FIELD GUIDE · NO. 11

Diamond Fly Shelter

A compact, low-cordage pitch that sheds rain well, with less interior space than an A-frame.



FROM THE BOOK

1. The book's shelter comparison describes the diamond fly as a lightweight, one-person setup that uses minimal space and cordage and sheds rain well.
2. The main consideration is room: it has less interior space than an A-frame. It is a practical choice when you want a small, efficient shelter rather than a roomy camp.
3. As with any tarp, keep the ridgeline or attachment lines tight. A sagging panel collects rain and strains the fabric and tie-outs.
4. Secure the corners snugly. Stakes, rocks, or logs all work if they keep the shelter stable as conditions change.
5. Site matters as much as the pitch. Avoid low ground where runoff will travel through your sleeping area, and position the tarp so water runs away from you.
6. There isn't one perfect arrangement. The best shelter is the one that matches the weather and can be built before conditions deteriorate. Practice the setup on a calm day.

PRACTICE IT

Pitch a diamond fly (or the closest compact tarp setup you use) and confirm that water would run off, not pool, and that you still have enough room to lie down.