



Tensa Trekking Treez

v2.0 - 'Svelte'

User Guide

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Description

Tensa 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. Two systems form a complete stand and pair of trekking poles. Trekking Treez, used as replacements for standard trekking poles, remove the need for redundant ground sleeping gear, saving weight while preserving the superior comfort 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 extension
6. Hammock foot / tarp foot
7. 2 guylines
8. 2 anchors, assorted
9. Storage bag
10. Snow basket & rubber tip



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. Always sink the handle at least four inches (10cm) into the flip lock adjuster. Pack all remaining components until time to set up in hammock mode.

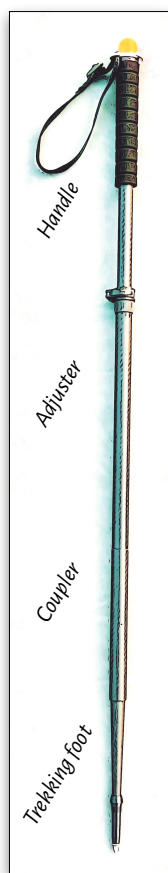
When joining segments with internal threading, do not over-tighten. Snug enough to prevent loosening in use is sufficient. Do not over-tighten the flip lock adjuster nut. If you must loosen it to make height changes, then it is too tight.

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 tightly, to minimize fatigue. 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 hard carbide tip of the trekking foot. As a walking tip, it is easily worn or lost. Both rubber and carbide tips, as well as snow baskets, are non-proprietary consumable items, with replacements available from many sources.

You may replace the trekking foot with the hammock foot if you prefer a blunt tip for use on soft surfaces. This also allows for use in the mode of a taller hiking staff. Note that hiking with the hammock foot on hard surfaces may result in rapid wear. Replacing the hammock foot requires returning to Tensa Outdoor or some level of home tooling and skill.

The aluminum Hubz piece below the top knob secures the strap, but it may be stored separately, with the threaded post under the knob serving to retain the provided or alternate straps when the knob is tightened to pinch them. 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.

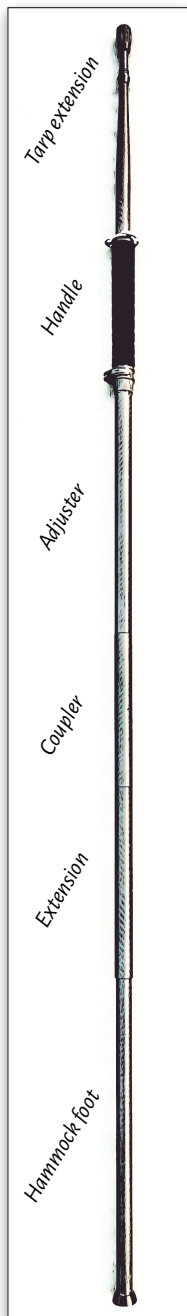
Avoid sites whose soil, sand or gravel is loose, does not form firm clumps, lacks reinforcing root structures, features semi-liquid mud, or is too shallow before rock prevents sinking the anchors. In challenging environments, it's wise to stop early to test sites before nightfall brings urgency.

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 much larger than their canopies, helping assure that adjacent ground anchors will hold.

Assembly

Screw all segments together, with the hammock foot at the bottom, and, if using a tarp, with the inverted trekking tip replacing the top knob. Use the rubber tip to protect the tarp from the sharp trekking tip. **Important:** collapse the handle into the flip-lock adjuster completely before hanging the hammock, as the flip lock can't bear hammock loads. Remove and store the top knob and trekking strap safe from salt-loving animals.

See the fully assembled hammock-mode pole to the right. An alternative use of the poles is as tarp supports, each able to exceed six feet (1.8m).



Setup

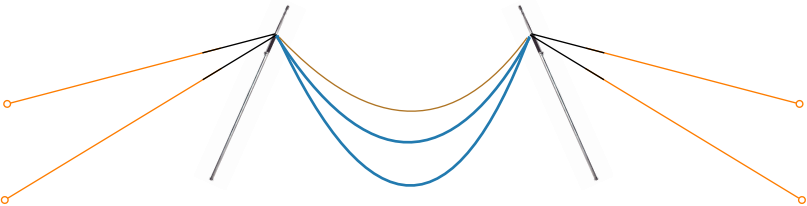
1. Lay both poles out on the ground in a straight line, top tip to top tip. Your hammock will follow this line.



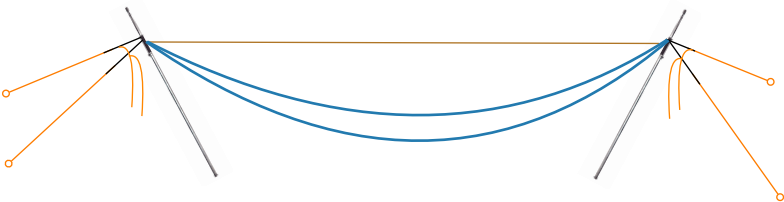
2. Attach the black loops of the guylines to the pairs of Hubz hooks that are closest to one another. Extend the guylines, let out to their longest adjustment, so their ends are roughly 6' (1.8m) apart, centered on the pole as shown:



3. Drive in the ground anchors at the ends of the guylines, and attach the guylines.
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, we suggest you fashion adapter loops of Amsteel to fit.

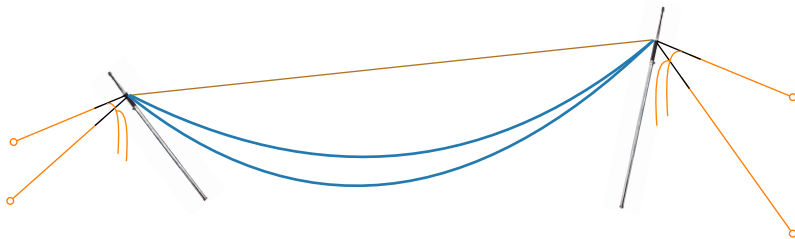


5. Tension all guylines and the hammock ridgeline by pulling the orange lines through the black constrictors, then milking the buries to set. Milking the bury means pinching the black constrictors through which the orange lines pass, and sliding



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 while milking the buries. Relocate the pole feet as necessary to achieve the desired hang geometry. **Important:** take care that the poles are both straight up in

the same plane, and centered as viewed from between the guyline pairs; confirm this after all adjustments. The poles should lean roughly as shown viewed from the side. More upright poles achieve greater height, while more leaned poles stress the ground anchors less, lowering their end of the hammock. Assume that the feet of steeply leaned poles will not slide inward by digging small divots in the ground for them to settle into. In all but hard ground, place hard flat objects such as stones or the snow baskets beneath the feet to prevent the poles sinking under load. To achieve more height difference between head and foot ends (typically to lower the



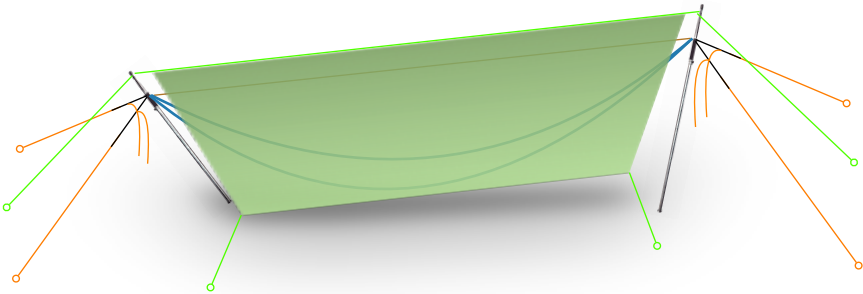
head end) either lengthen the suspension on the end to be lowered, set up on a slope, or omit the extension segment from the lower end pole (107g less to carry!). Never lengthen a pole in hammock mode with two extension segments.

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. In the worst case, select another site with firmer ground, or get creative. For example, if one or more guylines can attach to boulders or the bases of woody shrubs, then you can use the spare ground anchors to double up in spots of looser soil. You can even tie to an anchor crosswise on the surface behind a pile of rocks. Send pics of your most unlikely “you can’t hammock here!” hangs!
7. When satisfied with the hang and anchor strength, re-tension the guylines to remove the slack the test sitting produced. To prevent the guylines from slipping later, for example if some person or other creature bumps into them in the night, tie a slippery half hitch in the orange line tail where it enters the black constrictor section.

Pitching a tarp

Do not attempt to pitch a tarp before all hammock adjustments are complete and stable, because trying to adjust both at once is frustrating.

Pitch the tarp between the rubber-tipped tarp extensions as you would between trees, using a split or continuous ridgeline. **Important:** the tarp extensions or the tarp's ridgeline must **always** be guyed to the ground between the hammock anchors, or symmetrically to both hammock guylines themselves. Unless guyed out, the tarp extensions can break under wind loads on the tarp, destroying trekking pole function.



In lucky cases, the tarp will fit cleanly between the tips with little or no adjustment of pole angles to make taut. In most cases, the tarp will be short or long. If short, tie a loop in your ridgeline around the tarp extension tip at the right distance, and then guy out the tail. If long, drape the excess tarp length over the rubber tip and guy out.

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 4 above.

Specifications

Trekking Treez support gathered-end hammocks up to 12 feet in length with reasonable sit height. 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.

Part	Weight (g)	Usable length (cm)
Handle assembly	128	19 - 35
Adjuster	118	37
Coupler	56	21
Extension	107	25
Trekking foot / tarp extension	49	21 trek; 31 tarp
Complete trekking pole (worn) weight	351 - 458g (12 - 16oz)	98 - 139
Hammock foot	88	41
Guyline pair	45	71 - 340
30cm Tensa Boomstake	116	30
40cm Tensa Boomstake	142	40
Large Orange Screw	160	26
Complete pack (base) weight	365 - 453g (12.8 - 16oz)	na

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