

camp trailer

It has all the conveniences any camper could desire

DO you like to go camping with your wife and kids? Or maybe you're the fellow who likes to go hunting or fishing? If you are like many others the expense of renting a camp or bungalow often makes this outdoor pleasure prohibitive. In that case you should appreciate this easy-to-build plywood camp trailer.

It really isn't a large trailer; in fact it is smaller than the average car. Yet it has all the camping conveniences any camper would need. It is large enough for the whole family to sleep in. It has a built-in kitchen, complete with water supply, icebox, food compartment, table and chairs, stove and a clothes closet. The trailer is

10 feet long x 4 feet wide x 4 feet 10 inches high. It is a perfect trailer for a man who wants to travel, or hunt and go fishing in.

The trailer body is constructed entirely out of wood—plywood sides with hardwood framing. It has traveled over 20,000 miles in the last couple of years, and it is just as sturdy now as the day it was built.

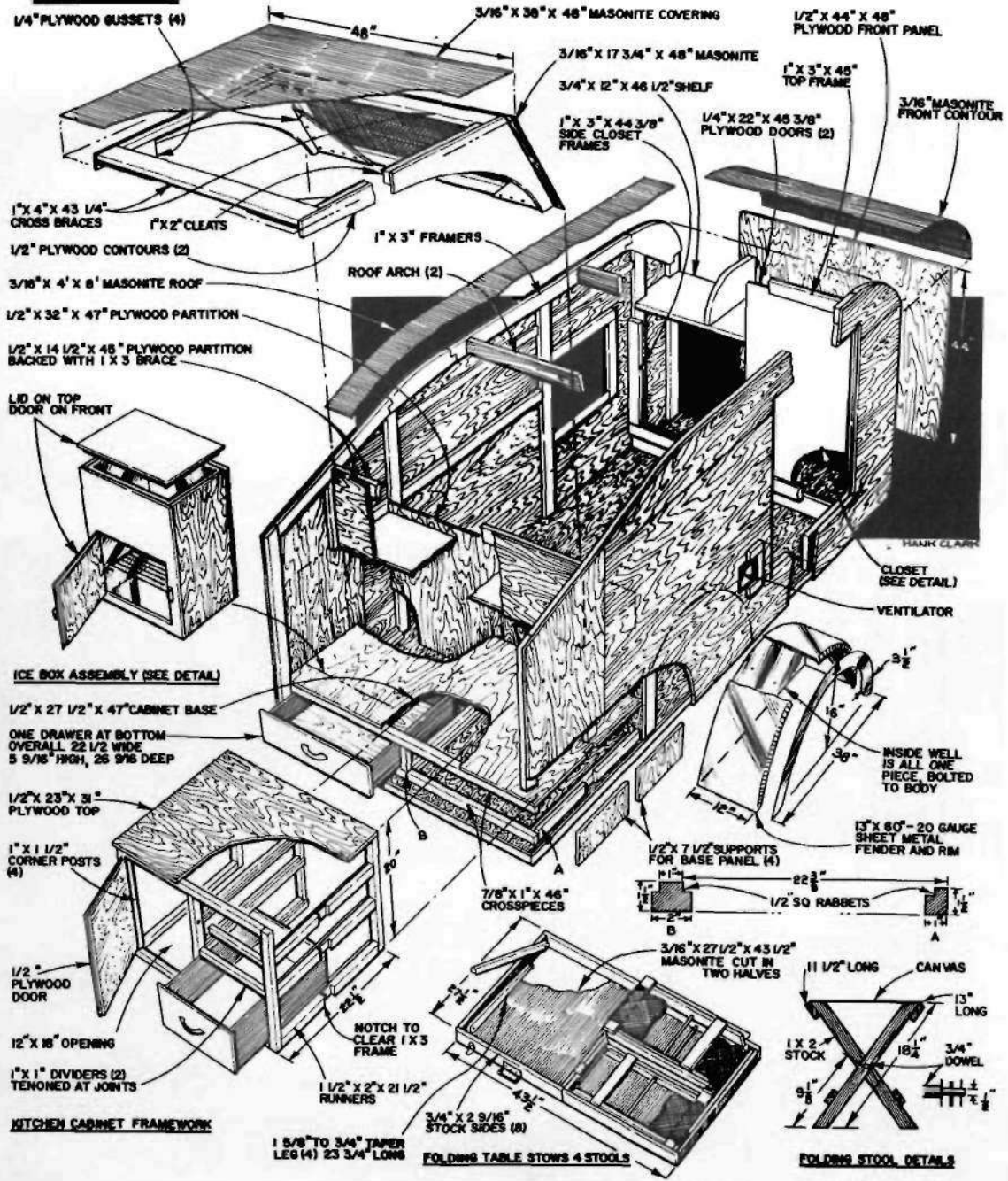
Start construction with the axle and wheel assembly. The I beam should be 56 inches long, and be sure the ends are square. Take two uprights, 1x4x11-inch steel plate, and the two spindles that fit the trailer wheels and trim them down to 11 inches.

On the I beam measure in on each end

INTERIOR VIEW of camp trailer shows kitchen area, store, icebox, water tap, storage drawers, etc.

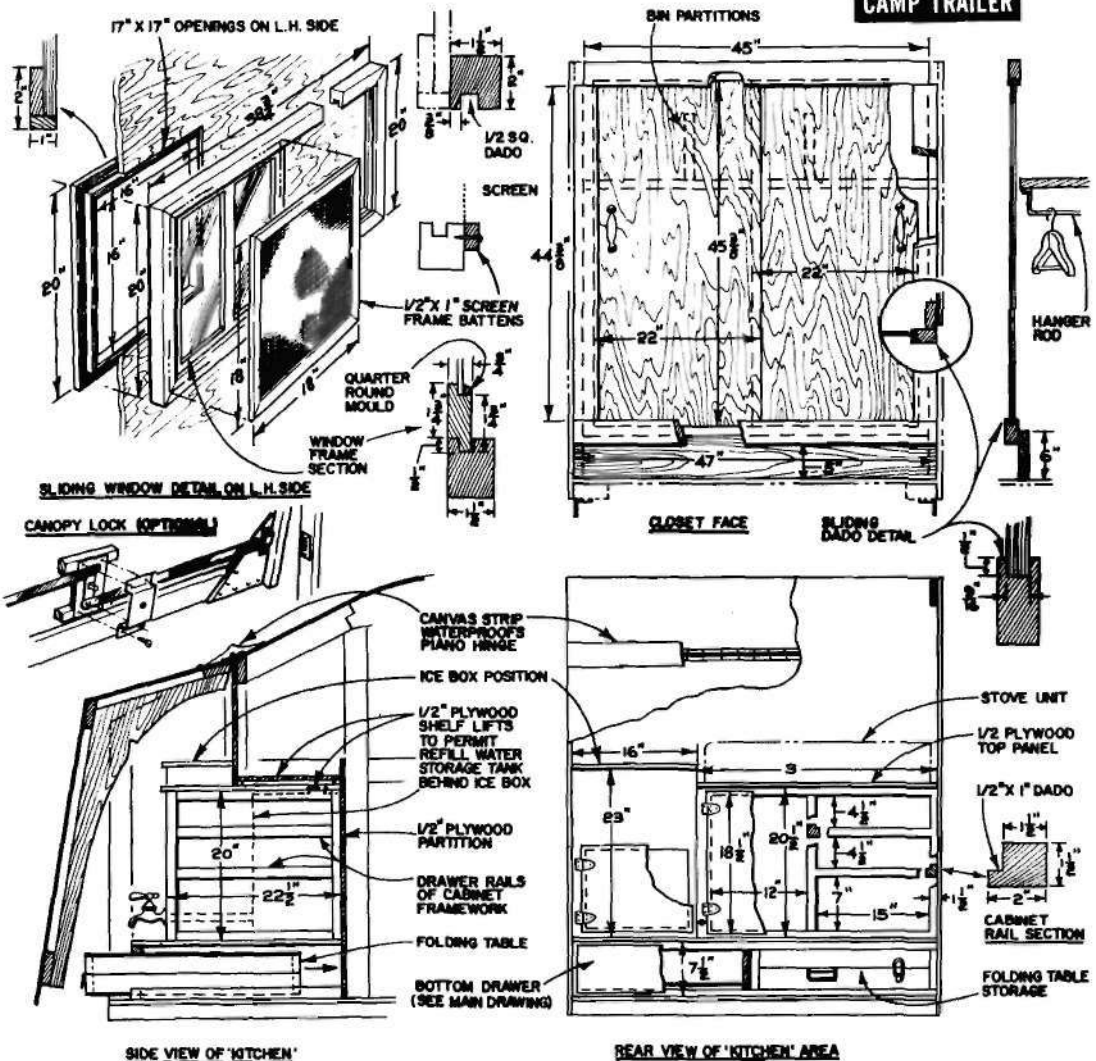


CAMP TRAILER



4 in. and take the spring you are going to use on that side and lay it across the I beam so that the outside of the spring is on this line. Now take the U bolts and slip two of them over the spring, and mark as closely as possible where the holes are to come. Center punch and drill these holes slightly oversize as you will find it hard to make a perfectly snug fit. Repeat this operation

on the other end of the beam. When these holes are drilled and springs are tried, and they fit to your satisfaction, remove them for the time being. Now take the uprights and weld one on each end of the I beam. After the uprights are welded on solidly you weld on the braces for added strength. The angle iron base frame is welded together to give it greater strength and dura-



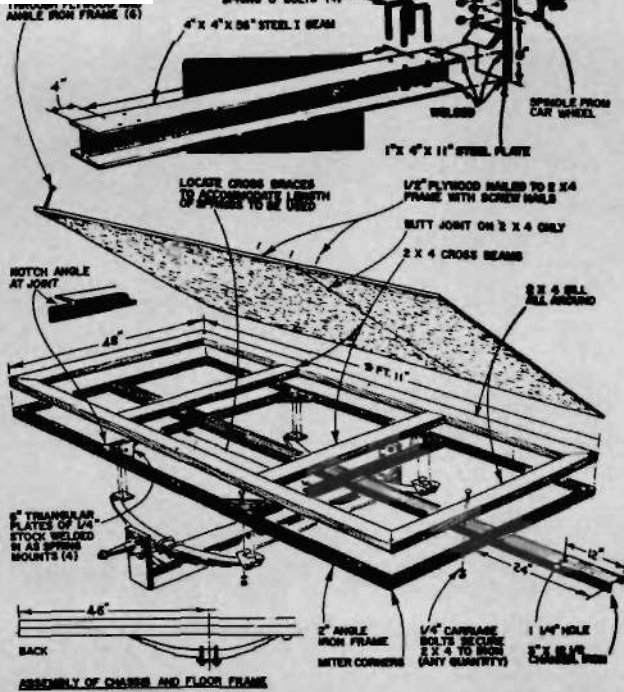
bility. Corners of the frame are cut at a 45 degree angle and welded as shown in the drawings. The crosspieces are butt welded in place. Their location is determined by the length of the car springs used for the trailer.

After the crosspieces are butt welded into place, the 6-inch triangular plates are clamped inside the angle formed by the crosspieces and the angle iron sides. The triangular plates are then welded into place. These plates go where the spring mounts are to be bolted. Set the springs into place and mark and drill the mounting holes on the plates. Now, take the 3-inch channel iron and weld it directly in the center of the frame. Measure back from the end of the tongue a distance of 12 inches and with your torch burn a 1/4-inch hole in the center of the channel iron.

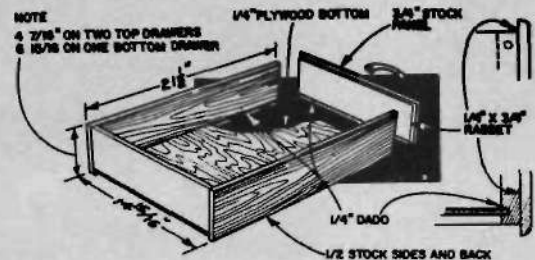
This is where your trailer jack will go.

Drill the holes that will hold the 2x4 hardwood frame to the angle iron trailer frame. With a power drill, drill a number of xV-inch holes through the angle iron frame; this also includes the two cross-pieces. The holes can be drilled about 18 to 24 inches apart. You now have the frame ready for the hardwood frame and plywood bed. The corners of the hardwood sides and ends are cut at 45 degrees. These pieces are then clamped on to the frame for a good, even fit.

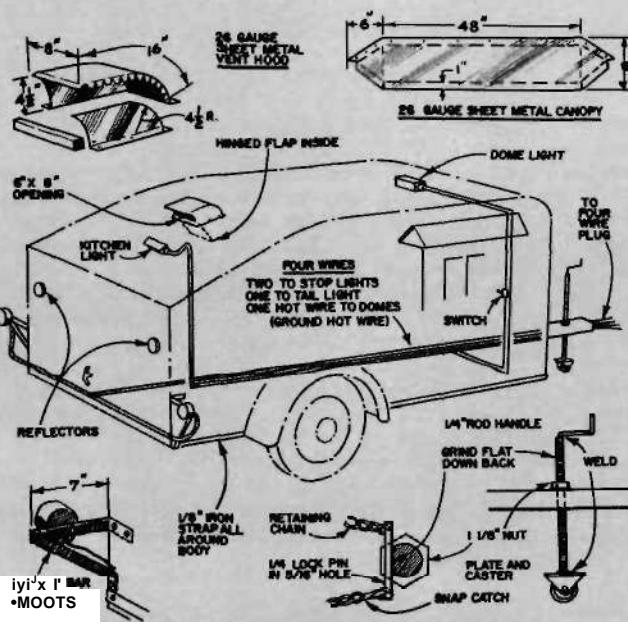
After the plywood floor is cut and attached to the frame paste the linoleum piece down on the plywood bed. The linoleum doesn't necessarily have to be a new piece as it is used for damp proofing the trailer and makes cleaning and scrubbing the bed a simple matter. The



ASSEMBLY OF CHASSIS AND FLOOR FRAME



CABINET DRAWER CONSTRUCTION (MAKE THREE)



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wheels can now be put on the trailer bed.

The trailer jack is next. Secure the 1/2x18-inch long bolt; mill or grind a 1/8-inch flat on the entire length of one side of it. This flat face is for locking the jack in place so that it will not unscrew while the trailer is in motion; see detail drawing for correct procedure.

The jack dolly can be secured through your hardware dealer. It is welded to the end of the bolt. Take the 1/2-inch nut and drill a hole through it as shown. The hole is to be large enough to receive the 1/4-inch locking pin.

Screw the bolt into the nut so that the dolly rests on the floor. When you are satisfied with the way it sets take the 1/2-inch rod and bend it into a crank and weld it to the top of the screw.

If you wish to buy the trailer jack you will find one at your local hardware store. That also goes for the trailer hitch, as it is best to buy a hitch and be on the safe side.

The two pieces of 1-inch chain are welded about 3 inches from the end of the tongue, one on each side of the channel iron; the ends of these chains are to be fastened to the back bumper of the car. A heavy duty chain snap is welded to the end of each chain. If you do not have the right type of back bumper it would be a good idea to fasten heavy duty eyes to clamp the chain snaps to. This is very important because if the trailer hitch happens to come loose while you are traveling the safety chains will hold it in place.

The easiest way to construct the trailer cabin is to lay out the plywood sides and cut them to the desired shape. After this is done the 1x3-inch hardwood frame can be laid out and cut to fit the sides. Follow the drawings for dimensions and details.

Build the clothes closet next. This can be constructed as shown, or to suit your individual requirements.

When building the kitchen

partitions be sure to measure each piece's location before you cut it to size.

You will note that the four sides of the icebox are 22 inches high, front and back are 16 inches wide; the top sides 10 inches wide. Before nailing the front on, lay out the food compartment door and cut it out. Do not nail in the plywood bottom until the sheet metal core and bottom insulation is installed.

Lay out the icebox sheet metal piece for the back and top sides. When you have this piece cut and bent as shown, the rest of the pieces will not give you any serious trouble. The upper front piece is cut and soldered in place. Be sure that the entire length of each joint is soldered. Next, the bottom is cut and soldered into place.

Ice Compartment

The ice compartment is built last. It is made from a piece of 16-gauge sheet metal. This is a heavier gauge as the ice will set here and it will be subject to some sliding around while the trailer is in motion.

The 8V2x12-inch piece of corrugated metal is placed on the bottom of the ice compartment; the cake of ice will rest on this. Since the metal is corrugated it will provide an easy escape for the melted ice water, also keep the drain from being covered over and trapping the water. You can now solder the copper tubing in place allowing it to stick out a couple of inches through the bottom of the icebox.

Depending on the kind of material you use, you may find it easier to install the

core in the wood shell first and then put in the insulating material.

Cut and bend the sheet metal of the icebox door as shown. For insulating cork or some similar material can be used. Fasten the sheet metal with small wood screws; the rubber seal is either glued or nailed into place.

Before cutting the above pieces to size, set the icebox on the kitchen cabinet base on the left side and snug against the trailer side. This is a temporary set up only for measuring purposes. The distance should be 31 inches from the right side of the trailer to icebox. This is the space that the kitchen cabinet is to occupy. If the distance is other than 31 inches then you must cut the kitchen cabinet pieces accordingly. The height will not change.

The water tank goes behind the icebox. A tank of galvanized sheet metal of the right dimensions can either be made or purchased. At the base of the tank on the right side drill a 1/2-inch hole and solder a 1/2-inch piece of copper tubing. Make the tubing long enough to clear the edge of the kitchen base. The copper tubing is bent so that it will line up with the hole in the kitchen cabinet upright. Solder a threaded fitting to the end of the tubing and screw on the faucet.

After all parts of your trailer are constructed and installed, and the outside painted with a good outdoor paint, you will find that you have a really compact weekend trailer that will soon repay in pleasure the time and money spent on it. •

