



Application: 1968-1973

PopTop Canvas



Tools Needed



OVERVIEW:

This process will take between 4 and 8 hours. All tents (Bus and Vanagon) are attached to the poptop with a tack strip and staples up to about 1983. On Vanagon's after 1983, the tent attaches to the top in the same way as it attaches to the body, with aluminum strips and screws.

STEP 1.

Remove the tent from body by removing all of the screws and aluminum strips. Take careful notice of exactly how the tent is fastened to the body by the aluminum strip and make sure it is installed in the same way. A digital camera for documenting this is recommended.

STEP 2.

Remove poptop from vehicle by unbolting the lifting gear from the top and bolting the pivot hinge from body. It helps to have long wire ties or rope to tie the lifting gear and hinges so they don't expand when you lift the top off of the vehicle. You will need at least three people, four is better, to lift the top off of the vehicle.

STEP 3.

Place the top upside down on a pair of sawhorses. Be careful not to damage the skylight on the Vanagon models.

STEP 4.

Remove the tent from the top. On pre-1984 models, remove the tack strip with staples in place. Take note of exactly how the tent is fastened to the top by the tack strip or aluminum strip and make sure it is installed in the same way. Again, a camera is helpful. You can re-use the tack strip and staples to install the new tent. NOTE: Mid America sells new tack strips and nails if your stuff is not good.

STEP 5.

Lay out the old tent on the ground and lay the new tent on top to make sure the new tent is the correct size and type. NOTE: It is your responsibility to insure that the tent is right BEFORE you install it! Double and triple check all dimensions and edges. Keep in mind that this is a textile product and stretching is to be expected.



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Description (cont.)

STEP 6.

Install tent on top in the same way the old tent was installed. Mark the center of the top front, rear, sides, and corresponding centers of the tent. Line up those marks and install the tent to the top at those points first, then work your way to each corner.

STEP 7.

With plenty of help, put top back on to vehicle and install hardware for lifting gear and hinges.

STEP 8.

To install the tent to the body it helps to prop the top partially open, not all the way open. Using a piece of wood approximately 30" long, prop up the top. Install the tent to the body at all four center points of each run first, and then work towards the corners. You will need to notch the plastic welting in the corners in order to make the turn. It may also be necessary to take-up extra material in the corners. A little wrinkling in the corners is ok. They will straighten out overtime.

NOTE:

When folding or rolling material at top to get the tent tight, please make sure the staples, or other fasteners, are put through the double folded material and not the single layer to avoid tearing.