

How to erect a Kelty Grand Mesa 4 tent



Introduction

When selecting a tent, one must first choose what purpose the tent will serve. There are many types of tents which serve a variety of purposes. These range from backpacking to car camping with the family. By selecting what one will use the tent for, it will narrow down the tents available to suit those needs. This instruction set will be a 4 person backpacking tent, more specifically a Kelty Grand Mesa 4.

Instructions

1 Selecting a good place to set up the tent

Selecting a suitable place to set up the tent is not only important to properly erecting the tent, but also will determine how well one will sleep the following night(s).

1.1 Avoid:



- locations with standing dead trees. One of the worst alarm clocks is a dead oak tree falling in a wind storm.
- locations that have exposed tree roots. Though this may seem to go without mentioning, many do not realize a tree root until after they are lying in their sleeping bag.
- placing the tent on an incline. The odds are the other members of the camping group do not want to be used as a pillow.
- rocky terrain. This does not just mean boulders, but also smaller


rocks, that like tree roots may not be realized before it is too late.


Tip: If one finds it hard to put the stakes in ground that is unfrozen it is most likely because of rocks, try checking the surrounding area for a less rocky location.

1.2 The right place

Along with avoiding the already mentioned locations, look for the following features:

- water within a short distance  from the camp site. One will want this to refill water bottles, gather water for cooking, cleaning pots and pans from cooking.
- an abundant amount of fire wood. Look for a good amount of tinder, and also branches from trees that have already fallen.
- a place to suit up a fire ring .

 Always purify water when gathering from an unknown source.

 Ensure the tent is at least 30' from the fire


2 Prepping the tent


This step includes taking the all components out of the storage bag through assembling the poles

2.1 Remove from storage bag

1. Open the storage bag by sliding the keeper button out.
2. Remove the tent and pole bag from the storage bag.
3. Unroll the rain fly which has the tent inside it.
4. Unfold the rain fly to expose the tent.

Tip: If it is windy, place rocks on the corners of the rain fly to prevent it from blowing around.

- 5 Remove the poles from the pole bag.
- 6 Remove the stakes from the pole bag.
- 7 Connect each section of the poles .

 Do not allow the poles to snap together, this can damage both the poles and the elastic cord pulling them together

3 Erecting the tent

This Kelty tent is designed for backpacking, and can easily be set up by one person. The set up time is roughly 10 minutes for a first time user. The Grand Mesa 4 is equipped with 2 different colored pieces of tubular nylon, one is **red** and the other is **black**. Use this color coded nylon to direct the placement of the poles.

1. Take one of the 2 poles assembled in step 2, and place it in the brass eyelet that is on the **red** tubular nylon (the starting color does not matter, red was selected for simplicity).



Figure 3.1 Placing the assembled pole into the brass eyelet with red tubular nylon.

2. Continue hooking the poles with the hooks on the **red** tubular nylon, as shown in Figure 3.2.



Figure 3.2 Using the hooks attached by red tubular nylon to “hook” the pole.

3. Ignore the connections at the top of the tent for now.

4. Place the end of the pole into the brass eyelet on the opposite side of the tent.
5. Use a stake to stake down each of the **red** looped tubular nylon ends of the tent.
6. Let the tent lay flat on the ground.
7. Place the other pole in the brass eyelet on the **black** tubular nylon.
8. Continue hooking all the hooks onto the pole
9. Ignore the connections at the top of the tent here also
10. Place the pole into the brass eyelet on the opposite side of the tent.
11. Stake down the **black** loops as shown in the following figure.



Figure 3.3 Staking down the tent.

Note: If the ground is too hard use the supplied 4 pieces of string to loop it around a large rock and then tie the running end through the loop designed for the stake. This version is depicted in Figure 3.4.



Figure 3.4 Using a rock to secure the tent instead of a stake.

12. Use the two hooks at the top to connect the two poles. Each hook

should contain each pole, as shown in Figure 3.5.



Figure 3.5 Using the hooks at the top of the tent to secure the 2 poles.

The tent is now erected and is ready to occupy, if not to using the rain fly.



Figure 3.6 The assembled tent without a rain fly.

4 Attaching the rain fly

This attachment is not required for the tent to be functional. It can be left unattached if camping in a warm climate and with no threat of rain. One may want to attach the rain fly though if camping in a cooler environment even if there is no threat of rain, this will help to limit some heat from escaping.

4.1 Attaching the fly to the tent

1. Orient the rain fly so that the door on the fly matches up with the door on the tent.

Tip: To quickly do this, locate the vent on the fly and place it at the rear of the tent. The door will now be at the front.

2. Insert the fast tech clips located on the tubular nylon into the

female ends of the fast techs located on the tent.



Figure 4.1 Connecting the fast tech male end of the rain fly to the female end on the tent's red tubular nylon.

Note: The rain fly has color coded tubular nylon also, but using the previously stated method the color coded tubular nylon will be matched and the door will be matched. If one is just attaching the fly based off of the color of the tubular nylon the doors may not necessarily match.

3. If going into and out of the tent frequently or wanting the tent to vent, roll the rain fly door and place the button through the loop on the inside of the fly as shown in figure 4.2.

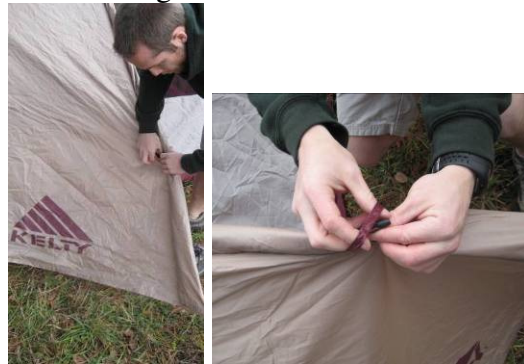


Figure 4.2 Rolling the door on the rain fly, then using the button to go through the loop to secure the door back.

4.2 Attaching rain fly to 4 trees

There may be times when assembling the entire tent is unfeasible, this is especially true for a backpacking tent. One such instance is when a quick rain storm pops up in the middle of a hike. By pulling the rain fly out of the pack, the hiker can quickly attach the fly to 4

trees and have a hasty shelter to remove the backpacker from the elements.

1. Using 1 of the 4 pieces string supplied in the storage bag, place the running end through the loop of tubular nylon so the plastic piece catches on the tubular nylon on the rain fly, as in the figure below.



Figure 4.3 Pull the string through the looped tubular nylon on the fly so that the plastic piece catches on the tubular nylon.

2. Tie a knot around a tree.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the three remaining corners of the rain fly.

A tentless rain shelter has now been constructed to quickly remove one from the elements.



Figure 4.4 The rain fly used as a hasty shelter along the trail.

5 Taking down the tent

5.1 Without the rain fly

1. Remove the stakes from the 4 corners.
2. Place the stakes back in the bag.
3. Remove one end of the pole placed through the **red** tubular

nylon brass eyelet as shown in Figure 5.1.



Figure 5.1 Removing the pole from the brass eyelet

4. Do the same for the poles connected to the eyelets with **black** tubular nylon.
5. Disassemble the poles.
6. Place them back into their bag.
7. Turn the rain fly upside down
8. Place the tent inside it.
9. Fold the edges of the rain fly so that the width remaining is approximately 24" (the width should be about the same height as the storage bag).



Figure 5.2 Folded rain fly/tent ready to be rolled and placed into storage bag.


10. Roll the rain fly/tent.
11. Place the rain fly/tent in to the storage bag.
12. **SLOWLY** place the bag that contains the stakes and the poles into the main storage bag.


5.2 With the rain fly

1. Undo the fast techs from each corner.
2. Remove rain fly
3. Place rain fly upside down beside the tent.
4. Follow steps 1-12 in **5.1** "**Without the rain fly**" now.

⚠ If one goes fast there is a greater risk of tearing the storage bag or rain fly.

6 Maintenance of tent

- ALWAYS air the tent out following use. This will allow for the condensation that collects on the rain fly to dry.
- Remove clumps or dirt and small brush that can be tracked in while entering the tent.
- Hand wash when needed and allow to air dry 
- If the tent has a tear use a super glue such as Gorilla Glue to repair it.

 Machine washing and drying could damage the fabric of the tent.