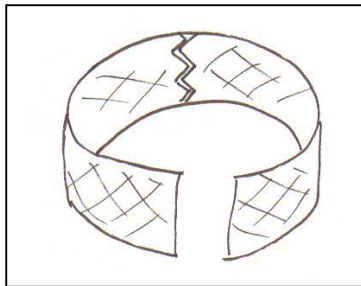


# How to put up a bentwood yurt

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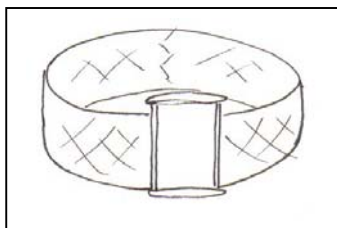
## Assembling the Kazakh yurt frame

Choose a suitable piece of ground, as flat as possible - but don't worry if it slopes. If you have a wooden or concrete floor it is a good idea to draw a circle on the ground using a marker pen, crayon or chalk, use a piece of string and a nail to form a compass. Make the circle exactly the diameter of the yurt.

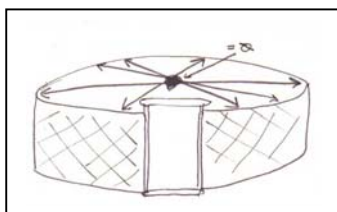


Open the *khana* sections and spread them into an approximate circle. The top half of the khana rods bend inwards. The top has the guide string close to it and shorter pole ends. Open as wide as the guide string allows. The ends cut at 45° (sawn timber yurts only) attach to the door frame - leave a gap here. The other ends should interlock (not overlap).

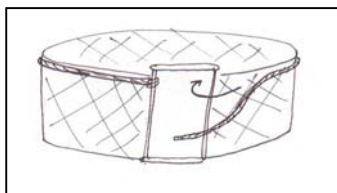
Lash the khana sections (if there are more than one) together using black webbing tapes.



Tie the door frame to the open ends of the *khana*. The thin batons attached to the uprights (sawn timber yurt only) go on the outside. The wall ends sit tight against the frame and behind the batons.

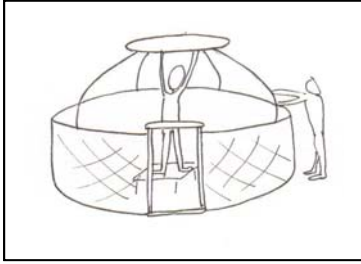


Adjust the walls to form an exact circle. Either use a pre-marked circle as a guide or use a tape measure to measure the diameter at several points. **It is important to get the circle quite exact, at least  $\pm 1$ ".**



Tie the tension rope around the entire yurt. Tie it securely to each door post, near the top of the wall, pull it tight enough that it will not slip down or sag, but not so tight that it distorts the circle. It helps if you pass it through (between, not inside) three or four of the Vs (crossovers) at the top of the wall poles, this will stop it falling down. **Do**

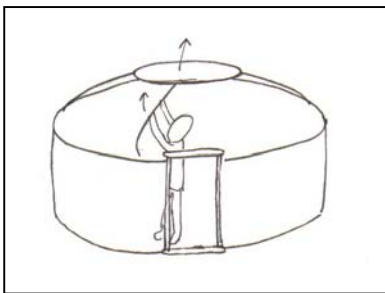
**not attempt to fit the roof without the tension rope in place.** Without this rope the roof will force the wall outwards and may damage it.



One person should lift the crown above the head. A second person ties four opposite roof pole to the wall and fits the tops into the crown. Fit a further four poles. The crown should now be safely self-supporting. Fit the remaining roof poles.

**OR**

Tie two roof poles to the khana heads at 120° to each other (a third of the circle apart). With the pole end on the outside pass the string through the "V" at the top of the wall and wrap it around the top of each wall pole and the bottom of the roof pole finish with a clove-hitch or similar knot.

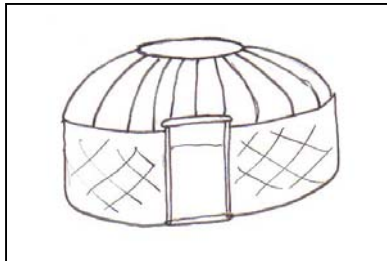


Push the ends of these poles into the appropriate mortises in the crown.

Fit a third pole into the mortise opposite (at 120° to) the first two.

Use this third pole to lift the crown into place and tie the bottom end to the appropriate Khana head.

Fit the remaining roof poles - Do not use force.



Pull the crown downwards to seat the roof poles. Stand back and check that the crown is level. If not, pull down on the high side. If you cannot get the crown to sit level, it is because the yurt is not circular. Picking up the entire frame, and putting it down again will usually fix this.

At this stage some poles may flop sideways slightly. To correct this, start at the door frame and wrap the long pieces of cord around each roof pole at the apex of the bend, adjust each pole into the correct position.



Tie the end of the canvas tension band to the frame, inside of the door. Pass it around the outside of the yurt, where the roof and walls meet. Pull it tight as you go, but not so tight that it lifts the roof. Tie the other end securely to the frame inside of the door.

## Fitting the cover

**Fit the wall cover.** The wall hangs by the string loops from the top of the wall poles. Each end wraps around the door frame uprights and ties to the frame. Reach up under the tension band to hook the loops over the wall tops. The plastic skirt tucks under the frame. The walls on larger yurts are in two parts, these lace together at the back of the yurt, with the lacing inside.

**Fit the roof cover.** Place the roof cover on the roof and pull it over the top. A spare roof pole is useful to push the cover across from inside of the yurt. Ensure that the cover is not inside-out, the canvas sheets should overlap to allow water to run-off and the bottom hem should be on the inside. Swivel the entire roof cover so that the door cutaway lines up with the door-frame. Thread the white rope through the grommets on the bottom hem. Pull the rope tight, wrap it around the door-frame and tie it to the frame inside.

**Hang the canvas door** (hooks on the inside, laces at the top). The laces pass through holes in the lintel and tie to the nearest roof pole. Bamboo poles slide into the pockets in the door. The door hangs on the outside of the yurt and is held shut using shock cords which should be attached to the frame.

**Fit the crown cover.** Throw the crown cover onto the roof and pull into place (easier with two people). Tie the strings to the guying points or to the roof securing rope.



**Peg the cover down.** The guy ropes do not need to be pulled out as with a normal tent, but pull straight down to the ground.



### Doors

Bolt the door to the top and bottom of the door frame using the bolts and holes provided. The doors open outwards. If you have received the yurt by post fit the handles. Attach the batten across lintel just above the door using the screws provided. This piece should direct water runoff away from the door and hold the cover out of the way to allow the door to open freely.