

Sun Canopy for Front of a Cruiser Awning

by Tony Burrett

We changed our unit in the Autumn of 1992 from a very well worn Campa DL to an almost new Cruiser and started making plans for the coming summer. As regular campers abroad we knew just what we needed - a sun canopy for the new unit to fit in front of the awning. Whenever we had camped abroad before, for a number of years in Spain and France in an old frame tent and then with the Campa, we had always spent many hours watching the world go by from under the shade of a canopy - be it shading us from the hot sun or from the rain storms. We ate, read and drank sat under the sun canopy.

Of course we quickly found out that for a Cruiser you can use either the awning or the sun canopy - not both. Conway Products assured us that nobody would want both an awning and a sun canopy on at the same time - there was no need or demand.

With the club French Rally in the Vendee approaching we decided to have a go at designing and making our own sun canopy to fit in front of the awning. A local canvas cover maker made up the canvas to our design (£88 for the canvas, £12 for the labour) and we used the poles from the old canopy from the Campa together with 2 sections of plumbers copper piping to make up the frame. The canopy was deliberately made deeper than normal to give us a large area - such is the size that at the rally we regularly had a dozen under cover sharing our table. For us the canopy has been a total success.

Diagram 1 gives details of the canvas - this is for a deep awning and the depth of 88 inches could of course be easily cut down. As it is wider than the width the canvas comes in it does involve a join.

Diagram 2 shows the required poles. You may want to have adjustable feet sections on the two legs although we have not found this necessary.

The canopy itself ties to the awning frame through the gaps in the canvas where the short stub poles come out. The roof pole clips to the top of the front centre leg of the awning and is tensioned. A guy rope from the top of each canopy leg holds the whole thing in place. When we are expecting

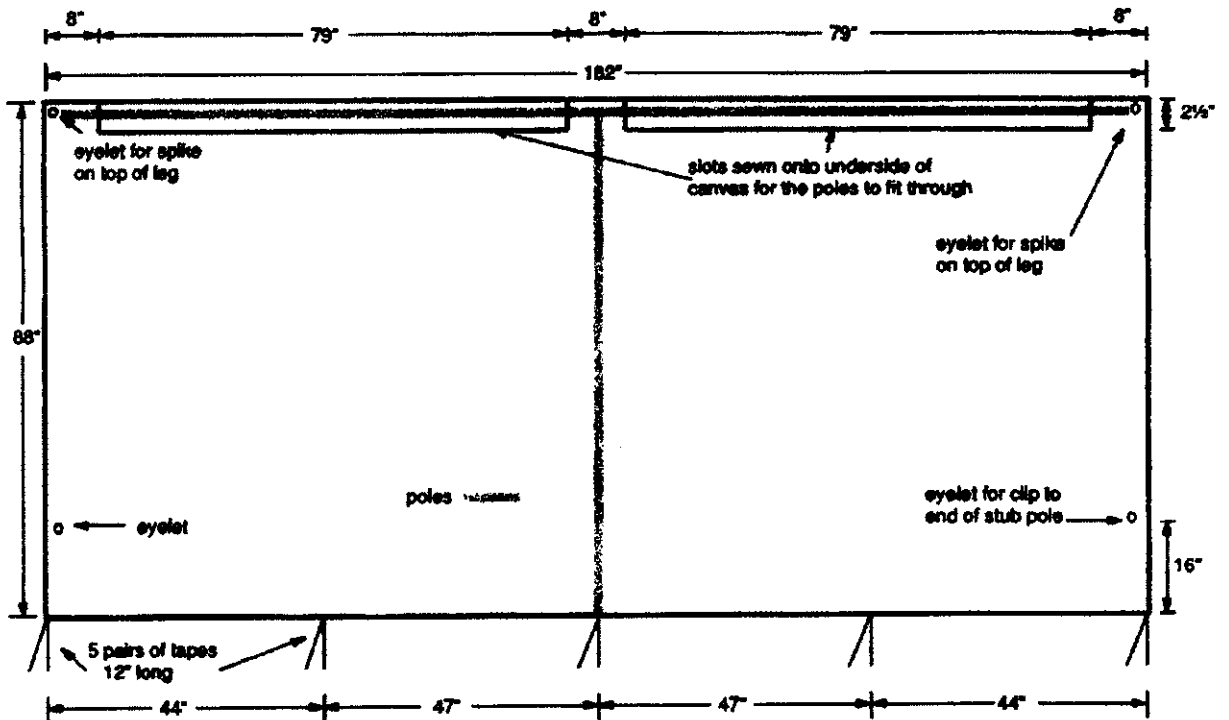
storms or heavy rain we add a storm pole in the middle of the front. We have been assured by Conway staff that we are not putting any strain on the unit as the canopy fits in the same way as they use on several of their products. As a bonus we have found that for overnight stops the canopy will fit onto the side of the unit itself.

In the last three years we have had a number of request for details of the canopy and at least two have been made up to these instructions - with their owners I know totally delighted. One of these was made up from an old canopy with a section sewn in on a domestic sewing machine and the other was made up this year by a canvas repairer recommended by Conway who provided the canvas (in colours almost identical to the unit), fitting and poles for £150 working straight off these instructions.

Sun Canopy to fit on front of the awning on a Conway Cruiser

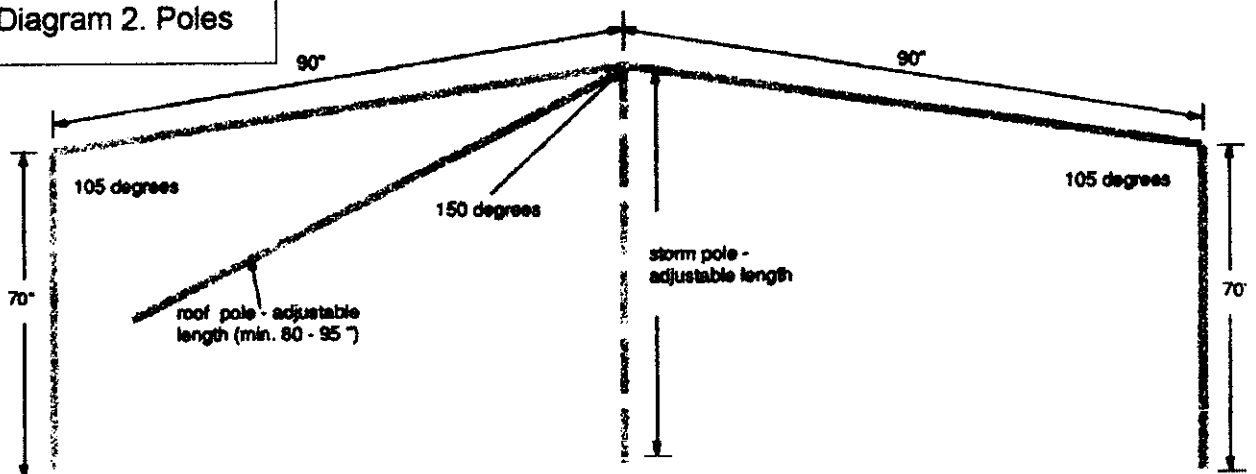
(the canopy will also fit to the side of the unit itself)

Diagram 1. Canvas



Cruiser awning on this side, centre roof pole on sun canopy clipped to top of centre leg of the awning.
Ties through into the awning at the points where the stub poles come out.

Diagram 2. Poles



Each leg needs a spike on the top to go through an eyelet in the canvas