

D4 PORTALEDGE INSTRUCTION MANUAL

SAFETY WARNING-- Never depend on a portaledge to be a primary safety device--it is not a primary safety device like your harness or climbing rope. For use in a elevated setting, always use a harness and rope with proper climbing techniques, and tie into the main rope using a Prusik or ascender to enable mobility and to ensure as little slack as possible between you and the main anchor at all times. This product is supplied as a reward for Kickstarter supporters to foster ongoing and future development of a new suspended tent system. As such, this product has no warranties, expressed or otherwise, and should therefore be considered experimental and extreme care taken if used in any situation where harm may result. Understand and accept the risks—you are responsible for your own actions and decisions.

Deployment:

VIDEO: <https://goo.gl/vbJL8g> or Google "D4 new Portaledge setup-June 2017". Testers and Kickstarter supporters, please post user videos on <http://facebook.com/bigwallgear>. Please refer to the Facebook page for the latest setup videos, as the design may change.

Assembly:

1. Unzip Haulsack and carefully initially unfold ledge, drop it below you RIGHT SIDE UP and free of tangles. The bed tensioners should be on the top of the properly set up ledge.
2. Assemble the "long" poles first--these are the 3-section poles on the "Wall Side" (the side that rests against the wall or tree) and the "Airsides" (the side that is furthest from the wall). Note that the D4 ledge has reinforcements on both sides and can be set up with either side against the wall ("ambidextrous").
3. Then Assemble the "Ends" (the two ends with the bed tensioners).

IMPORTANT: push the fabric bed down toward the center as much as possible. If the fabric is too close to the curved corners, it can be very hard to assemble and disassemble the portaledge. Try to fit one end as best as possible first (one end has a plastic "helper" to hold the tube in place), then move to the other end, and with a little skill, can be done in one go without the other end falling out. Once one end is in, the other usually snaps in fully inserted. Sometimes, when the last two end joints do not seem to want to go together, you can push one corner against the wall, and the ledge squares up and all joints fully snap in place. BUT CHECK THIS--MAKE SURE ALL TUBES ARE FULLY INSERTED BEFORE WEIGHTING THE LEDGE. I recommend painting a little marker on the tubes which helps identify how far one tube is inserted into the other. Watch the video for more tricks on assembling the frame.

4. Next, tension the bed using the six bed tensioners. It is important to only fully tension the bed when it is sitting perfectly flat. This takes a bit of practice to do well. Lightly tension one side (3 tensioners) as evenly as possible, then move to the other side and tension the center tensioner first while the ledge is flat. Often you have to "shake out" a taco, or push it against a flat surface to get it flat. Next tension the other two bed tensioners, in small steps, like one would do when tightening lug nuts on a car wheel. Tensioned properly, the D4 ledge will be flat like a board, and very resistant to tacoing. On the other hand, a sloppy tensioning job will result in a taco puzzle.

5. Adjust the suspension straps. The final adjustment must be done precisely so the ledge sits flat on whatever surface it sits (whether big wall corner, or large gum tree). For best results, gradually begin weighting the center of bed so weight is evenly distributed on the suspension straps. As you gradually increase your weight on the ledge, make adjustments in small steps, so the ledge remains flat and level. Tip: if setting up on a slab, don't clip the ledge directly or close to the anchor. Instead, use a full-strength sling or two between the ledge clip-in point on top of the fly, and the anchor. This will help avoid the need to excessively shorten the wall side straps to get the ledge level.

6. Get settled in. Always tie into the main rope and be as maneuverable as possible with a Prusik or an ascender. You can put the ledge bed dividers up now. MAKE SURE the dividers are down before disassembling the ledge—you always want to always make sure the main load on the ledge is on the main suspension straps, NOT on the centre bed dividers.

7. The fly. The ledge is properly prepared with the ledge and fly attached by a carabiner, with the top 1" loop which connects the ledge to the fly clipped in to the main anchor. To deploy the fly, all you need to do is pull it out of the haulsack, wrap it around the ledge, fit the corner straps, and zip up the door. IMPORTANT NOTE: MAKE SURE TO RAISE THE SUSPENSION SO THAT THE LOAD IS ENTIRELY ON THE FOUR LEDGE SUSPENSION STRAPS, NOT THE FLY. You will rip the fly with the corner straps secured if you lower the suspension too far. The video explains more.

SEAM SEALING: The Kickstarter D4 Portaledges need to be seam sealed manually and if done properly, results in a superior waterproof product. Seal all sewing machine stitch holes with the provided Shoe-Goo, an excellent urethane waterproofing product. It is best to seam seal on a warm day (so the Shoe Goo flows properly), but not too hot (otherwise the Shoe-Goo dries before you can spread it fully over the seams). There are three main areas to seal:

1. Zipper area--the vertical stitches of the zipper and the flap on the front of the fly.
2. The ballistic reinforcements—seal the horizontal seam between the main fly and the ballistics wall scuff on the wall side, and the outside patches.
3. TOP CLIP IN. You need to really seal the top 1" clip loop well. Seal both the 1" webbing at both the top of fly, as well on the inside and between the cone and fly. If done properly, it can be completely watertight. It is the user's responsibility to properly prepare the D4 ledge for weather by sealing all relevant stitching as described above, and testing under a hose to verify proper sealing.



CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

SHOCKCORD: check the shock cord before every wall. This design depends on the integrity of the shock cord, so make sure it hasn't gotten cut when it was exposed in the packed ledge. If after use the shock cord becomes too loose, re-tension the shock cord to ensure a nice tension when assembling and disassembling. The single fisherman knot tying the shock cord together is tucked into one of the curved corners.

QUICKLINKS: Make sure the quicklinks (the metal screw gate link attaching the bed fins to the 1" suspension straps) are screwed in all the way. If you weight them with the gate open, they likely won't fail immediately, but they will bend so it is impossible to turn the screwgate, so you will be doing the rest of the wall with an open quicklink (no fun). If this happens, replace the quicklink with a full strength locking carabiner. Open gate quicklinks may eventually fail.

GENERAL: Inspect all aspects of this product prior to each use, especially the suspension system. Wear and tear might result in an unsafe system—do not use if the product has any damaged or worn parts, and keep away from fire or open flame. Never cook inside a portaledge.

REPAIRS: Repairs may be made at reasonable hourly work rates. Send to Barry Ward, Durango Sewing Solutions, 127 Alamo Drive, Durango, CO 81301