

Best Awning We Have Seen in 35 Years of Cruising

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An awning has to do at least 5 things:

1. Provide excellent shade.
2. Able to stand strong winds.
3. Not flog in a breeze. QUIET!
4. Allow good airflow fore to aft to take the hot air away from the boat.
5. **Able to quickly douse in a squall.**
6. Use as a water catcher.



All the awnings we have seen cruising over the past 3+ decades the one that Alex designed for his Peterson 44 Mai Tai Roa is by far the easiest to drop in a hurry, requires no poles and in my humble opinion is the best bang for the buck. It does take more time to build due to the added webbing and D rings. Alex sent me photos many years ago and I have recently found them along with his notes on the awing. It requires a radar/solar arch on the transom or 1 pole

aft. Alex & Sue cruised for many years in the Sea of Cortez where chubascos can come up very quickly and STRONG. It takes less than a minute to douse the awning. I have seen it done and it is amazing! BTW summer in the Sea of Cortez can be brutally hot with temps easily over 100 every day and water temps in the 90's.

My view of the design

It consists of one dynema line stb & one dynema line port connected between the OB side of the aft solar panel arch and upper shroud by pelican clips. 1 centerline from the solar panel arch to the mast attached by pelican clips. The awning has webbing and rings sewn thru it that these lines pass thru. The fore and aft part of the awning is also attached to webbing and clipped to the mast & shrouds fwd and webbing and arch aft. *No topping lift and no poles!*

Information sent to me by Alex Hassenclever on Mai Tai Roa via email

The awning remains attached to the stern arch for the entire summer. When sailing or strong winds require removal its easily slid aft and gathered against the stern pulpit. Tied with a few sail gaskets.

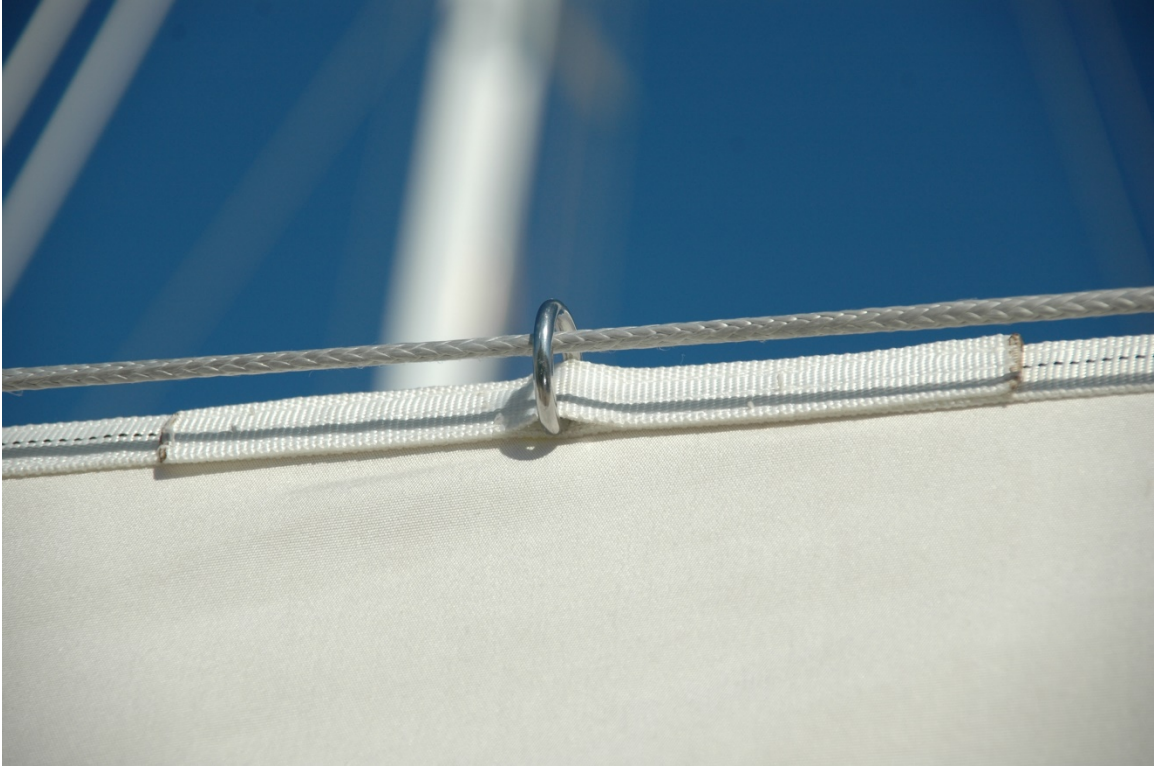
Once setup it takes less than a minute to unclip and tie it up to the solar arch.

The awning runs on 3 dynema lines (2 between the arch in the back and one of the shrouds and one between the arch and the mast). Sewn into the awning is UV resistant nylon webbing and D-Rings.

MaiTai Roa awning attachment to the stern solar arch using webbing. Center strap is the dynema line that runs to the mast connected with a clip. There is a slit to allow the awning to fit around the topping lift



This next photo shows the dynema line that is run from the stern solar arch to the upper shroud. It is connected to the upper shroud with a SS pelican hook. The dynema line runs thru the sewn in D ring located on the edge of the sunbrella awning. There are a d rings sewn along each side of the awning that the dynema line runs thru. In addition a number of D rings are also sewn along the center line of the awning to allow the center piece of dynema to support the awning



When underway the awning resides against the arch bundled up and held together with sail ties. When at anchor, we run the lines fore aft and slide the awning on these lines forwards to the mast. Hook up to the shrouds is via pelican hooks (same ones you would use for the entrance gates). On the mast there is a padded collar with two rings where the pelican hook clips.

Should a Chubbasco or Elefante (Strong sudden wind storms in Sea of Cortez) come up suddenly, all you have to do is, undo the snaps holding the bottom of the awning to the lifelines and release the pelican hooks up front and let the wind slide the awning back on its lines towards the arch in the back. We have the drill down to about a minute and a half, not counting putting the sail ties back on to the arch. It works very well.

The tension of the awning is in the nylon webbing. The lines have only installing functions. The nylon webbing needs to run the full length of the awning. Webbing material HAS TO BE UV resistant material. The sun will destroy anything else in no time. The pelican hooks make the tensioning and release a snap. Due to the size there is a bit of tension in the whole assembly.

Additional photo shows the pifertex side shades attached with twists to the awning



A final thought by us.

The greatest thing about this awning amongst the other items noted is that in a sudden squall once release everything stays attached to the boat and just slides aft where it can be gathered in and a few sail gaskets used to secure it. Once squall moves off the awning is easily pulled forward and attached.