Wild Goose Trailer
From Popular Mechanics, April 1953
For Reference Only… Do not use to build a trailer.
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http://www.mikenchell.com/forums
OVERNIGHT CAMPERs, hunters fisherman and vacationers with limited time can appreciate the convenience, comfort and ready roadability of "Wild Goose." Hung low to the ground, yet with ample road clearance for the back trails, it tows anywhere your car will go. Keep it packed with the necessary bedding, also canned and dried foods and you can get away for a week-end trip in only a few minutes' time. When you arrive at the destination, Wild Goose sets up into a neat outdoor “kitchenette” in less time than it takes to put up a tent.

Looking over the details on the following pages you will note that the construction of this streamlined job differs somewhat from ordinary trailer construction. Where adaptations must be made only a few general dimensions have been given. Because the unit has been designed for road speeds up to 60 m.p.h. care must be taken when assembling the welded chassis frame. When notching the channel-steel side frames to form the first bend, cut the notches accurately so the meeting edges fit snugly before welding. The gusset plates should be at least 12 in. long, and at the forward end of the drawbar where the reverse bends open the cuts made in the channel webs it's a good idea to weld in...
triangular filler pieces for maximum strength. Note also the position of the truss rods which pass under the forward cross member. The ends of the rods are welded to the frame members and are bent over king posts to form individual trusses. This construction carries the load at the forward end without any tendency to springing or vibrating, which would cause the trailer to weave at high speeds.

Note in the chassis details at the left how a 2 x 4-in. subframe is bolted to the steel chassis frame. If you use an auto front axle it must be cut and a filler piece welded in to obtain a 6½-in. wheel tread. A standard trailer axle is recommended. Mount the axle to center approximately 4½ in. from the rear frame member, attach the wheels and fit a parking jack with small caster wheel on the drawbar so the chassis frame can be leveled. Cover the wooden members of the chassis framing with a ¾-in. waterproof-plywood floor and plane the edges smooth and square. Added strength and rigidity will be gained if the plywood floor is glued to the wooden frame.
members with a waterproof glue and fastened with 1 1/4-in. F.H. screws spaced about 4 in. apart. Next, assemble the sides as in the detail drawings on pages 188 and 189. These are assembled separately and then attached to the floor with heavy shelf brackets. Cross ribs, or "rafters," are put in after the sides are attached and braced temporarily in the vertical position. Now note in the center detail on the preceding page, showing the right side, that the crosshatched portion of the side measures 66 in. from the rear end. This establishes the hinge point of the curved deck. The latter raises and is supported on the folding screen-door frame as in the photos above and below. This gives standing room at the sink and stove. The area is enclosed with fabric walls made from heavy awning material as shown.
Probably the best method of making the sides is to lay out the profiles full-size on a single sheet of heavy wrapping paper made by taping together several widths to get the required size. Then cut the side panels from \( \frac{3}{8} \)-in. hardboard. Assemble the frame members on the panel as detailed, cut them to fit, then glue and screw each piece to the panel. Note that the joints are strengthened with plywood gussets attached with glue and screws. Locate the openings for the door and window and cut away the panel. Add the top and bottom frame members for the window and the top member over the door opening. Then attach with shelf brackets to the plywood floor and brace temporarily in the upright position. Be sure that the sides are braced perpendicular to the bottom.

Locate and mark the hinge point of the curved deck on both sides. Some builders may wish to place the hinge point farther forward to gain more headroom at the refrigerator and sink. If you purchase sink, refrigerator and cabinets ready-made this may be advisable. In any case the center rib is located with its back face at the hinge point. Openings for the wheel housings can be cut into the side panels and the metal housings fitted in place. The housings are raised into position and the lips screwed to the floor. It’s a good idea to coat edges of the plywood with a waterproof mastic before placing the housings. At this point cut four \( \frac{3}{4} \)-in. plywood ribs for the deck. Cut the ribs 2 in. wide and about 2 in. longer than the measurement and to the same contour as the curved rear half of the sides. Some handwork will be necessary to assure a true fit at the front and rear where the sides join the floor. Keep in mind that waterproof glue is used in all joints in addition to screws.

The first forward rib is located approximately 13 in. from the floor. Now, before you go further, measure and cut the two covering pieces from \( \frac{1}{8} \)-in. tempered hardboard, using 4 x 8-ft. panels. After cutting to the required width, allowing \( \frac{3}{8} \)-in. overhang on both sides and a 2-in. overlap at the joint, place the parts in position and locate the rib under the overlap. Glue and screw the rib in position. Two other ribs are installed equidistant between the three already in place. Now install the covering pieces, beginning with the front piece. Prefit this piece at the front edge, notching over the drawer members and trimming the edge flush. Then spread glue, clamp in place and drive screws at the lower edge first. An exceptionally neat job of attaching the covering can be had by using oval-headed screws turned in over finishing washers. Otherwise use roundheaded screws spaced about 2 in. apart.

Above, there’s ample space on the metal-topped cabinet for a camp stove. Below, refrigerator and sink cabinet with drop leaf occupy right wall of trailer.

Space under studio couch provides for storage of a spare tire and also clothing and sporting equipment.
Now note in the upper and lower right-hand photos on page 190 the folding step and the fixed panels on each side. The side panels are approximately 11½ in. high and are screwed and glued to 2 x 4-in. posts bandsawed to the contour of the trailer sides and screwed and glued to the bottom with the outer edges ¾ in. from the trailing edge of the floor. Space between the inner posts should be 29½ in., which is the width of the doorframe. Fit ¾ x 12-in. plywood panels over the posts and attach with screws and glue. Cover the wooden panels with ¼-in. hardboard panels cut to extend down over the rear edge of the floor and floor supports. The step panel is cut from ¾-in. plywood to fit between the posts and is hinged to the rear chassis member. The outer face of the hinged panel is covered with ¼-in. hardboard extending ½ in. at the top and ends. The original step was made by cutting, bending and welding ¼ in. steel to form the unit pictured. It is attached to the hinged panel with screws.

At this stage the curved deck can be made and fitted in place. The ribs, which have already been cut, can now be fitted individually. Cross ribs are butt-joined to the outer curved ribs but are half-lapped over the center ribs. Join all ribs to a 2 x 2-in. cross member at the ends. Before covering with ¼-in. hardboard, check the fit of the deck frame in the opening. It should fit snugly without a gap at any point. Now attach the covering pieces, beginning at the forward end of the frame, in the same manner as those on the front of the trailer. Slide the edge of the second piece under the edge of the first one to form an overlap directly over the center cross rib. When driving the screws make sure that the hardboard does not buckle and that the overhang on each side is the same. Hinge the completed deck in place, using four butt hinges equally spaced across the width. Cover the joint with two thicknesses of waterproof canvas cut into 4-in. strips and tacked or screwed over the...
Pipe Used as Sanding Block
For Scrollwork

When sanding the edge of an inside curve or circle, the work goes much faster and easier if the sandpaper is wrapped around a piece of pipe about 6 in. long. The diameter of the pipe will depend on the radius of the curve to be sanded. Using the pipe also helps to keep the sandpaper square with the work.

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Fishhook Has Sliding Wire Guard
To Prevent Snagging on Weeds

A short length of thin, spring-steel wire is all you will need to convert a common fishhook into a weedless type. After bending the eye of the fishhook slightly inward, secure one end of the wire to the fishline, pass the other end through the eye and coil to fit over the point as shown. When finished, the wire should be just long enough to allow the leftover strand where connected to the line to be slipped through the eye and bent up as shown to hold the coil over the point. In use, a quick yank on the line as soon as any tugging is felt overcomes the wire catch and pulls the coil from the point inside the fish’s mouth.

April 1953