

TOP TARP TIPS

Who would have thought a rectangular piece of nylon could create so many types of shelter and inspire so many adventures?

Immerse yourself in the elements and sleep looking up at the stars, don't zip away the view you worked all day to get, wake up with nature all around you.

Using a tarp can be as simple or complicated as you make it. We experimented with different pitching ideas to come up with the best configurations using the attachment points; we spent hours with poles, canoe paddles and anything else we could find. Getting out there and using our equipment has always been the philosophy at Alpkite - this was no exception.

A collaboration within the Alpkite staff and team created the following tips. Flick through for inspiration - then come up with some more.

You're only limited by your imagination...

Jay, Alpkite Tarpologist.

#1 Continuous Ridgeline

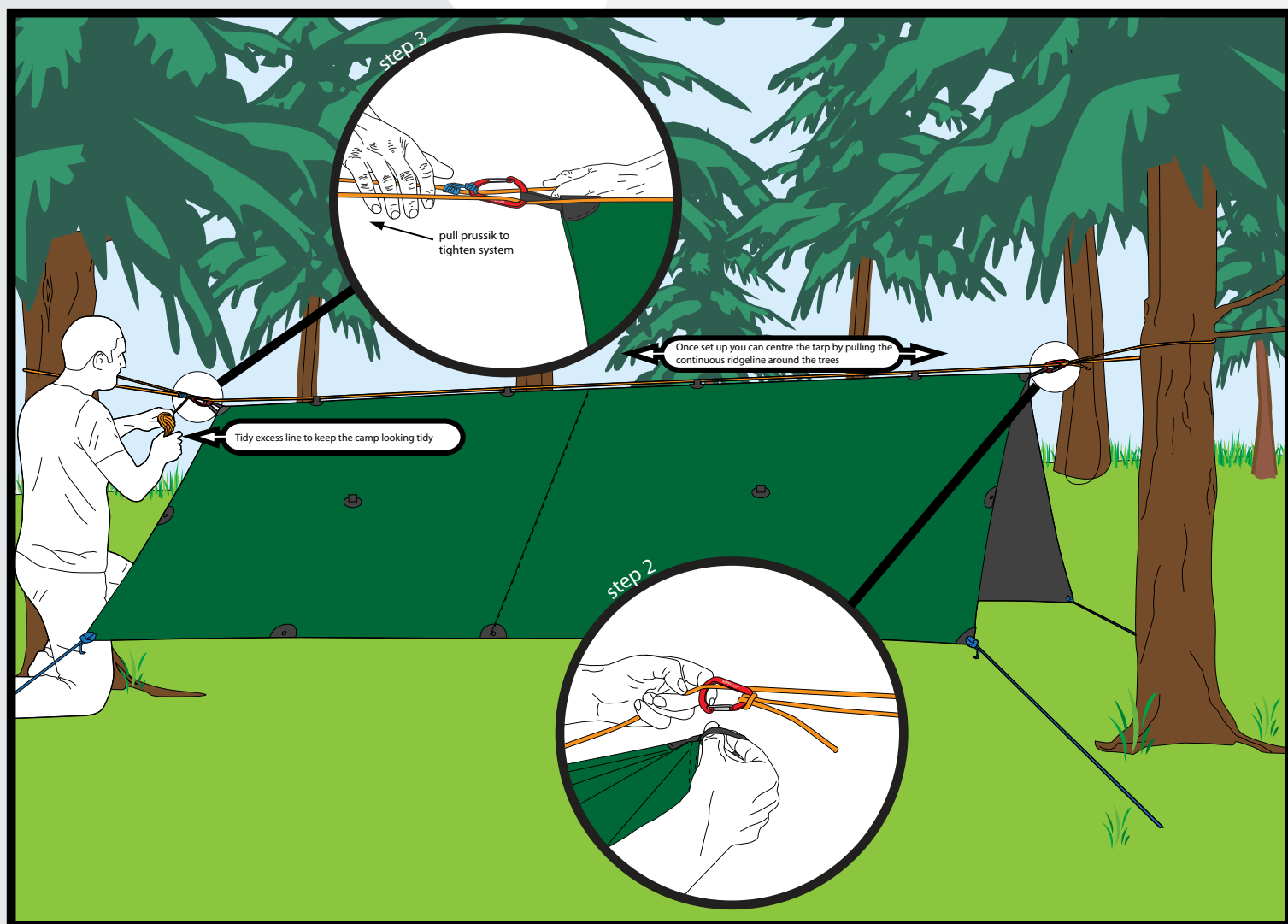
#2 The Reflect Wedge

#3 Buried Sand Bags

#4 Kayak Bivvy

#5 Van Attachments

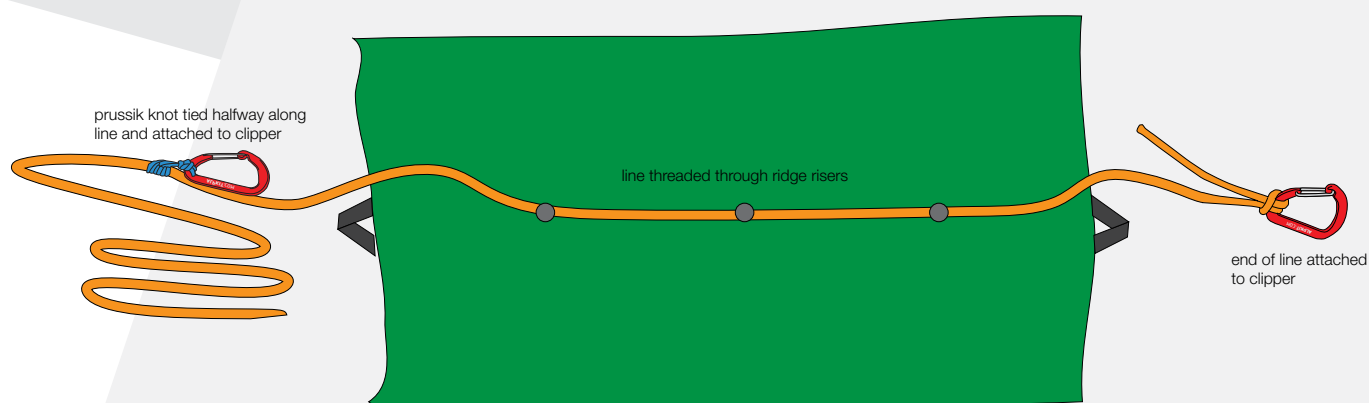
Alpkit Tarp Tip #1 Continuous Ridge Line



©Alpkit 2014

Step 1. Home Prep.

You can prepare your tarp at home by threading your line through any ridge risers you may have on your tarp. Attach a clipper to one end of the line and tie a prussik knot about halfway along the line with another clipper attached to it (There are plenty of videos online showing this knot). Now pack your tarp into a stuffbag trying to leave the 2 clippers hanging out the top for a swift set up.



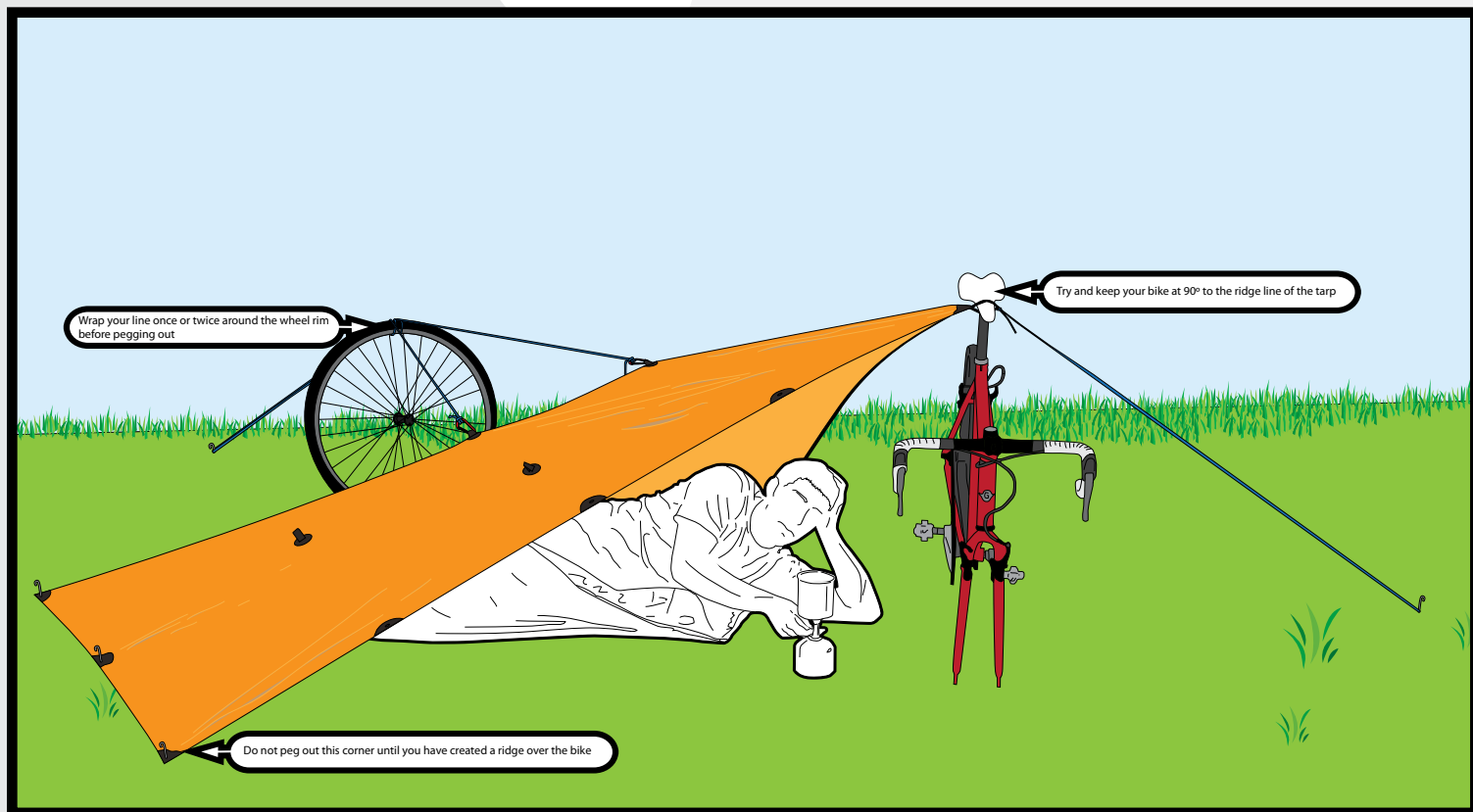
Step 2. Find two trees that have enough room between them to pitch your tarp and choose what height you would like it. Run the clipper (without the prussik) around the first tree and clip it back through the ridgeline and attach it to the centre point of your tarp.

Step 3. Now work your way along the ridgeline to the other end of your tarp, slide the prussik knot along the line so you have enough line to wrap it around the second tree and clip it into the centre point of this side of the tarp. Pull the prussik knot towards the tree to tighten.

Step 4. Work the line around the trees to slide the tarp left or right to position it over your camp or hammock, then attach guys to each corner of your tarp and peg them out.

ALPKIT

Alpkit Tarp Tip #2 The Reflect Wedge



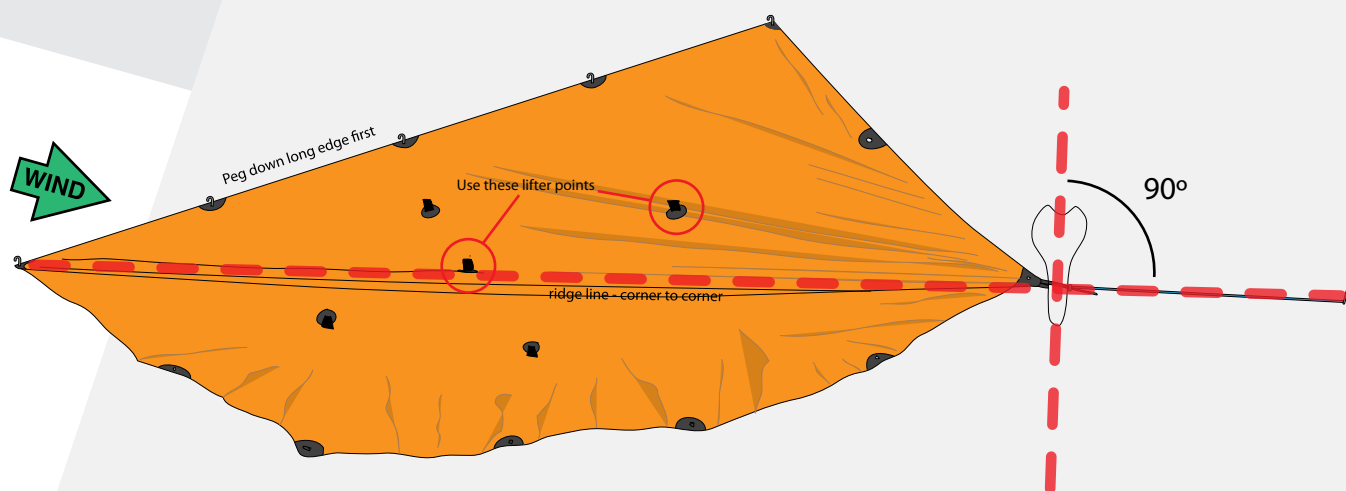
©Alpkit 2014

This is a quick and easy setup requiring little equipment, just a tarp, 2 lengths of cordage and a few pegs. This set up doesn't require any natural features etc and the area required is relatively small. It provides shelter from the wind in 2 directions and a stove or fire can be lit outside the tarp. We would recommend using a bivvy bag with this setup as the footbox of your sleeping bag will push against the tarp.

Step 1. Peg down the long edge of your tarp.

Step 2. Remove your front wheel.

Step 3. Create a ridge line from corner to corner. Tie a length of cordage to the corner you wish to lift, secure it to the seat post / saddle of your bike and peg out. Your bike should be at approx 90° to this ridge line. The illustration below shows the setup from above.



Step 4. Peg down the last corner making the tarp taught(ish)

Step 4. Attach a long loop of cordage to 2 lifter points, wrap this around your wheel, pull tight and peg out.

(Note : this set up can be replicated with 2 walking poles in place of a bike)

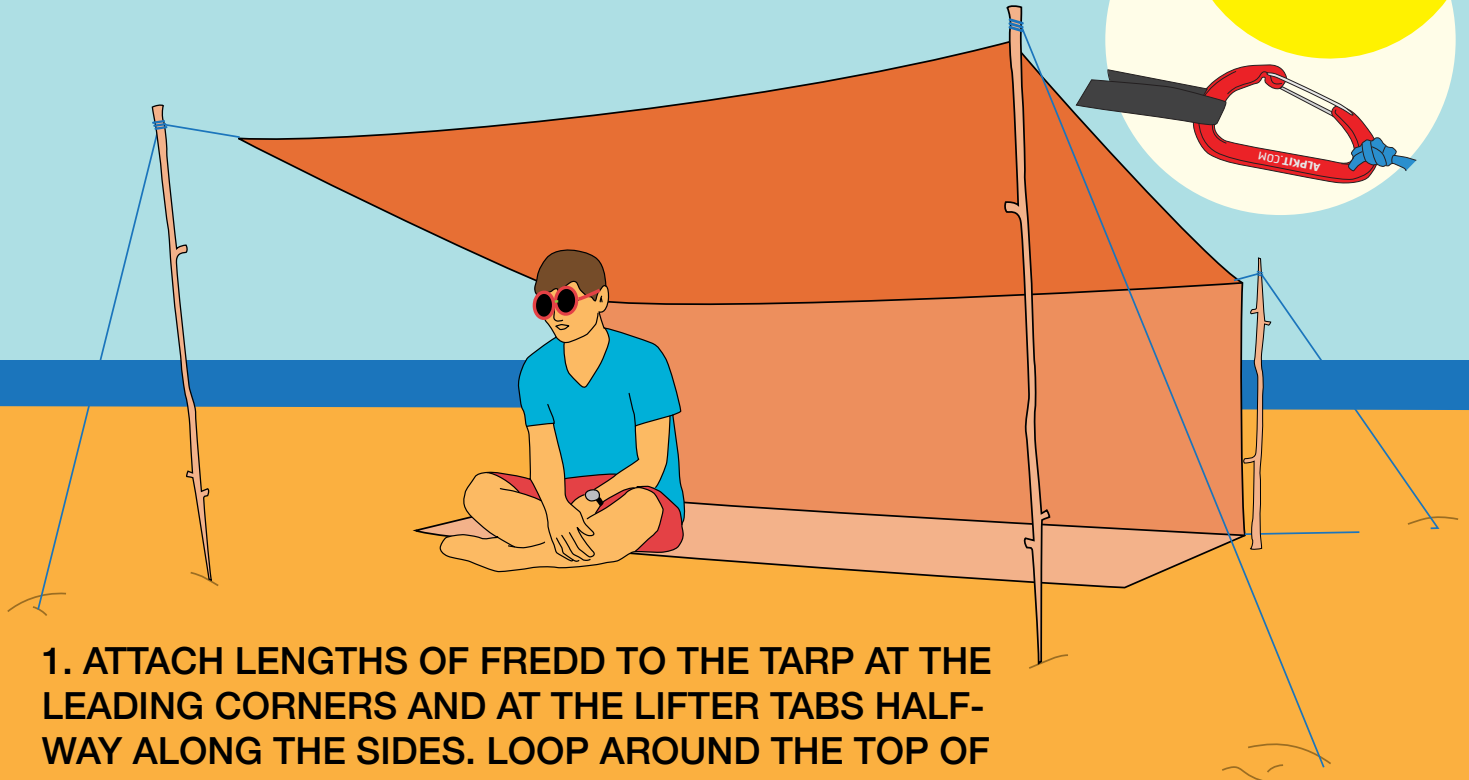
ALPKIT

TOP TARP TIP #3 BURIED SAND BAGS

STAY COOL ON THE BEACH WITH THIS WEEKS HOT TARP TIP. TURN YOUR TARP INTO A BEACH SHELTER, NO PEGS NEEDED!

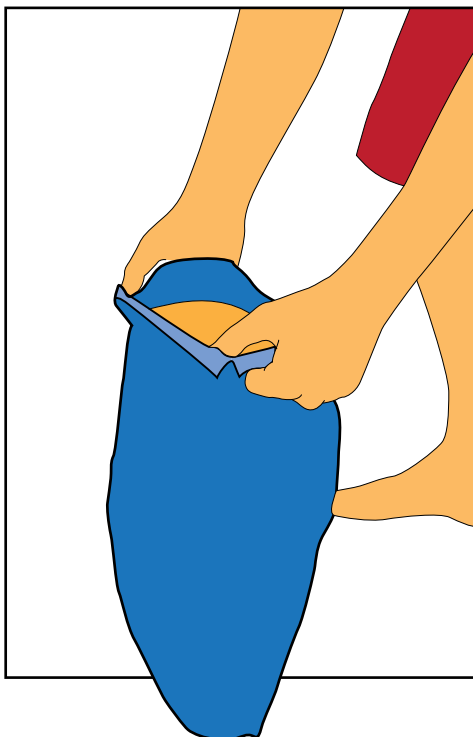
ALPKIT

QUICKLY
ATTACH FREDD TO
YOUR RIG TARP WITH
OUR 'CLIPPERS'
ACCESSORY
CARABINERS

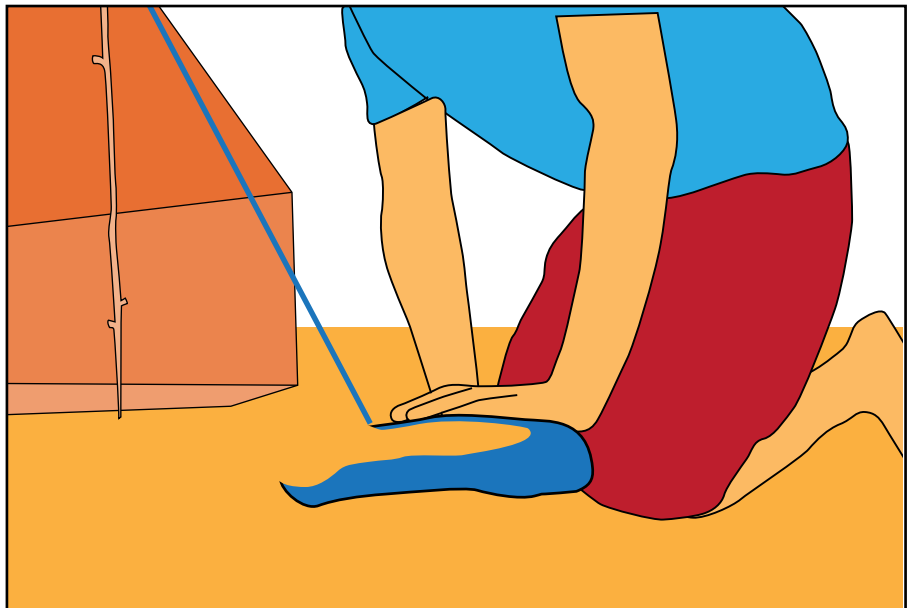


1. ATTACH LENGTHS OF FREDD TO THE TARP AT THE LEADING CORNERS AND AT THE LIFTER TABS HALF-WAY ALONG THE SIDES. LOOP AROUND THE TOP OF YOUR STICKS AND DOWN TO THE SAND.

2. FILL YOUR BAG WITH SAND AND ATTACH THE FREDD CORD.



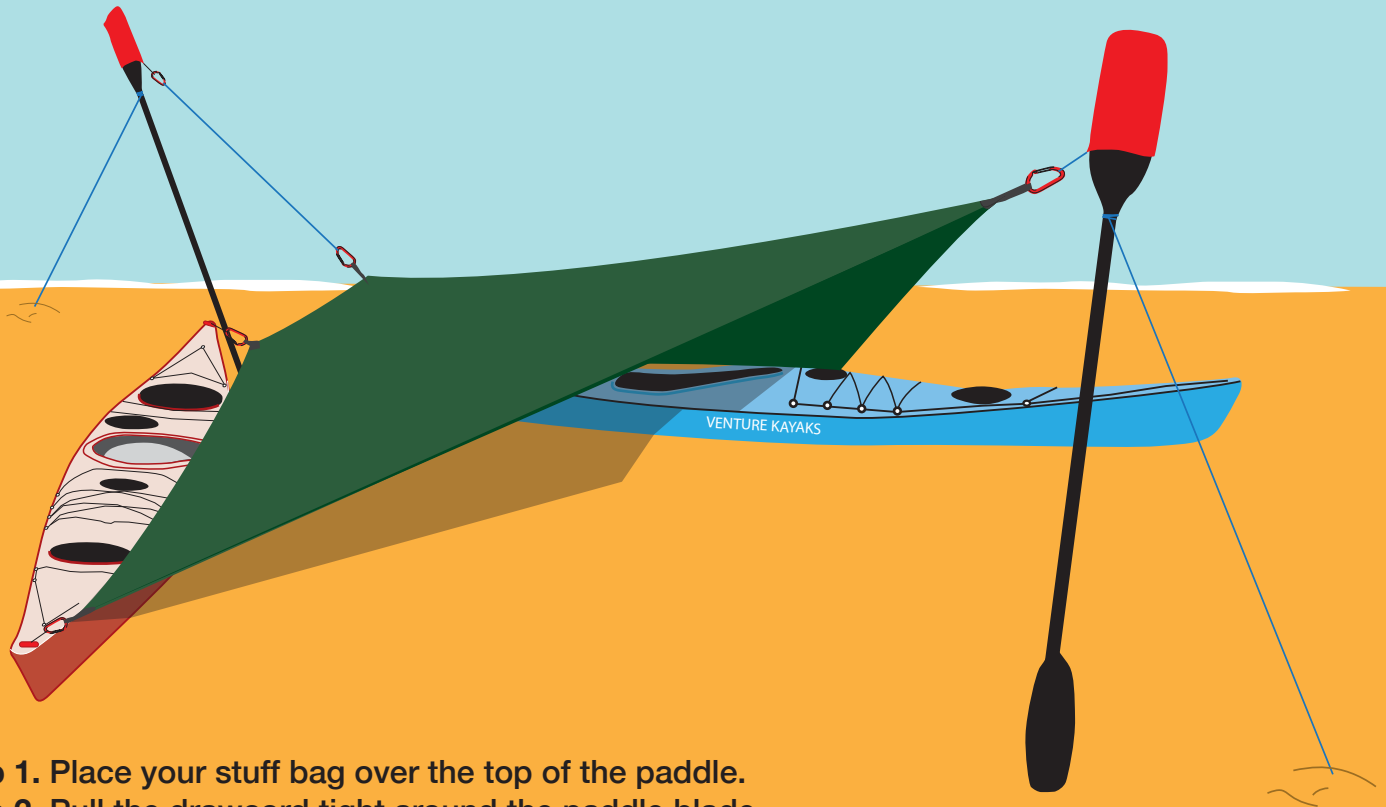
3. SCOOP OUT A HOLE IN THE SAND AND BURY THE BAG. YOU COULD ALSO BURY A STICK, THIS ALSO WORKS ON SNOW.



TOP TARP TIP #4 KAYAK BIVVY

ALPKIT

Create quick attachments to paddles, walking poles or anything really! This simple idea allows you to utilise the Rig's own stuff sack, a set of Apollo bags or any drawcord stuff sack you can find. No need for extra bits of cord and save time with less knots to tie.

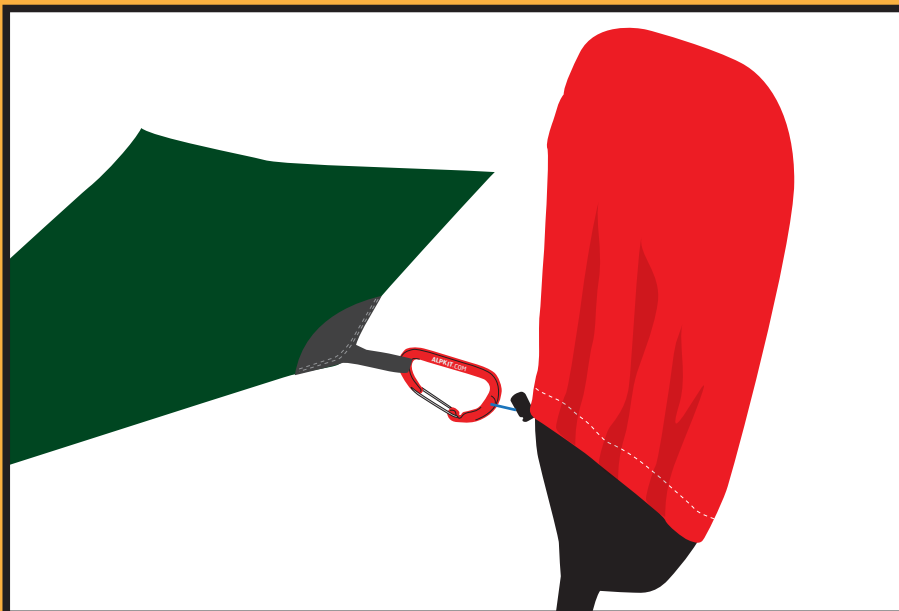


Step 1. Place your stuff bag over the top of the paddle.

Step 2. Pull the drawcord tight around the paddle blade.

Step 3. Attach a clipper to the end of the drawcord and clip on to any of the Rigs attachment points.

Step 4. Peg out your paddle using Fredd and if you are on the beach or snow check out our earlier Top Tarp Tip - Buried Sand Bags.



Pro tip
You can Larks foot the stuff bag's drawcord around the webbing loops that cover the Rig; eliminating the need for a Clipper.

TOP TARP TIP #5

QUICK VAN ATTACHMENT

Utilise your car or van at the campsite and extend your living area. This simple trick can create a changing room right next to your vehicle, a quick shelter or an awning.

ALPKIT



Step 1. Pass a piece of cord through an attachment point

Step 2. Tie a big double overhand knot in the cord.

Step 3. Trap the cord in your vehicle door.

WARNING - Leaving this set up over a long period in bad weather can cause water to seep along the cord and 'drip' into your vehicle.

