

UKWA Ventile Ridge Tent Pitching Instructions

This tent was generously donated to the Association in 2016 by Peter Leighton.

The tent itself 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** (unless your boat already has one).

The only tricky part is understanding how the temporary bridle is fitted. This bridle consists of a long blue line attached to one end of three bungees, a bit like an extended capital letter 'E'. The goal is to stretch the three 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. Next, in most cases it helps to tie a temporary length of string (thin blue pieces supplied) along each gunwhale, from shroud to transom. Then the **free end** of each bungee should be hooked onto one thin blue string as follows:-

- The longest bungee (marked with 3 knots) hooks on near the shroud.
- The second longest (marked with 2 knots) somewhere amidships.
- The shortest bungee (marked with 1 knot) near the stern.

Keeping hold of the end of the thicker blue line marked with a stopper knot, throw the rest of the line and the attached bungees overboard on the same side that you hooked onto. Lead the blue line outside the shroud, under the bow and back down the other side of the boat outside everything. As you pull in the blue line you will be able to recover the attached end of each bungee from under the boat. Hook them in turn onto the second thin blue side string. That completes the bridle.

The bungees will eventually be transferred onto the metal rings on the tent's lower edges. (The velcro tie-downs may also be used, and are ideal for boats with a permanent bridle). There should be a bit of spare on each of the bungees in case they need adjusting for length.

Before pitching the tent, roll up the mainsail and tie it under the boom. Prop the boom on the wooden crutch and gooseneck, lashing the boom to the mast to avoid dropping it. 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 starting by doing up the mast collar and foredeck section, then attach the shroud openings (and the first bungee, if wanted), 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 held forward by tying it to the forestay. If your boat has handles you may be able to improvise a continuous bridle around the front of the foredeck washboards with the blue bridle line. If not, there is plenty of line to improvise with. All boats are different...

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