Double Layer “WarBird” WBBB Clone Hammock project

My WarBird started as 9 yards of 1.4 oz camo fabric from StormCrow. His camo has a lot of green in it and is so thin, it is translucent when held up to a light. (an added bonus it that my CrowsNest is made from the same material, so it looks right at home) It is 1.1 oz, 30 denier with a light DWR treatment on one side measuring (wide) 61.5” raw. I wanted to make my Hammock just a little longer than my BlackBird which is very comfortable, so I used two panels measuring 128” X 61.5”, figuring to lose a little material to seam allowances. I used some small pieces of masking tape, and the ripstop grid in the material to make good measurements. Put pen mark on tape, at one of the gridlines, measure along a gridline next to the factory edge, mark with tape and a pen. I then followed a gridline across the fabric to make my length mark on both edges. I did not bother to cut the two panels apart, just folded them over. I cut the remaining piece of fabric and pieced together the side panels. I attached the zipper to the outside layer of the fabric body, before sewing the top and bottom layer together. The #5 zipper from Quest works very well, it is bigger/beefier than the one on my WBBB. If I was doing this all over again, I would order a size smaller, maybe #3 to save some weight & bulk, I think the #5 might have been overkill. Once the zipper was sewn into the hammock body I put a thin roll hem on both of the long edges of the hammock body. I sewed the body pieces together along the zipper side, leaving a 24” opening, in case I ever want to use a pad. I left the opening down at the foot end, instead of the head end, as I probably won’t use a pad much-if-ever in this hammock, and I wanted to avoid the opening being open/loose up near the head end. I then sewed the 8” wide side panel onto the zipper. (after a quick roll hem and the attachment to the zipper it is very close to the 7” width of the side panel on my WBBB. I ran 1 line of stitching down the non-zipper side to connect the top and bottom layer together before trying to attach the foot-box and shelf pieces. I pieced together the foot-box, and shelf pieces before I attached them to the main hammock body. Once the side pieces were sewn onto the hammock body, I rolled a channel across each end of the hammock. I put a cheap piece of cotton string in the channel before I sewed it, knowing that I would probably need to re-whip / re-gather the ends once or twice it test the hammock’s lay, and to pin (I used the binder type paperclips) and attach the bugnet. Attach ridgeline and whoopies and test. (testing for the lay of the hammock, and any odd “ripping” or tearing sounds :-)

Materials:

Body Fabric 60"+ wide by 10' long (X2) plus side panel, footbox & shelf, (total approximately 8 yards) In my case camo ripstop 1.4 oz from Stormcrow

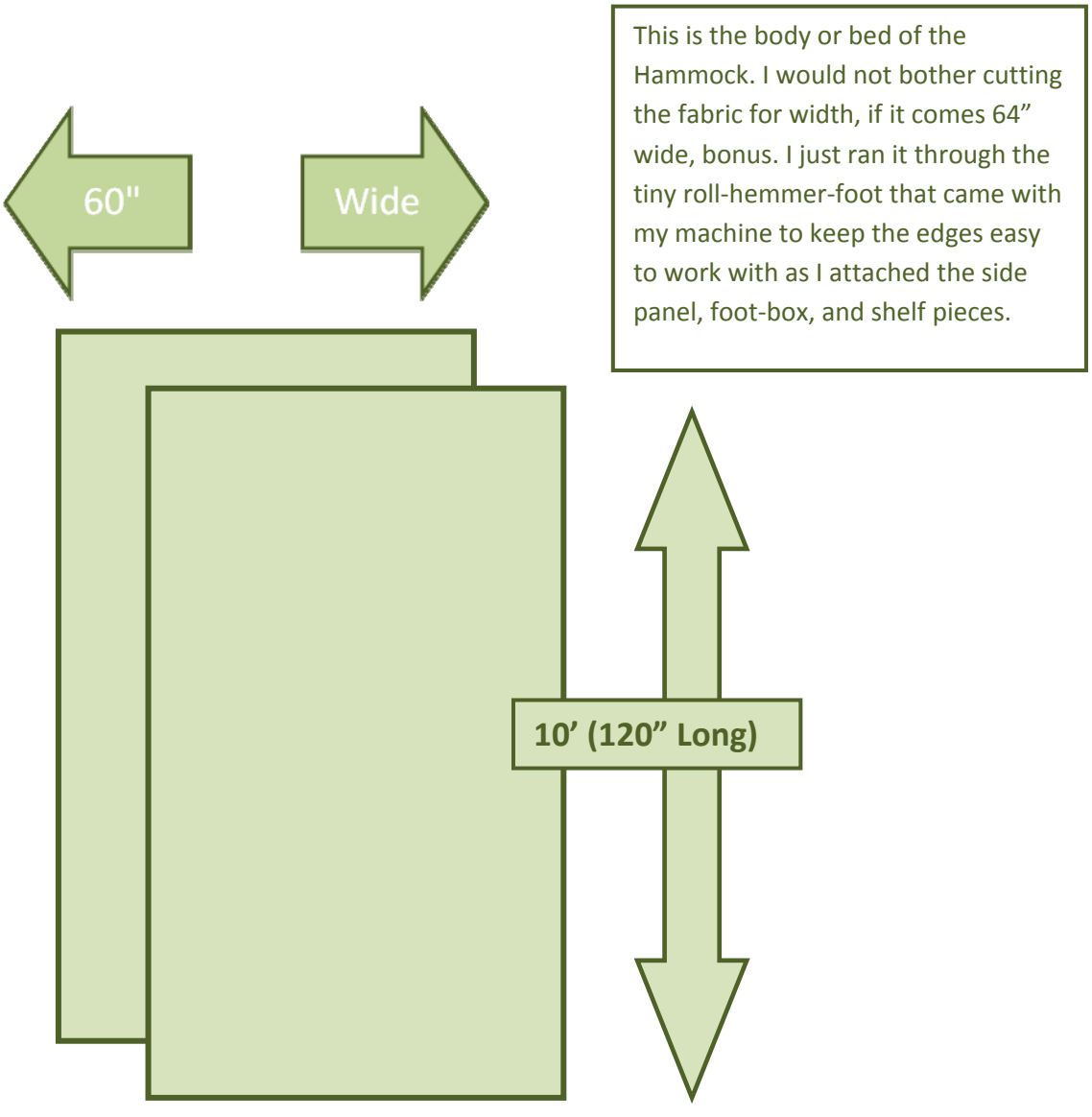
Zipper, #5 coil type continuous, (with 2 zipper pulls) from www.questoutfitters.com 4 yards @ 99 cents per yard, I would probably go with the #3 coil type next time around as I found the #5 to be noticeably bigger than the zipper on my WBBB

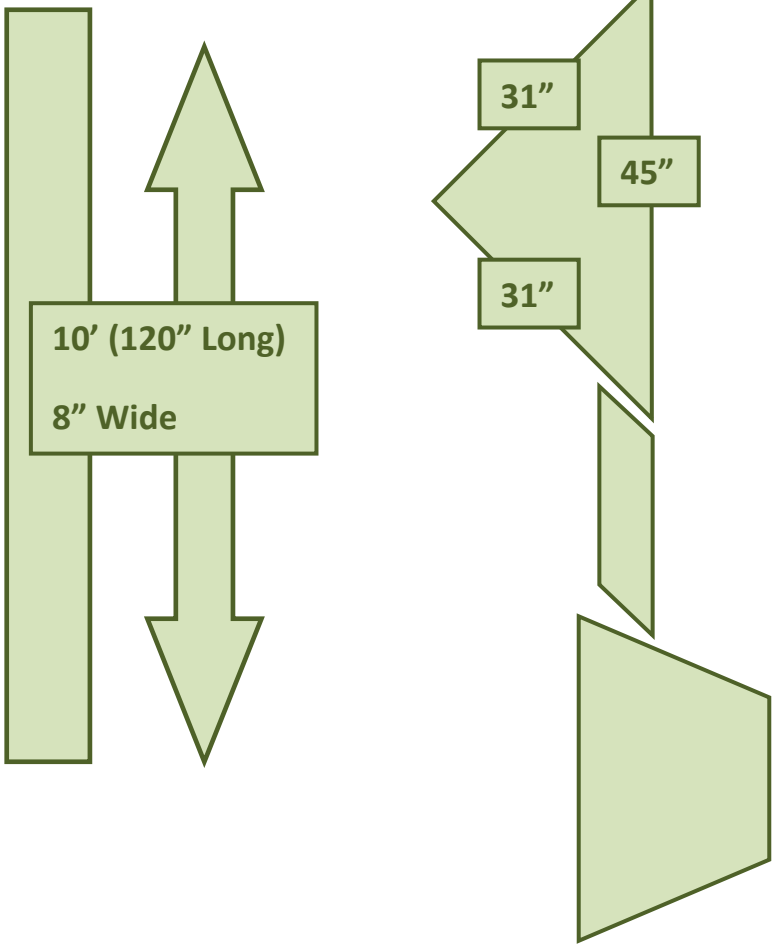
No-See-Um mesh (4 yards @) from www.questoutfitters.com

7/64ths AmSteel Blue (black) from www.reddenmarine.com (20 cents per foot, less "hammockforum" discount) to make the Ridgeline, and whoopie sling suspension.

GrosGrain Ribbon available from local fabric stores (ex. JoAnnes) comes on 18' rolls. (< $3)

Thread (use nylon or poly, NOT cotton or wool) whichever thread works better in your machine, thinner is better here, available from local fabric stores and walmart.

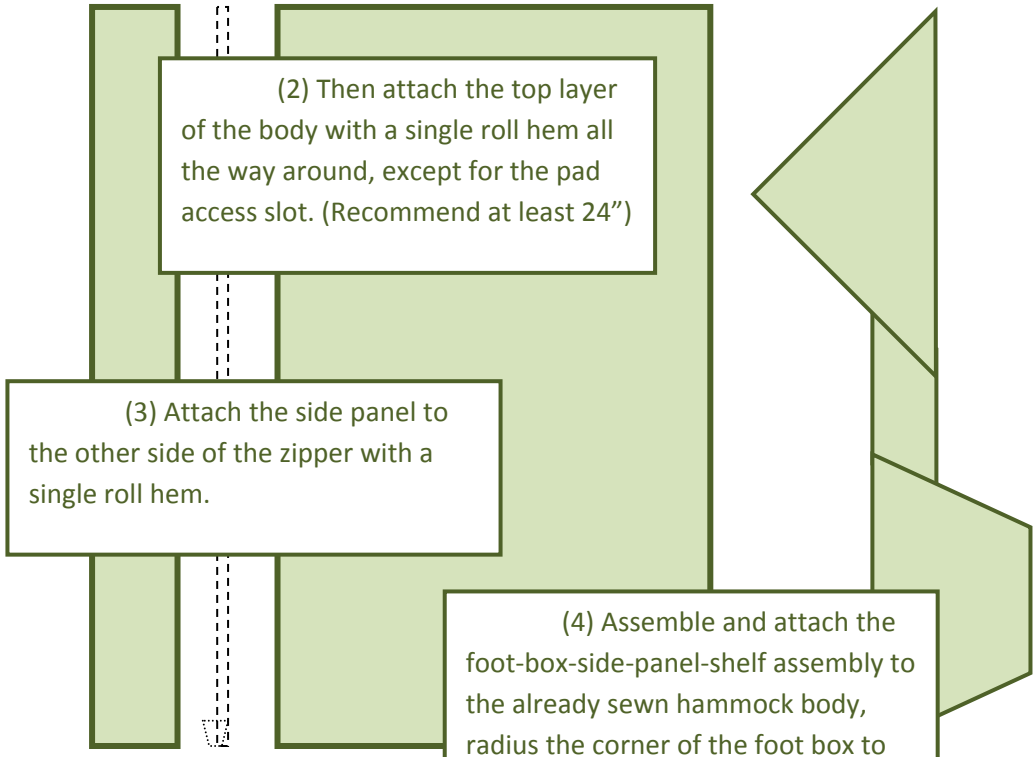




Keep the foot-box dimensions consistent, and make the shelf whatever size suits your taste. Some people prefer large “closet” shelves, others prefer smaller lighter designs. The shelf could be replaced with a straight side panel. As long as the pieces add up to the same (10’) length as the hammock body, zipper and side-panel. Keep in mind that you will be sewing the point of the triangle to the flat edge of the body. Actually wrapping the body around 2 sides of the triangle, depending on how you think about it. It is important for the two hammock body pieces to be solid (not pieced together) as they bear most of the weight. The side panel, foot-box and shelf pieces can be pieced together to use fabric more efficiently. (there is probably enough material for a couple of stuff-sacks too, if you lay it out carefully)

Ridgeline length is a matter of preference, mine was right at 100” but you should experiment with ridgeline length before attaching the bug-net as this could affect the bug-net dimensions. I moved the access opening between the layers from the head-end to the foot-end of the hammock, because I rarely use it and that keeps the part of the hammock near my head and shoulders tidier.

(1) Sew the Zipper to the bottom layer of the body first,



(2) Then attach the top layer of the body with a single roll hem all the way around, except for the pad access slot. (Recommend at least 24”)

(3) Attach the side panel to the other side of the zipper with a single roll hem.

(4) Assemble and attach the foot-box-side-panel-shelf assembly to the already sewn hammock body, radius the corner of the foot box to achieve a smooth stitching line.

One nice thing about the WBBB type of construction is that you do not have to worry too much about making the ends pretty, or even hemming them, until the very last step when they are rolled over to form a channel. The channel is used to gather or whip the ends. Since the Bug-net will not be weight bearing, and since it tapers to a point at each end, it can be added on after the end channel has been sewn. This allows you to sew and test-hang the hammock before pinning, cutting and attaching the bug-net. This works out well because the bug-net will be a fairly odd shape, and this shape could vary depending on the ridgeline length, and shelf size and shape. Once the bug-net has been attached, the seams can be finished with grosgrain tape / ribbon. This adds yet another line of stitching for durability, and puts a clean looking finish on the project. The Grosgrain also forms small loops for tie-outs. (Usually on the shelf and at the same spot on the zipper side of the hammock) Shock cord for the side pull-outs allows flex when the hammock moves around, and reduces strain on the seam, and the stake in the ground.