

# CANVAS CABINS

## *Outstanding Wall Tents*

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### About Your New Canvas Cabin

Now that you have your new tent the first things you need to do is put it up and soak it thoroughly starting on the inside then soak the outside. Especially soak the seams on the roof until the water stops beading and the canvas is thoroughly saturated, then hang it and dry it completely. When your tent was made there were about a hundred thousand needle holes poked in it and the seams will leak until it gets good and wet so the canvas can swell and close the holes. Second, although the canvas is preshrunk it will still shrink about 3%. Third, if it isn't wet down before it gets rained on it will leave stain lines wherever water wicks, and fourth, you need the practice.

### THE BEST WAY TO PUT YOUR TENT UP, BY YOURSELF, USING THE OUTSIDE POLE SET

Spread the tent on the ground with the doors buckled up and the zippers open. Stake down all four corners of the tent using the grommets, keep it tight and eyeball it square. If the tent isn't square it will have diagonal wrinkles in it. If you are using a piece of tarp, carpet, or mill felt for a floor, this can be laid out first and you can use it to keep the tent square.

It is very important to drive the stakes at a full 45 degree angle. The pole set pulls the tent straight up and if the stakes are driven straight the pole set will pull them out. Stake down the rest of the tent with the sides straight and the stakes at a full 45 degree angle.

STEP 1—FIG. 1. Put the 3" ridge pole and eave poles together. The ridge pole will be the one with four holes drilled through the ends. Treat these poles gently and don't bang the ends on the ground. If you dent the end of the 3" pole it won't slide over the P.V.C. sleeve. Next, run the ridge pole through tent and slip the webbing strap over each end of the pole. Lay the pole down, pull the eave bungees over to the side and run the eave poles through the bungees.

STEP 2—FIG. 2. Next take two upright sections and place them through the holes in one end of the ridge pole. The holes in the ridge pole are not at a 90 degree angle and you want the uprights at the steepest angle. There are two screws at each end of the ridge pole. Turn the pole so one screw is up and one is down. Now pull the bungee at the top of the tent over the tips of the uprights and over the end of the ridge pole.

STEP 3—FIG 3. Next go the other end of the tent and repeat what you have done except install four upright sections.

STEP 4—FIG. 4. Next come back to the first end and install four more upright sections. If your tent is a 12-foot wide model, place the bottoms of the uprights about 6 inches in from the corners of the tent. If your tent is a 15-foot wide model add two 18” extenders and place the bottoms about 12” in from the corners.

STEP 5—FIG 5. Now go back to the other end and install the last two uprights (12’) or uprights and extenders (15’). Now readjust the bottoms of all uprights so the bottoms of the doors just touch the ground when pulled down snug.

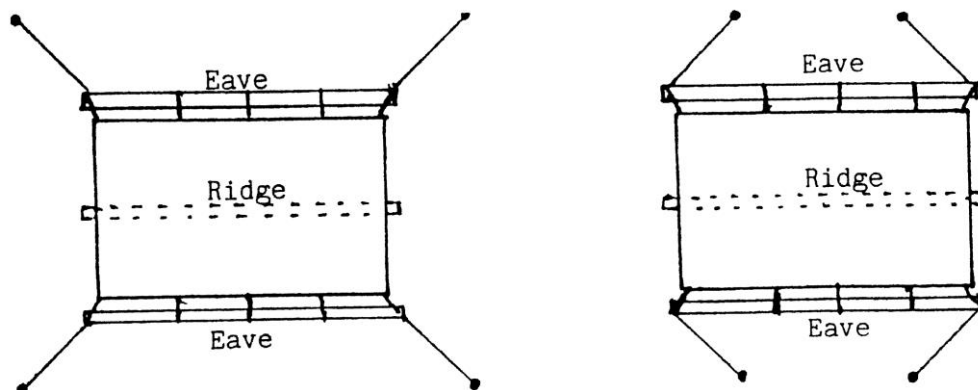
STEP 6—FIG. 6. Next insert an upright through one end of each eave pole.

STEP 7—FIG. 7. Now go to the opposite end and repeat using four upright sections.

STEP 8—FIG. 8. Come back to the first end and install the last two uprights. Tighten the uprights so there is about a four inch gap between the eave of the tent and the 3” eave pole at those places where the eave is sewn down to the sidewall. This last step is to run a line out from each corner as told and shown in the next paragraph under wind. This is especially important when you put your tent up in your back yard for the first time to wet it down, as experience has shown that this is when most tents come down and damage the poles.

## WIND

There is a whole lot of sale area in a wall tent. If your tent is staked down in loose sandy soil, or if the stakes are not at a full 45 degree angle it will not take as much wind as it will if it is staked down correctly in solid ground. If the tent comes down in the wind it could catch fire from the wood stove, the cook stove or a lantern. Now that could just ruin your whole day. There is a line attached to each eave corner of your tent. **Always take this line and throw a half hitch over the upright where it protrudes through the 3” eave pole, then run the line out and stake it down.** Don’t pull this line real tight, as that would put a strain on your zipper. Just pull it snug so it will hold the tent if a big wind comes up. Below are the two methods shown from a bird’s eye view. I prefer the second method as it accomplishes the same thing and the lines are where you’re less apt to trip over them. Put surveyors tape on the lines so you’ll see them.



## **SNOW**

On a 15x15 tent, one inch of powder dry snow containing 20 percent water weighs over 200 pounds. One inch of very wet snow containing ninety % water weighs about 1000 pounds. As you can see no kind of pole set, frame or whatever is going to hold a lot of wet snow. Your wood stove is the answer to snow. Keep your stove going in a snowstorm and remove snow if necessary.

## **LEAKS**

One time I was having a concrete slab poured and I asked the contractor to do whatever necessary to keep it from cracking. He told me not to worry; there was no extra charge for the cracks. That's kind of the way it is with leaks. Normally when a tent is wet down and dried properly it will not leak, but occasionally one may develop a drip. If you do have a leak, mark with a pencil where it is and when your tent is dry, if it's on a seam rub some seam sealer available at hardware stores, on that spot. If it's in the middle of a panel, spray some scotch guard on it. Under normal conditions your Canvas Cabin does not need a fly, even here on the wet West Coast. However, during those unusual times when you get a prolonged steady rain; a fly can be a welcome addition. I suggest you carry a hunk of visqueen under the seat of your truck. You'll probably never use it, but you'll probably sleep better just knowing it is there.

## **DOOR HOLDER – CLOTHESLINES – SCREEN DOORS**

On the end wall in each eave corner there is a grommet. To hold the door open, run a cord from the tip of the corner upright, through the grommet, around the door and back to the upright. The door can also be held open wider by pulling the stakes on the end of the tent and hooking the straps at the bottom of the door to the top of the eave pole upright. To run clothes lines, tie a cord to the corner uprights at each end of the tent running the line through the grommets. To hold the clotheslines up and away from the side walls, run a cord from one clothesline up **UNDER AND AROUND** the ridge pole and down to the other clothesline. Run two of these cords, one on each end of the tent about two feet from the end of the tent. You can also cut a clothes pole and hang it from our ridge pole. If you got a screen door with your tent it goes inside the end wall. Run the ties at the tip of the screen out the pole hole opening and tie it to the ridge pole outside the tent so it will hold the screen close to the end wall, then run the bungees out the grommets and hook them over the tip of the eave pole uprights; stake down the corners of the screen keeping it tight against the end wall.

## **POLE SET**

Aluminum oxidizes, and as it does it makes a black oily film that will get on your hands and on your tent. The 3" aluminum seems to be worse than the 1 ¼ uprights. If you want to stop this, clean the poles with Ajax or Comet or any good grease cutting soap and spray them with a clear lacquer or paint them a pretty red or blue or whatever color turns you on. The PVC inserts and the 3" poles will be a tight fit until everything works in. We suggest a light coating of silicone be applied to the PVC inserts and the 3" poles.

## MILDEW AND MOLD

The number one killer of canvas is mildew and mold caused by putting them away wet or storing them where they can draw dampness. Even if it didn't rain on your camping trip, there is moisture in the ground and it will collect on the underside of the sod cloth and along the bottom of the tent. Store your tent in a completely dry place. An unheated garage that you park a wet car in all winter or a damp basement does not qualify. Also, don't store your tent on or against concrete. Leave a little air space under it and put a piece of plywood behind it.

## FIRE

The second killer is a chimney coming apart in a wind and burning a tent. Always have your chimney screwed or wired together. One good way is to number your pipe and drill holes through the joints and drop a nail through them.

## MICE, CHIPMUNKS AND OTHER CRITTERS

The number three killer is rodents. If you have a rodent problem where you store your tent, get one of the big Rubbermaid garbage cans with the snap on lid. Starting about a foot up, drill ¼" holes all around it and in the lid and store your tent in there.

## CLEANING

When your tent gets dirty or muddy you can clean it with plain water and a brush, or when it's dry clean it with a broom and/or vacuum. **DON'T USE SOAP, DETERGENT OR CLEANING SOLVENTS AS THESE CAN REMOVE THE TREATMENT.** Tree sap will permanently stain the tent, but other than that, it really doesn't hurt anything. About the only way to avoid is don't camp under trees or put a fly over the tent. Frying food that makes a lot of smoke will eventually stain the inside of the tent. Regardless of what you do I can guarantee that your tent will not keep that brand new look for very long, but then you don't really want to look like a first time camper anyway, do you?

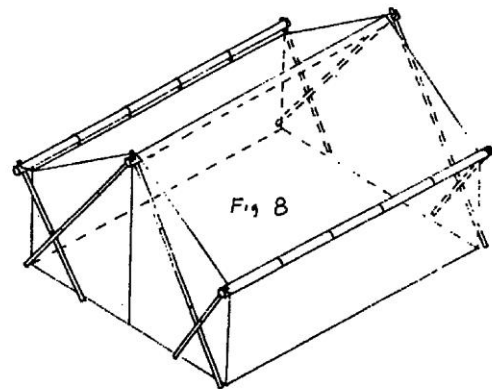
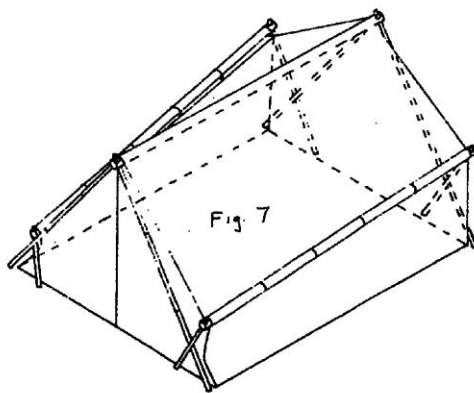
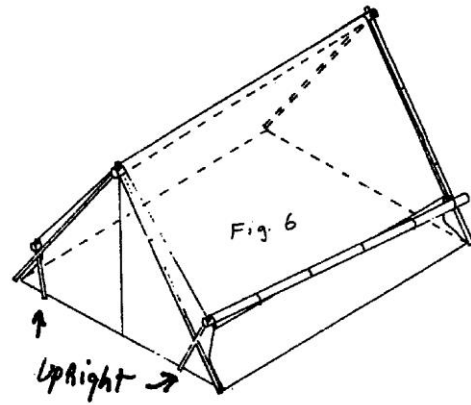
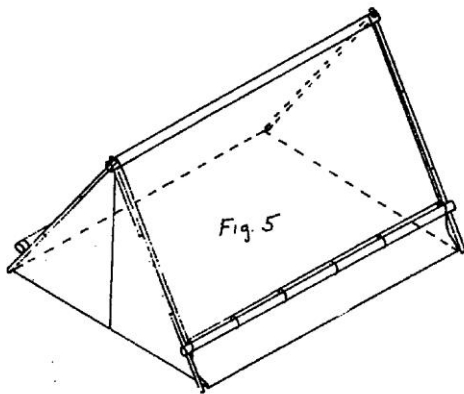
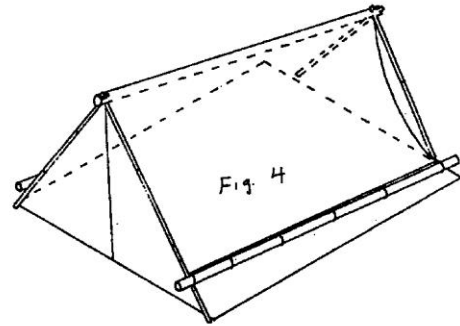
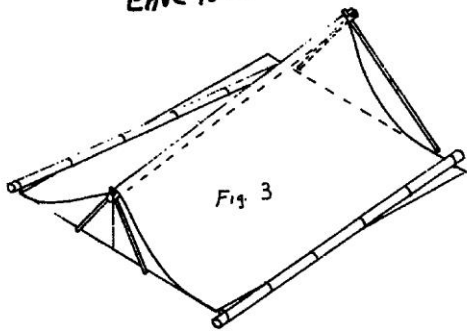
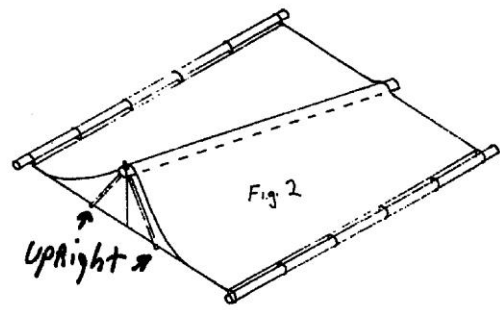
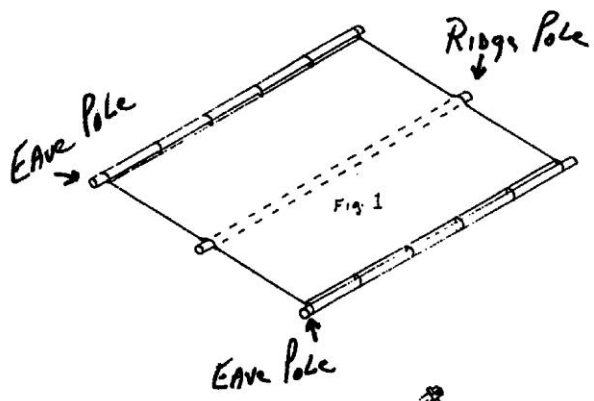
## A FEW MORE TIPS

Spraying anything inside the tent other than scotch guard is a big NO. Insect repellents, hair sprays and probably many other products can remove the treatment and possibly damage the canvas.

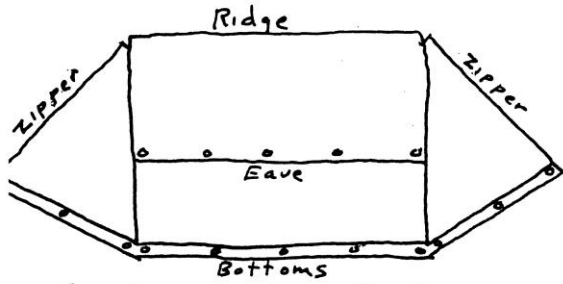
If you hand a lantern from your ridge pole, don't hang it under or near a joint. The heat from the lantern can soften the P.V.C. sleeve and it can sag and take a set when it cools.

If you always roll your tent up from the back and unroll it from the front, your stove jack will always be where you want it and you won't have to turn your tent around by dragging it on the ground. Enjoy your tent. Good camping. Good hunting and good luck.

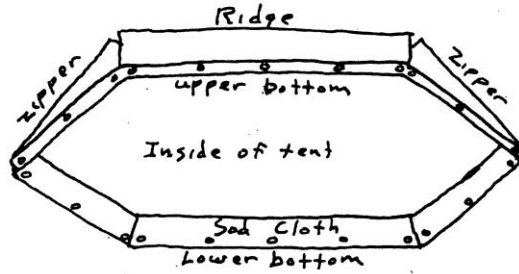
Bob & Cliff Burgess



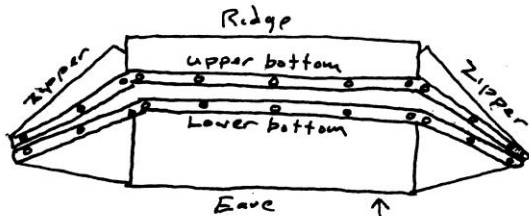
# Getting the Tent Back in the Bag



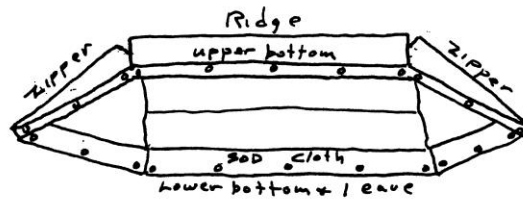
1. Lay the Tent on its side



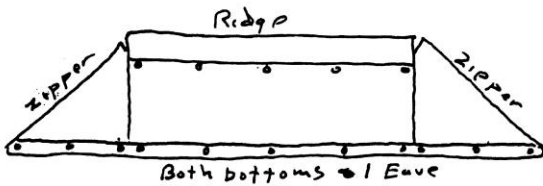
2. Fold top half back out of the way



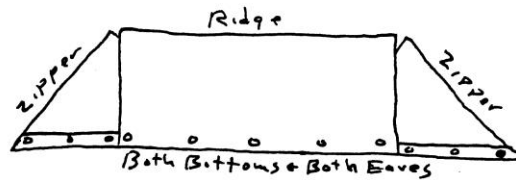
3. Fold Lower bottom up so eave shows



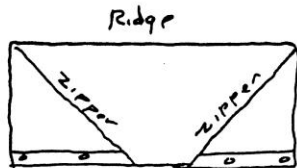
4. Fold lower bottom down even with eave



5. Bring upper bottom down to lower bottom + eave



6. Fold top eave down to match other eave and Bottoms



7. Fold the Ends in



8. Fold 12' wide tent in 3rds  
15' wide in 4ths - roll