

22AD Ancient and Medieval Artillery  
Research Group

# Quick and easy Roman legionary tent



This pattern and instructions are freely available and not for resale. Donations to the 22AD Artillery Research Fund can be made via paypal to [22adartillery@gmail.com](mailto:22adartillery@gmail.com)

## Introduction

Building ancient artillery leads 22AD to participating in many period events with the associated restrictions on what gear can be used. This means that in spite of spending every cent possible on materials for artillery we still have to come up with a lot additional period gear.

Items like tents can really bite into the budget. So we've worked out the cheapest possible way to produce something that is acceptable to event organizers as a Roman Contunburnium tent.

This design uses two complete and part of another 12X9 canvas drop sheets. It minimizes sewing seams and can be put together fairly quickly using an ordinary sewing machine.

This tent design has proven to be exceedingly effective in dealing with the high wind conditions common in New Zealand and is exceedingly stable without the need for front and back guy ropes. In fact the side guy ropes can be placed within 12" of the sides meaning the tent has a very small footprint so you can get a lot of them into a small space.

The instructions include how to make the poles for the tent and it is important that you use them correctly. To be stable the tent must be secured to the ridge poles with ties. This gives the tent resistance to moving back and forth negating the need for additional guy ropes.

Loops for tent pegs are not shown but these can be added as you desire. We often just tuck the sides under the poles or you can add the more accurate mudflap if you wish..

If you have any comments, corrections or observations please feel free to send them to me at [22adartillery@gmail.com](mailto:22adartillery@gmail.com)

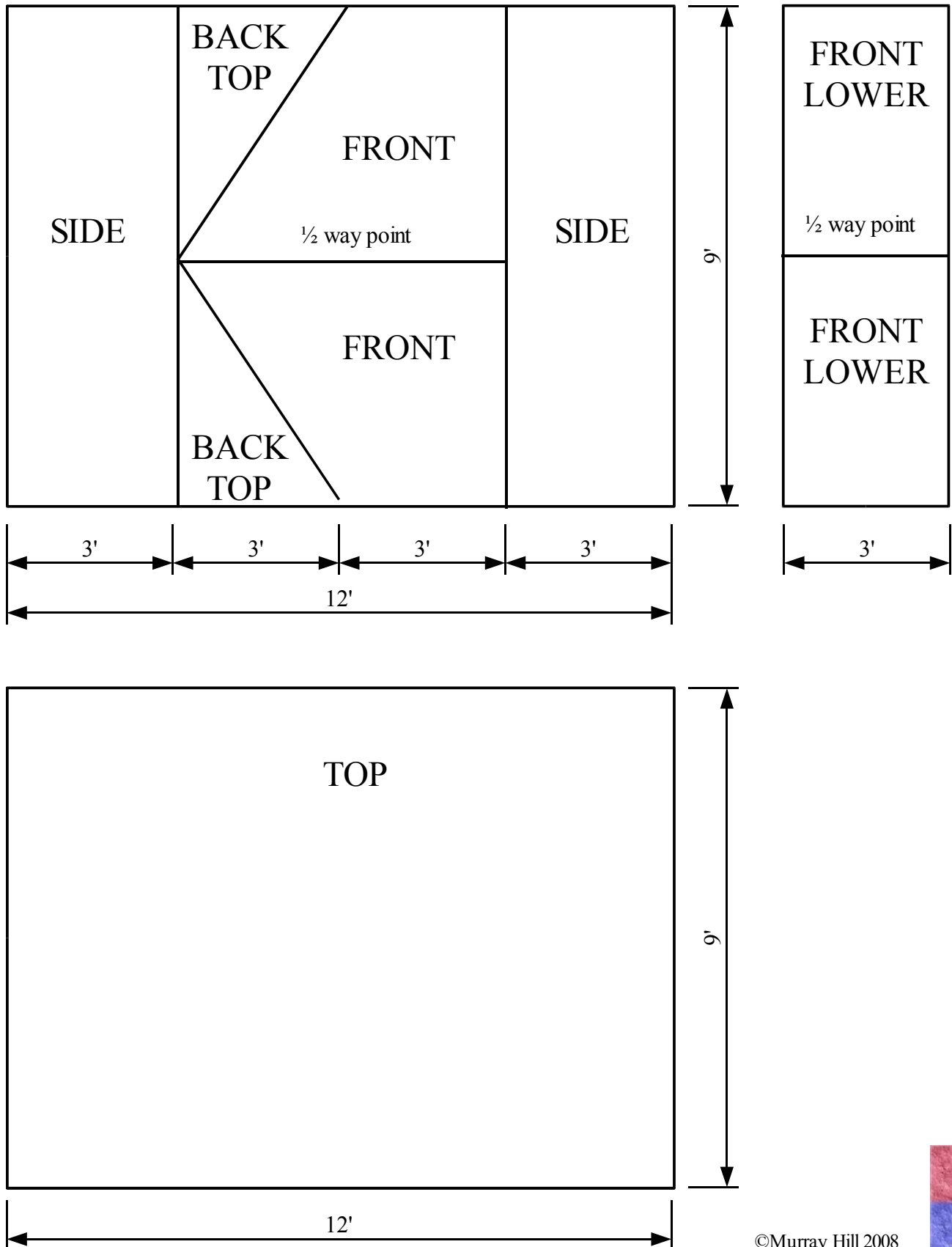


The prototype being checked out by the late Pestilence Hill.  
Note the middle poles proved to be unnecessary

# Cutting layout

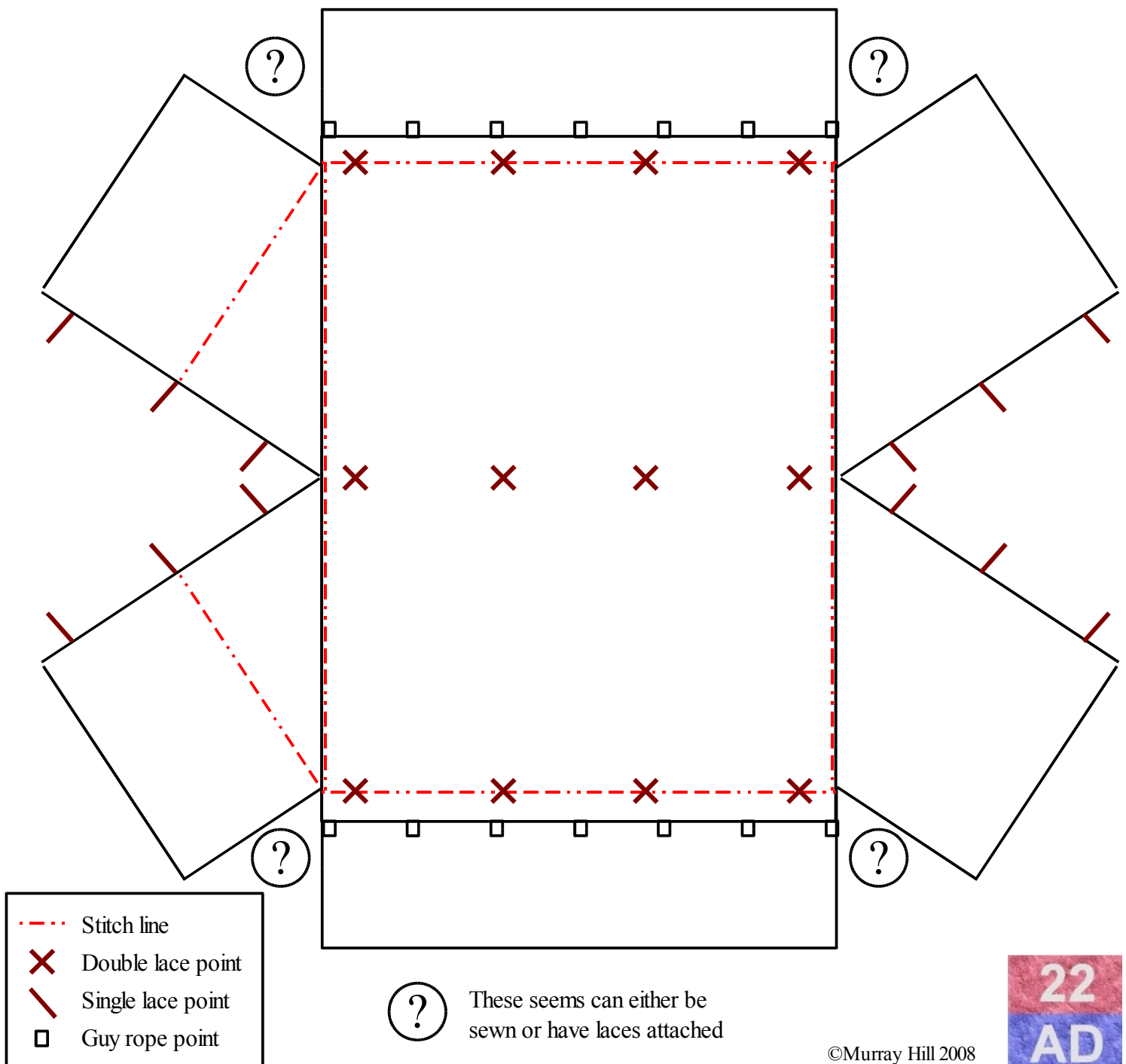
This layout means your side have already been hemmed saving sewing

This portion comes from a third drop sheet. If you are making more than one tent this will allow you to make four tents without needing an additional drop sheet.



# Sewing layout

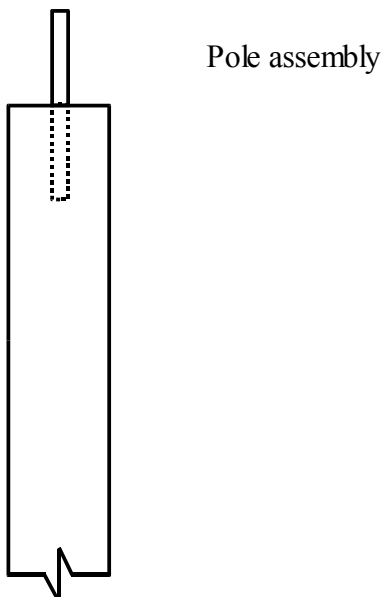
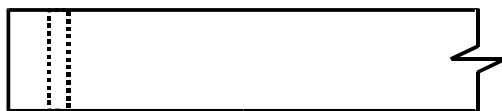
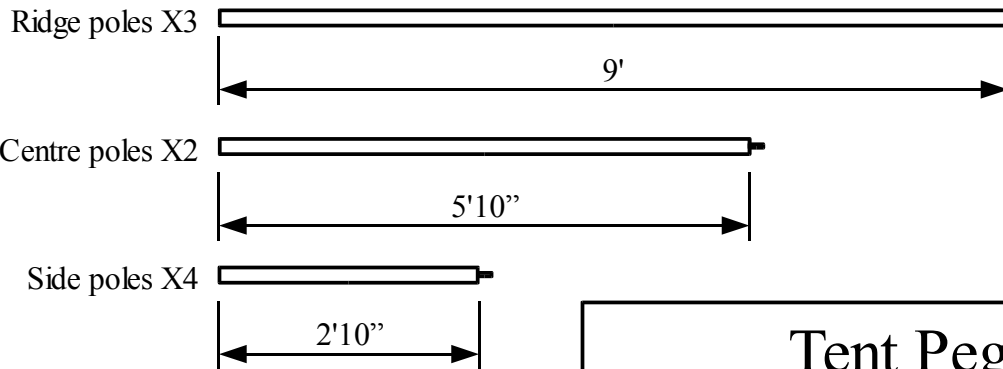
- Sew the back upper and lower parts together
- Hem the raw edges of the front and back parts (you may want to use strips cut from the extra section to make a flase hem to minimise size changes)
- Fold the top in half length ways and mark the centre
- Sew the front and back sections to the long sides of ther top
- Sew the sides to the top – ensure that they line up with the points where front and back meet the top
- Sew in all the tapes at the points indicated
- At this stage you can decide to either sew the sides to the front and back to close the corners or just add ties togive your tent the option option of rolling up the sides in hot weather. If you do this make sure you add ties to the outside of the side pannels as well so you can tie them up



# Tent Poles

All the poles are made from 2" X 2" pine

- Each of the uprights is cut 2" shorter than the actual height needed to allow for the ridge pole
- A length of reinforcing rod is set into the end of each upright ensuring that it does not protrude more than the ridge poles width.
- A hole is drilled into the end of each ridge pole larger than the rod.
- The uprights are set into the holes in the ridge pole and the ridge poles are tied to the laces sewn into each ridge seam shown in the sewing pattern



## Tent Pegs

Tent pegs can be made using the same reinforcing rod that was used for the tent pole.

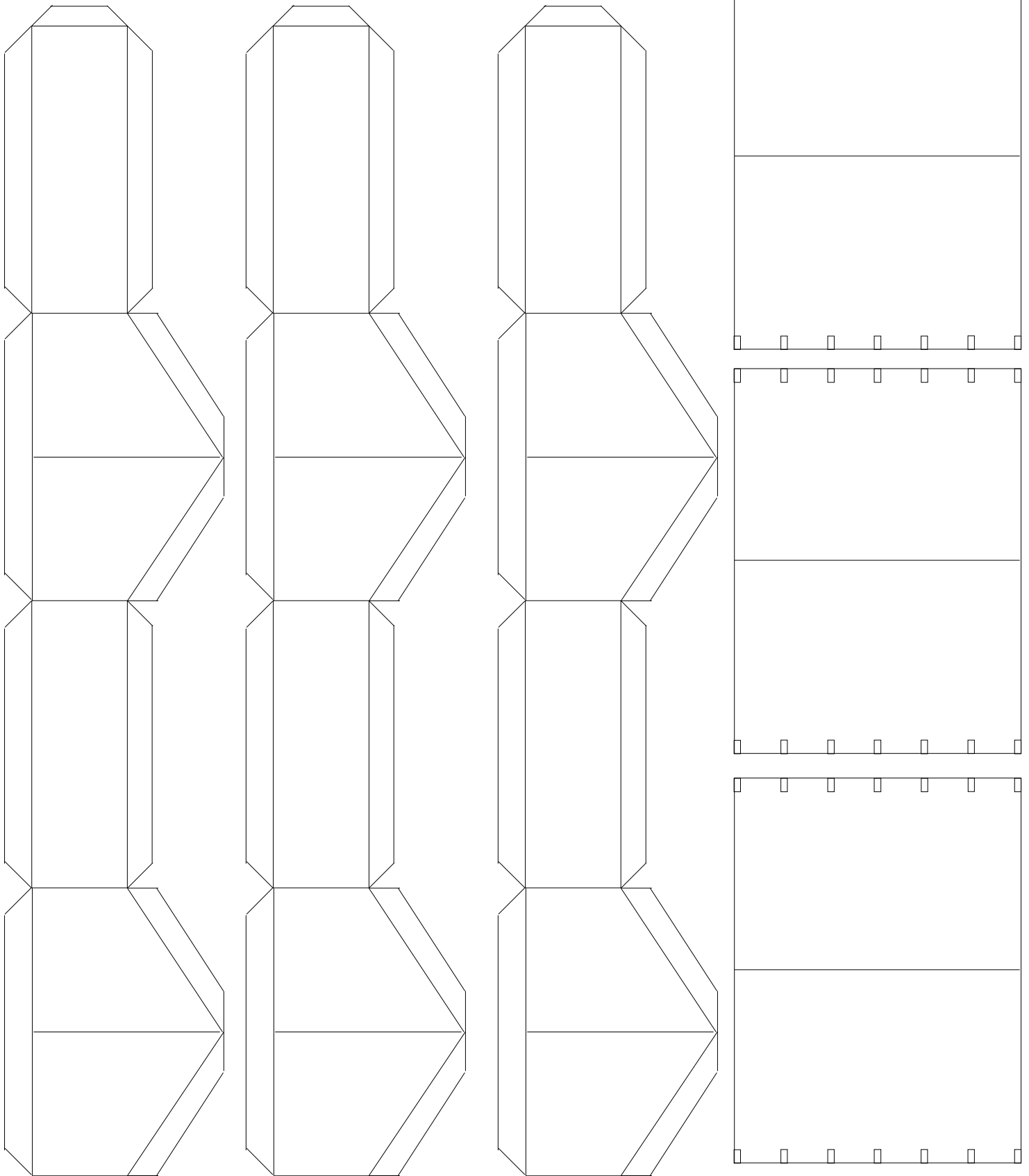
Bend one end using a vice as shown.



14 pegs are needed unless loops are added to the lower edge,

An alternate method of securing the lower edge is "mud flap". A strip of leather or some other waterproof material sewn to the lower edge of the sides and held down with cut turf.

# Tent Models



Use these models to help  
plan your camp layout.