

Tarptent Bowfin 1 Setup

With practice, setup is less than 2 minutes. For additional photos and videos visit: <http://www.tarptent.com/bowfin1.html>

Your Tarptent Bowfin 1 order includes: stuff sack, tent canopy with embedded cross strut and PitchLoc+™ end supports, tent interior, a 128 inch long arch pole, and 2 blue stakes.

I. Layout and Positioning

1. Once you have found an ideal place to pitch your Bowfin 1, spread out the tent body so the black bathtub floor is facing the ground. If you are using a ground sheet, lay it down first.
2. Remove 2 blue stakes from the bag and have them ready to place in guyline loops (1 stake on either side of tent).
3. Assemble the PitchLoc+ supports on either end of tent by pulling the cord (Image 1A) until the cross strut is straight across and tight with no gaps (Image 1B). Lock it in place with the lineloc. Here is a helpful video on assembling your PitchLoc+ end supports: vimeo.com/tarptent/bowfinstrut
4. Put together the shock-corded arch pole.

II. Pitching the Bowfin 1

1. Locate the yellow sleeve and thread the pole into the end. Push the pole through the sleeve, tilting the front end towards the ground so it slides easily under the top cross strut.
2. Insert each pole tip into its respective pole-tip pocket.
3. Tighten the pole-tip pocket straps so that the top canopy of the tent is fully tensioned. Ideally, about 6" (a stretched hand's width) of the arch pole will be visible outside of the pole sleeve on either end (Image 2A).
4. Unbuckle the interior from the vestibules. Stake out the vestibules and then rebuckle and tension the floor (Image 2B).

III. Additional Adjustments and Features

1. Place your gear inside the tent with you or increase the size of your protected vestibule by unbuckling the floor and clipping the near-zipper glove hook to the elastic loop on the main floor seam.
2. Vestibule beaks can be deployed or rolled up completely for more views and ventilation. In the latter configuration, stake out the floor or place a rock, boot, or waterbottle on the floor strap to utilize the maximum width.
3. End storm flaps can be opened or closed from outside the tent (Image 3A).

Image 1

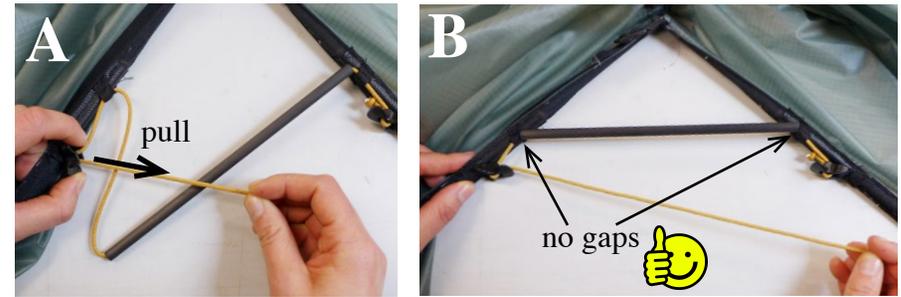


Image 2

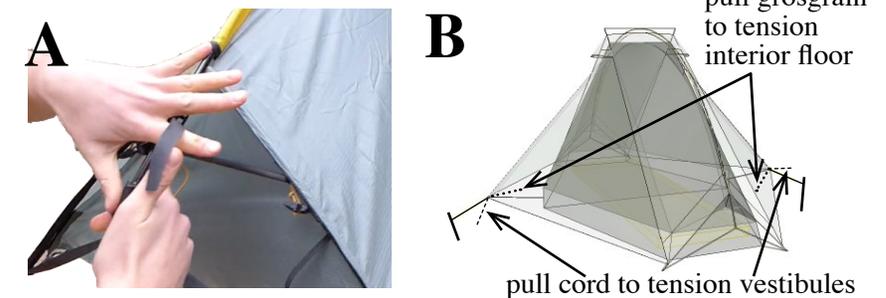
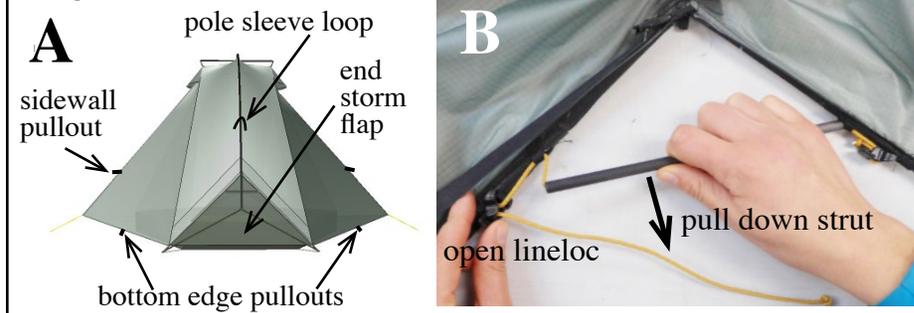


Image 3



4. Pole sleeve loops, bottom edge pullouts, and sidewall pullouts can be used for extra support in high winds, bad weather, or to help the Bowfin 1 accommodate a snow-load (Image 3A).
5. When entering/exiting in the rain, unbuckle floor from the vestibule edge and bunch it towards the center of the tent. After entering the tent, rezip the vestibule before rebuckling the floor. This will prevent the interior of the tent from getting wet.
6. To take down the PitchLoc+ end supports, release tension on the lineloc and fold inward for storage (Image 3B).

Video: vimeo.com/tarptent/bowfinstrut

IV. Seam-Sealing

Tarptent shelters need to be seam-sealed with silicone only!

Please refer to the seam-sealing instructional video:

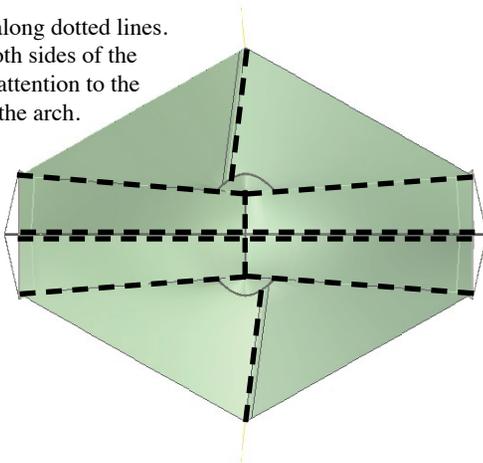
<http://www.tarptent.com/ttvideos.html>

Seam-sealing is a quick, inexpensive way to ensure your shelter is fully water proof. You can order the Tarptent seam-sealing service OR order a seam-sealing kit from the Tarptent online store OR buy the materials at your local hardware store. We recommend GE Silicone II clear sealer, available at most hardware stores in a squeeze tube.

To Seam-Seal your Bowfin 1:

1. Set up tent in a dry, well ventilated area.
2. In a well ventilated location prepare silicone sealant by squirting approx. 3 tablespoons of silicone into a tuna can (or a similar disposable receptacle) and mix with approx. 3 tablespoons odorless mineral spirits (paint thinner) or Coleman fuel/white gas. Mix until the solution resembles the consistency of a thick olive oil.
3. Using a small foam brush or rolled up paper towel, paint the solution onto the seams as shown in the image below. After the solution is applied, run a paper towel over the seams to help push the solution into the seam holes and to wipe up the excess solution.
4. We recommend painting several thick lines of silicone on the interior floor of the shelter to form an anti-skid mat.

Seam-seal seams along dotted lines.
Be sure to paint both sides of the arch . Pay special attention to the black loops along the arch.



V. Condensation and Sag

- Ventilation and fabric warmth are your best defenses against condensation. Keep doors open as much possible and try to set up where it's breezy. Look for warmer and drier microclimates under trees and try to stay out of valleys and lake basins.
- For a short, fun animation about condensation and the best place to pitch your Tarptent at night, please see our Youtube or Vimeo page or visit <https://vimeo.com/tarptent/condensation>
- Nylon stretches (and sags) when the humidity goes up, night is falling, and/or when it starts to rain. Use the line tighteners to tighten the fabric.

VI. Key Points to Consider

- Your Bowfin 1 is made of strong, lightweight, and flammable fabric; it will resist much stress but neither flame nor abrasion. Treat it accordingly.
- Push, rather than pull, the arch pole through the sleeve to prevent separation.

Thank you for your purchase We sincerely hope that you enjoy your Bowfin 1! Feedback is always welcome.

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