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## Erecting your Pukka Classic tent

**You are now the proud owner of a brand new Pukka Tent.  
To enjoy your tent there are just a few things you need to know.**

This tent is straightforward to erect. One person can manage the job easily, but having a helper will make things that bit quicker.

A practice run somewhere convenient before you actually take your tent away from home will help you familiarise yourself with the easy-to-follow instructions and the individual components of your tent. Remember to take the instructions with you – just in case you forget a step!

### **Packing list – 3-4m tents:**

1 canvas tent (fly sheet)  
1 groundsheet, 180gsm  
1 centre pole (4 push-click sections)  
2 rubber end stops  
1 doorway A-frame (7 push-click sections)  
1 A-frame cap  
26 thin pin-pegs (includes 2 spare)  
13 large ribbed guy rope pegs (includes 1 spare)  
1 rubber mallet  
13 guy ropes plus attached sliders (includes 1 spare)

### **Packing list – 5m tents:**

1 canvas tent (fly sheet)  
1 groundsheet, 180gsm  
1 centre pole (4 push-click sections)  
2 rubber end stops  
1 doorway A-frame (7 push-click sections)  
1 A-frame cap  
30 thin pin-pegs (includes 2 spare)  
15 large ribbed guy rope pegs (includes 1 spare)  
1 rubber mallet  
15 guy ropes plus attached sliders (includes 1 spare)

### **Helpful tips:**

- Choose a site that is as flat and level as possible.
- Pitch your tent away from camp fires – the recommended distance is 10 metres minimum.
- Remove any sharp stones or objects to prevent damage to your groundsheet. It's an idea to put an old tarp or something similar underneath your groundsheet for added protection and to help keep it clean, so saving on packing-away time.
- Position your entrance away from the direction of the weather/prevaling wind.
- Avoid overhanging trees. Resin dropping from trees may damage the canvas.
- Keep the canvas off the ground during erection by placing something underneath it, especially in damp or wet conditions.
- Ensure that all zips are closed when tensioning.
- Guy rope pegs should go into the ground at an angle of 45 degrees so that the guy ropes pull on them at an angle of 90 degrees.
- When removing any tent peg from the ground never use guy ropes or canvas fabric fittings – always use your hand, a peg extractor or other tool.
- Check guy ropes regularly and re-tension as necessary – in damp conditions it may be necessary to loosen the guy ropes slightly; when very windy it may be necessary to tighten the guy ropes.

### **Groundsheet**

- 1** Lay out the groundsheet so that the longest edge (door) is facing the desired direction.
- 2** Peg the groundsheet out flat. Push a thin pin-peg through each elasticated loop fixing on the groundsheet into the ground, at the extent of the loop (but without stretching the loop). Leave about 2.5cm of the peg above ground to be hammered in more firmly later.

### **Tent**

- 3** Lay the canvas tent on top of the groundsheet, with the centre crown in the middle and the door aligned with the longest edge of the groundsheet. Make sure the door zips are closed.
- 4** Position the canvas loops at the left and right corners of the doors next to the corresponding groundsheet pegs. Peg into the ground using one thin pin-peg for each loop.
- 5** Position the two canvas loops at the base of the vertical door zip immediately in front of the groundsheet

edge. Peg into the ground using one thin pin-peg for each loop.

- 6 Continue to peg all the canvas loops at the base of the tent walls close to/alongside the corresponding groundsheet pegs, ensuring that canvas tent corners align with groundsheet corners. Pegging the canvas tent loops as close as possible to groundsheet pegs will ensure the tent holds the correct shape when erected.
- 7 For your convenience, the guy ropes and sliders are ready-attached to the main canvas loops at the top of the tent walls. If some ropes are not tied to the canvas, tie the free end of any unattached ropes on now. Do not peg the guy ropes out yet.
- 8 Position the black sliders (attached to guy ropes) on the ground to give around 50cm of rope loop from slider to peg position. This will provide 'room for manoeuvre' when tensioning the guy ropes later on.

#### **Erecting the tent**

- 9 Push-click the centre pole together, ensuring that the section with the loop is at the top. Fit a rubber end-stop to each end of the centre pole. Open the door zips and take the pole into the centre of the tent with the metal loop end going in first. Position yourself under the centre crown, facing the door, and push the rubber end-stop (on the section with metal loop) up and into the reinforced centre of the tent crown. Pull the rest of the pole towards you as you push upwards into the crown. The roof should raise quite easily as there is no tension on the tent sides yet.
- 10 Ensure that the base of the pole (with its rubber end-stop) is in the middle of the groundsheet and that the pole is standing vertical. The metal loop accessory fixture should face the back of the tent. The canvas will hang loosely around the pole but the pole should not move and the tent should not collapse.

#### **Fixing the doorway**

- 11 Push-click the doorway A-frame together – two straight sections onto each side of the spiked angled section, then one footer section (with rubber footing attached) clicking into each side.
- 12 Take the A-frame into the tent and push the metal spike up through the hole in the canvas over the doorway. Push the A-frame forwards moving the feet towards the front edge of the mudguard and position the feet in the velcro fixings either side of the door. Fix the lowest velcro fixings around the A-frame feet at each side of the doorway first. Then move up the A-frame fixing remaining velcro fixings around the A-frame poles on each side before moving up to the next level. The A-frame should now remain vertical creating the door to the tent. Remember this is not a structural frame.
- 13 Outside the tent push the rain cap (the little clear plastic hat) over the A-frame spike. Carefully close all the door zips.

#### **Pegging out the guys**

- 14 With the door zips closed, peg out the guy ropes using the large ribbed tent pegs. Hammer the pegs into the ground at an angle of 45 degrees, placing pegs through the loops created by the sliders. Ensure that the guy ropes follow the lines of the roof seams – keeping your tent symmetrical will spread tension evenly. At this stage only tension the ropes loosely.

Hold the canvas loop (where the guy rope is fixed to the tent) with one hand, then pull on the chunky black slider with the other hand to take up the slack in the rope. Pull gently, noting how re-tensioning affects the verticality of the walls.

Start with the guy rope over the door centre. Next peg out the two guy ropes on either side of the door. Move round to the back of the tent and peg out/loosely tension the three central guy ropes at the back in the same way. Finally peg out and lightly tension the guy ropes at sides of the tent in the same way, so that the whole tent is lightly and evenly tensioned. Tensioning the guy ropes in methodical stages like this helps to avoid uneven tension

#### **Joining the groundsheet to the tent wall**

- 15 Here you are going to deal with the pegged corners of the groundsheet, one at a time. Enter the tent and starting with the first corner to one side of the entrance, slip your hand underneath the circular mudguard (which is sitting on the groundsheet) – putting your hand outside beyond the tent wall. Unhook the elasticated groundsheet fixing from its peg then pull the elasticated fixing and groundsheet corner back inside the tent.
- 16 Simultaneously tuck the mudguard section under the groundsheet and push the elasticated fixing through

the eyelet in the corresponding mudguard seam back to the outside. Re-hook the elasticated groundsheet fixing onto its peg outside the tent.

Moving around the groundsheet in a methodical manner, do this to all of the groundsheet fixings until the mudguard is completely tucked under the groundsheet with all elasticated fixings pushed through the mudguard and attached to the thin pin-pegs outside.

- 17 Exit the tent and close the door zips. Hammer all of the thin pin-pegs holding the elasticated groundsheet fixings further into the ground, as required.
- 18 Then in the same order as before, gradually adjust the tension of each guy rope, so tightening the ropes and stabilising the tent.

Note: Too much tension, or uneven tension around the tent might cause the walls to crease – we want the walls to appear as evenly vertical as possible.

**Now all you need to do is enjoy your Pukka Classic tent!**

### How to roll up the walls

- 1 Your Pukka Classic tent has ventilation in the roof crown, as well as ventilating mesh windows. But even so, on a very hot day you might want to be a bit cooler!
- 2 Unhook the canvas loops at the base of the wall, leaving the pegs where they are.
- 3 Unhook the elasticated groundsheet fixings one by one, pull the mudguard out from under the groundsheet, making sure that you re-hook the elasticated groundsheet fixings back onto the correct pegs. (If you forget to re-secure the groundsheet fixings it is possible that a wind could inconveniently get underneath the groundsheet!)
- 4 Then simply roll up the wall – neatly start rolling the mudguard and canvas wall up at each corner/seam. To achieve the neatest result start from one end of the tent and work your way around, rolling the wall as tightly as possible. Use the canvas ties (inside) and loops (outside) at the top of the wall to secure the rolled up wall in place.
- 5 Note that you should never leave your tent unattended with the walls rolled up if it is windy – remember – you have just created a very large kite!

**And there you go! One super-cool Pukka Classic tent!**

### Cleaning and care:

- The life of a Pukka tent will be affected by a whole range of factors such as length of time pitched, conditions pitched under and the degree to which the canvas is maintained and kept free of bird droppings, tree resin, coastal/salty weather conditions etc. How a tent is stored will also affect its longevity; tents must always be stored dry and free of mould.
- Our tents are treated to be water, mould and UV resistant, but this does not make them water, mould or UV proof, so to keep your Pukka tent in the best condition it should be cleaned, re-proofed, maintained and repaired as necessary. A good rule is to re-proof as soon as water stops 'beading' on the outside of the tent which stops the canvas from retaining excessive amounts of water.
- Remove all dirt as soon as possible with a clean dry brush once it has dried.
- Stubborn dirt spots may be hand-washed with clean warm water and a clean sponge.
- If you have to use a cotton canvas cleaner on parts of the tent you will need to re-proof the affected parts of the tent – only use a treatment recommended for cotton tents.
- Always allow the canvas to dry thoroughly before packing away.
- Take care if using hair spray and other detergents – chemicals of any kind may adversely affect the tent/tarp fabric.
- At some point you will need to completely re-proof your tent with a combined water/UV proofing agent.
- Ensure your tent is not sited where the canvas will remain damp – mould will grow in damp conditions.
- Pukka tents are not intended to be used as permanent shelters or for long-term erection. We recommend erection for not much more than 2-3 weeks at a time.

**Zip care:**

- Pukka tents are supplied with high quality YKK zips, but even the best zips can suffer from misuse.
- Take care of zips – never use any force on zips; always use both hands when opening or closing the zips.
- Take care that the zips are not stretched too tightly on the sides, when erecting the tent.
- Ensure that nothing gets caught between the teeth.
- Zips can be lubricated with silicone grease/spray so that they are always easy to open and close.
- Zips are not covered by our guarantee.

**Weathering:**

- It is normal for Pukka canvas tents to leak when they are first rained on (we find that water usually pools at the base of the side walls). In order to become properly waterproof our tents will need to go through the process of 'weathering'. This means becoming totally soaked and then fully dried out, sometimes up to three, four or more times (cotton canvas is a natural fabric, and as such no two tents will behave in exactly the same way). The canvas will need to be totally soaked and wetted through all of the seams, and since some of these seams have multiple layers of fabric in them, this can take a while. Each time the tent is thoroughly soaked and totally dried out, the leaks will become less. Eventually the leaking will stop.
- Leaking happens because water penetrates the gaps between the individual fibres in the woven fabric, and through the small holes created by stitching (needles are larger than thread) – but with the weathering process the woven cotton fibres swell, closing the tiny gaps within the woven fabric, and the needle holes will close around the thread which will also swell. On its first few soakings the canvas will shrink, so ensure that you adequately loosen tension on the guy ropes to allow for this. Thereafter whenever the tent is wet/damp it is advisable to loosen tension on the guy ropes, to allow the canvas room to shrink/contract without damaging the structure of the tent.
- We recommend weathering your tent before you use it properly, as this will allow you to have the tent erected without a lot of tension on the canvas (for example guy ropes as loose as possible) to allow for shrinkage and to avoid undue stress on the tent structure.
- If this means artificially weathering your tent with a hosepipe, ensure that you use a hosepipe with a gentle sprinkler and avoid using a water jet that is too strong as this could damage the proofing in the canvas.
- If your tent is only used in hot/dry conditions for several years/seasons, and is not subjected to rain during that period, it may need to be 're-weathered'.

**Storage:**

- When re-packing your tent/tarp make sure that the poles and pegs cannot damage fabric or groundsheets. Pack poles, pegs, canvas tents/tarps and separate groundsheets in their own bags.
- The tarp fabric is coated on the underside – when packing away ensure that underside is folded inwards.
- Store your tent/tarp in a dry and airy place.
- Never pack away a canvas tent/tarp whilst it is still damp. Your tent must be stored absolutely dry, including all guy ropes and groundsheet.
- If you do have to fold up your tent/tarp whilst damp (eg for getting home), it is essential that you dry it out at the earliest opportunity (within 24-48hrs). It must be completely unpacked, opened out, dried, aired and then re-packed. This is to prevent mildew and general degradation of the fabric.
- For long term storage (more than a few months) the steel poles should either be lightly greased or stored in a dry airy location where condensation cannot form on the steel. Remove grease before re-using.