Read this first.



Big thanks!

Thank you so much for buying a kit.

We hope it will be a start-point for your ideas and enable you to make your dome-based something!

Please read the instructions through carefully so you fully understand how the kit works, and pay particular attention to the next few pages which cover the main things to be aware of before you begin.

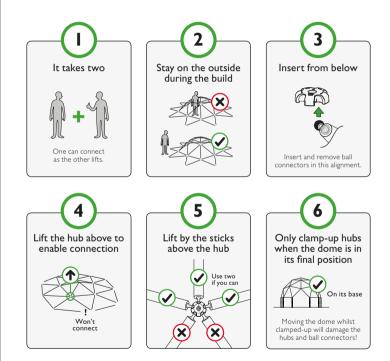
Happy dome building!



Chris and Mike

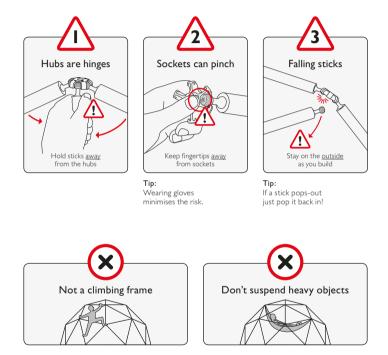
Principles

These are useful things to remember to help the build go smoothly.



Watchouts!

Building your dome should be great fun and the last thing we want is for people to hurt themselves. Here are a few things to watch out for:



The benefits that hubs bring to the build and adaptation of domes comes at the cost of ultimate strength.

Domes built with hubs are still satisfyingly sturdy structures which are more than strong enough for their intended uses; eg fruit cages, garden rooms, chicken runs etc.

Before you begin

We believe in common sense and personal responsibility not lots and lots of legal disclaimers, we hope you do too. Despite that, here are a few points we need to make you aware of before you start building.



 Anyone building a dome, dome adaptation or any other structure with hubs does so at their own risk

Why say this?

We only supply the contents of the kit; we're not making the final completed product, you are, which is great, but we don't know exactly what you'll make. We hope you'll be sensible and take care as you build your dome.

 Domes built with hubs are not climbing frames and not intended for suspending heavy weights (eg a person in a hammock).

Why?

Hubs' flexibility of angles enables a simple build method but comes at the cost of ultimate strength. At a certain weight (a certain force) the ball connectors will pop-out; climbing on or hanging from a dome built with hubs will easily be enough to cause this!

· Domes built with hubs are not designed for use in public spaces. any dome built for bublic use is entirely the builder and/or event's responsibility. We don't recommend it.

Why?

In a crowd, many people could lean on the dome at once, sticks could break or ball connectors could pop out, leading to injury. Note: We're working on it and in the future, may be able to cater for this.

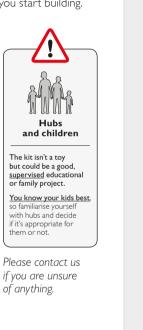
 It is the builder's responsibility to make their own judgement regarding their dome and wind and snow loading.

Why?

Occasionally winds can gust to very high speeds and can exert large forces on the frame (especially with a cover, but also as a simple open frame). Similarly, occasionally, heavy snow can build up. Please be aware of this.

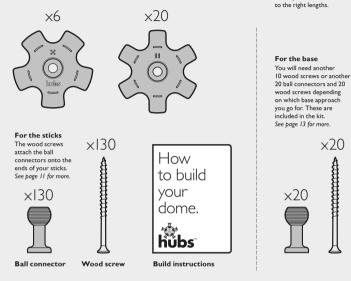
· Any covering added to the dome is the responsibility of the builder; please ensure you understand any dangers associated with your cover type (eg ventilation and extreme temperature). Why?

We can't control what kind of cover you may apply to the dome, but please have a think about any potential risks - we don't want you falling asleep in your new moon base and succumbing to heat stroke!

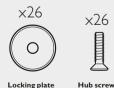


2v kit overview

I. To build the dome



2. To clamp-up the hubs







Wing nut Hanging eyelet Use this to hang Screws onto the end of the hub screw to something nice clamp the locking from the centre plate in place. of your dome.



 \times

Tools

In addition to the kit you'll need a cross-head , screwdriver to attach the ball connectors to

your sticks and a saw , to cut your sticks

> Allen key Used to hold the hub screws in position when clamping the hubs.

Embodied Energy ~ I60MJ (44 kWh) - energy@buildwithhubs.co.uk

×26

Goes through the

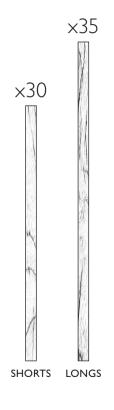
hub for clamping.

centre of the

Size and sticks.

Just add sticks

So you've got the kit, now you just need to make your sticks! You only need two lengths. Here's how many you need and a few ideas for woods to use.



Ideas for sticks

- Roofing batten
- Hardwood dowels
- Chestnut fence pales
- Oiled oak
- Broom handles & curtain rails?
- Old branches?

Where to get them

- Local DIY centres
- Garden centres
- Carpenters or wood workers
- Traditional fence makers

Weather protection

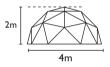
If your dome is going to be outside, protect your sticks with an appropriate oil, varnish or paint. It's easiest to do this before screwing on the ball connectors. Hard woods like oak and chestnut can be oiled or left untreated for a natural look.

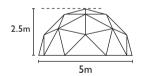


Dome size

By making sticks of different lengths you can create domes of different diameters.







The height in the middle is always half the diameter.



Example sizes

DIAMETER	SHORT	LONG
2m	458mm	530mm
3m	731mm	839mm
4m	1005mm	II48mm
5m	1278mm	1457mm

For other sizes use our online calculator: buildwithhubs.co.uk/sticks

Practical limits

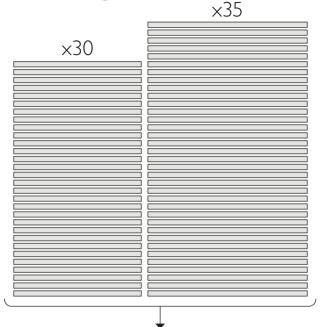
We recommend 5m as a practical size limit. however, the limiting factor is really weight. See opposite page. When domes get too heavy the sticks will start popping out of the hubs during building.

Going larger

Light sticks or even an alternative material like plastic tubes will help if you want to go larger. Alternatively you could support the dome a bit more as you build.

We've successfully built a 6m diameter dome with light 19mm × 32mm roofing batten without any trouble.

Stick weight



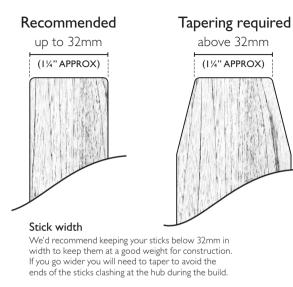
Keep the total stick weight to ~30kg or less

Keep the individual stick weight below 500g (~I pound).

500g/stick adds up to over 30kg which is getting close to a maximum comfortable weight to work with.

We don't recommend going heavier as the dome will be harder to manage physically and it will also increase the likelihood of pop-outs during building.

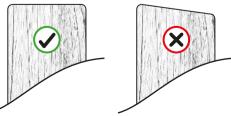
Preparing your sticks



Cutting your sticks

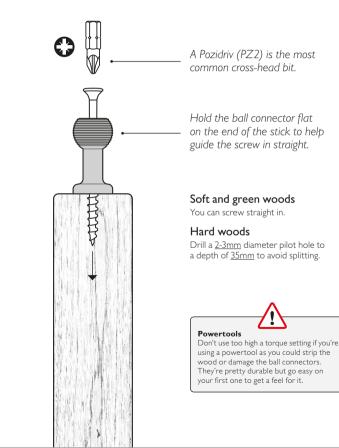
Try to keep the ends as square as you can. Hubs allow for a little bit of inaccuracy, so don't sweat it trying to get every stick perfectly square and to the exact millimetre.

cut square



Attaching ball connectors

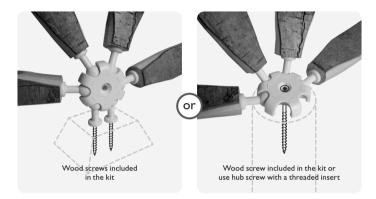
We find it works best if you put the wood screws into the ball connectors before positioning them on the ends of your sticks. Binding sticks together into bundles also helps to speed things up.



Base options.

Hub orientation

There are two ways of connecting the bottom ring of hubs to your base.



I. Standing up

Screw two ball connectors 3mm apart onto your base. You could also use two ball connectors in a hub as a template. Test your first attempt in a hub to check that the position is ok.

Tip: If proving tricky, slightly loosening one ball connector helps.

2. Lying down

The hub sits horizontally and a screw through the centre of the hub can fix it to the base. It's also possible to use a hub screw if you embed an M6 threaded insert in your base.

Temporary use

It is possible to simply rest your dome on the ground using the <u>lying down</u> approach. Stake through the centre of hubs or stake down the bottom ring of sticks. If the dome is on a hard surface use metal weights or sandbags to secure the base in position.

Base types

There are all sorts of ways you could create a base for your dome. Here are a couple of simple suggestions. You can use either of the hub orientations shown on the previous page.



Even a small foot can help to protect the bottom ring of sticks from damp

I. Small feet

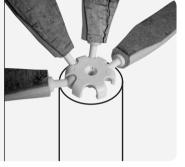
These can simply be blocks of wood. Drill with holes so you can stake them to the ground. You can also add eyelets or hooks for attaching covers.



Whichever base approach you use ensure that the dome and any cover is securely anchored to the ground. Wind can place an enormous force on sheet covers and even netting.



A greater sense of space and easy access for smaller domes



2. Posts

Build your dome first and mark the position of the hubs. Then make holes with a little wiggle room so you can adjust the position of posts when you put the dome on top. Once the dome is mounted, fill the holes around the posts.



If the hub is <u>lying down</u> make sure the width of the feet or posts is 70mm (2³/₄") or less to be sure that they don't clash with the sticks.



Building your dome.

How to build your dome.

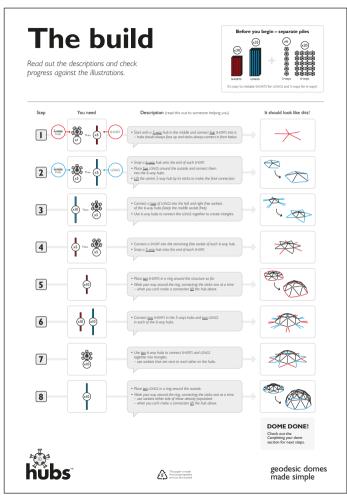


The separate build instructions include other useful information to have to hand during the build:

- Principles and Watchouts!
- Parts checklist
- Guidance on base approaches
- Checking hub alignment
- Clamping-up hubs
- Taking down your dome

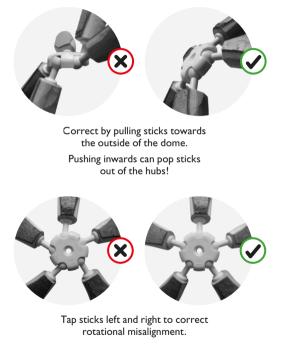
It's also waterproof and tearproof so will survive outside.

Once you've got the ball connectors on your sticks you'll have your dome up in no time! Open it up to reveal the build instructions:



Correcting alignment

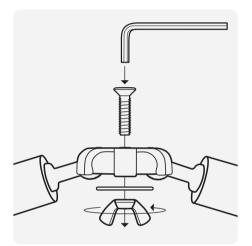
After a build some hubs may not be in the correct alignment. Check each hub and correct as necessary.



Hubs have a preference for the right position, see if you can feel them snap into place as you correct their alignment.

Clamping-up hubs

Only clamp-up the hubs once the dome is in its final position. Once finger-tight use the allen key to clamp firmly.





Moving your dome

Before the hubs are clamped-up you can move your dome to a new position. Two people should be able to drag it and we recommend four or more people if you're going to lift the dome.



Un-clamp all hubs before moving a dome Moving a dome whilst the hubs are clamped-up will damage the hubs and ball connectors!

Thoughts on covers.

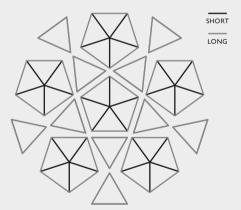
Plan overview

The dome is made up of 40 triangles; 30 with two SHORTS and a LONG as the sides. And ten equilateral triangles with three LONGS for sides.





Our calculator automatically takes off 88mm to account for the space that the hubs take up. Add the 88mm back on to both SHORTS and LONGS to get the point-to-point dimensions for the triangles when working out your cover. You can view it as six pentagons with ten equilateral triangles filling in the gaps:



There's quite a bit to figure out so it might be best to build your dome and then measure and test to figure out your cover approach.

A few ideas

In time we hope to have some useful guides on our website. Here are a few ideas to start with in the meantime and there are also lots of resources online if you search around a bit.

Cover approaches



Full Completely enclose the space.



Partial A mixture of shade and light.



Triangles Mix materials and colours and cover some or all of the dome.



Hanging inside The dome becomes an exoskeleton – our favourite!

On the outside or inside?

If your cover is on the outside it hides the structure, although it can be nice to see it from the inside.

If you hang it on the inside you can still see the structure from the outside but you'll need to reduce dimensions to take account of the smaller size.

Material ideas

- Yachting canvas
- Stretchy fruit cage netting
- Camouflage netting
- Heatshrink plastic
- Ripstop nylon
- Reflective tent fabrics
- Insulation boards

Other ideas

- Grow plants over your dome
- Cover it in fairy lights
- Hang lanterns from hubs



Please attach and anchor your cover securely. Please also ensure that you investigate and understand any risks associated with your cover type; eg ventilation and very high temperatures in a greenhouse.

Adapting your dome.

A few ideas

With hubs the angles aren't fixed which means you can adapt! You could try an igloo entrance, adding a side-shelter or maybe even combining two or more domes?

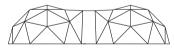
Adaptation ideas



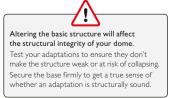
Simple door A large entrance for easy access.



Raised triangle door Lengthen bottom four sticks.



Connected domes? Two spaces for two uses?



Adaptation technique

Here's a great way to try new ideas. Do this for each stick you want to adjust.

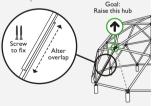
Step I

Cut two lengths of cheap batten, that combined will be greater than the length of your new stick. Attach a ball connector to one end of both battens.



Step 2

- Remove a stick from your dome and connect one of your 'Adaptor' sticks into the first hub and the other into the second hub.
- Alter the overlap until they are at the desired length and screw together in two places to fix.



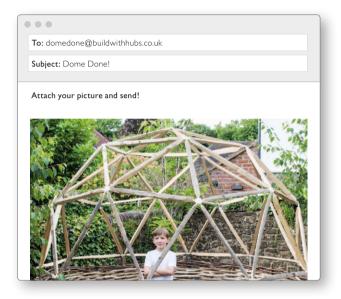
Step 3

If you're happy with the length measure the stick to create your final stick in your preferred material.



Dome done!

We'd love to see what you create, send us a picture. Hopefully in time we'll have a gallery on our website.



Any other questions, email us here: help@buildwithhubs.co.uk

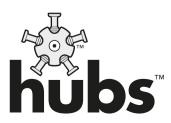
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John Dyer, Marcus. And special thanks to Helen, Jo and our parents and family for their support and understanding (and money!).

Geodesic domes made simple.



Version I