



## Sparrow Tents Install and Setup Instructions

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# Welcome to the Flock!

## Let's get your rig sorted.

### A Note About Roof Racks

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- Roofnests are engineered to be mounted to two crossbars that are at least 30 inches apart. Platform racks can be used, but are not necessary and in some cases make installation trickier.

Please refer to the [platform rack installation guide](#) for more information.

- On some makes of vehicles, the stock crossbars are too close to the roof to provide the clearance to install the mounting hardware. In these cases an after-market crossbar solution is recommended. Contact Sales with questions.
  - You can always use [etrailer.com](#) as a great resource to find the perfect crossbar or [check out this article for more information](#).
- The Roofnest Sparrow, Sparrow Eye and Sparrow Adventure weigh 135 lbs, the Sparrow XL 155 lbs and Sparrow Adventure XL 150 lbs. Your crossbars should be rated to support the weight of the tent by itself. Your crossbars have a weight rating which is the dynamic load rating (when your vehicle is moving at highway speeds) and can support 5-7 times this Dynamic Load rating when your car is parked. Almost all modern cars and crossbars have no problem supporting the weight of a Roofnest and occupants - just don't drive on the highway with your friends in your Roofnest!

## Parts List

- **One Mounting Kit with:**
  - 4 U-shaped Brackets
  - 8 Hex Head Bolts (M8) and 8 Nylon-locking Nuts (these nuts and bolts can also be purchased at most hardware stores)
  - 8 Sliding Mounting Plates
  - 1 13mm Ratcheting Wrench
- **Other Parts included:**
  - 6 Awning/rainfly Poles
  - Sand Free Mat; for the bottom of the Ladder
  - USB Rechargeable LED Light
  - Aluminum Telescoping Ladder
  - Two Multi-functional Pockets with Waterproof Covers (great for storing shoes and dirty items)
  - 4 Strut locks and Spare Strut
  - 8 Plastic Hand Knobs and Lock Washers (for quicker mounting)



The mounting hardware included with your tent works for 95% of roof racks out there. If your crossbars are bigger than standard dimensions you will need to purchase separate mounting hardware.

**CONTACT OUR SUPPORT TEAM AND WE CAN SUGGEST SOME OPTIONS.**

# Installation Instructions

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We highly recommend referring to our installation video [here](#).

## Step 1

- Lift the tent onto your crossbars (you'll need a friend or two) with the large Roofnest badge facing towards the rear (the tent shell is lower in the front than in the back).
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## Step 2

- Make sure the tent is positioned approximately where you want it. Typically, if it looks right- it is! For SUVs and hatchbacks, open your trunk and push the tent back until it just misses touching the open trunk. This allows you to be sure the tent won't interfere with your trunk's operation
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## Step 3

- Prepare your mounting sets. [Here is a helpful video from one of our customers.](#)
    - a. Insert an M8 bolt into a mounting plate (tracks facing up) and then attach a mounting U bracket (concave pointing up). Then attach a hex head bolt a little less than half way. Repeat three more times.
    - b. Prepare four M8 bolt and plate sets by connecting an M8 bolt to a mounting plate. Repeat three more times.
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## Step 4

- With your 4 original mounting sets with the U Bracket, slide each into the mounting track, followed by your M8 bolt and plate set. Repeat for each corner of the tent.
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## Step 5

- Start at the front or back with a partner and lift the front or back up to slide the mounting set to the inside of your crossbar as shown in video. Repeat for each corner.

Step  
6

- Connect the mounting sets together by inserting the dangling M8 bolt through the mounting U bracket and finger-tighten a nut onto the M8 bolt. Repeat for all four corners.

Step  
7

- Tighten the nuts evenly and snugly making sure that before you do a final tightening of the nuts that you have your Roofnest lined up on your vehicle's roof exactly where you want it.



**IMPORTANT: BE SURE TO CHECK THE HARDWARE AFTER 10-20 MILES OF DRIVING TO ENSURE IT IS STILL SNUG. REPEAT PERIODICALLY.**

- The bolts included are M8 1.25 hex head bolts, if you want shorter or longer mounting bolts they are readily available at most hardware stores.
- If your crossbars are too tall or too short for the included mounting hardware you can quickly contact our support team via chat on [roofnest.com](https://roofnest.com)



# Setting up the Sparrow

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Once you get your Sparrow installed on your car, undo the latches (push the button to release the latch), give a little push and your tent will pop right up!



**REMEMBER: TO RELEASE THE LATCHES PUSH THE BUTTON ON THE SIDE!**



## How to use: Awning Poles

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Step  
1

- Insert Awning Pole into the small hole of the Awning Insert Bracket, hook tip facing the ground. In the metal banding of the lower shell near the edge of one door. The pole goes in at a STEEP angle - make sure the pole is fully inserted – you may have to twist the pole.

Step  
2

- Insert the hook into the grommet at the bottom corner of the canvas door. It will feel like you are bending the pole – the tension is what keeps the awning extended.

## Ladder

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Step  
1

- When you extend the ladder, make sure to extend all the rungs fully so they are locked. If you need to shorten the ladder, only collapse the very upper rungs – do not collapse the lower rungs to shorten the ladder. This will ensure that the ladder is safely locked.

Step  
2

- Make sure you don't have any bounce in your ladder. If you do have bounce in the ladder, this means the ladder has not been properly locked, and you need to make certain that the rungs are locked starting from the bottom of the ladder and working up to the top of the ladder.

# USB LED Light

- Simply plug the light strip into any USB battery and the light will turn on, unplug to turn off. There is a pocket to store the battery near the light.



# Strut Locks

- The strut locks attach to the piston portion of the strut on the inside of the tent. They effectively lock the struts out in the event of heavy winds, snow, or inclement weather. It's not often you'll need to use them but they're nice to have for, if nothing else, peace of mind.



# Closing the Sparrow

## Step 1

- Before you get started, make sure at least 2 windows are unzipped and open so that air can get in and out.
- Pull the back of the tent down and loosely secure the webbing strap.

## Step 2

- Begin tucking material into the middle and pull the front down, being careful to pull straight down rather than at an angle.

## Step 3

- Fasten the front strap loosely - this will keep your tent down while you tuck in the tent material.

## Step 4

- Secure the front latches and continue tucking in the tent material.

## Step 5

- Secure the back latches.



**NOTE: THE RECOMMENDED SPEED LIMIT WITH THE SPARROW ON YOUR VEHICLE IS 75 MPH.**

Driving speed should always be adjusted according to the current driving conditions  
– please use caution on your first few drives with the condor on top and always remember to check the mounting hardware.

## **Sparrow FAQs**

### **1. How tight should the crossbar mounting bracket hardware be attached to the crossbar?**

Should feel tight with a wrench, sometimes this slightly bends the lower bracket.

### **2. Where to position the tent over the crossbars?**

As centered as possible and move just forward enough to avoid a rear door opening into the tent.

### **3. How to use the awning pole?**

The awning pole should be bent creating tension to keep the window or door taught. You may need to flex the pole firmly to create this tension.

### **4. Proper use of the Sparrow latches with the button on the slider.**

Consider to watch [this important video](#).

### **5. Why is my brand new tent hard to close?**

The Sparrow tents are hard to close when new. This is due to all of the tent materials being new and not broken in yet. There is adjustability in the latches.



# Thank you so much for being a Roofnest customer!

Please stay in touch and let us know where your travels take you – we love to get photos! We also have a great community online where customers post photos, share stories, tips, and good vibes – the Roofnest Flock – find it on Facebook by searching for “Roofnest Flock”.

 Groups

e: [support@roofnest.com](mailto:support@roofnest.com)

p: (303) 502-5406

[www.roofnest.com](http://www.roofnest.com)

**Now go camping and enjoy!**

**Share Your Adventures #Roofnest**

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