Dear Customer!

Thank you for choosing our product!

There are few ideas here that are merely our recommendations. You will have to make your own choices and decisions.

Before you start setting the tent up, please spend some time for preparation of the place and think about where the doors should be directed to and how to make it more accessible and comfortable. (Although there are four doors, so you cannot make a big mistake...).

We would recommend using a zip-lubricator so that the zips can be operated more smoothly. Warranty does not cover a faulty zip if you forced the zip.

One recommendation for making observations more comfortable would be to go to a local garden centre and buy 5 meters of underlay fleece, which is usually being used under waterproof rubber in ponds. It's a 3mm thick, soft white material; its length is enough to cover nearly the whole surface of the floor twice (use it inside!). It's 2m wide, so it leaves about 30cm both sides uncovered. In other countries, you might find some other similar product to make the tent more comfortable...

We’d also recommend you to buy a waterproof polyethylene “ground sheet” cover from Halfords and a UV-proof sheet (tarpaulin).

The ground sheet can go underneath the tent to save the floor of the tent from spiky plants or sharp stones etc. Although the tent itself has a waterproof floor, this can make it longer lasting by protecting it from direct contact with the ground.

The waterproof and UV-proof tarpaulin can be used for covering the tent and thus making it rainproof.

Remember, the “ground sheet” underneath and the soft cover on the floor are unnecessary, but nice additions, whilst some sort of rainproof cover is more like a strong suggestion if you are a UK user, with which we want to save you from unpleasant situations...

Setting up the tent on your own will be a good fun, but might be quite time consuming.

It'd be much easier to do it if you had help. It could possibly be done in 10-15 minutes with help (depending on other optional things you’ll need to do, like making space, preparing the ground, removing bigger stones, cutting the ground cover etc.

If you use the tent as a short term temporary solution on a star party then you may avoid many of the above suggestions and simply setup the tent without the above additions; we’d still recommend using an extra sheet on top of it to make it more rainproof. The latest, 2015 version of the tent has got two fiberglass poles to create an arc in the middle to achieve a pitched roof shape. This is a welcome addition to the design.

Setting it up

The setup of the tent is quite self-explanatory. For reference please look at the following pictures.
Take into your attention how the four carbon-fiber tubes are placed outside the tent. You can see that on the above picture the fourth tube on the right-hand side is not yet installed...

The fifth carbon-fiber tube is inserted into the hole made of the tent’s material all around the top. It’s easy to mistakenly use those holes at the top for the side fiber tubes (we did that first time... ;o)

The only thing left is to install the two fiberglass poles and then the top cover. Secure the two fiberglass poles into each other in the center with a rope or even better if you use that long cut of material that was used to pack up the tent... Please note that the top cover is not meant to make it fully waterproof. For achieving that, please see the following section...

Rain proofing

After you’ve finished setting up your tent, we are sure that you want to keep it dry. To achieve this there are couple of solutions:

1. You use your tent only in nice, dry weather... If you are in Australia or New Mexico, don’t read the following section. :o)

2. There are lots of places where you can buy a tarpaulin cover. We’d recommend 3.5x3.5m size at least (or maybe 4x4m). There used to be an optional Protective Shell, but that is currently not available as the new manufacturer doesn’t make it.

   *Please note this will only work if a pitched roof shape has been achieved!*

Fortunately, the new version of the tent comes with an additional structure to create a pitched roof shape, so you only have to worry about rain getting inside at the edges, especially in very windy weather.

The original top cover is only a little bit bigger than it is necessary...not sure why they cannot make it 10-20cm longer, I don’t think this would enormously increase the price, but so far, we could not convince the factory about this tiny change...

Anyway, the above described tarpaulin cover will help with that, but in any case, just be sensible and apply some common sense when you setup your tent and cover it to save from rain water building up in corners... In heavy rain you might have to push the top up time-to-time if water starts building up in the corners...

Please note, we cannot take any responsibility for water damage inside the tent.

3. An alternative solution against heavy rains (which we experience quite a lot in the U.K....)
may be something like a "Ground Sheet" sold by Halfords or search for tarpaulin on Google. Make sure that it’s UV-proof! We’ve used one that fell apart within few months after a very sunny summer as it turned out to be not-UV-proof. You can find something similar (ground sheet, ground cover or tarpaulin cover) at B&Q or elsewhere, but these may cost a little more (price difference is not huge...)

For the old version, we always advised customers that there should something to be left in the middle of the tent to be protruding above the level of the roof by about 10-15 cm to achieve a circular pitched roof shape, however the new shape of the Mark II tent gives a much better protection. Despite that it is not really meant to be a storm standing construction, so in any case we advise to cover it with a large UV-proof tarpaulin cover to avoid any surprises...

(Now the only reason to leave your tripod or even the telescope inside is convenience and to save time, but do this only if the place is safe to do so. Plus it might help to keep the tent in place in a really windy weather, but do this only if really necessary, otherwise better to take down the tent in very strong wind.)

Even with this new shape, depending on the direction and force of the wind there might be small areas on the top that might allow rainwater to be collected at the top, therefore the tent must be regularly checked in case of rainy weather. These circumstances are independent from us and can be controlled only by the user therefore, we cannot take any responsibility if bad weather, rain, snow, wind etc. causes any damage to the tent or the content inside the tent.

An average shaped tent would not have similar issues, but you will not be able to use one in the same way as this tent, so to be able to benefit from its special shape and construction one should live with the compromises that come with this shape.

We have spent lots of time advising the manufacturer and trying to convince them to add a pitched roof shape and voila, fortunately they listened and came out with this improved version in 2015.

*Image shows the old version in which the telescope tube was slightly above the top of the tent making a sloppy roof when covered.*

*We would also cover the telescope with something soft even inside the tent when not in use, as it may have some sharp parts protruding that could damage the tent’s material.*

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We wish you clear skies and wonderful experience of the heavens!

365Astronomy.com
Discovery for Every Day!

QUICK REMINDER

WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR TENT...

1. SWITCH OFF ANY SOURCE OF ELECTRICITY (DON’T FORGET, YOU SHOULD USE AN EXTENSION LEAD WITH 30mA RCD PROTECTION)

2. IN RAINY WEATHER REGULARLY CHECK OUT THE TENT TO SEE INTEGRITY OF THE SHAPE AND WHETHER WATER BUILT UP IN ANY PLACES ON TOP OF THE ROOF

3. (if you decided to leave your telescope inside...) COVER YOUR TELESCOPE WITH SOMETHING SOFT (e.g. blanket), SO THAT IT WON’T DAMAGE THE TENT WHEN THE WIND SHAKES IT

4. COVER THE TELESCOPE WITH A SIMPLE PLASTICK BAG OR SIMILAR TO MAKE IT EVEN MORE WATERPROOF EVEN INSIDE THE TENT; JUST IN CASE!

5. COVER THE TENT WITH THE CIRCULAR COVER

6. COVER THE TENT WITH A RAINPROOF COVER OR TARPAULIN TO ACHIEVE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF PROTECTION FROM RAIN WATER

7. TIGHTEN UP THE COVER SO THAT IT WON’T HAVE PLACES ON THE TOP WHERE WATER CAN BUILD UP

8. IF YOU HAVE DONE THE ABOVE AT NIGHT AFTER OBSERVATION, CHECK IT OUT IN THE MORNING TO SEE IF YOU’VE DONE IT WELL