



# Hobby Instructions

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## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing your **Hobby** polytunnel. Before you begin to build, we strongly recommend you read the instructions thoroughly.

Take time to check all the parts are present and make sure you have the correct tools to build your polytunnel. It is advisable to leave adequate working space around your polytunnel for maintenance, operations and re-covering.

## Safety

Always wear gloves when constructing as there may be sharp edges.

Always use the correct tool for the job.

Consider other people around the site of your new polytunnel, particularly children and animals.

Take care when using sharp tools.

Keep your work area tidy and organised. A tidy work area is a safe work area.

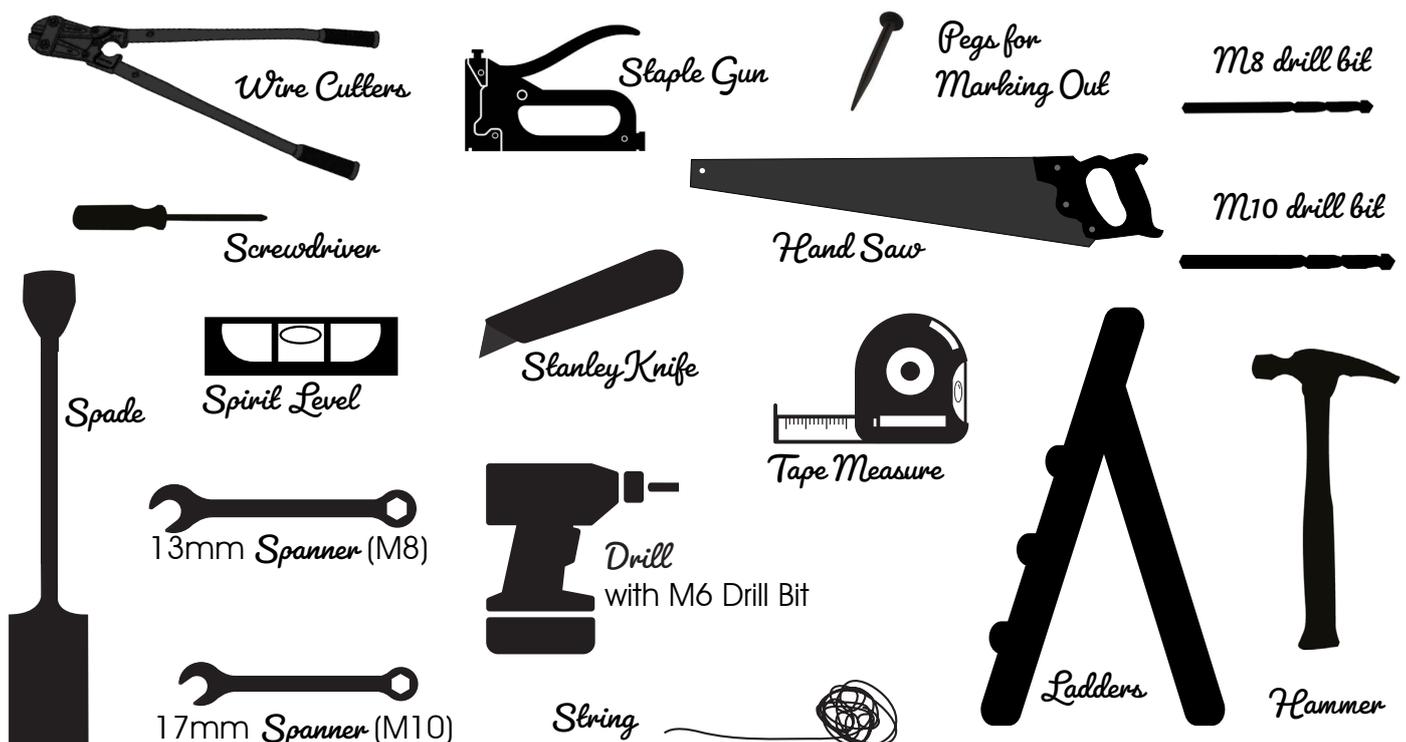
Tie back any loose hair and wear suitable clothing and shoes.

Take care when lifting heavy items of your kit.

When using ladders ensure they are on firm level ground.

It may be advisable to position step ladders on a large sheet of plywood if the ground is soft.

## Tools Required



## Frame Fitting Packs

Every step of the Allotment polytunnel has been put into easy stages. Each of those stages has been put into fittings packs:

Some of these packs may be found inside a master pack (see table).

### EBP07 can be found inside HPK01

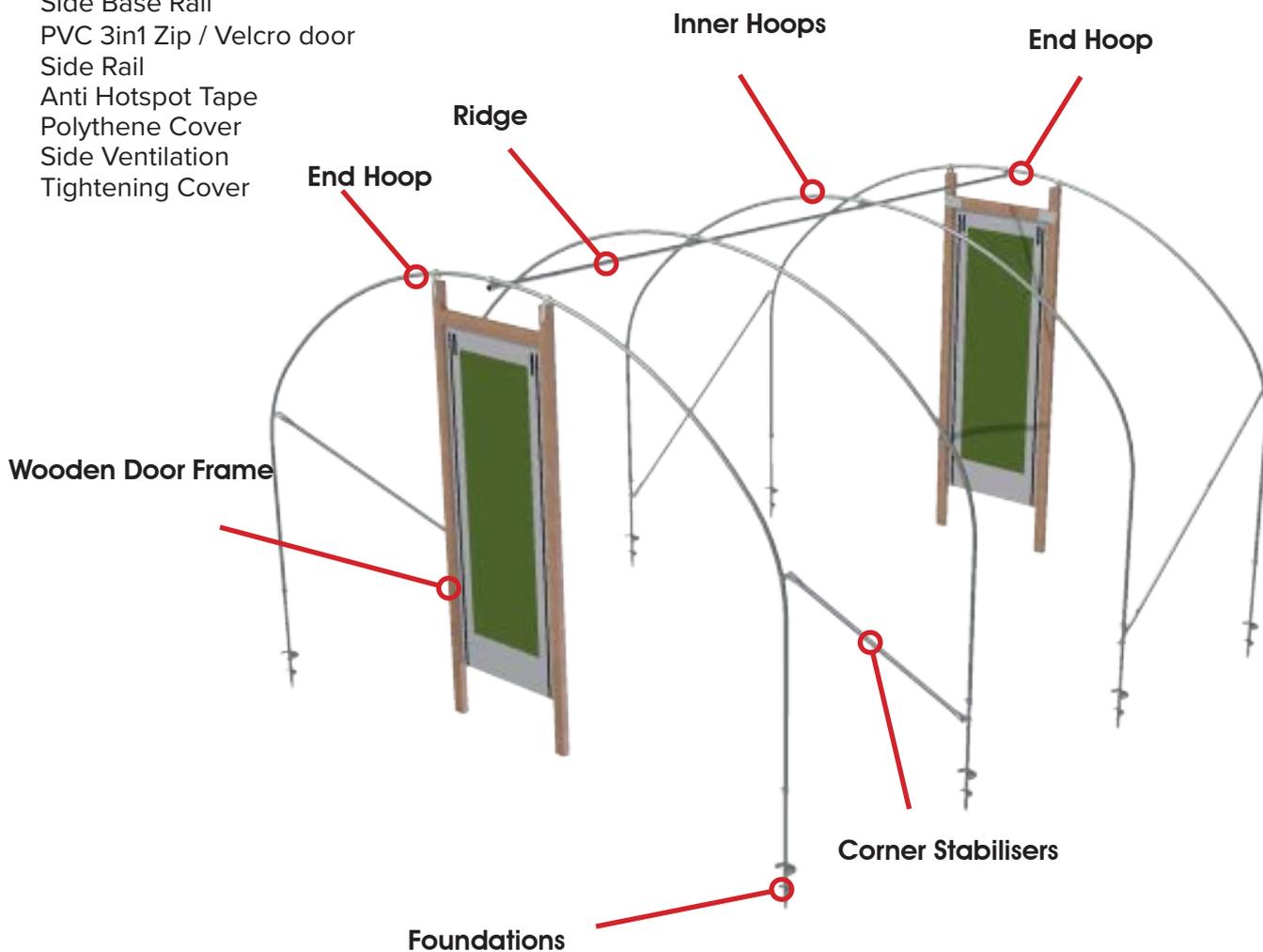
As you read through the instructions we will refer to these packs.

When using the packs you may find you do not need all the parts, bolts nuts etc. at that stage, we recommend that you keep any unused parts in the correct bag for use later.

**Construct your polytunnel in this sequence:**

- Doors
- Foundations
- Hoops
- Ridge
- Corner Stabilisers
- Door Frames
- End Base Rail
- Side Base Rail
- PVC 3in1 Zip / Velcro door
- Side Rail
- Anti Hotspot Tape
- Polythene Cover
- Side Ventilation
- Tightening Cover

HPK01	Hobby End Hoop Pack
HPK02	Inner Hoop Pack
HPK03	Hobby Corner Base Rail Bracket Pack
HPK04	Hobby Side Base Rail Bracket Pack
EBP07	End Strut Pack
HPK08	Timber Door Pack
HPK09	Timber Door Fittings Pack
EBP18	Side Vent Pack
EBP19	Side Vent Additional Hoop Pack
HPK05	Timber Base Rail Pack
HPK07	Timber Door Frame Pack
HPK06	Timber Base Rail Join Pack
EBP22 or 23	Door Cladding Pack



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## Foundations - Squaring the polytunnel

Parts / Packs	Foundation Tubes
Tools	Tape measure, Tape, Setting out pins / pegs, String



We recommend that the foundations are set out accurately, this will ensure the polytunnel is constructed to satisfaction.

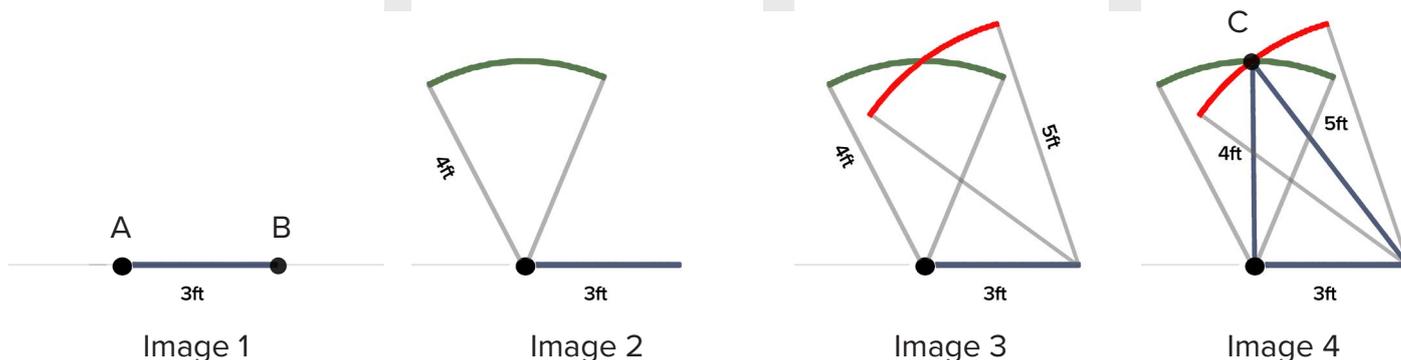
### Use the 3:4:5

Triangle Method to position the foundation tubes correctly. This will ensure the ends are square with the sides.

Any measurement can be used, simply multiply the 3,4,5 by the same number.

e.g. – 3ft, by 4ft, by 5ft can easily be multiplied by 5 to become 15ft, 20ft, 25ft, or by 10 to be 30ft, 40ft, 50ft.

For this example, we're going to keep it simple at 3ft, 4ft, 5ft.



### Creating your right-angle.

- 1 - Take a foundation tube/screw anchor and install it in the ground where you want your front left-hand corner to be. (facing the front door, the foundation you've just installed will be on the left corner) **(Image 1, A)**
- 2 – Install a second foundation tube in the ground past the length of your 3 measurements (ie, if you're doing a 3ft length, place the foundation tube 5ft away)
- 3 - Take a length of string and tie it between the two foundation tubes so it's taut. **(Image 1)**
- 4 – From the original corner foundation tube, mark 3 ft along towards the second tube. **(Image 1, B)** and place a peg here.
- 5 – From the same original foundation **(A)**, take a second length of string and measure 4ft by making an arc **(Image 2)**
- 6 – From the 3ft marked measurement **(B)** peg, draw an arc 5ft **(Image 3)**
- 7- Where the arcs cross is your exact point for your right angle triangle. **(Image 4)**
- 8- Using the original corner foundation tube, you can now extend your string lines through the exact points **(B&C)** for the rest of the foundation tubes.
- 9 – To double check your measurements, the diagonal measurements across the opposite corners of the polytunnel should be the same on both sides.

The foundations should be spaced at 5ft (1.52m) or 6ft (1.83m) apart according to your hoop spacing.

**Measurements should be measured from the centre of the pole to the centre of the next pole.**

## Foundations - Foundation Tubes

### Screw Anchors

n.b. Avoid on ground with a high stone/rubble content, peat soils, or loose ground which has been recently disturbed or deep cultivated.

Push each of the screw anchors into the ground, just enough so they will stay in position.

Once you have squared the polytunnel and positioned all the screw anchors (see page 4), they can then all be screwed into the correct depth.

Insert the 'T' bar through the holes at the top of the screw anchors and turn clockwise (as you would a corkscrew) until the required depth is achieved. (Approx. 40-45cm remaining above ground).

Even if some of the screw anchors hit large stones - forcing you to dig them out - you can still secure the screw anchors in place using concrete or quick setting postmix if required.

If you find it difficult to screw in the screw anchors, you can use a longer T-bar or effectively extend the one supplied by sleeving a length of steel tube over one end of the T-bar.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Regardless of which ground tube option you have chosen the same method of squaring will apply. It is essential that the ground tubes are fitted accurately to ensure the polytunnel is constructed to a satisfactory standard

Make sure the ground tubes are in line and set to a constant height with their opposite ground tube.

Install each corner and run a builders string around the perimeter to aid with installing the inner ground tubes. Check that the ground tubes are at 90° to each other by measuring 3m down the length, 4m along the width and checking the resulting measurement between the two points is 5m.

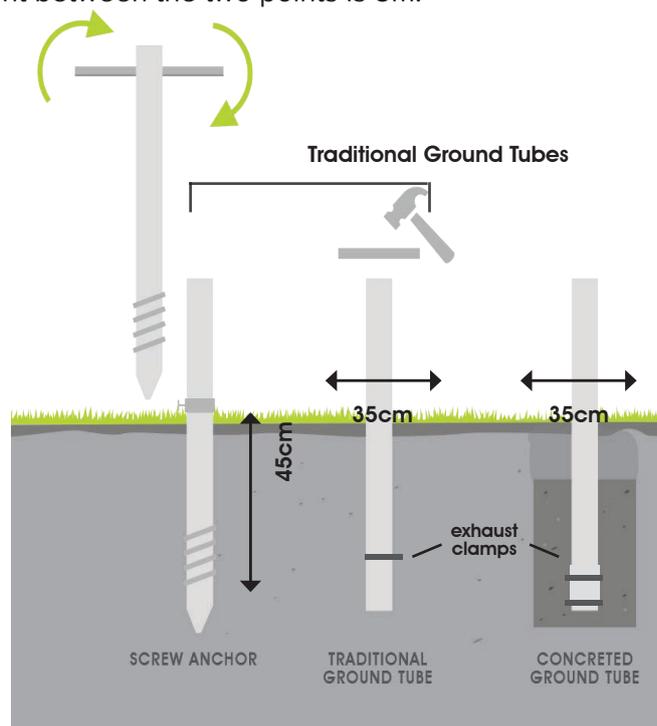
### Traditional Ground Tubes

**Concreting method:** For each foundation tube, dig a 35cm wide x 45cm deep hole. Fill the hole to the required depth with concrete or quick setting postmix. Position each foundation tube in the concrete leaving 40-45cm above the finished ground level.

Ensure the clamp has been securely fastened to the base of the foundation tube. This will prevent the foundation tube from pulling out after the concrete has set.

The exact position of the clamp is not crucial so long as it is somewhere in the bottom half of the concrete foundation, the nearer the bottom the better. It may be desirable not to fill the hole completely, but to leave a space at the top to backfill with soil. This will hide the concrete and allow you to cultivate up to the edges of your polytunnel.

**Driven into the ground:** Foundation tubes are simply knocked in the ground, leaving 35-45cm protruding (depending upon the ground conditions). **This method is only recommended where the polytunnel cover is trenched into the ground.**



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## Hoops and Ridge

Parts / Packs	End Hoop Pack ( <b>HPK01</b> ), Inner Hoop pack ( <b>HPK02</b> )
Tools	13mm Spanner / Socket



**Image 1**

Our hoops are supplied in two pieces, one half having a swaged end with the other being plain. This allows the two halves to slot together.

**The 920mm long straight section on the 'plain' hoop goes on the outside of the tunnel otherwise your hoops will not have the right profile.**



**Step One (Image 2)**

Slot your hoop pieces together and lay them out along the length of your tunnel space next to the foundation tubes.



**Step Two (Image 3)**

Take the saddle clamps from the HPK01 pack and drop them over the foundation tubes of your first inner hoop.



**Step Three (Image 4)**

Now thread the hoop to ridge bracket onto your end hoops. Make sure that the bolt heads face inwards into the tunnel on the end hoops to prevent them from damaging the polythene cover later. Hand tighten the bolts so that the brackets stay in place.



**Step Four (Image 5)**

Next thread the door frame brackets onto your end hoop. Make sure that the flat plate will be on the outside of the tunnel and that there is one on either side of the hoop to ridge bracket. Hand tighten the bolts. (Image 5).



IMAGE 6



IMAGE 7

### Step Five (Image 6)

Place the pipe collars from HPK01 onto your corner foundation tubes and then move on to the HPK02 inner hoop packs and place the pipe collars on the foundations. Then thread the hoop to ridge brackets on to the hoops as previously (step 4)

(Note that on your first inner foundations there will already be the saddle clamps - the foundation collar will go above these). (Image 7)

At this stage, you will have left 2 roofing bolts with nuts and washers, EBP07 (Keyhole Clamps) and the plugs for the ridge tube. **Keep these safe!**

Raise the pipe collars on the **end hoop** foundation tubes to 150mm above the ground and tighten the bolts to hold them in place. These collars enable you to raise the hoops into the polythene cover and achieve a drum skin-tight finish. This is done at this stage as once the door frames are in place you won't be able to raise the end hoops.

Leave the intermediate hoops at ground level for now, as they will be lifted after the polythene cover is fitted to apply extra tension to it.

### Step Six (Image 8 & 9)

Now lift the hoops and place them onto the foundation tubes.

### Step 7 (Image 10)

Now add the ridge tube to the tunnel. This comes in sections either 5ft or 6ft long depending on the hoop spacing chosen. One tube will be plain with the rest being swaged at one end.

Start by slotting the plain tube into the first two hoop-to-ridge brackets so that the end is flush with where the end of the tunnel will be.

Then slot in the swaged sections one after another to complete the ridge along the full length of the frame. Tightening the bolts onto the ridge tube when it is in place.

When you are happy you can insert the plastic plugs you saved earlier into the two ends.



IMAGE 8



IMAGE 9



IMAGE 10

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## Corner Diagonals

Parts / Packs	End Strut Pack (EBP07) which you saved from HPK01 earlier.
Tools	13mm Spanner/Socket, Spirit Level



IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2



IMAGE 3



IMAGE 4

There are 4 corner diagonal brace bars one for each corner which braces the gable end and ensures that the end hoops are plum.

The brace bars have 2 flattened ends. Remove the nut closest to the end hoop from the saddle clamp at the base of your first inner hoop, slot the threaded end of the saddle clamp through the hole in the brace bar then tighten up the nut enough to hold in place. (Image 1)

Take the keyhole clamp, a bolt and nut from the end strut pack. Put the keyhole clamp around your hoop (it can be stretched and pushed back together by hand).

Thread the bolt through from the outside of the tunnel through the holes in the keyhole clamp then through the hole in the flattened end of the diagonal. (Note: do not clamp the brace bar between the opening on the keyhole clamp as it will not tighten.) (Images 2 & 3)

Now tighten the nuts at the base of the diagonal. Then use a spirit level and adjust the height of the keyhole clamp on the hoop to make sure that the hoop is straight. When you are happy tighten the nuts to fix the keyhole clamp in the correct position. (Image 4)

Repeat this process on each corner of your tunnel.

## Door Frames

<b>Parts / Packs</b>	Timber Door Frame Pack HPK07 You will also need the HPK01 - End Hoop Pack (For each end hoop) 2 x ROOFING BOLTS FOR DOOR FRAME BRACKET 2 x PLAIN NUTS 2 x WASHERS
<b>Tools</b>	Drill, Tape Measure, Hammer

Build your door frames on a flat surface first. The two 2.4m lengths will be the uprights and the shorter 1.6m length will be cut to the width of your entrance.

**(Image 1)**

Cut one of the timber battens to 950mm long (for a single door) or 1750mm long for a double door.

Using 4 of the 35mm nails fix this cut batten to the base of the door frame (flush to the outside of each upright) at 50mm from the end of the uprights.

**(Image 2)**

This batten is going to be used to keep the frame at the correct width at the base of the entrance. The inside of the door frame should measure 800mm for a single door and 1600mm for a double door.

Repeat this process for the other side making sure that the uprights are square and level.

**Repeat this process for the second door frame.**

Your frames are now ready to be fitted into your tunnel framework. **(Image 3)**



**IMAGE 1**



**IMAGE 2**



**IMAGE 3**

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## Fitting The Door Frame



Run a string line across the front of the tunnel from one end of the hoop to the other to act as a guide for the door frame.

Position the door frame behind the string line then measure accurately to make sure it is central between the two sides of the hoop.

Use a spade to mark roughly where the ends of the door frame are going to go.

### Image 1

Dig a trench big enough to take the door frame - it needs to be deep enough so that when the frame is set within it, the tops of the door uprights are clear below the hoop. (Image 2)

Line up the top of the door frame with the door frame bracket and drill a 10mm hole to fix the door frame to the bracket using a roofing bolt provided in HPK01.

### (Image 3)

The flat side of the bracket must be on the outside of the tunnel to ensure the frame is flush with the end of the tunnel. (Image 4)

Repeat for 2nd upright

### Door Lintel

Measure the height of your door from the ground and mark to the top of the door frame upright:

- **8, 10ft wide** = 2m from ground to underside of lintel
- **12, 14, 16ft wide**  
= 2.2m from ground to underside of lintel for **Single DIY Door** / 2m for PVC 3in1 door  
= 2m for a **Double Door**

This is the location for the underside of the door lintel.

Mark the location for the centre of the lintel (37mm)

Use a 6mm drill to drill through the side of the upright where you have marked. These holes will act as a guide when nailing in place the door top.

If installing a single door, cut the 1.6m 3" by 2" timber for the door top to the required width (800mm) If installing a double door, the lintel will be the correct size. Line up the centre of your door top timber with the drilled hole, then knock a 6" nail through the hole to join the 2 pieces together.

When you are happy that your frame is square reinforce the joints at the door top with nails and nail plates.

Use 10 of the 35mm nails on each side of the nail plate. Fix the nail plates to the same side of the frame as you fixed the batten to earlier (inside). (Image 3)

Make sure that your door frame is plum once it is in place. When you are happy backfill your trench.

Repeat on the other side



## Base Rail

Parts/Packs	Hobby Corner Base Rail Bracket Pack (HPK03), Hobby Side Base Rail Bracket Pack (HPK04), Timber Base Rail Pack (HPK05), Timber Base Rail Join Pack (HPK06)
Tools	Spade

Lay the timbers for the base rail out in position around your tunnel frame. You will have four, 4ft or 5ft lengths depending on the width of your tunnel to use on the gable ends. There will be 8ft lengths to use down the sides and shorter lengths to make up full sides. You will need to trim these to size to suit your tunnel.

Fix the corner brackets onto the corner foundation tubes, remove the nuts. Then the U bolt wraps around the tube and the bracket is fixed on the inside of the foundation and the nuts are then tightened enough to hold it in place.



IMAGE 2

Now mount front base rail so that it sits flush with the front of the door frame and the foundation tube. If the timber is longer than the gap between the foundation tube and the door frame mark where it meets the door frame then trim to size.

Position your gable end timber in the right place, then using the corner bracket as a guide, drill from outside through the hole in the bracket and right through the timber. Slot one of the bolts from HPK03 through the bracket and the timber from the outside and secure with a nut.

The side rail needs to be flush with the front of the gable end base rail. This time mark a guide hole through side rail bracket from inside then drill right through the timber. Take a bolt from HPK03 through the timber then the bracket and secure with a nut.



IMAGE 2

The side rails are fixed to the hoops using the intermediate hoop brackets from HPK04. First, make sure that the hoop tensioning collar is above the base rail.

Mark guide holes on the timber using the collar from the intermediate hoop bracket then drill right through the side rail. (Image 2)

Slot the bolts through the side rail on either side of the foundation tube, then slot on the retaining collar and secure in place with the nuts. (Image 3)



IMAGE 3

Nail plates are used to join any joints between timber pieces on the base rail. Position the nail plate on the side of the base rail which will be inside the tunnel. Use 10 nails per side of the nail plate to hold in place. (Image 4)



IMAGE 4

Nail plates are also used to fix the gable end base rail to the base of the door frame, use a couple of nails on each side of the joint to hold the nail plate in place as a start. Then use a 6" nail to reinforce the joint from the inside of the door frame through into the base rail. Then finish off with approximately 10 nails each side of the joint on the nail plate.

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## Battens



IMAGE 2

The polythene is fixed to the tunnel using timber battens. The first row of battens is nailed to the top outside face of the base rail, use a short piece of batten as a spacer underneath the batten you are fixing. The top batten is held in place with nails every 400mm. Fix battens all the way around your base rail. **(Image 2)**

We recommend pre-nailing the battens on a flat surface, it will make it a lot easier to fix them to your structure.

N.B. If you have not chosen the PVC Double Zip Vent Door option you will also need to batten around the outside of your door frame.

## PVC Double Zip Vent Door

Parts / Packs	Double Zip Vent Door
Tools	Hammer



IMAGE 1

### Image 1

Position the PVC Double Zip Vent Door so that the velcro fastenings are just under the bottom of the door top and the Velcro panel peels off on the inside of the tunnel.

Use a nail on either side of the door frame to hold it in place. Check the vent door is parallel to the door frame then put 2 more nails at the bottom of the door upright - keeping tension in the vent door as you do this. Then add another 2 nails about halfway up the door uprights - one on each side.

Next - Battening - **(Image 2)**

**Before battening, we recommend pre-nailing the battens on a flat surface before trying to fix them to your door frames, it will make it a lot easier to fix them to your structure.**



IMAGE 2

## PVC Double Zip Vent Door Continued

### Image 3 & 4

Now batten around the vent with the timber battens - these go to the outside edge of the door up-rights and door top.

The nails are spaced at 40-45mm apart.

See the next page for the instructions on how to build your wooden door



IMAGE 3



IMAGE 4

## Optional Extras – Side Vent

Parts / Packs	Side Vent Pack (EBP18), Side Vent Additional Hoop Pack (EBP19)
Tools	13mm Spanner, Tape Measure, Spirit Level

If your tunnel is over 20ft long we would recommend side ventilation.



IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2

Step 1: Once your polytunnel framework has been constructed you should attach the aluminium side vent rail.

This is normally positioned approx. 80-100cm above ground level, below the point where the hoops start to curve.

The side vent rail is attached to each of the intermediate (inner) hoops using the brackets provided (see image 1 & 2).



IMAGE 2



IMAGE 2

Step 2: The side rail is attached to the two end hoops using the 'P' clip fixings (see image 3 & 4). Ensure the side rail is straight and that the distance from the base rail remains fairly constant along the length of the polytunnel. This will ensure the roll-down screen sits neatly when in the down position. If your tunnel is on a slight slope then you can allow a slight fall on the side rail, but you will need to make an allowance for this when attaching the roll down screen later.

Now continue with the build (the remaining instructions for your side vent are on page 23)

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# Wooden Hobby Door Build

Parts / Packs	Timber Door Frame Pack (HPK08), the Door Cladding Pack (EBP22 or 23) and Timber Door Fittings Pack. (HPK09)
Tools	Tape measure, Hammer, Drill



Image 1

Your timber pack contains;  
 2 x 2" by 2" timbers - 700mm long  
 3 x timber battens - 700mm long  
 2 x timber battens - 1.9m long  
 2 x 2" by 2" timbers - 2.2m long  
 Using the 2" x 2" timbers lay out the basis for your door frame.  
 The 700mm pieces go between the two 2.2m long pieces.

**n.b.** If you have an 8ft or 10ft wide tunnel **OR** you have double doors, cut the 2.2m door uprights down to 2m



Image 2

Mark the centre of the 2.2/2m long pieces as a guide for the middle piece section.  
**Image 1**  
 Screw the 2" by 2" timbers together using the wood screws from the packs. Pre-drill holes first so the timber doesn't split - 2.5cm in from the ends and on centre of the centre line marked previously. Now check that your doors are square - the diagonal measurements should be equal! - **Image 2**



Image 3

Once you are happy that your door is square you can fix on nail plates at each of the joints. Now turn the door over so nail plates are on the underside.

**Covering the door. Image 3**  
 You'll have enough polythene and netting to do either:  
 Full Polythene Door  
 Full Netted Door  
 Half and Half  
 For this example we're using polythene on the bottom and netting on the top.



Image 4

**Top Tip**

If you choose to put netting on the door, it's worth keeping the extra polythene that you don't use for the colder months to act as a wind break.

Lay the netting out on the top panel and secure in place with a stapler making sure the netting is nice and taught. (Hammer in any staples)  
 Trim off the excess netting making sure it almost fully covers the middle piece of timber

Add the polythene on the bottom with the stapler, keeping tension as and where you can, overlapping the netting in the middle. **Image 3**



Image 5

Place the 700mm battens across the 3 cross pieces of the door (top, bottom, middle). Then lay the 2 long battens on the side timbers. Use the 40mm nails to attach the battens to the 2 x 2 - nails need to be approx 150-200mm apart. Trim off any excess polythene and net. **Image 4**

**Image 5** Now fix on the hinges and door latch - we recommend hinging the doors so they open inwards into the tunnel; so they do not catch and blow off in the wind. Decide whether you want your door to be hinged on the left or the right-hand side. Fix the hasp and staple to the side you don't want to hinge. Fix the hasp in the middle near the crosspiece. Turn the door over so that the nail plates are facing upwards.

Use the 30mm screws to fix the hinges to the door - make sure that the hinges are square to the timber and that the butt of the screw is facing up. **Image 6**



Image 6

**Top Tip**

If you have your door opening inward, make sure you place a door stop (a wedge of wood in the ground will work) in the tunnel to avoid the door damaging the polythene on the inside of your tunnel.

Your door is now ready required.

Continues on next page

### Double Door

If installing a double door, fix a drop bolt bracket in the bottom corner on the same side as the hasp and staple.

Note - Drill pilot holes so the screws don't split the wood.



## Anti-Hotspot Tape

There are two widths of hot spot tape provided, 30mm and 20mm.

The wider tape is used on the end hoops as the polythene cover will have greater contact with the end hoops, due to the polythene being pulled around the ends. The 30mm tape should be positioned accordingly, half on the top edge of the hoops and half on the outside face of the hoop. **(Image 1)**

Apply the anti-hot spot tape over the whole hoop, from ground level to ground level (or just above), so that all parts of the hoop has the foam barrier where the polythene comes into contact with it. This prevents any heat build-up in the steelwork from being transferred to the polythene cover and also reduces the likelihood of the hoops rubbing against the polythene. You may want to put a little extra anti-hot spot tape over any fittings, bolts or sharp edges that may damage the polythene.

**(Images 2, 3 & 4)**



IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2



IMAGE 3



IMAGE 4

### Top Tip

Before covering your tunnel and to help avoid damage to your polythene cover when you pull it tight and fasten it to the base rail, we strongly advise that you take the time to cut off any sharp edges on your base rails **(Image 1)**



IMAGE 1

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## Polytunnel Cover

Parts / Packs	Polythene
Tools	Spade, Hammer, Fork

### Fitting the cover

NOTE: Don't attempt to cover the polytunnel if windy. However, if there is a slight breeze then use this to your advantage and pull the cover over the tunnel into the breeze.

#### Step One

Unroll the polythene sheet along one side of your polytunnel (preferable on the downwind side if there is a slight breeze), Image 1

Then pull the polythene cover over the polytunnel frame Image 2, allowing it to unfold as you do. Make sure there are equal amounts of polythene, both to the ends and to the sides.

NOTE: Because our polythene has an anti-condensation additive on the underside it is important to fit your cover the correct way up. If you stand inside the covered polytunnel you will see the words "VISQUEEN LUMISOL" printed on the polythene (image 3).

If you can read this then you've installed it correctly, if not, remove and replace it.



IMAGE 1



IMAGE 3



IMAGE 2

## Polytunnel Cover – Continued

### Step Two

Secure the cover at one end by pulling the polythene tight and inserting 1 of the nails on the batten in the centre of the door frame under the existing batten. (Images 4 & 5)

Repeat this procedure on the other door frame.

Once both battens are in place pull the cover tight and fully secure the batten onto the top of the door frame with the remaining prepared nailed batten (don't fasten the door frame side battens yet)



IMAGE 4



IMAGE 5

### Step Three

You can now start securing the polythene to the side base rails. (Image 6) Start in the middle and work your way outwards. Depending on the length of the tunnel you may want to use multiple battens to do this, For example, one batten for the middle, one for the left and one for the right.

Don't pull the cover too tight. If you can see a seam in the polythene use it as a ruler, and keep the seam straight.

Now fix the polythene to the other side, again starting from the centre and working outwards, but this time pulling the cover tight.



IMAGE 6



IMAGE 7

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## Polytunnel Cover – Continued

### Step Four

Once both sides are complete you can work your way down each of the door posts,

#### Image 8 - Step Four

Using a sharp knife, cut the spare polythene from the corner outwards at a 135° angle to the base rails (approx.). This will allow the cover to be folded around the end of the polytunnel. (Image 8)

Now you can loosely attach the polythene to the end base rails up to the door posts. Make sure you pull the polythene both downwards and in the direction of the door frame whilst nailing in place with a batten.

Once the tunnel ends have been loosely battened you can start to fully batten down the door frame flush with the inside edges. (Image 10)

Take note of the direction in which you're pulling the polythene, as you move. At the top of the door frame you will mostly be pulling the polythene downwards, but as you progress down the door frame you will gradually change direction and begin to pull the polythene mostly across. You will need to pleat the polythene in order to trap it all. Try and make sure the pleats are facing downwards as not to hold rainwater. This will reduce the build-up of green algae in the pleats. Once two thirds down the door frame you will be pulling across only. (Image 11)



IMAGE 8



IMAGE 10



IMAGE 11



IMAGE 12



IMAGE 13

Once the cover is tight and battened down on both door frames, (image 12) the cover can now be fully battened on all ends.

Ensuring the polythene is tight, secure the batten every 40-45mm and then cut away any excess polythene.

When cutting around the door, cut under the polythene onto the wooden batten to avoid cutting through the PVC door. (Image 13)

## Polytunnel Cover - Tightening the Polythene

Parts / Packs	Polythene
Tools	Spanner

Once you've battened the door frames, cut away any excess polythene, it's time to tighten the polythene on the structure. **Image 1** shows an un-tightened structure.



The unique feature of a Northern Polytunnel greenhouse is the ability to simply tighten the polythene (and loosen it if required) easily.

Simply, lift the inner hoop so that the polythene is tight against it (**Image 2**) whilst a second person lifts and tightens the collar in place, holding the hoop tightly. repeat this on all sides of the inner hoops (please note the second side will be harder to lift but will ideally be lifted to the same height as the first side)

As you can see on **Image 3**, the difference a drum-tight polythene looks like using our tensioning system compared to **Image 1**.



Watch our helpful instruction video online at:

[www.northernpolytunnels.co.uk/videos](http://www.northernpolytunnels.co.uk/videos) or scan:



## Optional Extras – Side Vent Continued

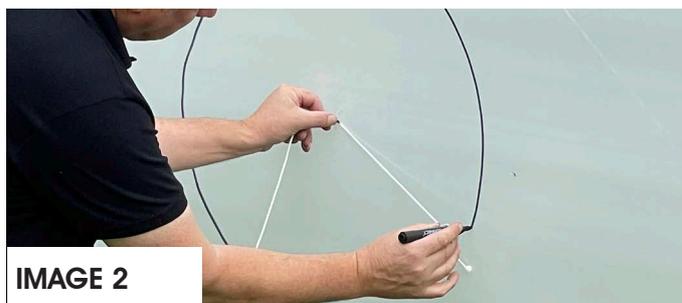
Parts / Packs	Side Vent Pack (EBP18), Side Vent Additional Hoop Pack (EBP19)
Tools	13mm Spanner, Tape Measure, Spirit Level, Marker Pen, String, Sharp Knife

Step 1 - Now that your polythene is fully fitted and tight, you need to make sure the Side Vent Rail is as level as possible (if you're building on a slope, the rail still needs to be level so that the roll-up vent works sufficiently.) To level, simply loosen the brackets where needed to find your level. **(Image 1)**



Step 2 - Find the centre, to do this, measure halfway between your hoops, make a mark with your marker pen, and then halfway between the middle vent rail and the base rail. Mark the middle spot on the polythene.

Now, draw a radius of around 300mm (measure 300mm on your string, and then use that to draw a perfect 600mm circle) **(Image 2)**



Step 3 - Using a sharp knife, now cut out the circle **(Image 3)**.

Repeat on each hoop on the same side only **(Image 4)** (if you've bought a side vent for both sides, repeat on the other side as well)



Step 4 - Tuck the netting behind the side vent rail (this will be secured on the opposite side shortly) Making sure it's central with roughly 30mm overhanging. The bottom section will be battened to the base rail ONCE the top has been secured **(Image 5)**.

Trim off the netting just below the wooden base rail. (Bear in mind that you'll need to use this netting for ALL of your vents)



**Top Tip** - Use scissors for cutting the netting to give a better finish

Repeat on all sections of the side vent.



IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2



IMAGE 3



IMAGE 4



IMAGE 5



IMAGE 6



IMAGE 7



IMAGE 8

Unravel The side screen polythene (don't cut it yet) This will be clipped into the side rail using the Wiggle-Wire (see Image 6) trapping all three materials (at the same time) - the polythene screen, the main polythene cover and the net panels.

Image 1 - Start from one side, (one person holding the polythene, whilst the 2nd installs the wiggle wire) feed the wiggle wire into the C channel making sure the plastic curtain is kept level, tight and free from creases where possible.

**Top Tip** - You don't need to start on the very end of the C channel, 30 - 50 mm in is fine.

**Top Tip 2** - To help keep the curtain level, use a 2nd piece of wiggle wire to secure the opposite side of the curtain. **Image 3**

Return to the original end and then secure, it can be tricky to get the wiggle wire in so don't worry.

The wiggle wire comes in lengths, when the first one finishes, simply add the second with 10 - 30mm crossover to keep the polythene, net and vent secure. **Image 4**

Once secure, it's time to go back inside to batten down the netting.

**Image 5**

Batten down the net, making sure the net is tensioned, nail each side to keep the tension tight and then fully nail the batten. Do this on all of the net vents.

**Image 6**

Slot together the lengths of the drive tube using the self-drill screw provided, drill through both tubes on the sleeved joint to hold the handle in place.

**Image 7** Lay the tube assembly on the polythene alongside the lower edge base rail and then measure roughly 300mm out, The polythene passed this measurement is excess and should be removed.

Now remove 150mm of the polythene from each edge of the vent polythene **Image 8** and any excess polythene you may have above the C channel





To get the drive tube level, lift up the polythene excess so the drive tube is level with the base rail, lay it back down, roll the drive tube out about halfway, then fold over the polythene and roll it around the drive tube **Image 1**

**Top Tip** - Make sure the end of the drive tube is level with the end of the Polytunnel so that



Once you've checked its level, put on the plastic clips to hold it in place. **Image 2**

One at each end, with the remaining ones evenly spaced along the length of the drive tube.

**Top Tip** - Now's a good time to check it is still level by rolling the vent up by hand. **Image 3**



Attach the handle to the drive tube using a self drill screw and wind the curtain up making sure the curtain is wound anti-clockwise (if the handle is on the right-hand side of the curtain). This avoids any water/leaves getting trapped in the cover when it's rolled up.

To prevent the screen from blowing around in the wind you need to attach the nylon webbing. These are normally positioned as close to each of the hoops as possible, including the first and last hoops.

Start from the handle side.

Simply attach the Wiggle-Wire Fastening Clips in the side rail **Image 4** and then on the base rail hammer in a staple directly underneath.



Tie one end of the webbing string to the hoop that is nearest to the door on the Fastening Clip and run the webbing down and around the drive tube and then through the staple so the drive tube sits between the string and the base rail. Then tie the remaining string onto the second hoop on the Fastening Clip **Image 5** making sure it's nice and tight. Repeat this process on all the clips spaced out evenly across your tunnel.



This will now keep the drive tube and roll up vent secure against your Tunnel

**Top Tip** - Use some Anti-Hotspot tape on the outside of the tunnel hoop for extra protection from the handle

## Fitting the Door



Take your previously made door/doors (see page 16) and place a couple of batons down in the middle of the door frame, this will give you some ground clearance and avoid the door dragging on the ground when opening.

### Image 2

When it's in place, from the inside, screw the hinges in place on the door frame. (for a double door the hasp and staples will already be on the doors)

### Image 3

Finally attach the hasp & staple in place on the front of the door frame.

### Image 4

### IMPORTANT TOP TIP - Image 5

Before opening, make sure you place a safety post/door stop to stop the door from opening up on to your polythene and making a hole



### Double Doors

Two steel tubes are provided for the drop bolts to drop into when closed. These can be knocked into the ground when the doors are in a closed position.

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