

Dragon Fly Tarps

VAN TARP

Installation and Set Up



Installation of Aluminum Track on the Van

Note: Installation is shown on a Ram Promaster. Installation on other makes and models will be similar but track placement may vary depending on application.

Before you begin, gather up a few supplies:

- Razor blade
- Isopropyl Alcohol and soft cloth
- Painters Tape (optional)
- 2 step ladders
- A friend

The van has an angled transition from the roof to the side, this is where the aluminum track will be placed. This transition is about 3" wide and the aluminum track is only 1" wide and will be placed along the bottom of this transition. Using a stepladder, look at the seam above the door, notice the caulk used to seal the body panels together (image 1). 1" of this caulk needs to be shaved down where the track will be placed.



Image 1

The caulk on the van above the sliding door needs to be shaved down so that the track will lay flat on the van. Shave by using a razor blade.



Image 2

Use the short track to test fit to make sure enough caulk was removed. Be careful not to scratch paint.

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After the caulk has been removed and the track lays flat (image 2), the painted surface needs to be cleaned so that the 3M VHB adhesive tape will bond. Use the Isopropyl Alcohol and the soft cloth to wipe down the transition area where the track will be placed, making sure that there is no dirt or oil residue.

Once the surface is clean, test fit the aluminum track by using the painters tape, the 2 stepladders and a friend.

The track is in two sections, the long section goes above the door and starts at the caulked seam just behind the passenger door (image 3), and the short section goes to the back of the van, terminating at the caulk at the back of the van (image 5). Notice that the short section has a stop screwed into the left end to prevent the tarp from coming out.

Using several pieces of Painters tape, tape the aluminum tracks into position, taking care that they are lined up along the bottom edge of the transition and that both sections fit tightly (image 4). If the track is too long, cut the front of the short track and file the end of the track, making sure that the cut is square.

Making sure that the fit of the two tracks is tight prevents the tarp from getting snagged when it is pulled through the track.

Attaching the track:

Warning: The 3M VHB tape that is on the track is very sticky and strong, this is a one-time stick, make sure the track is where you want it.

Starting with the long track and at the front of the vehicle, have a person hold each end of the track and the person at the front begin peeling the backing off of the 3M VHB tape from one side and pull backing of the tape down. This will allow the track to be adhered a small section at a time as the backing is removed. Use very light pressure on the track at this time to stick the track to the van. When all of the backing is off and the track is in position, use firm pressure to make sure that the track is secure. The painters tape may get in the way at this point, so you may want to remove it before beginning.

For the short section of track, repeat the process, starting at the front, where the long and short tracks meet, making sure that they touch. Peel the backing off of the 3M VHB tape and slowly pull the backing down while applying light pressure on the track to adhere the track. Use the transition angle of the van to help keep the track straight. When the track is stuck to the van, use firm pressure to make sure the track is adhered. I recommend using two #8 sheet metal screws to secure the track at the very front and back of the track (see image 5).

The 3M VHB tape does have a cure time, so allow to set up overnight before installing the tarp. **The track is now ready for the tarp.**



Image 3

Front of track

The long section of track lines up with the caulk just behind the passenger door and aligns with the bottom of the transition.



Image 4



Image 5

Rear of the Van

Notice how the two tracks fit together.

At the rear of the van, the track should end just in front of the caulk. A sheet metal screw is used at the ends.



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Attaching the Tarp



Unpack tarp



Standing in the door, slide black rope of tarp into track



Pull tarp out from van, attach strap into buckle and hammer one stake about 20' from van



Put the pole together and insert into grommet in the tarp and stand the pole up at an angle



Stake out the tarp starting at the rear of the van



Stake out the other side and then tension the straps as needed

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There are 1 pole and 2 pole tarps. The tarps may be pitched with multiple poles and in a variety of ways if desired.

All tarps use 1" straps and Roller Cam buckles to secure the tarp.

Make sure that stakes are set at a 45-degree angle away from the tarp and hammered down as far as possible to prevent being pulled out. Natural anchors such as trees and rocks can be used as well.

Rain may cause tarp to stretch, so straps may need re-tensioned.