

leisure boating

SA's leading power boat magazine



DIY Assembling and installing a T-Top

With Airborne Towers' Skicraft it's as simple as one, two, three!

Whoever said assembling a T-top was hard work? Airborne Tower's distributor Chris Teer stocks the superior and incredibly simple Skicraft T-top, proving that one doesn't need a PhD to set up this baby! While at the 2010 NBS, the Leisure Boating team experienced first-hand the simplicity of setting up this cool T-top, and here's a newsflash: we're not rocket scientists!



When I said superior, I meant SUPERIOR! Airborne Towers' Skicraft, with its sleek design and ability to fit any width console, have revolutionised T-tops for ever. Made from quality 6061 aircraft aluminium, the Skicraft is not only sturdy and reliable, but took only two people between 10-15 minutes to assemble, set-up and install...scouts honour!

Although easy to use, always exercise common sense for a trouble-free installation. As unbelievable as it may sound, there are some "brainiacs" out there who'll climb, ride, modify

or stand on a T-top while assembling. Don't do it! Also, the T-top is not a wake tower, so don't attach ropes or watersport gear to it, and for the love of Pete, PLEASE be careful when your boat is approaching a bridge or overpass!

Firstly, what you need to do is rope in a friend or two to help you set up the T-top. Naturally, more hands make light work, but don't attempt to install the T-top all by yourself. Also be sure to check and tighten all fasteners and connections prior to use. Generally, soap and water will clean the canopy, while the T-top conveniently folds down for easy storage.



STEP 1: Unpack and Distinguish

Unpacking the package will reveal the following: CANOPY frame (hinge and section), SUPPORT frame (upper leg and hinge and lower leg and base), as well as mounting hardware. Be sure you distinguish the front and rear side of the canopy frame section, upper- and lower legs, as well as the canopy. The mounting hardware includes clamps, rubber inserts, rubber pads, as well as the standoff.



STEP 2: Side Leg assembly

Connect the upper and lower LEGS together with the simple insert of a couple bolts (you'll need an Allen key). Look at the pictures to confirm your final product.



STEP 3: Canopy frame assembly

Connect the FRONT AND REAR FRAME sections together with the bolts (the same way as the above step). Then, attach the LEGS to the canopy frame: **continued on next page...**





STEP 3: Canopy frame assembly continued...

Install the CLAMPS to the legs, and then attach the side SUPPORT frame to the CANOPY frame with the clamps. It's important to note that you need to adjust the width between the side support frames according to the width of the console.



STEP 4: Install finished T-top to boat

- Use a pen to mark the appropriate location of the base on the boat
- Drill the holes on the marks with drill bit
- Put 3M 5200 Marine Adhesive in holes and base location
- Put the rubber pads under the mount, if necessary
- Install the base with the screws
- Install the standoff on the horizon bars to connect the console. You must measure the width between the console, with the side support frame first. Then cut the standoff to fit this measurement.
- Drill a through-hole on the horizontal bar of side frame and the console, and then install the stand-off to connect them.



STEP 5: Install canopy to T-top

Installing the canopy to the T-top is very easy, and you only need to use the zippers that close and tighten the canopy to the T-top! Simple as that! **LB**

Extra: How to fold down T-top

Release the 1st and 3rd bolts from the top (as seen in picture), then loosen the 2nd bolt on the front 3-hole hinge. Release the bolt on the back 1-hole hinge. Loosen the upper screws on the canopy frame hinges (at the back location) and the screws except the middle one on the leg hinges. Fold the T-top down forward and fold the canopy frame, and voila!

Next month, we'll look at DIY: installing and setting up a wake tower. For more information and pricing on the Airborne Towers' Skicraft T-top, please contact sales@wakeboardtowers.co.za