the walls. The poles are extended until the roof is tight. The two poles that are attached to the base also need to be extended.



The annex uses its own set of poles. Setting this up was the hardest part of the setup. It helps to have a second person to hold one of the poles as you attached the rest of the structure. Four poles attach through the tent wall to the inside pole structure.



The tent comes with a ladder to get up onto the bed. The bed consists of a 3" thick foam pad roughly the size of a queen sized bed. Under the bed are two hatches for easy access to items that are stored inside the trailer.



The walls for the annex are as simple as connecting the three panels together with their Velcro strips to the tent walls and awning roof. Fully deployed, the tent has two windows with rain covers and six windows that can roll up. All windows as well as the two doors have mosquito netting to keep bugs out.



A kitchen can slide out or the tailgate can be opened through the opening in the tent panel at the back of the trailer.



The roof vents, there is one in each outer end of the tent. To improve air circulation and reduce condensation buildup

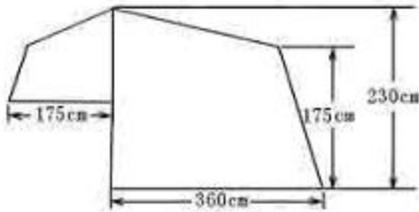
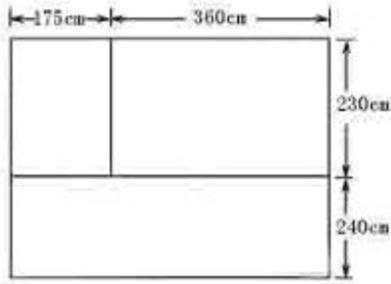


And the tent stakes. There is a set of the standard size metal stakes for the floor as well as an extra heavy duty style that is about 3/8" thick. These can be used in rough ground and to tie out the guy lines.

The tent can be mounted on most any trailer smaller than 90" long x 66" wide. A custom mounting frame may be needed. For questions or more information on the trailer tent, please contact me or submit a post on the East Olympia Cruisers website (<http://www.eastolympiacruisers.com/forum>).

So why Camp Bug? This is the name our son gave to the entire tent trailer project when he was 7. He has heard the story and seen the pictures of the boat I build with my father when I was about 10. It was a remake of an older boat my siblings had used. The boat's original name was Sea Bug and we christened the newly built boat the Sea Bug II. Here are a few pictures of the Sea Bug II.





Fabric:
Fly: 10 oz Poly/Cotton rip stop canvas

Floor: 13 oz PVC
Mattress: 3" thick foam

Poles: Steel, 1", 7/8", 3/4"

Ladder: Steel

Base: 3/4" marine grade plywood.

<p>Large Tent</p> <p>Folded Dimensions: 7.5' long, 5.5' wide, 8" tall</p> <p>Standing Dimensions 15' (7.5'tent, 7.5' awning) long, 17.5' wide, 8' tall at peak</p> <p>Weight : 350 lbs</p> <p>Retail Price \$2,050</p> <p>30% off for first 8</p>	<p>Small Tent</p> <p>Folded Dimensions: 6.5' long, 5' wide, 8" tall</p> <p>Standing Dimensions 14' (6.5' tent, 7.5' awning)long, 10' wide, 7.5' tall at peak</p> <p>Weight: 230 lbs</p> <p>Retail Price \$1,650</p> <p>30% off for first 8</p>
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