



# Delta 2p Portaledge USER MANUAL

The D4 Delta 2p Portaledge, designed by big wall climbing legend, John Middendorf, is a revolutionary new design with a trapezoid (cantilever) shape versus a rectangular shape. The Delta 2p is set up *perpendicular* to the wall (not parallel to the wall) so that two people can have their head to the wall and their feet toward the airside.

The Delta2p is a revolutionary new design, and greater care and practice is required to ensure proper deployment and use on the vertical. Before each use, check for any wear or damage of straps, fabric, quick-links, cam buckles, frame, and shock cord. Adjust shock cord (knot in wall side tube) if necessary with double fisherman's knot.

**SAFETY WARNING!!** Never depend on a portaledge to be a primary safety device. It is not a primary safety device like your harness or climbing rope. For use in an elevated setting, **always use a harness and rope with proper climbing techniques**, and tie into the main rope using a safety prusik or ascender to enable mobility and to ensure as little slack as possible between you and the main anchor at all times.

Understand and accept the risks. You are responsible for your own actions and decisions. The activities depicted are inherently dangerous. All users must be trained and competent in the use of the Delta 2p Portaledge equipment for climbing activities or use in an elevated setting (i.e., tree canopy). Durango Sewing Solutions and/or Big Wall Gear, LLC are NOT RESPONSIBLE for accidental injury or death caused by improper or careless use of the Delta 2p portaledge.



**FAILURE TO HEED ANY OF THESE  
WARNINGS MAY RESULT IN  
SEVERE INJURY OR DEATH.**



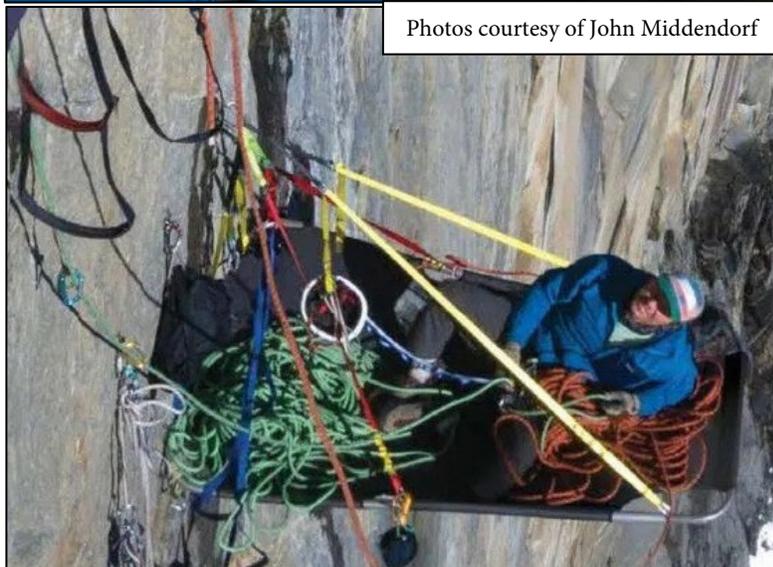
*Camp IV, Nose Route, El Capitan  
Pic by Camden Clements (@instacam007).  
Merryn Venugopal (@merskates) in cozy D4 Delta2p ledge.*

## DEPLOYMENT

1. The D4 Delta2p ledge is designed to be set up on a flat vertical wall. ALWAYS ensure that all climbers are tied into the climbing rope anchored into the main anchor, as high as possible.
2. ALWAYS clip the ledge into a strong sling suspended to the main anchor, and then backed up with a rope or full-strength webbing. The ledge hangs much better when there is some space between the anchor point and the top clip. In other words, don't clip the top of your ledge directly to a bolt – leave some space and it will hang better. Doing so also keeps the wall side of the fly from touching the wall, and helps keep it away from any runoff that flows along the surface of the rock.
3. Always stay tied-in short with the climbing rope into main anchor!
4. **Because of its cantilevered design, the suspension straps MUST be adjusted properly, especially the “air-side” straps. PRACTICE ON THE GROUND or hanging from a tree first!**
5. **IMPORTANT!** Make sure the middle strap looks a bit loose **prior to loading the ledge** to avoid overloading the frame.
6. **NEVER** try to forcefully adjust a portaledge with two people in it. Always adjust **before** getting in, then one person can make fine adjustments while in the ledge. The Delta2p portaledge is designed for two people, but not for two people bouncing around. **IMPORTANT! ALWAYS MAKE ADJUSTMENTS WITH ONLY ONE PERSON IN LEDGE!**
7. **USE A SLING AND MAKE SURE LEDGE IS PROPERLY ADJUSTED!** Adjust the ledge with straps so it fits into the rain fly. The load must be distributed equally on all straps, not too short, but also not too long so the load is on the straps, NOT the fly.



Photos courtesy of John Middendorf



## BEFORE YOU CLIMB!

### Seam Sealing

Your Delta 2p Portaledge needs to be seam-sealed manually before using it. It is the user's responsibility to properly prepare the ledge for weather by sealing all relevant stitching as described below, and testing under a hose to verify proper sealing. If possible, do this on a warm (but not hot) day with the ledge assembled.

Use the Shoe-Goo provided with your portaledge to seal all sewing machine stitch holes and obvious seams. Shoe-Goo is an excellent urethane waterproofing product. It is best to seam seal on a warm day (so the Shoe-Goo flows properly), but not too hot (otherwise the Shoe-Goo dries before you can spread it fully over the seams). There are three main areas to seal:

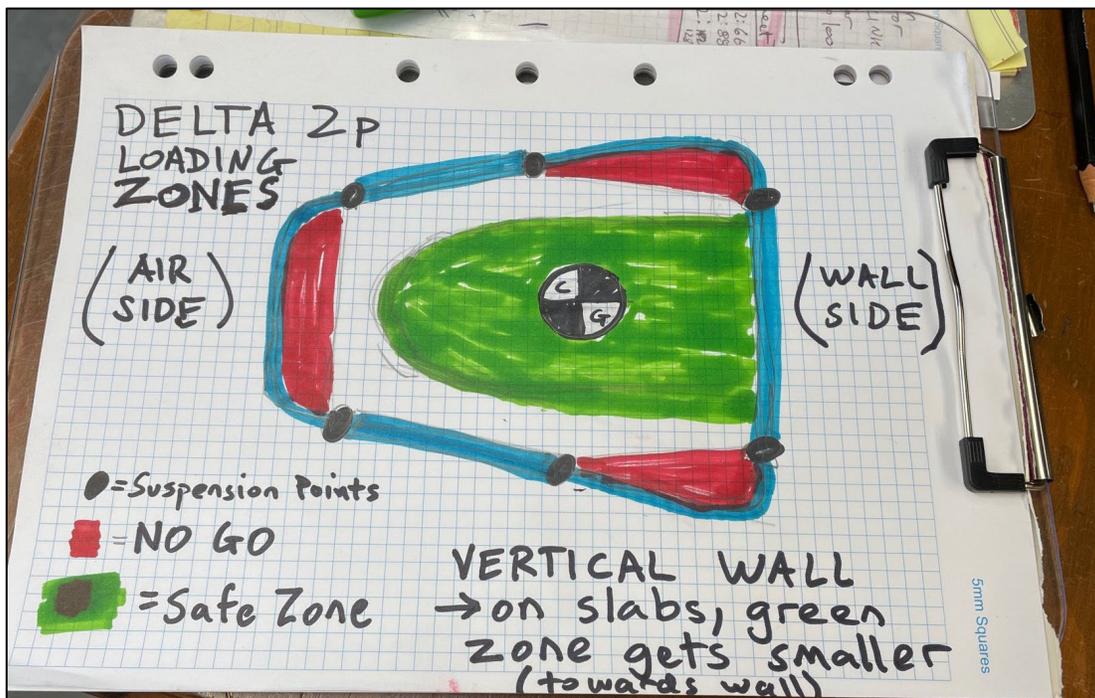
1. TOP CLIP-IN. Be sure to seal the top 1-inch clip loop extremely well. Seal both the 1-inch webbing at the top of rain fly, as well as the inside and between the cone and fly. Done properly, your ledge will be completely watertight.
2. RAIN FLY ZIPPER AREA. Apply Shoe-Goo to the vertical stitches of the zipper and the flap on the front of the rain fly.
3. SCUFF GUARDS. Seam seal where the wall scuff attaches to the rain fly. Also seal the seams on the outside corner scuff guards.

### REGARDING SLABS

On a slab, always clip the ledge into a long sling rather than directly to the anchor. This way, the ledge can be adjusted with the wall side straps longer than would be possible if hung direct off the anchor.

In general, you want your straps on the ledge to be as long as possible. If they are too short, you risk putting excessive load on the frame. Make sure the middle strap looks a bit loose **prior to loading the ledge** to avoid overloading the frame. Also on slabs, generally the "air-side" of the Delta 2p Portaledge needs to tilt up a bit – otherwise, if the wall-side is higher than the air-side, the edge can slip upwards.

Adjust the ledge with only one person on it, with air-side a little higher than you would think. When the second climber comes in, the ledge should still be tilted up a bit so the wall-side does not slip up.



## USING THE RAIN FLY

1. The fly is designed for the pockets to align with the corners of the ledge. Best practice is to set up the ledge, install the fly, and tie the two corners into the ledge (the cord on the fly coming under the frame and tie into the side loops which tension the ledge).
2. Next, adjust the wall-side suspension so the fly fits the wall-side perfectly with no slack in the fly. This takes a bit of fine tuning to ensure the 3-inch webbing on the fly is fully between the ledge and wall.
3. IMPORTANT! Make sure the load on the ledge is taken by the **properly adjusted** suspension straps, and **NOT** the fly. Tension the fly side-to-side using the cord and fitting the corners into the corner pockets.
4. There is a handy cord sewn into the seam of the fly-- you can use this cord to tie up the fly--make sure it does not get over- loaded as it is not a full-strength cord.

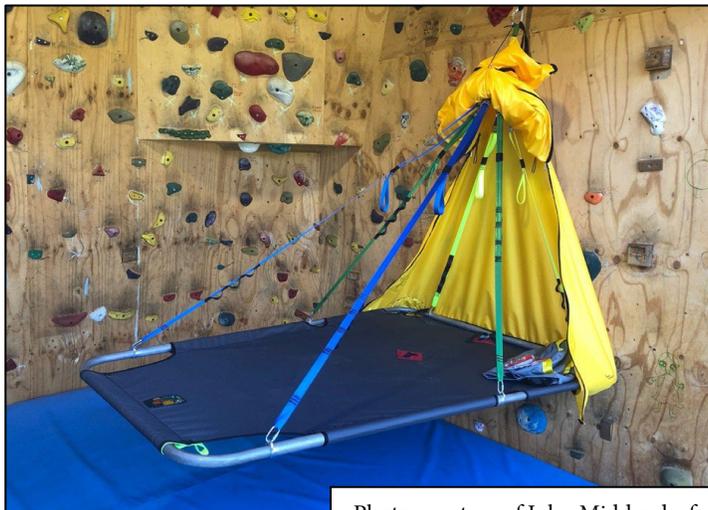
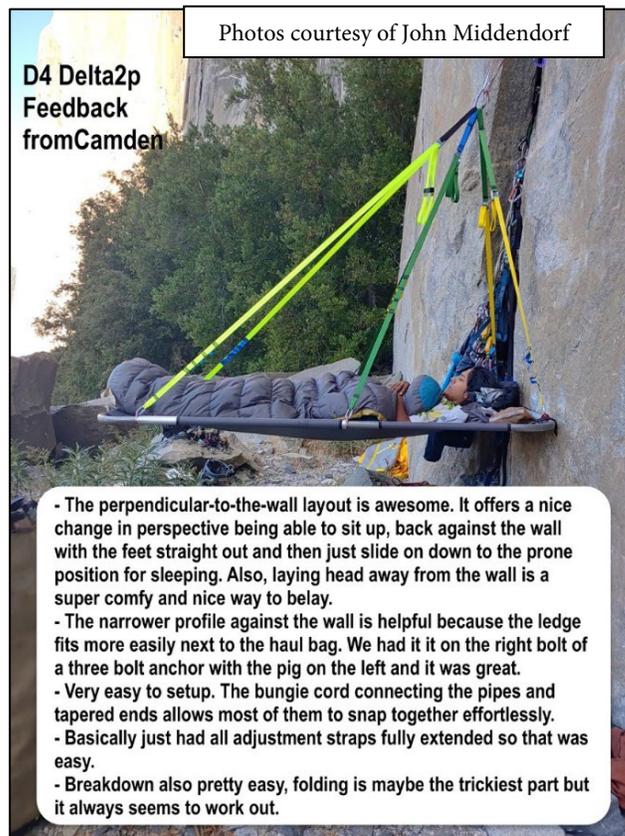


Photo courtesy of John Middendorf

## PACKING UP

Packing up the D4 Delta2p is essential for fast deploy. Make sure the straps are organized and do not get twisted around the frame when packed. There is a clip-in loop inside the haul bag to ensure tangle free storage of the ledge in the bag. Always inspect the quicklinks to ensure they are fully secure onto the frame. See packing steps below (one of many folding configurations):



Photos courtesy of John Middendorf

### D4 Delta2p Feedback from Camden

- The perpendicular-to-the-wall layout is awesome. It offers a nice change in perspective being able to sit up, back against the wall with the feet straight out and then just slide on down to the prone position for sleeping. Also, laying head away from the wall is a super comfy and nice way to belay.
- The narrower profile against the wall is helpful because the ledge fits more easily next to the haul bag. We had it on the right bolt of a three bolt anchor with the pig on the left and it was great.
- Very easy to setup. The bungee cord connecting the pipes and tapered ends allows most of them to snap together effortlessly.
- Basically just had all adjustment straps fully extended so that was easy.
- Breakdown also pretty easy, folding is maybe the trickiest part but it always seems to work out.

## **CARE & MAINTENANCE**

**GENERAL:** Inspect all aspects of this product prior to each use, especially the suspension system. Wear and tear might result in an unsafe system—do not use if the product has any damaged or worn parts, and keep away from fire or open flame. Never cook inside a portaledge.

**SHOCKCORD:** Check the shock cord before every climb. This design depends on the integrity of the shock cord, so make sure it hasn't gotten cut when it was exposed in the packed ledge. If after use the shock cord becomes too loose, re-tension the shock cord to ensure a nice tension when assembling and disassembling. The single fisherman knot tying the shock cord together is tucked into one of the curved corners.

**FRAME TUBES:** Use steel wool as needed to smooth out aluminum tube ends so they fit together and pull apart easily.

**QUICKLINKS:** Make sure the quicklinks (the metal screw gate link attaching the bed fins to the 1" suspension straps) are screwed in all the way. If you weight them with the gate open, they likely won't fail immediately, but they will bend so it is impossible to turn the screwgate, so you will be doing the rest of the wall with an open quicklink (no fun). If this happens, replace the quicklink with a full strength locking carabiner. Open gate quicklinks may eventually fail.

**REPAIRS:** Repairs may be made at reasonable hourly work rates. Send to Barry Ward, Durango Sewing Solutions, 273 CR 510, Durango, CO 81303. Email: [gear@sewdurango.com](mailto:gear@sewdurango.com)

**Learn more about the Delta 2p Portaledge here: <http://www.bigwalls.net/d4-delta2p.html>**

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## **WARRANTY**

The D4 Delta 2p Portaledge is warranted to be free of defects in materials and craftsmanship for a period of at least one (1) year from date delivered to purchaser. During the warranty period, the unit will be repaired or replaced at no charge as long as the unit and/or its components have not suffered accidental damage, abuse, abnormal wear and tear, or improper use as determined by Durango Sewing Solutions / Big Wall Gear, LLC upon inspection. Such damage will be repaired at the purchaser's expense. The warranty applies to the original purchaser and is non-transferrable. Should the purchaser decide to return the D4 portaledge, it must be returned within six (6) months from date delivered to purchaser in NEW/UNUSED condition for a FULL REFUND. Purchaser must pay return shipping costs.

## **D4 CONTACT INFORMATION**

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