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Tutorial  
**Shade Structure**  
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PlayaLabs testers have built a LOT of shade... domes, tents, sails, carports, pyramids, Tipis, lean-tos, and hybrids. The basic best for simplicity and cost is the flat-top steel shade structure.

This tutorial is for the simple, basic-bitch 10 by 20 ft structure. Sidewalls are a nice additional feature for shade/wind and dust protection.

It's not exciting--but it's easy, light, and will last multiple burns if you do it right. Use 1 for your group shade and 1 for your tent or vehicle too.

**1) Make A Fucking Decision:**

There is a long debate over the best tarps to use, comparing shade, wind, breathability, reflectivity, dust control, and even rain protection. We're not

trying to convince you who's right, but our testing shows a good, versatile compromise is this:

- Light-color solid roof tarp
- Black mesh sidewall
- Cheap floor tarp

This balances shade, breath-ability, cost, and will protect from rain (it does rain in BRC!). So just start with these 3 tarps. You can always modify later.

## 2) [Order your online parts:](#)

Corner Connectors Kit #1  
Corner Connectors Kit #2  
Bungee balls  
White Tarp for roof, 10 x 20  
Mesh Tarp for sidewall, 8 x 20  
Rebar Canes  
Ratchet Straps  
Rotary cutter  
Floor Tarp 10 x 20 (Optional but recommended)  
Yard Staples (for floor tarp)  
Footplates (Optional but recommended), set of 4

## 3) Hit the Town

Once your online parts arrive, take one of the Connector pieces to your local hardware store, and make sure to buy the right size poles to fit into it:

Ask the clerk for "1 inch steel EMT conduit"

### **From your hardware store:**

1-inch EMT Conduit, 10 feet long: 14 pieces (You are buying 1 extra backup)

Straight Rebar:  $\frac{3}{8}$ ", 2 ft long, 6 pieces

Go home.

#### 4) Tools

Use your [rotary cutter](#) to trim down 6 of the steel poles to 8 feet long. If you plan to park under your shade structure, or or put your tent under it, measure the height of your object first and make sure 8-feet gives enough room. Generally, 8 feet is high enough. After cutting the poles, sandpaper or file the cut ends with steel wool as they are sharp.

##### ***If you are using footplates:***

Test to see if your straight rebar stake will fit through the holes on the footplate. It usually won't. If not, drill out ONE of the holes to make it large enough for a rebar.

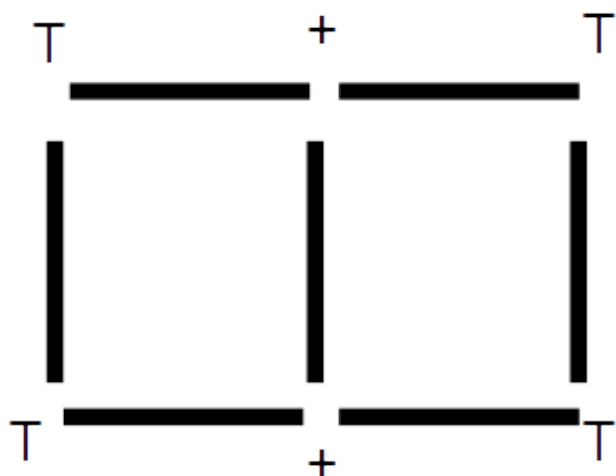


That's it! No more tools. Everything else is just assembly.

#### 5) Pitch a Tent

You have [2 types of connector pieces](#): T's and +'s

Lay out the T's and +'s with the poles like this. Use a a big yard or driveway:



Start attaching the connectors to the poles. You just need to hand-tighten the eyebolts, don't go crazy stripping the bolts too tight...

Attach the roof-trap while it's still on the ground! Loop Bungee-balls through the tarp and roof frame.



Now start adding the legs. Slip on all three legs to one side, then prop up the structure to make a lean-to. Hand-tighten the eyebolts. Have your friends lift up the roof and attach the three other legs (a ladder or tall friend is helpful)

Now add the footplates if you are using.

### **6) Attach To Playa:**

The footplates are NOT ENOUGH to hold your shade structure! Your structure is guaranteed to go flying away!

Determine the final placement of your shade structure. Lay out your cheapy floor tarp, pull it tight and hammer it in with the yard staples.



You and 3 friends, now lift and position the shade structure over the floor tarp.

Hammer a straight rebar stake at each corner, right next to the leg. If you are using the footplates, go through the hole in the footplate.



Hammer in about 14" of the rebar but leave 8-10" exposed. Wrap duct-tape liberally around the rebar and EMT pole.

**Start like this:**



**But keep wrapping liberally up the poles, so the rebar and pole get lashed together like this:**



It looks janky but it works! Playa tested and approved.

**Next, ratchet straps:**

Hammer in candy cane rebar at each corner, about 2 ft outside the perimeter of the structure. Hammer in the rebar at an angle, and get these stakes ALL THE WAY into the Playa. Mark each stake with a rubber cap or solar light, etc.

Loop a ratchet strap around the corner connector.

DO NOT hook through the eyebolt! It will bend the bolt and ruin it. Loop the strap around the connector itself and hook back onto the fabric strap.



Hook the other end of the ratchet into your rebar candycane. Tighten down the straps. Plan to check and tighten straps every day on-Playa.

Now add your sidewall tarp with more bungee balls on the sunny/windy side of your camp.

## **7) Final Check**

Very important! Go around the whole shade structure and tighten eyebolts, straps, and stakes. They wiggle during assembly. Check and tighten once a day.

**That's it! You have amazing shade!**