

Rooftop Tent Makes Camping Easier

You can turn an SUV or even a minivan into an instant camper with a rooftop tent from Hannibal Tents. Pioneered in South Africa, the rooftop tents pop open in minutes and close just as fast. The 100-lb. tent can be mounted on any roof rack capable of supporting a moving load of 150 lbs.

"This kind of tent is quite heavily used in Australia and Africa and is growing in popularity in Europe," says Marc Bowers, vice-president, Hannibal USA. "You don't have to find flat, rock-free ground to set it up. In the desert, it is cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter than a tent would be on the ground, plus you don't have to worry about snakes and scorpions."

The newest model is 48 in. sq. and 12 in. high when closed, but opens up to 48 in. wide by 96 in. long and 52 in. high. The tent floor consists of a foam mattress with removable cover. Both front and back entrances have windows, and each opening has its own zipped mosquito netting. A fly sheet offers rain and wind protection or can be raised to shade and help cool the tent. The ripstop polycotton fabric is mildew resistant and water proof, yet breathes from the inside for reduced moisture condensation. Tent access is gained via a ladder extending off the side or the front of the vehicle. The tent structure has steel frames and has withstood winds of more than 60 mph.

"We've even driven down the road at 30 mph with the tent up," says Bowers. "We're able to put more structure into it than most tents today because you don't have to carry it around."

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Rooftop tent pops open in minutes and closes just as fast. Because you don't have to carry it around, tent has a much stronger frame than other tents.

Reader Recipes

(Continued from page 30)

5 min. Drain well. Add hot carrots to dressing. Cool to room temperature in dressing. Cover and chill overnight, stirring occasionally. Bring to room temperature. Stir in dill weed and serve. These will keep for days. *Port Royal Baptist Church Cookbook, Port Royal, Ky*

Root Beer Cookies

2 cups brown sugar
2 tsp root beer extract
1 tsp baking soda
2 eggs

1 cup oleo or butter
1/2 cup milk or water
3 1/2 cups flour
1 tsp salt

GLAZE
3 tsp root beer extract

4 cups powdered sugar
2/3 cup margarine

5 Tbsp water

Bake cookies at 400° for 6 to 8 minutes.

Mrs. Larry G. Hochstetler, Ky.

Zucchini Jelly

6 cups zucchini, peeled and shredded
6 cups sugar

1/2 cup lemon juice
1 6-oz. can crushed pineapple
2 3-oz. boxes orange jello

Cook shredded zucchini, without water, for 6 min., stirring steadily. Add sugar, lemon juice, and pineapple. Cook for 6 min. more. Remove from heat and add jello. Stir until jello is dissolved. Seal in clean jars.

Vivian Hanson, Cushing, Wis.

Magic Bread

3 cups self rising flour

1/3 cup sugar
1 can beer (room temperature)
1 stick butter

Heat loaf pan in oven. Place in stick of butter, melt. Mix flour, sugar and beer until barely moistened. Do not overmix. Pour mixture into loaf pan over melted butter, smoothing out into corners of pan. Bake at 350° for 50 to 60 min. Makes good cinnamon bread.

Corn Crop Jewelry Boosts Farm's Bottom Line

Artist and farmer Heidi Scott, Dunnell, Minnesota, has come up with a way to make her corn more than just a commodity.

Scott says a recent bad growing year and low prices inspired her to try to get more value out of their corn crop by turning it into jewelry.

"I took some some kernels and used them to make a pair of earrings. I wore them out and a friend who saw them wanted a pair. Her daughter works for a newspaper and wrote a story about them and I began to get orders," she recalls.

She started making necklaces and bracelets, too. Then she took the idea one step further and used kernels to make a mold for casting kernels in gold, silver, brass and bronze. It wasn't long before her corn jewelry was adding a significant amount to the total farm income. She's sold corn jewelry to people from all over the world.

Recently she started making corn costumes out of open-pollinated native corn. "I grow some of it. People give some to me, and I get some from a farmer who grows primarily for the Corn Palace at Mitchell, South Dakota," she notes. "I plant a variety called Spotted Eagle. It has white kernels with a black shape that looks like an eagle on them."



Colorful costumes are made out of open-pollinated corn.



Among the jewelry Scott makes from corn are gold bracelets and necklaces.

Scott's approach to corn, and farming in general, is that it needs to be about more than just money. "Ever since I was a little girl, I've been fascinated with corn," she notes. "I loved to ride my horse through the fields. I liked the smell and feel of the plants." She believes using corn in this way helps reconnect people spiritually with the crops they produce.

You can see more of her jewelry and costumes on the Internet or you can order it by calling Scott.

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Motorized Rack Helps Bad Back

Building a motorized stretching table did the trick for Jim Hall's bad back. Since building the rack, chiropractor bills and back pain are things of the past.

"Keeps walking upright and reasonably pain free," says the Cambridge, Ontario farmer. "Daily maintenance with the table seems to be the key. A few minutes in the morning to stretch and loosen up and again at night straightens me up."

Hall thinks a similar table might benefit other farmers and heavy lifters like him. In his case, a construction accident when he was 16 crushed a couple of disks at the bottom of his back. Doctors wanted to fuse his spine, but he said no. Years of chiropractor bills afterward kept him walking, but their prices kept going up.

"I knew what they did to manipulate my back and decided a mechanized table could do the same," says Hall. "I built it 15 years ago and just wish I would have thought of it 20 or 30 years earlier. It would have saved me a lot of misery and money."

Hall's table consists of two sheets of plywood built to the length of his body. The shorter sheet, where he lays his upper torso, is supported by four 2 by 4 legs on a 2 by 4 base.

The second sheet of plywood, where his hips and legs lay, is hinged to the first sheet. A pitman crank on a sprocket driven by an electric garage door opener also supports it. As the sprocket turns, it pushes the plywood sheet up and down.

"It works on the same principle as a chiropractor's table," says Hall. "As you lay on the moving table, it stretches the spine where it meets the hip."

Hall has an elastic strap attached to the end of the second plywood panel. It serves to anchor his legs in place as the bed stretches his back. He has also added rubber straps with handles for exercising the arms while the boards stretch his back.

Hall has also devised a neck-stretching harness that is installed on the back of his easy chair.

"It relieves headaches and stiffness with no need for an aspirin," he says. "When



Table consists of two sheets of plywood. Hall lays his upper torso on the shorter sheet. The other sheet is hinged.



A pitman crank on a sprocket, which is driven by an electric garage door opener, pushes hinged plywood sheet up and down. I doze off, my head stays upright."

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