

PUTTING IT UP

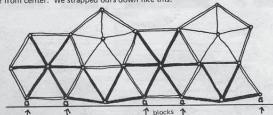
Invite friends, try to pick a nice day, have some homemade bread for when it's completed. You'll want to spend some time sitting inside after it's up.

A scaffold makes things much easier. you can rent one, with wheels. Set model in center. Start at bottom course. It is best to have one person who just designates what goes where. Work around, and up. Temporarily tie it down if there's a wind. It will start holding itself up during the second course.

Strap as you go. One man on strapper, another working the crimper.

MACHER CONS

Next, attach to floor. Take an average from center of floor. Place each strut an equal distance from center. We strapped ours down like this:



Drill holes in floor and strap each hub to floor. Strap it securely, so dome won't blow off. If you don't strap, work out a means of bolting down.

If you use plastic hubs there should be blocks inside base course hubs so weight of dome is not resting on pieces of plastic.



SKINNING DOME

You should wait a while, sleeping under framework, seeing where the morning sun rises and planning carefully where to admit light. This will vary according to season. When this is decided you can start with the plywood skinning. Make sure struts are equally spaced around hubs. You can do this as you go, lining up struts with marks on hubs. Be careful, as errors will accumulate.

If you caulk, staple strips of polyethylene to struts with rustproof staples. Best to start from top, as it leaves room underneath to stand on struts.

Nail triangles on with hot dip galvanized nails. Electro-galvanized nails will rust. One nail about every 4" or 6". Or rent a pneumatic staple gun that shoots rustproof staples and be careful of people below.

Have a helper handing triangles up to you.

The struts must be accurately positioned around hubs.

Nailing should be done very carefully. Don't leave any hammer marks on surface, as they will complicate the sealing of joints. Go slowly here. Everyone wants to nail on triangles. Two or three nailers is about right, but check each one out to make sure he is hammering well, and placing triangles carefully. We had a careless nailer on one dome and later had to custom fit some triangles.

At bottom course, where large triangles overlap, first nail on one, then a few nails to hold the overlapping one, and saw down the middle.

Calculating for interior membrane: see note on this in Big Sur dome. You will use a different radius times the chord factor for calculating interior paneling.

(See table of contents for next steps: sealing joints; doors & windows; interiors.)