

Project: Hammock "Underfly" Insulator Shell

Suggestions/questions welcome. Contact *Gear Collector* at gearcollector@paysheet.com.

Description: Modify stock Hennessy silnylon rain fly for dual-use as cold weather undershell.



Time to Complete: Approx. 45 minutes

Material List:

<i>Qty</i>	<i>Description</i>
4	2" to 3" narrow fabric or webbing pieces
2	small D rings
2	glove clips
3	2" loops of shock cord
1	keyring or medium D ring
1	4' length of cord

Tools: Needle and thread.

Background: This project may be suitable for you if you:

- Hammock below 60F and want a way to stay warm without carrying a pad
- Don't want to find materials or cut and build a hammock insulator shell from scratch
- Want higher quality gear than you can realistically build yourself
- Want an undershell insulator that allows you to continue to use the Hennessy side tie-outs.
- Already use a non-stock tarp with your hammock so can use your stock rain fly as an underfly insulator, or can purchase a 2nd stock fly from HH (current list for silnylon is \$40)

Note that modifying your stock HH fly for dual-use as an undershell will not affect its performance or ability to be used as a regular rain fly. Of course, you will need to make plans to have something else available to use as a tarp for those times when you use it as an insulating undershell though.

There are many sources available online detailing various ways to stay warm in a hammock in cold weather. This underfly is like the 5 x 8 Garlington/taco insulator: its purpose is to hold uncompressed insulation beneath the body and to serve as a wind block for the hammock bottom.

This project is specific to the HH Backpacker A-Sym model but it may work with other models. However, the smaller fly shipped with the original Expedition model won't wrap around the hammock body as well and will probably have openings at each end where wind can more easily enter between the hammock bottom and the shell.

Instructions: 1. Attach connectors to the fly border.

Measure about 28" in both directions from a side tie-out corner and sew one D-ring and one open fabric loop onto the nylon (not silnylon) edge. These will be connected to each other on each side so position each one to support tension pulling from the center of the hammock (see close-up photo below). You will want to attach these on what will be the outside of the fly when it is wrapped around your hammock. Repeat on other side of fly.



Close-up of connectors in use. Note that one has small D ring sewn in and the other is an open loop at end to allow for shock cord loop (with glove clip) attachment.



2. Attach keyring or medium D-ring to foot end of main hammock support rope, approx. 5" from the end of the hammock body. One easy way to do this is to tie a simple loop knot into the support rope.



3. Tie another knot into the support rope at the head end to attach a shock cord loop approx. 2" from the hammock body. The pre-existing clip on the rain fly will attach to this cord. Note that you could instead use a ring or regular cord for this attachment point.



4. Tie the 4' cord length onto the existing O-ring on the foot end of the fly. This is the pull cord used to lower/raise the foot end of the undershell when you are in the hammock.

Using the underfly:

1. Hang the hammock as you would normally, including staking the side tie-outs.
2. Attach the underfly at the head end of the hammock's underside by attaching the clip at that end to the shock cord loop tied into the support rope.
3. Attach the connectors on each side. These will connect above the side tie-outs.
4. At each side, gather the excess material at the side connection points and tie it around the hammock side tie-out. Be sure to pull upward to gather excess material that is under the hammock and under the head-end. This is necessary so that the underfly hangs close enough to the bottom of the hammock to keep the insulation against your body. After you tie the knot around the side pull-out you can attach the excess fabric protruding from the knot back to the same shock cord attachment point using the original Hennessy clip on the corner to provide a more complete wind-block.



5. Thread the bottom pull cord through the ring in the support rope. Note that because there is only a single connection in this design, it is very easy to pull the cord to seal off the foot end of the hammock once you are inside. You'll need to tie it off inside the hammock or add a hook to your internal ridgeline.
6. Add insulation as desired. Possible insulators include space blanket, sleeping bag, blanket, strip of home supply insulation material, clothes, leaves, bags filled with air, etc. For cold weather, it's critical to keep uncompressed material below your pressure points (hip and shoulders). This is a cheap down blanket folded in half to provide about 3" of loft (the underfly is pulled back for this photo):



As always, please test at home before heading out so you can determine your own cold weather comfort level. Happy hanging!



With acknowledgement to intrepid winter hammockers who have posted other insulator experiments and tips (Garlington, Speer, Sgt. Rock, Risk, etc.)