

## Military sheet



Military tarpaulins are camouflage tarpaulins used by the Swiss military. They are mostly used in **bivouac** or **sarasani construction** .

## Properties

The almost square tarpaulins have a side length of 165cm x 163cm and weigh 1.25kg. There are two generations of military canvas, Zelt01 and Zelt64, named after their respective years (1901 and 1964).

They are sewn from two pieces of fabric, so you have to pay attention to the course of the center seam when constructing the tent. There is an eyelet at each corner. There are 8 buttons and buttonholes between each eyelet. Canvas is impregnated on the outside.

The tent canvas64 can be easily recognized by the so-called "four-fruit" camouflage pattern (on one side), which consists of red, green, black and white patterns on a beige/brown background.

## Applications

Military tarpaulins are very versatile, as they can be knotted together as required. In addition to awnings for gable tents and **Sarasani group tents**, these bivouac shapes are particularly popular at youth camps:

- **Berliner (also called Bernina)**
- **Gotthard (tube tent)**
- **Ridge tent (tube tent)**
- **Coffin**
- **Blanket sleeping bag**
- **Sterliner (combination of Berliner and 1-4 coffins)**
- **Water lily (4 coffins tied together)**

## Care / Maintenance

As military sheets are impregnated, they should only be dry-brushed if possible. Water can also be used if necessary, but cleaning agents should never be used, as this is very damaging to the

impregnation. Military sheets should be stored dry and cleaned.

## Scrap sheets

There are sheets that are treated as scrap sheets due to their condition.

The criteria that make a good sheet a reject sheet are

- the impregnation is no longer sufficient
- Holes in the canvas
- Several defective eyelets or buttons that can no longer be properly mended.
- Several patched areas in or on the canvas

Up until around 2008, all **J+S** kit sheets were marked yellow at the corners. **J+S** has now changed its sheet system. The tent canvas64 is the modern canvas that should be used for bivouac construction; it can be recognized by the camouflage pattern on one side.

The Zeltblache01 is supplied exclusively as a scrap canvas and is no longer marked in yellow.

## Acquisition

Military tarpaulins can be bought relatively cheaply as used material from the Swiss military. For example, in one of the 7 sales outlets of the **Army Liq Shop**, military tarpaulins (often also referred to as canvas or riot tents) can be purchased for 10-15CHF. However, the quality of the tarpaulins can vary greatly.

Another purchase option is auction platforms such as ricardo.ch where you can usually find the tarpaulins under the search term "Ausschusszelt".

If you are organizing a youth camp with the support of **Jugend & Sport** (only possible in Switzerland), military tarpaulins for the camp can be purchased at a reasonable price.

## Picture credits

- Cover photo: Provided by **Jungschar Schinznach** / Manuel Meier