

HERCULES AST



Your Sierra Designs HERCULES AST (Arch Support Technology) tent is very easy to pitch and maintain. Follow these instructions to pitch your tent quickly, safely and easily.

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*Sierra Designs tents include stakes for pitching the body and fly under normal conditions. Additional stakes are required in severe conditions and for use with guy cords.



First Pitch

In order to familiarize yourself with your new tent, we suggest that you "test pitch" it before embarking on a wilderness trip.

Select a Site

Look for a level spot that is protected from the wind in order to ensure sleeping comfort. Clear the area of debris such as sharp stones and sticks that might abrade or puncture the tent floor. Choose an area that will drain well when it rains.

Unfurl the Tent and Assemble the Poles

Unfurl the tent and lay the tent floor flat on the ground with the door unzipped. There are four hub pole assemblies attached to the tent—one at the corner of each tent. On each hub, insert the short poles attached to the hub into their corresponding holes in the hub. Lay these down at the corners of the tents, untwisting the attached webbing. There are also two pre-bent poles of equal length, and one "V-shaped" vestibule pole. For these three poles, carefully unfold the shock corded pole sections and allow them to slide together. Do not allow the poles to snap together. This can lead to serious pole damage. Make certain that the insert of each pole section is fully inserted into the next pole section (Figure 1).

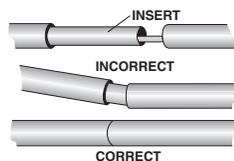


Figure 1: Correct Pole Assembly

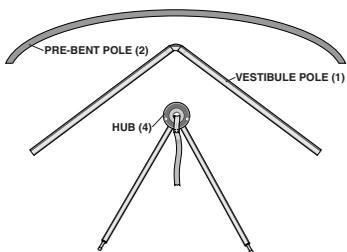


Figure 2: Assembled Pole

Stake Out the Floor

We recommend staking the floor prior to inserting the poles for greater pitching ease. Although the Hercules AST is a totally free-standing tent, we suggest that you always stake the floor for greater stability, especially in high winds. First, stake each of the webbing loops at points A and B (Figure 3). Then move to the front of the tent, pulling the webbing loops at points C and D until the tent floor is squarely and semi-tautly positioned, and then stake them down.

Erect the Tent

Start with one of the pre-bent poles. Insert one of the capped pole ends into the hub attached to the stake loop at point A. Take care that both the webbing strap attached to the hub and the stake loop are not twisted. Then, still working with the same hub, insert the two pole tips on the ends of the short pole sections into the grommets at points E and F. Insert the other end of the pre-bent pole into the hub attached to the stake loop at point "D", once again taking care that none of the straps are twisted. Next, insert the two pole tips

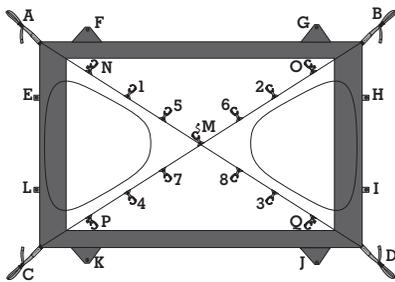


Figure 3: Tent Body (top view)

on the two shorter pole sections coming out of this hub into the grommets at I and J. Repeat this process for the other pole/hub combination that runs from B to C.

After the pole frame is erected, attach the clips to the pre-bent poles starting from the bottom of the tent and working your way up. Clip the Clip-Loc at point M around both poles. Then, wrap the bungee cord on the Clip-Loc tightly around both poles, and slide the cord into the groove on the backside of the clip, to keep the cord taut (Figure 4).

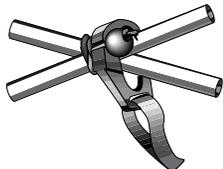


Figure 4: Clip-Loc™

Fly Sheet

You now have one remaining "V-shaped" pole. Place the tips of this pole in the grommets attached to the clips at points N and P,

or O and Q on the tent body. Note that the tent body is symmetrical, so the vestibule pole can go at either end of the tent. Next, drape the fly over the tent, making sure that the vestibule (with the vinyl window) is over the vestibule pole. Wrap the Velcro attachments on the underside of the fly at points X, Y, and Z around the vestibule pole. There is another Velcro attachment at point M. Wrap this around the pole intersection at point M. At points 1 through 4 on the inside of the fly there are small side release buckles. Attach these buckles to their mates, points 1-4, on the tent body. At points A, G, J, and C there are 3/4" LadderLocs with adjustable grommeted webbing straps. Slip the grommets over the pole ends at these points (Figure 6). Attach the 3/4" Side Release buckles at points B and D to their corresponding buckles on the tent body. Now, working your way around the tent a few times, tighten the adjustable straps until you have achieved the desired taughtness in the fly. Next, stake out points S and R away from the tent to improve ventilation. Finally, stake out and tighten down the vestibule loops at points T, U, and AA.

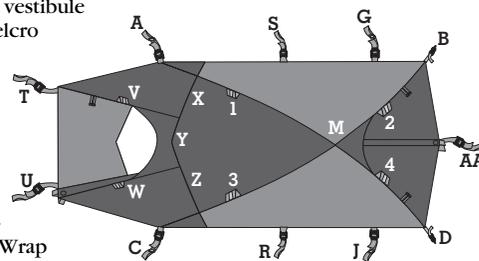


Figure 5: Flysheet (top view)

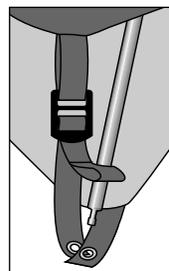


Figure 6: LadderLoc

Ventilation

Proper ventilation is essential for creating a comfortable living space inside your tent. The vestibule door panel can be rolled away for maximum ventilation. Because the vestibule forms an awning over the door, you can often leave the door tied open in a rainstorm, provided the door faces away from the wind. When the door in the rear of the rainfly is left fully or partially open, it effectively improves flow-through ventilation. Additionally, the zippers at the top of the vestibule and the back door can be used to regulate ventilation.

Internal Guy System

Sierra Designs was the first to introduce the revolutionary Internal Guy System. This system remains a very important feature in our Convertible and 4-Season tents. When installed, this simple system will greatly increase the strength of your tent with the weight of a few guy cords. This system is very useful in extreme weather conditions, but is not necessary under normal conditions.

Installation: All attachments are made inside the tent. All that is needed are 4 pieces of guy cord of 100" lengths or longer, (line tighteners may be used but are optional).

Some guy cords and line tighteners are provided with your tent, however, you can also purchase the "Internal Guy System" accessory, which uses Swift Clips to eliminate the need to tie knots. There are nine webbing loops sewn to the interior of the tent body; one in each corner of the floor at points A, B, C, and D and four on the tent ceiling at points 5, 6, 7, and 8 (Figure 3).

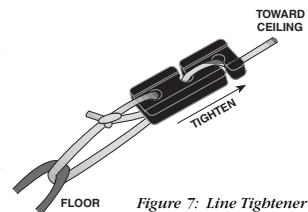


Figure 7: Line Tightener

For added strength along the sides of the tent, run the guy cords between points on the tent as follows: A to 6, B to 5, C to 8, and D to 7. For added strength along the front and rear of the tent, run the guy lines A to 7, B to 8, C to 5, and D to 6 (in this configuration, the Internal Guy System will partially obstruct the doorway.) With each guy cord, tie one end to the webbing loop in the ceiling. Secure the other end to floor webbing loop with a double half-hitch or a line tightener.

Please note that 9 tent stakes and 6 guy cords were provided with this tent as a courtesy. If you choose to use more than this when pitching your tent, additional stakes may be purchased at the store where you originally purchased your tent.