



# Tensa4 Hammock Stand

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Tensa4 is a highly portable hammock stand, suitable for outdoors or inside, on flat or sloping ground, whether for travel, recreation, or full-time use as a bed. It accommodates gathered-end hammocks up to 12 feet long, with a ~30° sag and the foot end higher than the head, for laying flat on the diagonal. You can also adjust it to hang bridge and transverse style hammocks. It requires at least one anchor point to set up, ideally two. Tensa Outdoor rates Tensa4 for users up to 350 pounds, itself weighing 12-14 pounds with accessories, packing to 20 inches long and less than 6 inches around.



*Pre-Columbian petroglyphs at the Puerco Pueblo ruins in the Arizona desert seem to depict hammocks hung from poles leaning apart. Hammocks are known to have been indigenous bedding only in distant tropical climates.*

Tensa4 Hammock Stand User Guide

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See <http://tensaoutdoor.com/support/> for revisions in PDF format.

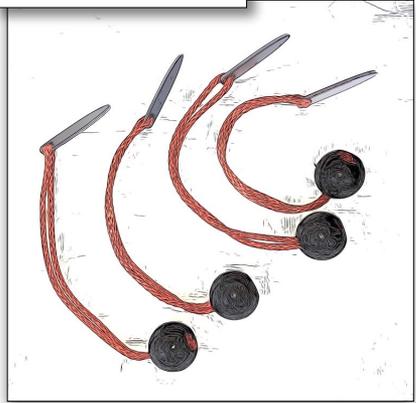
# Setting up

1. Check to assure your stand is complete, identifying the following:

Four 4-segment tubing sections, and four 3-segment sections



Four ball-loop connectors



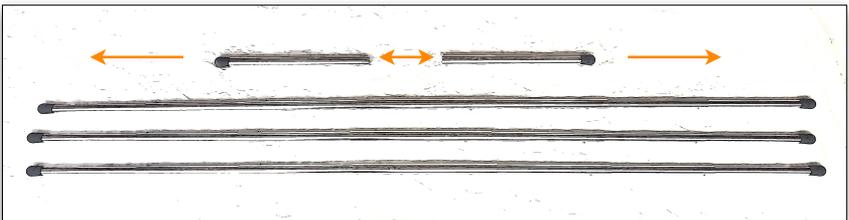
Four lines: orange baseline, black ridgeline, and two black & orange guylines



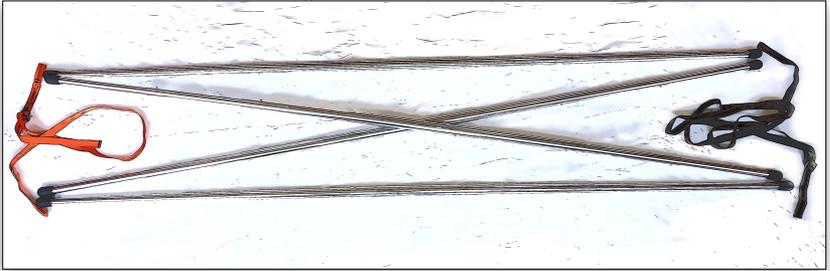
Two ground anchors, one screw for soft ground, and one nail type for hard



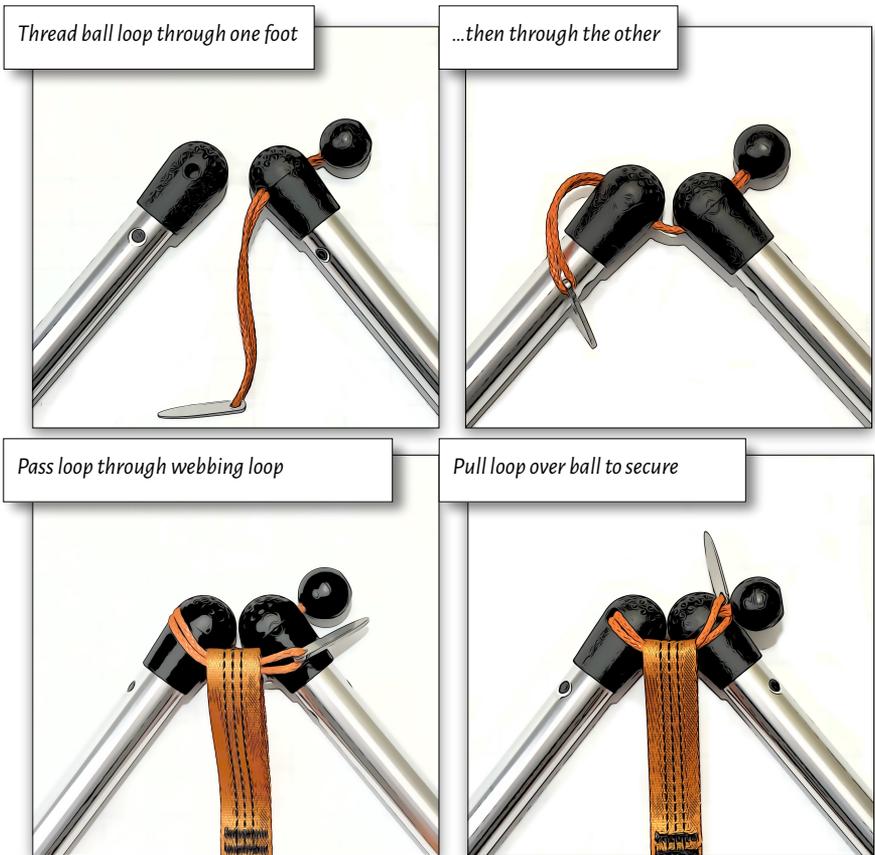
2. Extend and join the eight telescoping sections to make four 7-segment poles.



3. Arrange the four poles in a figure-8, laying the orange baseline between one pair of corners (the feet), and the black ridgeline between the other (the apexes).



4. Join the poles and lines at the corners as shown, inspecting loops for damage or excessive wear:



- Put the stand's feet near their final place, spreading the baseline by about your body length, laying the apexes together in a V shape. If on a slope, assure that the feet are level.

A good place provides for a foot-end anchor a body length or more away in the direction the V points. See *Anchoring* on page 6 for detailed notes.



- Attach the **black end** of a guyline to the bottom (foot end) apex, passing the pole connector line through one of the upper daisy-chain loops to leave a tail of loops inside the stand. These will be your hammock suspension. See step 10 for a peek at the end result.
- Secure the orange end loop of the guyline to the anchor.
- Lift the top (head end) apex to erect the stand. Unwrap any lines from around poles so they run cleanly across the corners. Set the stand ridgeline to maximum length.



Adjust the guyline length or feet position so the stand leans away from the anchor, with the head end lower than the foot.

9. Attach and anchor the head end guyline. Its main purpose is to prevent the stand collapsing toward the foot side. Do **not** tighten it, now or ever. Leave it slack so the head end apex is free to move at least several inches. This allows both manual and dynamic adjustments, and avoids overloading the poles.



10. Hang the hammock from carabiners in the daisy-chain suspension. Hammocks shorter than 12' (3.7M) need enough suspension to make up the difference with 12. Thus, a 10' hammock will need about 1' of suspension per side. If your hammock has a ridgeline (cord between gathered ends), you may remove the stand's ridgeline to simplify adjustments.





*Pole, guyline, and hammock connection detail.*

## Adjustment

*“There’s gonna be a little bit of tweaking, but once it’s set, it’s set.”* — Sean “Shug” Emery

Test and adjust the hang. Start by sitting in the hammock, **always** keeping your body weight centered on the lower (head) side of the baseline. It is normal for the ridgeline to sag a bit when you sit, but not when you recline. Take heart: setting up the first time typically takes much longer than later, once the line lengths are set and you develop a feel.

Problem	Remedies
<b>Seat is too low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Shorten baseline.</li> <li>· Shorten hammock suspension.</li> </ul>
<b>Seat is too high</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Verify that head end guyline is slack.</li> <li>· Lengthen hammock suspension.</li> <li>· Widen baseline.</li> </ul>
<b>Ridgeline sags when reclining</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Lengthen hammock suspension.</li> <li>· Increase stand tilt.</li> <li>· If hammock has integral ridgeline (cord between gathered ends), remove stand ridgeline.</li> <li>· If hammock has no ridgeline, shorten stand ridgeline.</li> </ul>

Problem	Remedies
<p><b>Head or feet touch poles</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Widen baseline.</li> <li>· Shorten hammock suspension overall, or lengthen on contact end, shorten on non-contact end .</li> <li>· If head touches, reduce stand tilt.</li> <li>· If feet touch, increase stand tilt.</li> <li>· Verify that stand feet are level.</li> <li>· Cross poles so those nearest head and feet are outboard.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stand tips toward foot end</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increase stand tilt to shift body weight further toward head end.</li> <li>· Shorten head end guyline enough to prevent tip, but <b>not</b> make taut when hammock empty.</li> </ul>

## Anchoring

The foot end anchor must bear at least half of your body weight. Suitable anchors include the bases of well-rooted shrubs, vehicles, large rocks or chinks in rock features, the hinge pins of doors, handrails or other architectural features, shoes closed behind strong closet or built-in cabinet doors, the frame of a bed atop which the stand is erected, etc. A truly portable anchor for places with zero other opportunities is one or more collapsible water vessels placed directly under the foot apex.

Use ground anchors when there are no suitable alternatives on site. Select the anchor for the critical foot end based on the ground conditions, using the other for the less critical head end. Anchors hold best placed as far away from the stand as the guylines allow, soil conditions permitting.

Screw anchors are usually the best choice for soft to medium-hard ground. If you hit an obstacle, you can sometimes use the Tensa Boomstake to make a pilot hole for the screw to enter more easily.

Tensa Boomstakes are best for ground too hard for screw anchors, able to be pounded through softer rock. In softer ground where the stake alone might pull out, add the boom to make the stake act more



like a hook into the ground. First insert the stake through the holes in the end of the boom tube to make a figure 7. Point the boom toward the stand, and drive the stake in at an angle to keep the boom horizontal. Loop the end of the guyline over the end of the stake and under the tang, then twist the guyline around the boom end as shown right.



The most challenging ground lacks any cohesion, like loose sand, pea gravel, mud, or the unstructured fill dirt below many sunbelt-suburban lawns. If possible, excavate or relocate to find firmer ground. Try using both guylines and anchors on the foot end. If still insufficient, find a log or fill the carry bag with the loose material, tie the guyline around the middle, and bury it crosswise a foot or more deep as a “dead man’s anchor.”

## Pitching a tarp

Finish all stand adjustments for the hammock before pitching any tarp. Tarps up to 11' (3.35M) long fit between the apexes, their staked guylines tensioning. For more headroom, set up on a slope with the head end pointing upslope to make a roomy vestibule under the foot end.

Longer tarps call for creativity or the *Tarp Extensions for Tensa4* accessory (sold separately; shown right) which also increases headroom.

Never tension a tarp by tightening the head end guyline.



# Tips and tricks

## Moving and stowing the stand

You can move the stand easily from one place to another with hammock still attached, either open or collapsed into a column. This is useful for getting farther from or closer to the party, to adapt to changing light or wind conditions, or to stow the stand away to re-deploy quickly. You can partially collapse the poles while assembled, to stow by day under a bed or in a closet, to save space.

## Single anchor

We recommend anchoring both sides of the stand to avoid collapses, for instance in winds with the stand empty, or when you reach for a zipper pull at your feet, but only the foot guylines is mandatory. If you can't anchor the head end, hang a counterweight such as a pack or water vessel from the head apex to stabilize.

## Two hammocks, one tree, one Tensa4

Split the stand into two inverted V's. Hang foot ends of the hammocks from the tree (or pole, vehicle, etc). Put the open ends of the Vs along the hammock sides, at much the same shallow angle and width as if setting up normally. Set a ground anchor beneath each head apex, and secure the feet to the anchor using lines in Vs along the ground to prevent the feet sliding toward the tree. Hang the head ends from the apexes. Note that this calls for two additional ball loop connectors or improvised equivalent.

## Bridge, spreader-bar, or other tight-pitch hammocks

Set the base to only about 3-4' (1M) so the poles clear any spreader bars underneath, and the apexes spread wide and low. Omit stand ridgeline.

## Transverse hammocks

Also called 90-degree hammocks. Do not lean the stand as for gathered-end hammocks, but balance it centered with both guylines lightly tensioned.

## See-saw

If you want head and foot ends to be interchangeable, say in a social setting where unsupervised users may not understand the asymmetry, adjust the head guylines length so when the stand tips footward, the stand leans the same amount as it did headward, switching orientation.

## Tensa Solo conversion

Tensa Solo is a hammock stand product sold separately, that uses many of the same components as Tensa4. Its main advantage is lower weight, pack size, and cost, at the expense of some reliability since it requires more and stronger ground anchors than Tensa4. You can convert one Tensa4 economically into **four** Tensa Solos using *Tensa4 to Tensa Solo Conversion Kits*, sold separately, to accommodate larger groups.

## Joining multiple Tensa4 stands

Two stands can share a common foot-end pole (seven poles altogether) and anchor. Add more, up to six hammock berths around a single central anchor using only 4.5 complete stands' worth of poles in a sociable "flower," each hammock a petal.



## Don'ts

There is more than one acceptable way to do most things with Tensa4, but a few things especially to avoid:

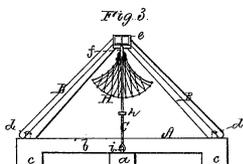
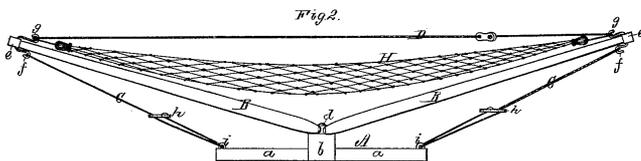
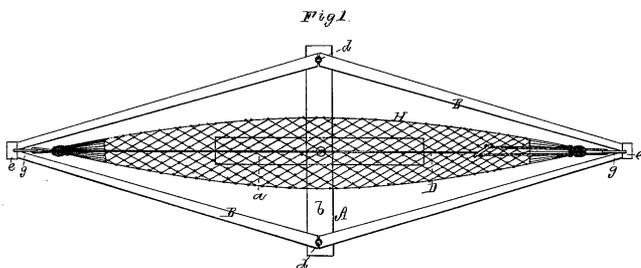
- Don't attach hammock suspension around both poles on either end, as this can bend the poles inward under load, damaging or destroying them. Hang instead from the provided carabiners and daisy loops in the guyline tails, or by attaching your suspension to the pole connectors.
- Don't tension the head guyline to "pry open" the stand beyond its natural balance point when the hammock is occupied. This can overload the poles.

- Don't grip, push or pull on the poles while anybody is in the hammock.
- Don't swing in the hammock enough to collide with the poles.
- Don't collapse the poles when dirty, as they may jam. Wipe them down as necessary, optionally applying a light waxy or silicone lubricant. If you disassemble sections completely for thorough cleaning, remember to leave one as a re-assembly reference.

**A. B. RICHARDSON & D. FULLER.**  
**HAMMOCK STANDS.**

No. 180,729.

Patented Aug. 8, 1876.



Witnesses  
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