

Pop-Up Topper Turns Pickup Into "Stand-Up" Camper

You'll like this new pickup topper that pops open into a full-size, stand-up camper that sleeps two people in a full-size double bed.

Developed by WilderNest Adventure Campers, Broomfield, Colo., the camper consists of a topper shell, tent, and 2-piece carpeted unit that slides into the pickup bed. The entire roof of the topper, which opens out to one side of the pickup and holds the extended double bed, is supported by a patented cantilever cable and coil spring system that holds up to 1,000 lbs. Large, netted zip-down picture windows offer views from both sides of the tent.

"The WilderNest camper offers 8 ft. of space from the pickup floor to the top of the tent, which is more than enough room to stand up. It offers three times as much space as a conventional slide-in pickup camper and even more space than most vans. One person can set it up in less than 5 min. After you've set up the bed and the tent, the cargo area of the pickup is left untouched, allowing for a variety of seating and cooking arrangements. When you're done camping you fold it back up into a topper shell, leaving the entire pickup bed free for haul-

ing other things. You never have to remove it from the pickup. The WilderNest weighs less than 250 lbs. for compact pickups and 325 lbs. for full-size models so you still have the power to pull a boat or other RV," says Bud Jordan, president.

The waterproof tent is made of 8-oz. nylon packcloth, coated with urethane. Inside the tent top are fiberglass wands that prevent flapping in windy conditions. Extendable aluminum outrigger struts under the extended bed keep it stable in high winds. Two ventilation openings at the top provide for fresh air and humidity control.

Accessories include a nylon mesh kitchen organizer net with rows of pockets that hold pots and pans; a roof rack; a tailgate screen door that allows you to keep the tailgate down and the rear hatch window up for easy access without constant opening and closing of the entire rear end of the topper shell; folding bench seats; a table with sink; interior lighting kits; and a carpet insert package that contains carpeted bench seats with storage which can convert to an additional bed, allowing you to sleep four inside.



The entire roof of the topper opens out to the right side of the pickup and holds an extended double bed that's supported by a cantilever cable and coil spring system.

The topper shell, tent, and 2-piece slide-in carpeted unit for a full-size pickup sells for \$3,000; \$2,500 for a compact pickup. Fits most pickups, including full-size, compact, domestic or import.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, WilderNest Adventure Campers, P.O. Box 1447, 2005 W. Midway, Broomfield, Colo. 80038 (ph toll-free 800 432-6378 or 303 465-4247).

THEY LOOK FOR ALL-NATURAL "ORNAMENTS" WHEREVER THEY GO

All-Natural X-Mas Tree Is A Fun Family Project

Several years ago a Wisconsin couple that loves the outdoors threw away all their Christmas tree lights, tinsel and ornaments and decorated their tree "the natural way" with pine cones, berries, bird feathers, shells and other natural "ornaments" they find in their travels.

Each year Betty and Lawrence Janssen, Green Lake, Wis., add colorful new treasures to their tree. "We both love the outdoors and I'm an artist so it combined our interests. We look for new things to add wherever we go and when we decorate the tree at Christmas time it brings back wonderful memories of places we've been and people we've met," says Betty. Because Lawrence is a missionary minister, they've had the opportunity to collect natural ornaments on their travels from California to Texas to Florida to Washington and many other areas.

Some of the most colorful items on the tree are orange bittersweet berries, red coxcomb, peacock feathers, and red macaw feathers. Wild turkey feathers, which were given to them by a rancher in South Dakota, are among their most favorite ornaments. Holly berries are placed on top of the tree in place of an angel or star.

Other natural ornaments include teasel seed pods from Michigan, cotton bolls from Texas, Spanish moss from Florida, eucalyptus balls from California, and pine cones from local Wisconsin woodlands.

Wild flowers and weeds are also candidates for the Janssen tree. "We consider anything that's colorful or unique and that



The Janssens decorate their Christmas tree with pine cones, berries, bird feathers, shells and other natural "ornaments" grows outside. The tree changes every year. "We're never finished," says Betty, noting that the tree helps keep the spirit of Christmas alive all year long. "We're always looking for colorful new additions to the tree. It's a fun year-round project."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lawrence H. Janssen, The Cedars, Rt. 2, Box 336, Green Lake, Wis. 54941 (ph 414 294-6754).



Carroll Neuhalfen's 1/2-scale truck is powered by an 8-hp Briggs & Stratton engine.

RUNS AT SPEEDS UP TO 30 MPH AND HAS A HYDRAULIC DUMP

1/2-Scale Farm Truck

Carroll Neuhalfen, Coleridge, Neb., spent 2,000 hrs. and about \$600 to build a 1/2-scale farm truck modeled after a 60-series Chevy 2-ton truck.

"When I drive it into the yard, cars stop on the highway and back up. They're not sure what they're looking at," says Neuhalfen, whose hobby is building mini machines. Before the truck he built a working pint-sized combine (featured in Vol. 6, No. 6) that's so authentic it'll harvest small grains, and he's working on a mini pickup and camper.

The truck is powered by an 8-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine and has 12 speeds forward and 4 in reverse, thanks to a matchup of two auto transmissions - a 3-speed and a 4-speed. "At first I thought if I used a 3-speed transmission and geared it down I could go slow enough but that didn't work. It went too fast. So I added the 4-speed behind it." He came up with a linkage system that ties the two transmissions to-

gether and he can now move the truck along at a crawl.

Neuhalfen fashioned the cab out of plywood covered with fiberglass. The box is all metal with a twin cylinder lift hoist under it. The swinging endgates on rear are equipped with a grain chute. All the lights work, including the turn signals. It has electric air horns. The truck is fitted with 12-in. wheels fitted with narrow tires. "I should have had 10-in. wheels because the original truck had 20-in. wheels, but I couldn't find 10-in. rims. I put duals on the rear," says Neuhalfen.

The mini truck is parked outside his small engine repair shop. He plans to enter it in fairs and parades. He's going to build a small trailer to pull behind the truck to carry his mini combine so he can set it up to look like a custom combiner rig.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carroll Neuhalfen, Coleridge, Neb. 68727 (ph 402 283-4538).