

# Installation Instructions for your Winter Storage Cover



**QUINTE CANVAS MANUFACTURING**



**1120 CLYDE COURT, KINGSTON, ONTARIO  
K7P 2E4**

(613) 384-6316  
(613) 384-0002 Fax  
[topshop@kos.net](mailto:topshop@kos.net)  
[www.topshop.on.ca](http://www.topshop.on.ca)

**Before you begin:**

- You will need.
- 1/2" Wrench or Deep Socket
  - Utility Knife
  - Extra Rope? ...(Optional)
  - Strong Helper...(Optional but preferred)
  - Put the canvas and frames on the deck before you haul the boat out of the water.

**Frame Assembly Instructions:**

A copy of the frame assembly for your boat is on the back page. The colour codes are shown here as well. The picture shown gives a description of the parts.

**Spine:** Wrap scrap canvas that was shipped with your cover around your railings to keep the clamps from scratching your rails. This scrap canvas can also be used to make repairs to your cover should the need arise. Two clamps are mounted on the spine when shipped. With the nuts facing down, (shown) clamp the main spine frame to the bow and stern rails of the boat first. The colour codes will help you determine which is front and back. Boats with a stern gate: A Gate Bridge will be provided to bridge the gap so you can clamp to the spine. Install a center set of ribs first to help stabilize the spine.

**The ribs:**

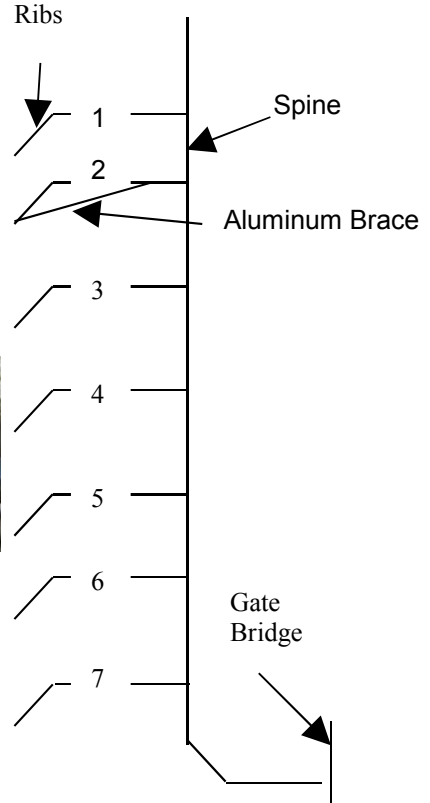
**Note:** Install pipe straps on the ribs before installing clamps. (See Bracing)

With a center rib installed, work your way fore and aft. Notice the color-coded tapes are at different heights. Place the high tapes on one side and the low tapes on the other, thus you end up with a left and right. Makes the ribs much easier to install next year. The ribs may be moved forward or aft to achieve a better fit. When installing the ribs, make sure the legs on the rib frames are outside the lifelines, 90° to the deck and against the inside of the toe rail. If they are not, the weight of the snow may slide the leg out and collapsing may occur. Now tighten up the nut to lock the clamp to the frame. Tie the frame to the toe rail securely.

**Hooks: Only on some models.** These just rest on the bow and/or stern rail for support. They do not go down to the deck. They just support the canvas.

**Bracing:** The 5 Ft. Aluminum colour-coded bracings are installed on the corresponding ribs. Make sure pipe clamp is right next to the top of the plastic foot on the bottom of the rib facing in. The top pipe clamp will be installed where it reaches at the top end of the bracing. If the bracing is too long, pass it through to the other side. Install the bracing after you install the ribs so the bracing passes through the lifelines.

**TIE THE FRAMES DOWN.** Tie the ribs down to the toe rail. Also tie a line from the toe rail (or stanchion base) to the spine then to the other side of the boat. This will help the frames from shifting on windy days. If you do not have a toe rail, obtain a length of 1X2 strapping from your local lumberyard. And secure it to your lifeline stanchions; this will serve as a support for your ribs. You may also take some extra rope and Tie it to your stern rail. Going forward, tie each rib off below the radius to each other finishing at the bow by tying a reef not. This will help keep the ribs perpendicular and will all work as one.



1 Blue, 2 Orange, 3 Green, 4 Brown, 5 White, 6 Red, 7 Yellow, 8 Black



Clamp on Bow Rail



Shows ribs with braces



Clamp Assembly



Interior when completed



Bracing / Pipe strap tied to toe rail

### **Installing the Canvas:**

1) Upon shipment, your cover will be rolled up as shown. When installing the canvas for the first time, you will notice the cover has been marked bow and stern. Place the cover about mid ship on the frames with the bow roll facing the bow and the stern to the stern.

2) Roll the bow out first; making sure the seam that fits the pulpit radius is about 4" to 6" beyond the bow pulpit. This will let you know that you are close to center. Then roll the cover to the stern. This seam also should hang over the edge of your stern rail by about 6".

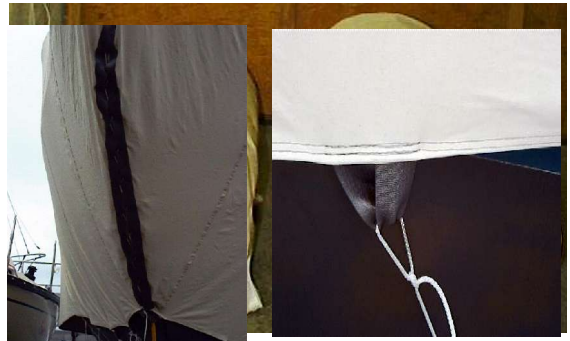
3) Your cover will now be unrolled along the spine of the frames. Unfold it once. At this fold you should see the center seam in the canvas. Align this center seam with the spine.

4) Now unfold the canvas down over the sides of the frame alternating from one side to the other to prevent the canvas from sliding off to one side onto the ground.

5) Tie the shoe lacing up at the bow as shown. Tie the center of the cover down to the cradle. Then tie the cover up from side to side to itself.

The canvas will shrink. We have added ten percent to the canvas in width and length to compensate for the shrinkage that will occur the first couple of years. Tie it down tight. But not so tight you hear stitching tear. Canvas under tension will not shrink. KEEP AN EYE ON IT. MOTHER NATURE LIKES TO PLAY GAMES.

Stepped Mast Covers: To install this, start at the mast. Place each piece on the spine and roll the canvas fore or aft. Join the two pieces together and wrap the collars around the stays. Follow the same instructions #3 to #5



Bow Lacing

Tie down loop



Zipper and flap

### **Removing the Canvas:**

Before you remove the canvas from your boat. Be sure its dry. Check for any winter damage that may have occurred during the winter and mark these areas with tape or chalk. (It's easier to find the holes while on the boat instead of in a heap on the shop floor.)

Lay the canvas out as flat as possible. This is the bow section of the canvas shown. The bow area of the skirt has been folded up over top of itself. (Fig. A)

Fold the hem of the canvas to the center seam, then again (two folds per side). Do this on both halves. (Fig. B)

Once both halves are at the center seam. Fold the two halves one atop the other. (Fig. C)

Starting at the bow or stern of the covers. Roll the canvas to the center or zipper. Brush off any leaves or grass that you may pick up. (Fig. D)

### **WARNING:**

Never store your canvas wet or damp. If you do, I'll be selling you a new canvas come fall. Storing your cover on a cement floor is bad news for the canvas. Cement retains moisture and will rot the canvas. Find yourself an old skid or pallet to store it on.

### **NOTE:**

Your winter storage cover is not to be installed and forgot about until spring. You have to keep the snow load off the cover, and you have to constantly check under the canvas for frame movement or shifting. This cover is not guaranteed against snow loads or wind damage. Try to avoid storing your boat in open, wind prone areas. We have seen more damage from collapsed frames from wind than any thing else. If you go away for the winter, get a buddy to check it and to knock the snow off after each snowstorm and to check the frames after high winds.

If the ribs don't reach the center spine, your center spine frame may clamp to the lower rung on your stern rail. You may also move the ribs fore or aft to fit to the toe rails better.

If you still have a problem, call us and give us the proper measurements and we will make corrections immediately.

We at Quinte Canvas try to make a strong, sturdy Winter Cover. But Mother Nature does win at times.

### **Helpful Storage Hints**

**1** To prevent hernias and or the other half from cursing you, place the canvas and frames on your deck **before** you haul the boat out of the water.

**2** Try to store your boat facing the prevailing winds, less wind friction.

**3** Try to avoid storing your boat next to someone who leaves their mast stepped. Ice storm daggers falling off rigging can go right through your canvas.

**4** Try to hold off putting your cover on your boat until late November. The majority of high windstorms occur in October early November.

Thank you.

"A"



"B"



"C"



"D"



## Extra Pictures

Spine attached to bow rail rib set showing first



Frames set in place



Detail of frames going past mast



Spine clamped to stern rail



Frames with canvas installed (different boat)

