

# Tent

## **Golden Cross Ranch, LLC**

### ***Having Fun With Your Horse***

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### ***How the Tent Came To Be***

“The tent obstacle is actually a smaller version of a “monster-sized” obstacle we were asked to create for the Extreme Cowboy Association which is presented by Craig Cameron, who is known as the “Cowboy’s Clinician” and who is one of the finest horsemen in the United States. When we were creating the larger obstacle, we realized that it would be really neat to have a smaller version for people to train with and to use as an obstacle out on the trail.

The tent obstacle may weigh in more than your saddle at around 50 lbs. and is a bit more complex to set up so would take longer than our “5 minutes” slogan, but it still maintains the same portability and safety features of flexible and impact resistant PVC that is characteristic of all of our trail obstacles.

Recommended experience level: Because some horses may find the tent spooky and may require some desensitization to it, this obstacle requires solid horsemanship skills on the ground and solid riding skills if continued under saddle. We recommend this kit for the experienced horse person unless under the supervision of a professional trainer.

## **Tent Item List: (shipping weight 50 lbs.)**

### **High Quality Canvas Zipper Duffle Bag**

Duffle Bag Color: Olive Drab

Dimensions: 25” x 42” with strong and durable handles

Material: Heavy Weight Canvas

Our duffle bags with zippers and carrying handles are very sturdy and have lots of room. It is a great way to carry your portable trail obstacle!

### **1¼” Furniture Grade PVC Pipes of various lengths and colors**

Lengths are approximate due to cutting.

Colors are guaranteed to match pipe sets as specified below.

Actual colors are not guaranteed. We reserve the right to select the color according to availability.

Please inquire if you have any questions concerning color at time of ordering.

Eighteen green 40 inch lengths of PVC colored pipe for tent frame

Eight green 20 inch length of matching PVC colored pipe for tent base\*

\*Each pipe will have one 5/16” hole drilled approximately two inches from one end

### **1¼" PVC Connectors**

Two white 3 ways: One to be used at the top of each entrance to connect the poles that form the tent frame

Four white 4 ways: One to be used at the bottom of each side to form each of the bases that occur on each side of the tent frame entrances

Eleven white couplers: To be used to connect side poles and top poles to form the frame of the tent

### **Clamps**

Eighteen Clamps for attaching the tarp to the frame of the tent

### **Tarp**

One 12 x 24 camouflage tarp

### **Stakes to Anchor Obstacle**

Eight 10 inch plated steel stakes are provided with each tent in order to anchor the bases. These stakes penetrate hard ground, are easy to pound into the ground and easy to pull out.

### **Wooden Tap to separate couplers**

The connectors that are used with your PVC pipes provide a snug fit and can become difficult to separate from the pipe when you are ready to disassemble your obstacle. To solve this problem, we recommend that you use a piece of wood as a "tap" between the PVC and a hammer. We have provided a piece of wood as a tap to get you started.

### **Heavy Duty Rubber Mallet**

Weight: 16 oz.

A handy tool that is provided for both hammering in your stakes, insuring a snug fit when inserting pipe into connectors and for use with the wooden tap to separate couplers when you are ready to disassemble your obstacle. It even has a hook on the end to help you pull your stakes out of the ground when you are done.

## **Dimensions:**

Fully Assembled Dimensions (approximate): The length is constant at just over 7 ft (86"). The maximum height is just under 9 ft tall (107 ½"). At the maximum height, the width is approximately 8.5 ft (103").

The minimum height is a little under 8 ft tall (94") which creates a width of almost 12 ft.

# How to Assemble the Tent

**HINT:** Although not required, a light coating of vegetable oil on the ends of the pipes where they go into the connectors may make the disassembly process easier.

1. **STEP ONE:** Place the eighteen 40" pipes and eleven couplers in your work space. Make three sections that consist of two pipes and one coupler in each section, and four sections that consist of three pipes and two connectors in each section.



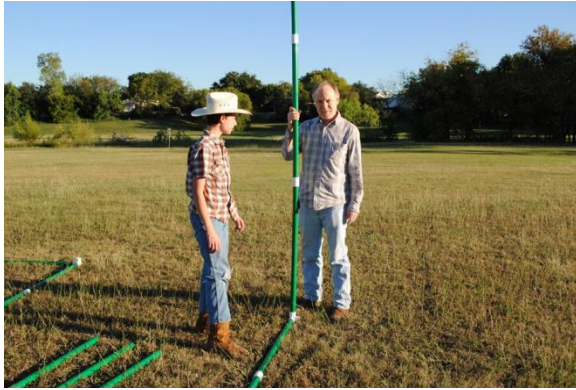
2. **STEP TWO:** Using each of the 4 way connectors, use the 20" pipe and make four bases. To assemble each base, insert a 20" base pipe into two of the horizontal openings of the 4 way connector, but NOT in the TOP opening. Notice that the two horizontal pipes form a 90 degree angle. The top opening is how the frame is connected to the base. Make sure that the end with the pre-drilled hole is NOT inserted into the connector.



3. **STEP THREE:** Place a 3 way connector onto the end of one of the sections of three 40" pipes that are connected.



Connect that section to another section of three 40" pipes that are connected:



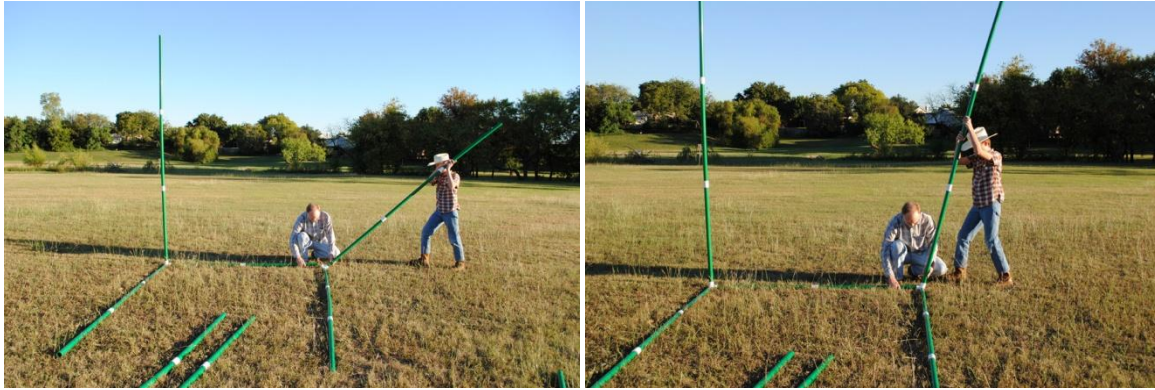
4. STEP FOUR: Repeat STEP THREE with the remaining sections of three 40" pipes that are connected.



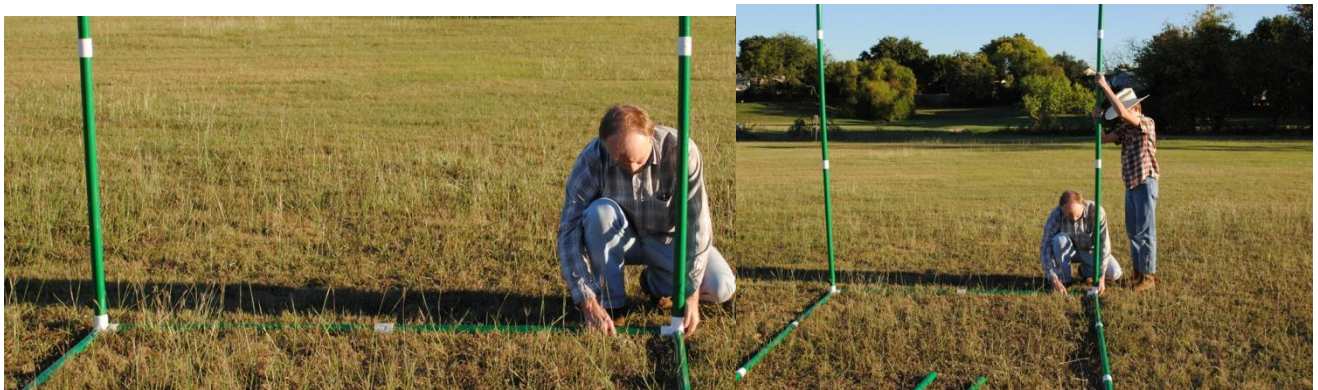
5. STEP FIVE: Take one of the two sections of two 40" pipes that are connected and place each end of it into the remaining openings of each 3 way on each of the sections of three 40" pipe. Notice that the pipe on the ground consists of 2 sections of the three 40" pipes that are connected – each one coming into the three way connector. The pipe in Phil's hand is the section of two 40" pipes that he has placed in the remaining opening of the 3 way connector.



Phil and Josh are picking up the pipe that was on the ground in the previous pictures and are forming two parallel L's from each of the connected sections of pipe.



Their next task is to connect the two L's with the section of two 40" pipes that Phil has already inserted into the L on the left at the beginning of STEP FIVE. Here Phil is inserting the section of two 40" pipes into the 3 way on the L on the right.



Phil is tapping in the connectors on each side to make sure they are seated firmly. When we lift the frame up, these connectors will be at the top of our frame so we want to make sure they are tapped in well since they will be a bit difficult to reach once the frame is raised.



6. STEP SIX: We are now ready to work on the bottom and base pipes. Place a two piece section as shown here:



We will be attaching the base pieces to the bottom of the three piece section and to the two piece section as shown below:



Notice how Phil is using the mallet to tap in the connectors for a more secure fit:

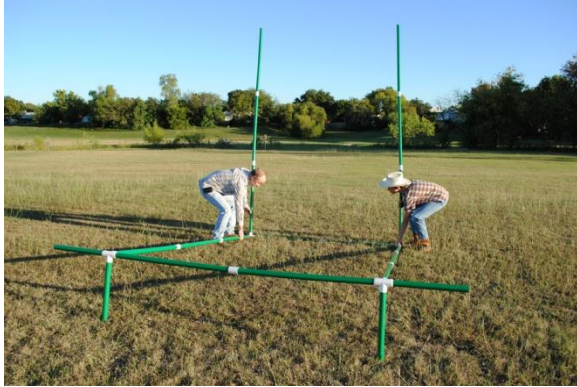


And he repeats the process on the other side:





Time to pick up the frame and set it upright - Here is where two people come in handy:



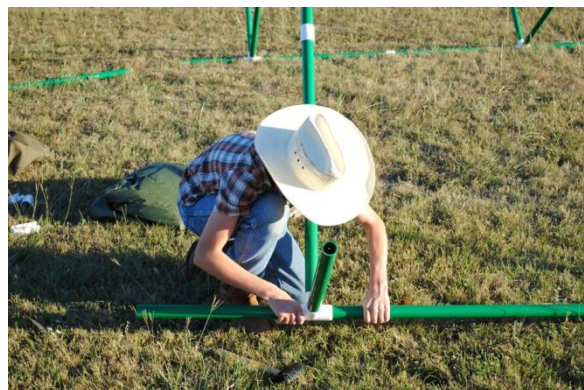
7. STEP SEVEN: Now it's time to put the bases on the other side with the same procedure – using the final section of two 40" pipes and the remaining base sections. Insert the end of the three piece section into the top opening of the 4 way coupler. Insert one end of the two 40" pipes section into the remaining opening of the 4 way coupler.



And tap in your pipe:



Repeat on the other side:



8. STEP EIGHT: We are now ready to place the tarp. Spread the tarp out and walk it up and over the frame.



9. STEP NINE: It is now time to clamp the tarp to the base. Simply roll the tarp around the bottom sections as shown:



Secure the tarp to the pipe with the clamps.



Repeat on the other side, being careful to pull the tarp tight enough to remove any slack.



- 10. STEP TEN:** Continue to clamp the tarp down, making the ends as long or as short as desired by either rolling the tarp or leaving it loose when clamping it.

Flaps:



No Flaps:





- 11. STEP ELEVEN:** Next we use our tent stakes and secure only one side of the obstacle. Use the rubber mallet and make sure that the 20" pipe holes are oriented so that you can drive the stake through them and anchor the bases to the ground.



**12. STEP TWELVE: HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT**

At this point you can move the frame to adjust it to the desired height by grasping the bottom section of the side that has not been staked down and pushing it forward or moving it back. As you push it forward you increase the height and decrease the width. Moving the bottom section further out will decrease the height and increase the width. When you are satisfied with the height of the tent, stake down the remaining bases.



FINISHED TENT  
INSIDE VIEWS:



OUTSIDE VIEWS:



# More Suggestions For Your Tent

## Clamps

We have supplied eighteen clamps for you to use with your tent. This gives you a lot of flexibility when securing the tarp to the frame. By using your clamps and rolling the excess tarp tightly around the poles, your obstacle will not have any loose flaps and will therefore appear less scary to your equine friend. As his confidence grows, you can remove the clamps and position the tarp edges more loosely, so that there are flaps hanging down from the top and off the sides – and you can experiment and also vary the length of the flaps to control how scary the obstacle appears.

## Height Adjustment

Another great feature to your tent is that you are able to adjust the height, which increases or decreases the level of difficulty.

## Frame

You can start off with a much less challenging obstacle by making it only half size – simply assemble only half the amount of sections.

# Using Your Tent

We recommend that you introduce your horse to the tent on the ground first, especially if he has not been through a similar obstacle in the recent past. Remember that some horses are convinced that new obstacles may try to eat them at any moment, and it is your job to convince them otherwise. This is best done from the ground before attempting the obstacle from your horse's back! It is recommended that you proceed by using the following steps:

1. Introduce your horse to the tent on the ground, and give him a chance to become comfortable around it. You can start off with just a halter so that he can be relaxed and you don't accidentally jerk on his mouth if he shies away from it. Let him sniff it and examine it if he wants to do so. When he seems comfortable around it, you can encourage him to walk through it. Once he does so comfortably, repeat several times. Remember that it is physically impossible for you to "pull" a 1200 lb. horse through this obstacle. The key is getting him relaxed and confident which means you need to remain relaxed and confident throughout the process. Don't expect to accomplish this immediately – it takes a lot of trust for a horse to be brave - he is depending on you to keep him safe and doing obstacles like these together will go a long way in building that trust!
2. When your horse is comfortable around the tent, you can try leading him through by his bridle. If he takes this well, you can move on to attempting the obstacle from his back. Remember to be calm and confident and that will help your horse to remain calm and confident too. If you ever feel that your horse may become out of control while trying to ride him through the obstacle, dismount and start again from the ground. Confident and consistent approaches will help your horse become relaxed and desensitized to the obstacle. Once you are both comfortable going through in one direction, repeat the process going through the other direction, until your horse easily moves through the obstacle in both directions. Notice here that Tammy first allows Handsome to examine the tent, even though she has already done this process on the ground. Notice that rather than allowing Handsome to respond reactively to the obstacle by rushing through the tent, Tammy is encouraging Handsome to use the thinking part of his brain by pausing and giving him a chance to think about the obstacle and realize that it isn't eating him...this may take some time so patience and a good sense of humor may be required. As always, if your horse seems like he is going to become out of control or you become unsure, simply dismount and start again on the ground until you are both comfortable. You may want to adjust the flaps to be less scary at first, and then increase the challenge when your horse is consistently relaxed at going through the tent when the flaps are secured.



You can see that Handsome is very confident moving through the tent. Tammy and Handsome have been blessed with being together for many years and they have accomplished many great things together because they have a wonderful relationship that is built on mutual trust. You can strengthen your own bond of trust with your horse while working with the tent. As with our other products, the tent helps us have fun that is only limited by following safe practices and by using our imagination!



## Disassembling Your Tent

Taking apart your obstacle is fairly straightforward. The part that can become a bit difficult is separating the pipe from the connector if it won't come off by simply twisting them apart. In order to assist with the disassembly process if this does occur, we have included a wooden tap to help you separate the pieces. Simply hold the pipe in question stable (it helps if you have a second person to hold the pipe) and place the wooden tap against the connector as shown. Use the rubber mallet, hitting it against the wooden tap, to loosen the connector from the pipe. If the connector is particularly stubborn to loosen, you may have to rotate the pipe and use the tap repeatedly until it will separate. If you lose your wood tap or it becomes unusable, simply grab any similar piece of wood to do the job.



## Safety Information



*These poles should not be used under excessively cold weather conditions since it is known that PVC becomes more brittle in cold weather. While our products are U.V. coated which helps prevent the breakdown of material due to exposure to the sun, as with the use of any equipment, it is important to constantly inspect the condition of the equipment to ensure that it is undamaged and use it only for the purpose intended. While no specs are published concerning the impact resistance of PVC, we have pictured here one of the PVC poles that was used to stake down an obstacle during the Grace Lakes Ministry Competitive Trail Challenge. It seems this particular pipe received a great deal of abuse from 1200 lb. horses wearing shoes coming down on it. We were thrilled to see that the PVC pipe "smooshed" instead of shattered. No one noticed until taking the obstacle down that the pole had even been damaged because it remained usable and did its job of holding the obstacle in place!*

**Important Storage Note: When storing your obstacle, make sure and store PVC pipes flat, otherwise longer lengths will remain usable but may tend to warp.**

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