



Tensa Trekking Treez

User Guide

v2.0 - 'Svelte'

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Description

Trekking Treez are trekking poles that convert to a hammock stand, allowing backpackers to sleep in hammocks instead of on the ground in alpine, desert, or similar tree-sparse areas. We sell poles and related accessories singly as systems to support one side of a hammock, since having only one with an available tree greatly increases hammock-eligible sites even in wooded areas, and some prefer to carry only one pole as lightest. Two systems form a complete stand and pair of trekking poles. Trekking Treez, used as replacements for standard trekking poles, remove the need for ground sleeping gear, saving weight while preserving the superior comfort and extending site selection of hammock camping.

Getting started

Familiarize yourself with all parts. Each system includes:

1. Handle, top knob, Hubz, and strap
2. Adjuster
3. Coupler
4. Extension
5. Trekking foot / tarp lifter
6. Hammock foot
7. Two gylines
8. Two anchors, assorted
9. Storage bag
10. Rubber tip
11. Tarp lifter connector



Trekking mode

Choose whichever assembly provides the desired range of pole height adjustment. Shorter hikers tend to prefer the handle, adjuster, coupler, and trekking foot. Taller users will insert the extension between the coupler and trekking foot. Pack all remaining components until time to set up in hammock mode.

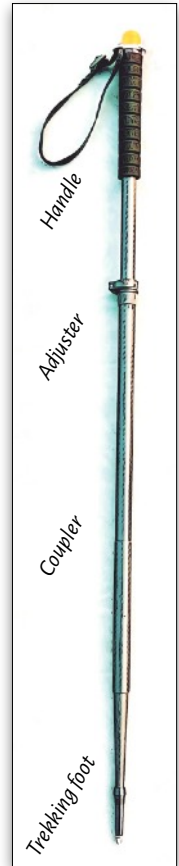
When joining segments with internal threading, do not over-tighten. Snug enough to prevent loosening in use is sufficient. Do not over-tighten the flip lock adjuster nut. If you must loosen it to make height changes, then it is too tight.

Trekking pole use permits many styles. Most prefer a height that allows for forearm to be parallel to the ground when the strap is loose. Let the strap bear your weight so you needn't grip the handle, minimizing fatigue and grip wear. A two-finger grip toward the bottom of the handle provides a lower swing weight, improves balance, and allows for a quick choke up on the grip or to the top knob in palm to extend the effective pole length for brief descents, without having to adjust the flip lock.

The rubber tip is meant mainly to protect the bag, your tarp, and items in your pack from the sharp tip of the trekking foot. The metal tip is suitable for all surfaces, especially hard ones. As a walking tip, the rubber tip is easily worn or lost, especially on soft ground. Both rubber and carbide tips, as well as snow baskets, are non-proprietary consumable items, with replacements available from many sources. You must replace the trekking tip as soon as the metal tip wears away to prevent more expensive damage to the pole.

You may replace the trekking foot with the hammock foot if you prefer a blunt tip on soft surfaces. This also allows use in the mode of a taller hiking staff, with or without the extension segment, especially useful for maintaining balance at water crossings. Note that hiking with the hammock foot on hard surfaces may result in rapid wear. Replacing a worn hammock foot requires returning to Tensa Outdoor or some level of home tooling and skill.

The post beneath the top knob is threaded like that of camera tripod mounts. You can use the pole as a monopod.



Hammock mode

Site selection

Site selection is probably the single most important element of successful hammocking with Trekking Treez (TT). Using both poles, the total footprint of a TT hang can exceed 25' × 6' (7.5 × 1.8m.)

Select accordingly, though the site needn't be level, and the guylines may pass through brush.

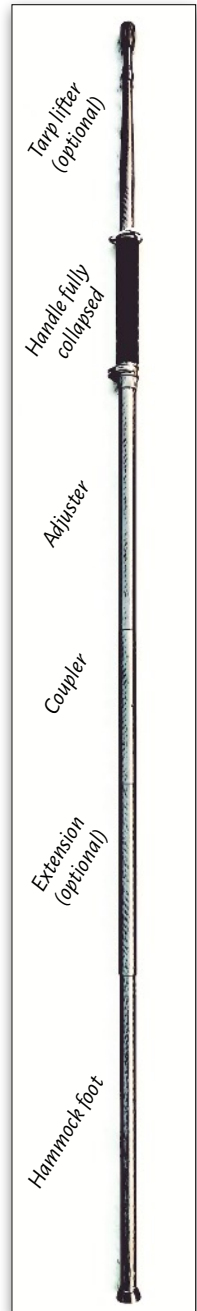
Just as hikers who sleep on the ground keep hiking until they find reasonably level, dry sites free of rocky or woody bumps, so TT users search for ground conditions that will reliably hold the anchors, or feature alternative guyline anchoring points such as woody shrubs, exposed roots, or certain rock profiles.

Avoid sites whose soil, sand or gravel is loose, does not form firm clumps, lacks reinforcing root structures, or features semi-liquid mud. In challenging environments, it is wise to stop early to test sites before nightfall brings urgency.

A single healthy tree, pole, or rock feature able to support one side of your hammock doubles your chances of success while halving the labor of setting up. Even trees unsuitable for hanging often have root systems larger than their canopies, helping assure that adjacent ground anchors will hold.

Assembly

1. Collapse the handle into the flip-lock adjuster segment completely, as the flip lock will slip under hammock loads.
2. Unscrew the trekking foot segment. If pitching a tarp over the hammock, unscrew the top knob, and screw on the Tarp lifter connector. Insert the tarp lifter. Press the top knob or rubber tip over the trekking foot to protect the tarp from the sharp tip. Otherwise, stow the trekking foot in the storage bag.
3. To make a tall pole, for example to support the foot end of a gathered-end hammock higher than the head, install the extension segment between the coupler and the hammock



foot. For a shorter pole, as may suffice for bridge-style hammocks or the head end of gathered-end hammocks, install the hammock foot directly beneath the coupler. Note that you may leave one or both extension segments home if not needed, for a lighter pack. Never use two extension segments on a single pole in hammock mode.

Setup

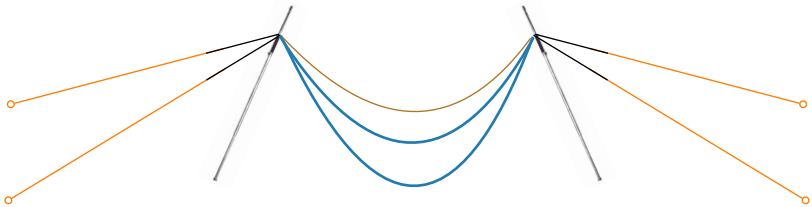
1. Lay both poles out on the ground in a straight line, top to top. Your hammock will follow this line.



2. Attach the black loops of the guylines to the pairs of Hubz hooks that are closest to one another. Extend the guylines, let out to their longest adjustment, so their ends are roughly 6' (1.8m) apart, centered on the pole as shown:

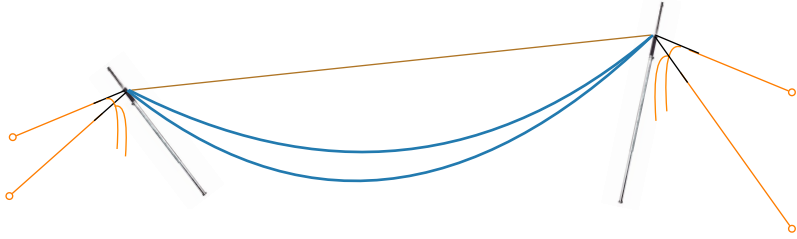


3. Drive in the ground anchors at the ends of the guylines, and attach the guylines. **Always** attach the guylines at ground level, never higher, even if the anchors can't be driven all the way in. Guyline attachment methods will vary with the anchor type, but it is always good to use self-tightening loops. Pass the line through its spliced end loop to make a self-constricting loop.



4. Stand up the poles leaning toward each other, and attach the hammock to the remaining pair of Hubz hooks. Hubz are designed to receive 7/64" Amsteel cordage. If your hammock lacks similar end loops, we suggest you make or buy Amsteel loops to adapt.
5. Tension all guylines and the hammock ridgeline by pulling the orange lines through the black constrictors, then milking the buries to set. Milking the bury means

pinching the black constrictors through which the orange lines pass, and sliding down to elongate, removing slack. Sliding the constrictors up will release to loosen.



Tip: when tightening, loop the orange tails up and around the poles, then pull down inline for mechanical advantage while milking the buries. Relocate the pole feet as necessary to achieve the desired hang geometry. The poles should lean with feet inward, by varying amounts to suit your hang preferences. More upright poles achieve greater height, while less upright poles stress the ground anchors less, also lowering their end of the hammock. Assure that the feet of shallowly leaned poles will not slide inward by digging small divots for them to settle into. In all but hard ground, place objects such as stones beneath the feet to prevent them sinking under load.

6. Carefully sit in the hammock to test the anchors and stretch guylines tight. Bounce a little to simulate tossing and turning in the hammock while watching all anchors. If any anchor fails or threatens (look for gaps behind the anchors), loosen the attached guyline, and re-set the anchor farther away to try again, repeating as necessary. See **Advanced anchoring methods and tips** ahead for more guidance.
7. When satisfied with the hang and anchor strength, re-tension the guylines to remove the slack the testing produced. Set the metal tensioners on the tails of the black constrictors to prevent slippage.

Single pole setup

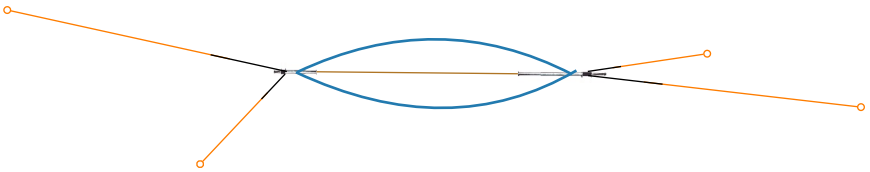
When setting up with a single pole, first attach the foot end of the hammock to the on-site support, then pull the head end out to determine the correct pole position and assess best anchor points, and proceed as from step 5 above.

Advanced anchoring methods and tips

Above assumes the simplest case of a flat site free of obstructions, with uniform ground conditions, so symmetrical placement of anchors and poles is possible and appropriate.

This is ideal, and good for novices to practice. Wilderness conditions are often more complicated, and require different strategies to assure that all anchors hold.

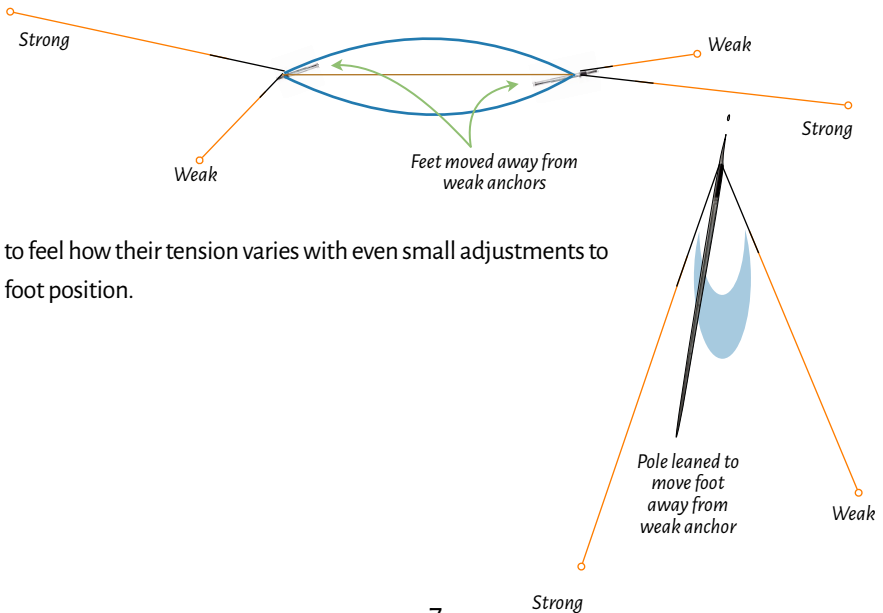
For example, obstructions, sloping ground, or varying soil conditions may force asymmetric anchor placement. Below is a top-down view of an asymmetric anchor layout.



This will result in unequal guyline tension, with the anchors of highly stressed guylines being more likely to pull out. Even in cases of symmetry, some anchors will likely be weaker than others because soil structure varies. When you drive the anchors in, you will feel which are firm and reliable, and which may be weaker.

The way to relieve stress on weak anchors is to **move the feet of the poles away from them**, so the poles are no longer vertical viewed from the ends of the hammock. Here again is a top-down view with strong and weak anchors labeled, and the feet of the poles moved away from the attached weaker anchors.

Right is a similar setup viewed from one end of the hammock. You can see that weight in the hammock will pull the pole to the right, re-distributing tension from the weak to the strong anchor's guyline. Press down on the hammock's ridgeline, and pluck the guylines



to feel how their tension varies with even small adjustments to foot position.

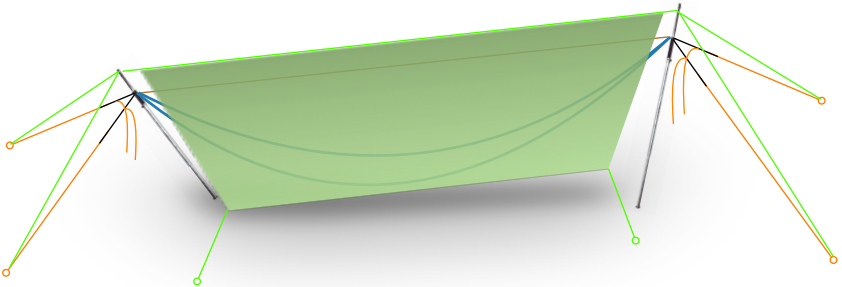
Moving the poles' feet is a powerful tool, but sometimes the ground is too soft to hold even the stronger of the two anchors on a side, especially when you've moved a foot closer to it. In this case, try any or all of the following:

1. Re-set the failing anchor a few inches away, in undisturbed earth.
2. Probe for buried rocks or roots, and place the anchor immediately behind the buried object, touching its back edge.
3. Whenever you can attach any of the guylines to on-site anchors, you should. Examples are the bases of small trees, woody shrubs, or rock features. This is not only faster and often more reliable than using portable anchors, it also means you will have spare anchors to reinforce any problem spots. After setting an anchor normally, drive a spare crosswise in front of it, ideally touching the first anchor at a point underground.

In the very worst case, select another site with firmer ground, or get creative. For example, you can even tie to an anchor crosswise on the surface behind a big pile of rocks..

Pitching a tarp

Do not attempt to pitch a tarp before all hammock adjustments are complete and stable. If you must make hammock adjustments after the tarp is deployed, de-tension the tarp first.



Exact methods will vary with your tarp's length, ridgeline style, and tensioning mechanisms. The key point is to tension the tarp either to the tails of the main guylines tied as a yoke, or to the ground anchors, **never putting bending force** on the tarp lifters. Their only purpose is to provide height, not tension.

Using the Tarp lifter connector

The Tarp lifter connector (TLC) threads onto the post after removing the top knob, providing a socket for the tarp lifter. The TLC is designed to break away without permanent damage if the tarp lifters are not guyed out adequately and bend, such as under high wind loads on the tarp. You can repair a failed TLC in the field by exposing the heat-shrink tubing to heat such as boiling water.

Specifications

Trekking Treez support gathered-end hammocks up to 12 feet in length. We warrant the poles to hold users up to 250 pounds (110kg), ground conditions firm enough to hold the anchors permitting. Other types of hammocks that require support points up to 56 inches (140cm) high can work, but may present complications. For example, bridge-type hammocks will generate higher guyline forces, and thus may require firmer ground conditions than gathered end hammocks for the same user weights.

Many backpackers want to know the exact weights of all components of Trekking Treez, so they can plug them into spreadsheets like Lighterpack.com. Weights are for each side/ pole.

Part	Weight (g)	Usable length (cm)
Handle assembly	128	19 - 35
Adjuster	118	37
Coupler	56	21
Extension	99	25
Trekking foot / tarp extension	49	21 trek; 31 tarp
Complete trekking pole (worn)	351 - 450g (12 - 16oz)	98 - 139
Hammock foot	88	41
Guyline pair	45	71 - 340
Peggy Peg L	65	31
17mm UL driver for Peggy Pegs	8	Not applicable

Part	Weight (g)	Usable length (cm)
30cm Tensa Boomstake	116	30
40cm Tensa Boomstake	142	40
Large Orange Screw	160	26
Complete pack (base) weight	271 - 453g (9.6 - 160z)	Not applicable
Complete product (per side)	622 - 903 (21.9 - 320z)	Up to 190cm/75" with adjuster at maximum, e.g., as tarp support pole or water crossing aid.

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Version 1.2, August 2022

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See <http://tensaoutdoor.com/support/> for revisions in PDF format. Email info@tensaoutdoor.com for support, attaching photos as may help.