

TROUBLE-FREE FIXINGS

TRANSLATION FROM ORIGINAL TEXT / SWEDISH
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Adjustable tarp clips are in several cases stronger than the original tarpaulin eyelets. In addition to that they are reusable.

The chance to replace damaged eyelets will prolong life on an old, used winter cover. Applying extra eyelets as prevention will distribute the shock load evenly and spare the tarp, before the original eyelets has been torn off by heavy wind. New fixing points can be added to customize the tarp, e.g. making it smaller. Thanks to the adjustable clips' ingenious design, they are in many cases stronger than the

original tarp eyelets.

We find Holdon Midi to have the best design. A well-thought-out and patented clip with its origin in Västra Götaland. The name seems to associate to the phrasal verb "Hold on", but that is not the whole truth. The story is that a farmer from the village of Hol, outside Gothenburg, designed the first version in the late 1990's. Hence the name of the "don" ([SE: don] = [EN:tool, gadget]). The idea is based upon a wedge

inserted into a sleeve compressing locking the tarp when wedge is pulled, making the locking grip stronger the more the load increases.

Patented wedge clamping

Over the years Holdon has been developed and refined, but its basic functionality is still the same. Since both Farmers and Boaters are conservative beings, the Original clip is still actually available for purchase, under the name Sure Holdon.

But the next generation clips, Holdon Midi from 2005, is better in almost all aspects. Besides a rock-solid grip on the PVC tarp, it is one of few clamps that can be attached with a one-hand grip. Its' little

sister Holdon Mini performs well on thinner unhemmed tarp, but does not show the same gripping strength on a thick PVC tarp.

Requires two hands

Strong Grip in aluminum is the toughest clamp in the test. This clip has an innovative design as well, based on the tarpaulin being folded around a plastic rod and wedged into the metallic part. The grip is in line with as the test winner Holdon Midi, though Strong Grip is somewhat complicated to use and require two hands.

The test's bummer is Tarp Snap, which easily breaks when loaded and therefore difficult to re-use. Seven eyelets survived the chill test, but three turned brittle. Generally, most eyelets show best gripping performance on thick PVC tarp and three versions managed to reach our highest tensile load of 90 kg.

The price per clip are between SEK 10 and 45. It is pleasing to know that the winning product Holdon Midi is not only ingenious in design but has an attractive price as well. We add to that the fact that Holdon is still produced in Sweden. This also applies for Strong Grip, a durable product that gets the thumbs up as a good buy.

How the test was carried out

We tested the gripping strength on three different types of tarpaulins: Lightweight 120 grams, Leno Cross Weave 250 grams and PVC 600 grams. The load was measured with a hanging scale and aborted at 90 kilos due to safety reasons. The removable tarp clips were then attached in position between the original eyelets, alongside the tarpaulin edge. Both the lightweight tarp and the PVC tarp are hemmed with cord folded into hem. We have assessed the test based on how easy the clips are to assemble and remove, with one or two hands. Since the tarpaulins often are used in freezing conditions, we also had the clips frozen down to -18°C to see how the material was affected. We also examined how the tarpaulin fabric was affected/worn by and around the clips.







Holdon Midi

Price: SEK 58/ 4 pcs.

The Swedish manufactured and patented Holdon Midi wipes the floor with competitors, even in their own ranks. With a design that enables a one-hand grip, durable reinforced nylon and fine details, it is a real joy to work with. A wedge makes sure the grip becomes stronger the more the load increases. If the clip is tightened hard, the is a track where a chisel can be inserted and pried to open. Well thought-out and priceworthy.



Presenningsklämman

Price: SEK 60/ 4 pcs.

The clip from Biltema is heavy and vigorous in the material. Though, despite tightening the screw until the fingers ache, the clip slides off too easily from the tarp. It's enough to accidentally walk into the string, for the clip to come off. It probably depends on the soft rounded jaws in the clip. The clip would probably work better with more sharp-pointed jaws. Furthermore, the material becomes brittle in the cold, which causes the screw to break off when provoking the clip. Requires two hands.



Holdon Mini

Price: SEK 40/ 4 pcs.

The Mini-version of Holdon is indeed slim in size, but does not perform as well as its big sister overall. There is one exception; its grip on the smooth unhemmed Leno Weave fabric. Here the Holdon Mini grips better than almost all the eyelets in the test. However, the Mini is unfortunately not as easy to work with as the Midi. It is too small and requires two hands, but the material is top-quality.

+ Good grip on all material
Low price
- None

+ None
- Bad grip
Brittle in cold

+ Good grip on Leno weave tarp
- Requires deft fingers

BEST IN TEST

GOOD BUY

Model	Holdon Midi	Presenningsklämman	Holdon Mini	Strong Grip	Tarp Sec
Source	www.holdon.com	www.biltema.se	www.holdon.com	www.arolyth.se	www.arolyth.se
Package	4 pcs.	4 pcs.	4 pcs.	2 pcs.	4 pcs.
Price (SEK)	58	60	40	89	48
Price/pc. (SEK)	14.50	15.00	10.00	44.50	12.00
Material	Nylon	Nylon	Nylon	Aluminium/plastic	Nylon
Reusability	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chill test	Unaffected	Brittle	Unaffected	Hardens	Unaffected
Damage on tarp at heavy load	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Grip on lightweight tarp 120 gram	Tarp breakage	20 kg	Tarp breakage	Tarp breakage	Tarp breakage
Rating, grip performance	5	2	5	5	5
Grip on Leno Weave tarp, 250 gram	25 kg	10 kg	28 kg	Tarp breakage, 23 kg	Tarp breakage, 20 kg
Rating, grip performance 250 gr	4	1	5	4	3
Grip on PVC-tarp 600 gram	90 kg +	22 kg	27 kg	90 kg +	64 kg
Rating, grip performance 600 gram	5	2	3	5	4
Handling, usability	5	3	3	4	3
Total rating	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★

* The clip broke when testing



Strong Grip

Price: SEK 89/ 2 pcs.



Tarp Sec

Price: SEK 48/ 4 pcs.



Trekantsöljett

Price: SEK 129/4 pcs.



Sure Holdon

Price: SEK 62/ 2 pcs.

If any of the clips could be inherited to the grandchildren, it is the Strong Grip clip. The outer part of durable aluminum seems to have an unlimited life expectancy. You just need to keep track of the plastic rod, that is to be inserted into the clips' gap, underneath the tarpaulin. It grips rock-hard on all types of tarpaulins, but performs best on heavy PVC. Thinner tarpaulins may break, due to its small gripping area, as the point load on the tarp becomes too heavy. A good buy for PVC-tarp.

Using a Tarp Sec and the rope to tie down the tarpaulin, you will create a good, functional fixing point anywhere on the tarp. The tarpaulin is shaped around a knot on the rope, which is threaded through Tarp Sec. It works best on thinner tarpaulins and requires a little bit of fiddling to get in place. Tarp Sec is a refined variant of the old housewife trick to put a round stone on the back of the tarpaulin fabric, shaping a knot and then wrapping a rope around it.

This clip is different from others because it requires a screwdriver to assemble. It was included in the test because it is removable and reusable, which was the criteria. It has top-grip on all types of tarpaulins due to its distribution of the load evenly. But it is time consuming to use and in practice not actually relocatable. For someone who wants to replace a broken eyelet permanently, this is the best option. But it will not be easily removed again.

This is the ancestress of the Test winner. You can tell there has been a development. Although the design looks strong and simple, the functionality is not as good as the next generation Holdon Midi clips. The clip uses the wedge principle, but the grip is not in class with the test winner. It requires two hands and is also difficult to loosen if heavily loaded. The clip broke at 53 kilos load and the gripping teeth are not sharp enough to hold Leno Weave fabric.

+ Good grip

- Small gripping area

+ Simple

Good grip on thin tarp

- Damages the tarp

+ Very good grip

- Permanent installation

Requires hole-punching in the tarp

+ Good grip on PVC

- Poor grip on Leno weave tarp

Trekants-öljett	Sure Holdon	Tarp Snap	Super Snap
www.watski.se	www.mitron.se	www.bataccenten.se	www.biltema.se
4 pcs.	2 pcs.	2 pcs.	4 pcs.
129	62	49	40
32	31	24.50	10
Nylon	Nylon	Plastic	Plastic
Yes	Yes	Questionable	Yes
Unaffected	Unaffected	Brittle	Hardens
Partial	No	Yes	Yes
Tarp breakage	Tarp breakage	30 kg*	Tarp breakage
5	5	3	5
Tarp breakage 35 kg	17,5 kg	20 kg *	24 kg
5	3	2	4
90 kg +	53 kg *	20 kg *	37 kg
5	4	2	3
2	4	3	3
☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆	☆☆	☆☆☆☆



Tarp Snap

Price: SEK 49/ 2 pcs.



Super Snap

Price: SEK 40/ 4 pcs.

This two-piece clamp is easy to attach to thinner tarpaulins, which it is designed for. Unfortunately, it's all too fragile and breaks at relatively low loading. After freezing it, it was enough to try assembling it for it to break into pieces. This type of construction also distributes the load on the tarp in an unfavorable way, causing more damages on the fabric than other clips do.

Super Snap is very similar to the white Tarp Snap-version, but unlike the cousin Super Snap it can be bent and mistreated. It will be stiff in the freezer, but does not burst when loaded. The little hook is however ridiculous. It does not even stand for a finger pull. It will of course spare the tarp if the hook can be bent, although practically it's only the eye that should be used for anchoring. Super Snap requires two hands when assembling and works well on thin tarps.

+ None

- Very fragile

+ Good grip on thin tarp

- Difficult on PVC