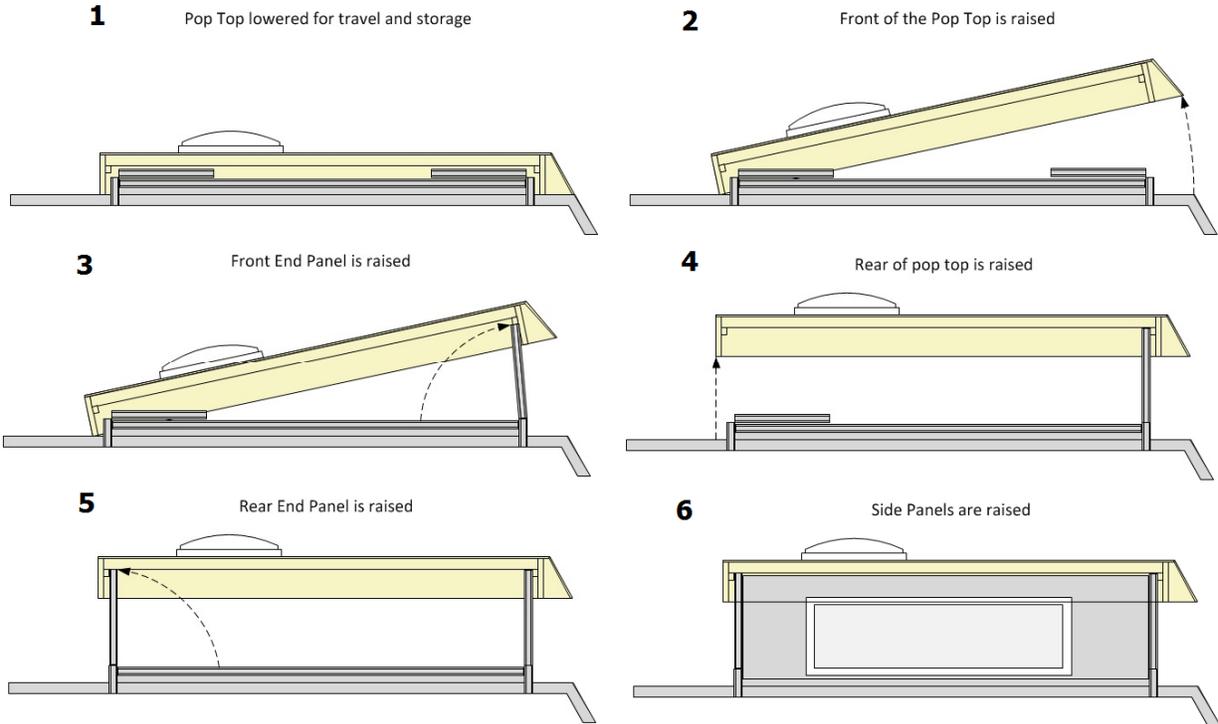
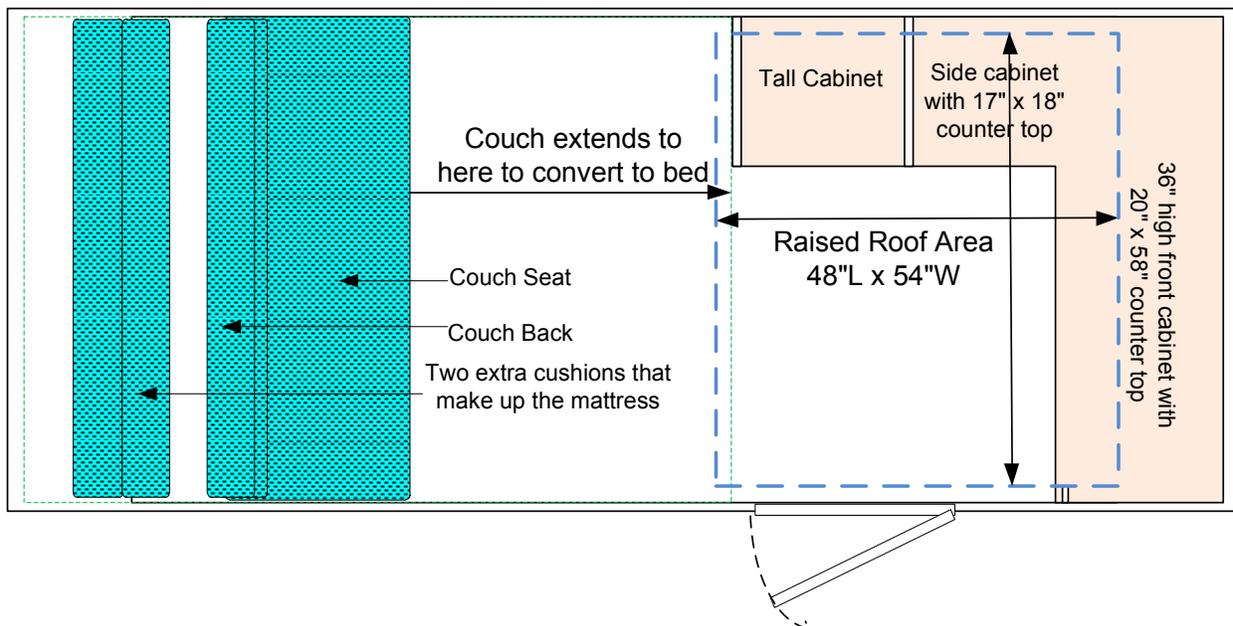


Before you buy the Pop Top plans, I have some information for you that may affect your decision. The sequenced illustrations below demonstrate how the pop top works.



I also want to share with you my experience with constructing the pop top that is raised over the galley area. I wanted a large enough area that two people could share that space, so I made the inside dimensions about 48" x 56" (blue dashes line in the drawing below). Part of that area is taken up by the cabinetry on the front and left side, but still leaves enough floor space for two.



If the width of the pop top was less than the width of the roof, my latches would not have worked properly. The result was that the top I constructed from pine and plywood weighed nearly 90 lbs., much more than I had anticipated. To lift one end, I had to make a lifting device using my foot and leg for more lifting power. The top was still awkward to handle, but I could get it up and down with the device.

Later, I decided to attempt to build a top from 3/4" high density foam. I located some 4' x 10' sheets of 3/4" thick Dow Corning blue foam. I constructed the top mostly from the foam with some wood for stiffening, spacers and to attach the fan and light screws. This top weighed only 32 lbs., including the 11 lb. Fantastic Fan and is easy to lift up and down using only my hand and arm.

I coated my top with three applications of elastomeric roof coating, that is thicker and tougher than latex paint. That should protect the top from weather, except perhaps from hail which might dimple the foam roof of the top. To properly protect the foam, one should apply a layer of fiber glass cloth and polyester resin. That is the type of resin that uses two equal parts, NOT the type sold in Home Depot that uses a number of drops of hardener per ounce of resin which is the type of resin that I used to seal my plywood. This resin generates enough heat while curing to melt the foam.

Should you consider purchasing the plans for the Squidget Pop Top, you should consider the consequences of constructing the heavier wood top or the availability of 3/4" high density foam (at least 2 oz. of weight per cubic foot of foam). Three 4' x 8' sheets will work as well as two 4' x 10' sheets. If you decide on the wood top, then my plans for the foot-powered lifting device and a video of it's operation are available for the asking.