

UKWA Polyester Ridge Tent 1 Pitching Instructions

The tent is a simple ridge-type tent supported by the boom, with the gooseneck kept in its normal position. The aft end of the boom sits on a scissors crutch, while the front of the tent fits over the foredeck washboards. **Fit the bridle first.**

The only tricky part is understanding how the temporary bridle is fitted. This consists of a long red line attached to one end of four bungees (a bit like an extended capital letter 'E'). The goal is to stretch the bungees across the underside of the boat to hold down the sides of the tent. You need the boat to be afloat with the centreboard raised out of the way. Allow plenty of time!

Start by unravelling the inevitable tangle of line and shock-cord. Then in most cases it helps to tie a temporary string along each sidedeck from shroud to transom. The **free end** of each bungee should be hooked onto the side string as follows:-

- The shortest bungee (marked with 1 knot) very near the stern.
- The second shortest (marked with 2 knots) level with the rear bulkhead
- The third shortest bungee (marked with 3 knots) amidships
- The longest (marked with 4 knots) near the shroud

Keeping hold of the end of the red line marked with a stopper knot, throw the rest of the red line and attached bungees overboard on the same side that you hooked them onto. Lead the red line outside the shroud, round the forestay and back along the other side of the boat. Tie the end of the red line to the shroud, then as you continue pulling in the rest of the red line you will be able to retrieve the attached ends of each bungee in turn from under the boat and hook them onto the side string on the new side of the boat in their respective positions.

The hooks on the bungees can eventually be swapped onto the brass eyelets on webbing on the tent's lower edges. (There is a bit of spare shock-cord on some of the bungees in case they need adjusting for length.)

Before pitching the tent, roll up the mainsail and tie it beneath the boom. Prop the boom on the crutch and gooseneck, lashing it to the mast to avoid it falling. Now drape the unrolled but still folded tent over the boom near the mast, identifying the mast collar and the foredeck opening to orientate the tent. I recommend first attaching the mast collar and foredeck flaps, then attach the shroud openings (and the first bungee), followed by as much of the tent as needed. On a fine evening the front half only is sufficient to start with, while cooking for example.

The front of the tent can be stretched forward by tying it to the forestay. If your boat has deck handles these will be very useful for holding down the front edge of the tent using a string between them. If not, there is plenty of line (plus two extra pieces) to improvise with. All boats are different...

If you pack away in reverse order the tent will be ready for next time. Good luck!