



MICRO CC Tent Top

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For everyday use, a simple flat tarp cover over the open portion of the hull is sufficient for weather protection, but when camping, especially overnight, a tent top is essential. The following pictures of a prototype tent top are shown, to provide design direction, and assistance, to those who wish to make such an enclosure.

First, it is necessary to decide what type of support structure you wish to make, and then how to attach it to the hull securely, yet be easy to remove, take apart, and store beneath the forward seats. I chose some light aluminum tubing, and bent it to satisfy the mounting position. The assembled top cross bar should be at the approximate center of the hull, over the bulkheads. The height should be about 36 inches from the top of the seats. A taller than 6 footer should make it a little higher. And the width of the top bar should be the same width as the top of the cabin.

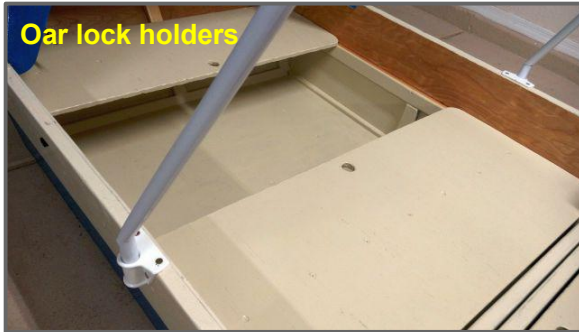
Follow the picture sequence below, and on the next pages, to get a clear understanding of the concept.



The simple support uprights I decided to fabricate. They are made of 3/4" aluminum tubing, and the cross bar is made of 1" tubing. I carefully bent the tubing so that it would fit in the oar lock holders, and lean forward over the bulkhead. Next I bent the top end to agree with the desired location of the top bar. Fortunately, one tube just fit inside the other. I wrapped black tape around the bend corners, to protect the tarp material when assembled.

This is a 6' x 9' tarp. As you can see, it is not quite large enough to completely enclose the sides, so a larger tarp is needed. The intent is to use bungee cords to keep the top tight, and in place. This will require that small eyes be located in inconspicuous locations for attachment. Also, small clear flexible plastic windows should be placed front and back for additional light, and visibility. Further, a simple flap door can be created from the excess material.

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The top 3 pictures show detail of the support arrangement and location. If you do not use oar locks, a different mount will have to be implemented. Ideally their location on the rub rail could be closer to the bulkheads, for a more straight up attitude. This would also allow a little easier entry into the boat when the top is up.

The 2 side pictures depict the width and length of the tarp cover, and I have drawn in the location for the clear plastic windows. The use of additional grommets in the tarp would help in adding the bungee cords to outside edges of the tarp, to keep it tight in all directions.

Lastly, a white tarp would also look good, and would reflect some sunlight, for a cooler and brighter interior. I intend to have a flap door, that is held open and closed with Velcro straps, for easy control from inside.

The next pages provide better views of the interior of the Micro CC, with the top open, and removed, with bedding !



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This view clearly shows how open the tent top can be with the sides folded over onto the top. Used only when the boat is at rest.

Below, and right, all the seat panels have been installed, and bedding placed in the normal full length position. It should be obvious that there is sufficient room to be comfortable, even with the flat tarp cover.



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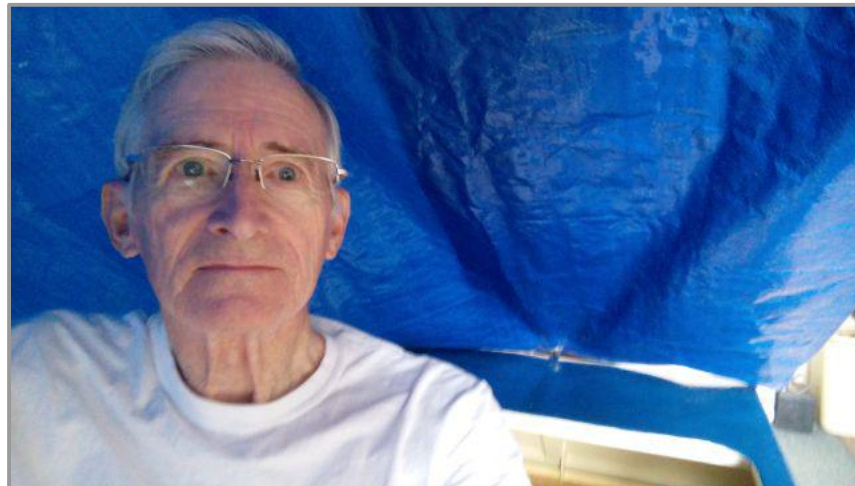
The following pictures are intended to show how much room exists in the cabin, with the flat tarp cover, and the tent top enclosure.



This is the tarp for the flat top configuration, note the internal volume, and head room.



This is me laying down, pretending to be asleep. Again, note the head room with only the flat cover.



Here I am sitting up in the tent top version, something you can not do with the flat top option.



And this is a view toward my feet, in the tent top. Note the expanded volume. Remember, this is only a prototype.

I have added these photos because I wanted to point out the fact that there is more than ample room in either top option for a good nights sleep. However, the tent top provides some useful living space, a much desired extra. The choice is yours !