

Making a pattern for a tonneau cover.

If you have the original cover that is either damaged or shrunk we should be able to make a new cover from the original.

Place the original cover on the boat, note whether the cover is too small or too large in any place. Using indelible marker pen write on the original cover at the exact place the amount which it needs to be extended or made smaller. Also any improvements which you require.

If you do not have an original cover then using builders polythene proceed to make a pattern, so we can have an exact fit.

To make tonneau pattern.

Materials and tools required to make pattern.

1. Builders polythene (This is a very heavy duty polythene, do not use thin polythene as this will stretch, causing the pattern to be too small).
 2. Roll of masking tape
 3. Roll of parcel tape.
 4. Permanent marker pen.
 5. Scissors.
 6. Straight edge.
 7. Measuring Tape.
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1. Take polythene 25cm wider than the widest part of the boat and 25cm longer than the length. Measurement for length to be taken 25cm in front of fittings. (i.e. press studs, lift the dots, etc.) on cabin roof or windscreen to 25cm over black rub strip at rear of boat. NB If you have no fittings then measure 25cm from the edge of cabin roof or windscreen.
 2. Find the centre of the polythene and mark at front and rear. Place the front centre of the polythene on the cabin roof or the windscreen at front of boat.
 3. Punch holes in polythene to go over existing fittings on roof or windscreen to hold polythene in place, or use masking tape or parcel tape to hold in place.

4. Pull polythene tight and fasten to rear of boat, (*I recommend crocodile clips over rub strip or masking tape*), but if you have an outboard engine you MUST cut a slash at the centre of the polythene so that you can pull the cover past the engine.
6. With permanent marker pen mark the shape of boat on polythene at rear above rub strip.
7. If outboard mark shape of transom, (*this is the shaped well that the engine fits into*) onto the polythene so that we can make engine cut-out in the cover. Please measure Depth from cover into transom well and mark on poly pattern.
8. Mark with permanent marker the shape of windscreen or edge of cabin at front of boat. Also mark the edge of the gunnels at sides of the boat.
9. At sides, rear and at cabin or windscreen of boat mark position of fittings on to the polythene.
10. Pinch the polythene together at rear corners of boat to give shape. Mark with pen and staple together.
11. Do the same for the windscreen or cabin corners.
12. You may find at the sides that you may need either a dart or a gusset to give the tonneau a better fit. If you have too much material down the side you will need a dart. Pinch this in, mark it and staple together. Repeat this for both sides ensuring that the position matches. If however you find the cover is too tight at the sides then you will have to insert a gusset. To do this, slash the material up to the top of the gunnel and measure the gap at the widest part of the V that you now have and mark this on to the polythene. Repeat this for both sides ensuring that the position matches.
13. Please make a note of what type of fittings you have on the boat.
14. You can either pin or staple the polythene together. Use parcel tape to hold it together on the boat, but please remove this before sending as it is almost impossible to remove after it has been on a while. If possible could you also take a photograph of your polythene cover in place.
15. When the pattern is in place and you are happy with the way it fits, please write your name, the make, model and year of manufacture of the boat (if known), in permanent marker, and also state clearly which is the outside of the cover.

I am sorry to have to ask you to do this, but I think this will ensure a more accurate and better looking boat cover. If you need any assistance please telephone Dave at (01834) 812115.