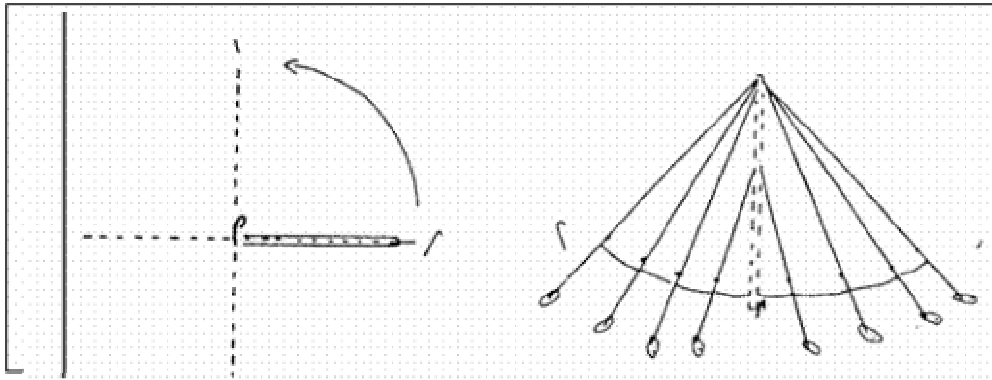


HOW TO PITCH A BELL TENT



To Pitch a Bell Tent

- Join the pole together and put the butt on the spot it will stand on, and put in a marker peg.
- Drive in a peg at the top of the pole, sloping the head forward.
- Then swing the pole in exactly the opposite direction and drive in another peg, sloping forward, all three pegs are now in a straight line.
- Now at right angles to this line, swing the pole again putting in another peg at the top, and exactly opposite to this; put in the fourth peg. Remove the pole.
- Shake the tent out of the bag. Open the tent out in a large triangle, putting the top of the tent against a peg in the opposite direction you want the door to be. The door is in the centre of the triangle, the lower edge of the tent with the guy ropes attached beside the centre marker peg. Undo the guy ropes.
- Attach the two side guy ropes to the side pegs.
- A Scout pushes the pole between the canvas into the grommet and comes out from under the canvas.
- A Scout holds the verandah of the tent (where the guy ropes are joined to the tent) at the DOOR and starts to raise the tent gently while another is at the back steadying the pole and pushing it upwards. A Scout at either side steadies the canvas, holding the verandah.
- As soon as the tent is upright put the door guy rope on and the back guy rope on and tighten the two side ones.
- Now the tent is standing upright with four main guys.
- On most bell tents there are 16 guy ropes, so there will be three in between the ropes already attached to pegs. Take the centre guy rope first, pull it out straight so the seam, and rope are in a straight line and put in a peg the same distance out as those already in. (The peg is put in two thirds of the length of the rope). Then put in the other two pegs and attach the guy ropes.
- Undo the door. It will be necessary to loosen several guy ropes on either side of the door to get it open. Do not strain the canvas by trying to open the door without doing this. A bell tent must be pitched with the door done up.
- Now roll the brailing on the inside. The Scouts work together on one side first, rolling tightly with no creases, run their hands along the roll as they roll, tie the brailing tapes on top of the roll with a half bow and tuck the ends into the top of the roll.

HOW TO PITCH A BELL TENT

To Strike a Bell Tent

- Make sure the tent is dry. On no account pack away a damp tent.
- Make sure the tent is empty of all gear.
- Drop the brailing and do up the door.
- Leaving the door guy rope on the peg and also the back guy and the two side ones, take off all the other guy ropes, fold them in half and then into an overhand loop, pull out the pegs and stack them to dry. Now the tent is standing upon the four main guys.
- Stand a Scout at each of these guy ropes and they hold the verandah firmly. Another Scout runs around and takes off the guy ropes, rolls them. Pulls out the pegs and stacks them.
- Then the Scout at the door guy slowly moves forward still holding the verandah, while the other two on his right and left pull outwards and the Scout at the rear moves forward to catch the pole as it comes towards him. By pulling the sides out hard the tent should come out in a triangle. This helps to keep the leaves and dust off the inside of the tent.
- A Scout pulls the tent pole out, takes it apart.
- Check that no pegs are left in the ground. If there are 16 guy ropes, there must be 16 pegs plus the marker peg.

Folding the tent.

- A Scout kneels on the ground, holding the top of the tent. The tent is in a triangle. Brush off any leaves etc. The Scout at the top gives the tent two or three big flaps; everyone pulls the canvas so that there are no creases in it. The door is in the centre. It may be necessary to lift the top part of the canvas to get the door in the centre. Leave the brailing out but tuck in the sod cloth under the brailing so that no hessian is showing.
- When the canvas has no creases, the two Scouts at the sides take hold of the tent at the verandah and bottom of the brailing and, swinging the tent RIGHT FROM THE TOP, bring the two sides to within 10cm of each other. Make sure the sides fold in from the TOP of the tent.
- Then fold again until a long narrow triangle is left. With every fold care must be taken to see that creasing is avoided. If the Scout at the top gives a good flap now and again, this does help and also pulling on the bottom piece of canvas does too. Make sure no leaves are folded in. These could rot the canvas.
- Then the Scout at the top rolls the tent firmly, first folding the ventilators back. He pushes the air out as he rolls; others help to brush off the leaves.
- When rolled, tie a guy rope around the tent to stop it coming undone in the bag.
- Stand the tent on one end and fit the bag over the top and pull it down, then quickly turn it over and shake the tent in. Do NOT try to lift a tent into a bag. Tie up the bag.

*How to pitch a bell tent, from 'Let's Go Camping', compiled by Nancy Eastwick.
From the Guides Australia Website "<http://www.guidesaus.org.au/Bundarra/belltent.htm>"
Edited for Scout use by Andrew Farmer.*

