

January 2021

# Erecting the large Parachute with Ridgeline



## **A big big thank you!**

Thank you so much for choosing a DAS Outdoors shelter.

Are you ready for more outdoor adventures?

This document will help guide you through setting up your large shelter the first few times.

After that, you'll be an expert.

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## **Tools you will need:**

1. Friends, ideally 2 or 3
2. A large set of Pliers
3. Small adjustable spanner
4. 1-2 Large club hammers or small sledgehammers.
5. Gaffa tape
6. Tape measure.

## **When you receive your Parachute, Ridgeline and Peg system you will have the following items:**

1. Large parachute shelter in 90 lt Dry / carrier bag.
  - a. When you open the drybag the top vent hole of the chute will be in view. This is the hole at the top crisscrossed with 14 lengths of cord which you will clip the haul rope onto.
2. Canvas bag with 14 or 16 metal stakes (depending on the shelter model)
3. White 100ft (approx) Ridgeline
4. Green or White 60 ft ( approx ) Haul rope
5. 2 x Steel screw gate anchor clips
6. 1 x 6mm olive green cord approx 40 ft

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## Site requirements

1. Your site **MUST** have trees sufficiently strong and high enough to support a ridgeline and a pegged down shelter.
2. Ridgeline height should be 25-30 ft off the ground.
3. Distance between trees should be a minimum of 40-45 ft apart.
4. The circular footprint of the shelter fully pegged out will range between 35- 40t ft diameter.

## When you are on-site and ready to erect the shelter

1. Leave the parachute in the bag.
2. Unravel the 6mm green cord.
  - a. Find a suitable heavy (ish ) and round object to tie to one end of the 6mm cord.
3. Tie the other end of the 6mm cord to the ridgeline, If the knot is bulky it may snag when being pulled through the trees.
  - a. You may consider taping over/around this knot to smooth it out.

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## Erecting the ridgeline

Erecting the ridgeline is the most taxing part of the entire exercise. It could go very easily depending on the layout of your site and trees.

Or, it will take several attempts.

1. Take special care to pick a weight which will be easily pulled back through the branches if your attempt to get through the tree branches fails.
2. Take about 3 ft of slack and swing the weighted cord at your side like a lasso building up momentum. Aim at your chosen spot. When ready, swing hard and let go.
3. To avoid being hit by the weight **DO NOT STAND UNDER THE WEIGHT WHEN IT IS BEING CAST OR PULLED BACK THROUGH THE TREES**
4. When the weighted end goes through, If it has not dropped low enough for you to grasp, then flick it lower using the rest of the slack cord or the white Ridgeline.
5. When you have got one end of the ridgeline though, Wrap it around the tree and tie it off.
6. **Important:** Uncoil the HAUL LINE and attach it to one of the screw gate clips.
  - a. Then attach the same screw gate clip to the 14 sets of cords crisscrossing the vent hole at the top of the chute.
  - b. Make sure all of the 14 cord lines are clipped in.
  - c. Using the ADJUSTABLE SPANNER tighten the screw shut.
7. Now place the remaining screw gate clip onto the ridgeline about midway between the 2 trees supporting the ridgeline.
8. Place the parachute shelter in the same midway position and clip the haul line into the ridgeline clip. Using the ADJUSTABLE SPANNER tighten the screw shut.
9. **Important:** Tie off the loose end of the haul line to a peg or tree. This is to ensure that when you pull the ridgeline tight, there is no possibility of the haul line slipping out of the ridgeline clip. Leaving the screw gate 30ft in the air and haul rope on the ground.
10. Now you are ready to throw the other end of the ridgeline through the trees. Use the same method as was successful in the prior attempt.
11. Ensure that the ridgeline is as tight as possible and tie off.

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## Erecting the parachute

1. Using the Haul line pull the parachute from its bag all the way until it touches the ridgeline.
2. Slide the parachute until it is suspended midway between the two trees and tie off the haul line to a suitable tree or anchor.
3. The parachute is now suspended above the ground. Take one of the anchor pegs and place it in the ground directly under the centre of the suspended parachute.
4. Using the 6mm cord line. tie a loop in one end and hook over the peg beneath the parachute.
5. Pulling the cord tight measure 20 ft from the looped end on the peg and make another loop. You now have a 20 ft radius from the centre of the parachute and you can start placing pegs around the circumference of the circle.
6. Place a peg in the ground at an angle Walk 6ft / 2 meters and place another peg.
7. Keep placing pegs at 2-meter intervals until you have gone around the circle.
8. As a rough guide use 2 GUYLINES PER PEG. Initially only loosely tighten the guylines.

This method will enable you to get a rough idea of the positioning of the pegs. You will need to reposition and fine-tune to get a nice tight circle and the guy lines coming down to the ground at the same angle as the parachute.

## Tensioning the guylines

No matter how tight you tension the ridgeline and guy lines when first put up. Everything will stretch and loosen up. You will need to do 2 -3 tensioning routines before things bed down.

**Keep everything tight and the water will runoff!**

Enjoy yourselves and have a blast.

Mick