



# CONSTRUCTION GUIDE

## 6ft Wide Base Rail Option

Thank you for purchasing a 'Premier' polytunnel.

Please take the time to carefully read through this Construction Guide before you head out into your garden and begin building your 'Premier' polytunnel.

A polytunnel is not a difficult structure to construct, but the task at hand should not be taken lightly – after all, this is a building that must stand up to extreme weather conditions year after year.

Digging conditions, weather, the size and specification of the polytunnel, and DIY skills all factor into the time it takes to construct a polytunnel. Building a garden tunnel really is a two person job, so why not invite a friend to join you and get stuck in.

The following is a Guide to the successful construction of your polytunnel. If you follow this Guide, you will have many years of growing pleasure from your polytunnel with very little maintenance.

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** – Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel.

To help you identify the different steel tubes, the item codes on the Check List relate to the diameter and length of tube and how the ends are formed, eg;

**"28/1220PP"** is a 28mm diameter steel tube, 1220mm long, with plain (**"PP"**) ends.

**"PS"** at the end of the code would indicate the tube had one end plain and one end swaged.

**"FP"** would indicate the tube had one flattened and punched end and one end plain.

**"FS"** would indicate the tube had one flattened and punched end and one end swaged.

**"FF"** would indicate that both ends are flattened and punched.

### Construction Videos

We have a full collection of online construction videos on our YouTube channel.

Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/c/PremierPolytunnels>

Or scan the QR code opposite.



### 7 Day Construction Helpline – 01282 811250

If you are unsure or confused about any aspect of construction, do not hesitate to contact us.

Premier Polytunnels are proud to be the ONLY polytunnel supplier to offer an out of hours Construction Helpline, available until 9pm, 7 days a week.



**We have covered some of the polytunnel options within this Construction Guide that may not relate to the polytunnel extras/additions you have purchased. Please ignore any sections which do not apply.**

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## **TOOLS REQUIRED**

**\*\*\*WARNING: PRODUCTS MAY CONTAIN SHARP EDGES.  
ALWAYS WEAR GLOVES\*\*\***

Here is a list of tools required to complete the construction of your polytunnel:

Tape measure	Spade	Large hammer	Claw hammer
Spirit level	2x 13mm spanner	Marker pen	Battery drill
9mm drill bit	5mm drill bit	Philips screwdriver	Wood saw
String line	Sharp knife	Timber drift (small offcut of timber)	

## INTRODUCTION

*“Picture this....”*

Below is a simple outline of what you should end up with once you have completed your project and is something to bear in mind while constructing your polytunnel.

A polytunnel is a series of hoops placed in line on **Foundation Tubes**.

A **Ridge** tube is suspended under the hoops at the centre point and runs the full length of the polytunnel.

Four diagonal tubular **Stabilisers** are placed one at each corner.

A timber **door/end frame** is fixed central at each end.

**Base Rails** run around the outside of the framework at ground level and the cover is fixed to these rails.

**Anti Hot Spot Tape** is a foam tape that runs over each hoop and protects the cover from the steel.

**Polythene** is placed over the framework and fixed around the door/end frame. The polythene cover is then fixed to the **Base Rails**.

### OPTIONAL EXTRAS/POLYTUNNEL ADDITIONS - If ordered:

**Anchor Plates** clamp to the base of each **Foundation Tube** in a 14 inch hole, before soil is compacted back over them to prevent the polytunnel framework from lifting or sinking.

**Crop Bars** are horizontal tubes placed across each intermediate hoop at roughly head height.

**Side Rails** are identical to **Base Rails**, but are placed on the framework at the top of the straight side on either one or both sides. **Sides Rails** include ventilation net.

**Ventilation Screens** allow you to cover the ventilation net when **Side Rails** are bought.

**Sliding Doors** replace standard hinged doors and allow for extra space on the inside of the tunnel.

**We have covered some of the polytunnel options within this Construction Guide that may not relate to the polytunnel extras/additions you have purchased. Please ignore any sections which do not apply.**

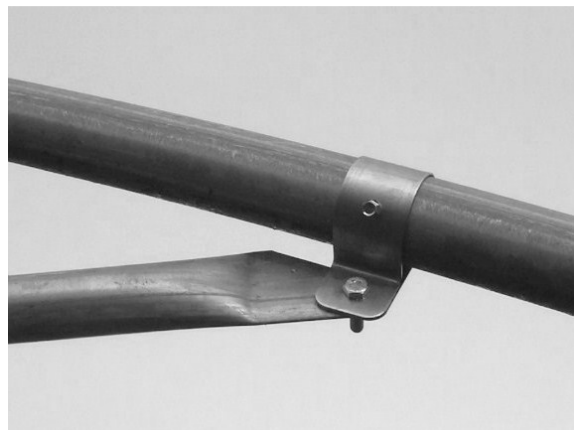
## USE OF 'P' CLIPS

The image below demonstrates the 'double P Clip' method used to fix the ridge.



The following images show how a Corner Stabiliser or a Crop Bar attaches to a 'P' Clip.

**NOTE:** 'P' Clips should always be placed around a hoop so that the leg of the P is to the inside of the polytunnel – That is to say, as far away from the polythene cover as possible.

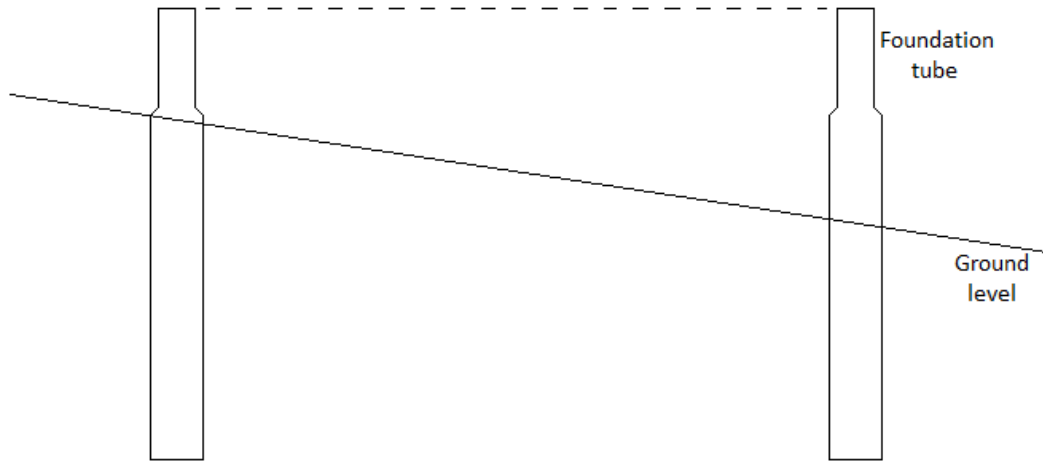


**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: When assembling your polytunnel, no screws, bolts, ends of tubes, etc, should protrude beyond the hoops as these will cause damage to your cover\*\*\***



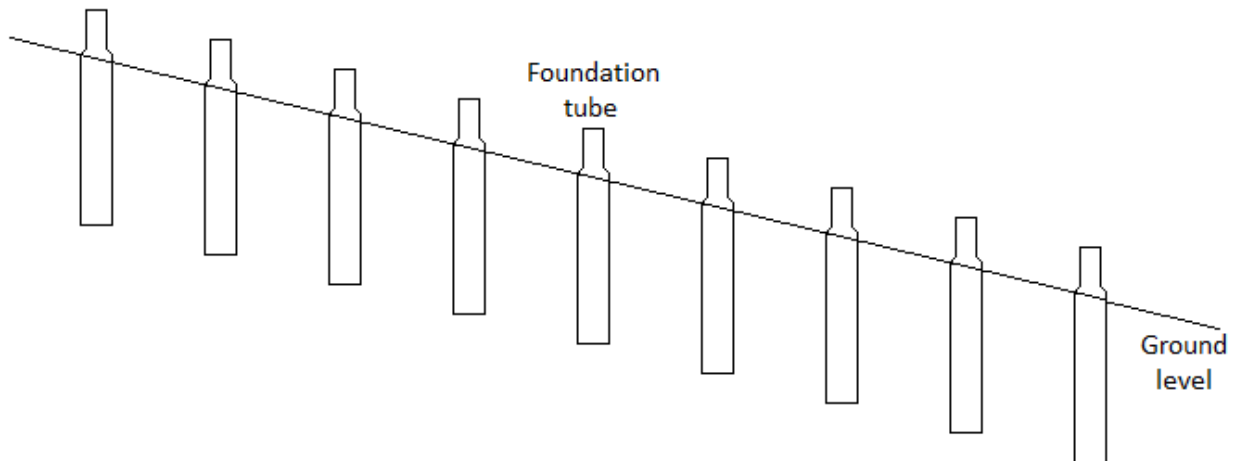
## SITE

Your construction site should be clear and reasonably level from side to side. Approximately 6 inch out of level across the width of the tunnel can be taken up by adjusting the Foundation Tubes of your Polytunnel (**Fig1**).



**Fig1**

A slope down the length of the tunnel does not have to be taken into account as your polytunnel can be built straight onto this slope with the framework placed at the vertical (**Fig2**).



**Fig2**

## FOUNDATION TUBES

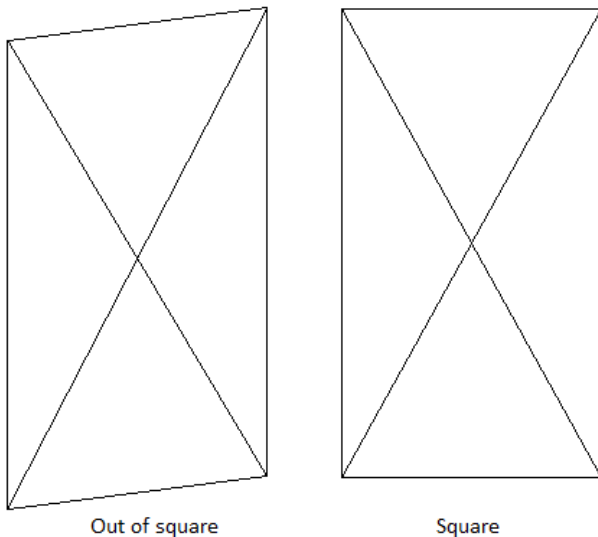
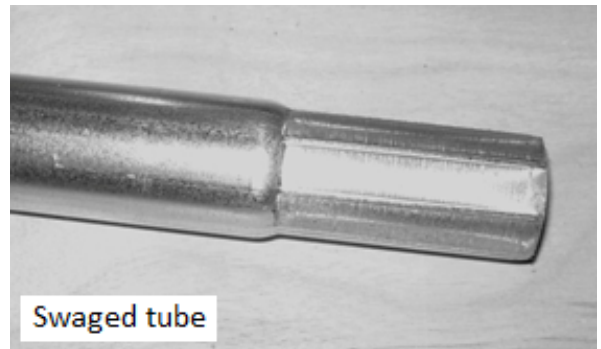
Check List code of parts required: 28/500PS

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT – Protect the ends of tubes from damage when driving them into place by using a timber drift (a small offcut of timber)\*\*\***

Foundation Tubes are driven into the ground at each end of each hoop.

Choose a corner of your polytunnel to be a fixed point from which all measurements will be taken (it is advised that this fixed point is the highest corner of the tunnel on any sloping site), drive in a foundation tube using a timber drift to protect the end, leaving only the swage protruding above ground.

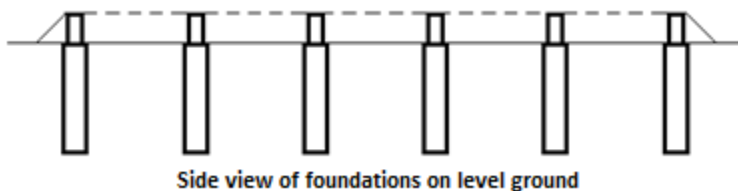


**Fig3**

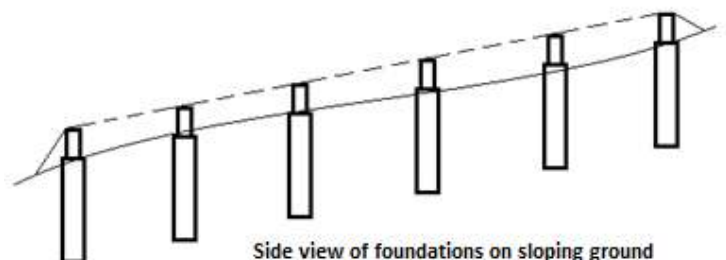
Mark out the remaining corners, but do not drive in the foundation tubes yet. The measurements for these will be the width and length of your polytunnel. To check for square, measure from corner to corner (**Fig3**) – This measurement should be the same, but if not, simply adjust the tubes until correct.

Once you are happy with the positioning drive in the foundation tubes. Make sure the foundation tubes are level across the 6ft width.

Mark out the position for the remaining foundation tubes down the length of the polytunnel at 4ft spacing, and drive in the foundation tubes. Use a string line or straight edge to check the tops are level and the tubes are in line.



Side view of foundations on level ground



Side view of foundations on sloping ground

**\*\*\*If Anchor Plates have been purchased, please see the 'Anchor Plates' section on page 7 before driving in the foundation tubes\*\*\***

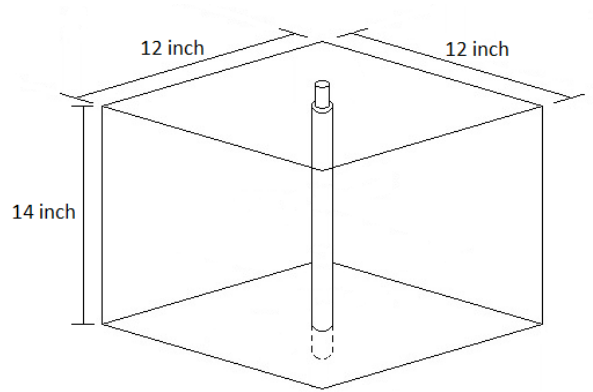
## ANCHOR PLATES

Check List code of parts required when using Standard Foundation Tubes: AP38 – 28APC

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Anchor Plates replace the need for concrete in soft ground.

After marking out the position of all the Foundation Tubes **WITHOUT** driving any tubes in, dig a hole 12 inches square and 14 inches deep at each point. You can now drive the Foundation Tubes into the holes, making sure to check all measurements and levels (**Fig4**).



**Fig4**

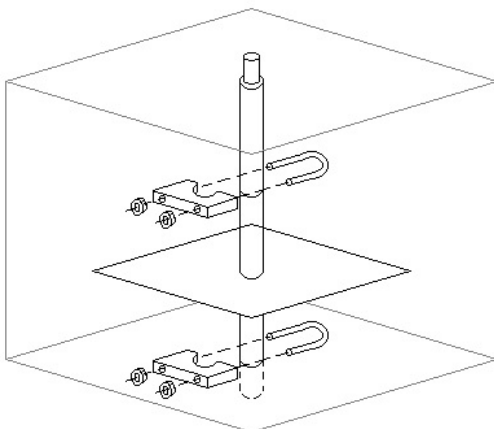


**Fig5**

Place an anchor plate clamp (**Fig5**) around the each of the foundation tubes at the bottom of the holes (**Fig6**).



**Fig6**



**Fig7**

An anchor plate slots over the tubes to rest on the clamps and another clamp is tightened on top of the plates to hold in position (**Fig7**).



**Fig8**

The soil is placed back in the holes and heeled down flat with the ground level (**Fig8**). Re-check all measurements.

## BASE PLATES

Check List code of parts required: 28BP – 8LB – DPBPK

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

### Tools required:

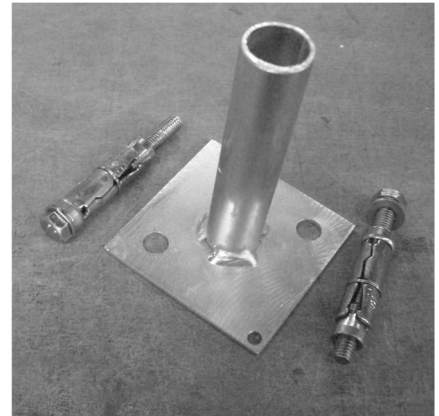
Hammer drill

14mm masonry bit

13mm spanner/ratchet

If you are placing your polytunnel on a concrete base you will require base plates (**Fig9**) which replace foundation tubes.

Please use the same method of measuring as for foundation tubes.

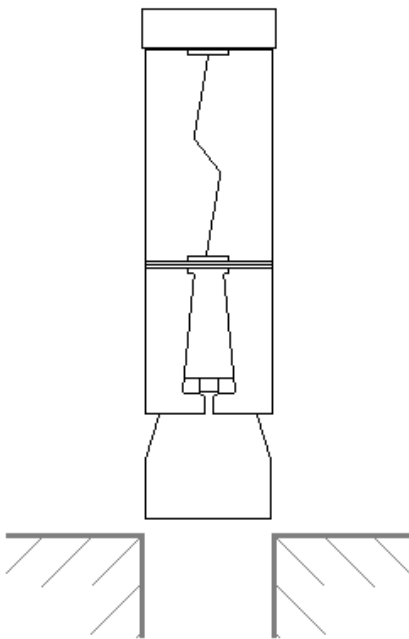


**Fig9**

When securing the base plates to the ground, drill two 14mm holes (70mm deep minimum) into the footing through the two base plate holes.

Insert the loose bolt sleeves into the holes until flush with the ground. Please make sure to insert the sprung end of the sleeve first (**Fig10**).

Bolt the base plates onto the ground by tightening the loose bolts through the holes on the base plates and into the sleeves.



**Fig10**

The door posts are secured at the base with an angle bracket (**Fig11**). These require another 14mm hole to be drilled into the footing (70mm deep minimum). Bolt these brackets down as you would base plates but with only one loose bolt.

The door posts then bolt to this bracket using the bolt supplied with the corner packs for the base rails.



**Fig11**

## **HOOPS**

Check List code of parts required: OH6PP – OH6PS – 5.5SDS

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Hoops come in two pieces. These pieces should be slotted together on a flat base and the joint held in place using a self drill screw which should be approximately 20mm away from the joint (**Fig12**).



**Fig12**



**Self Drill Screw**

**\*\*\*Please note: Self drill screws should be held in the nut driver provided or can be held directly into a drill chuck. They will drill their own hole and tap themselves into position. Do not over-tighten.\*\*\***

Lift the hoops into position onto/into the Foundation Tubes, making sure the screws on the end hoops face the inside of the polytunnel (**Fig13**).



**Fig13**

It is not necessary to screw the hoops onto the foundation tubes at this stage as the screws will conflict with base rail fixings at a later stage.

## RIDGE

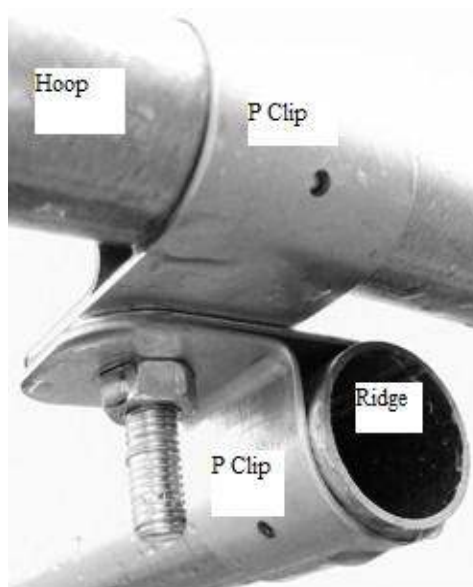
Check List code of parts required: 28/1220PP – 28/1270PS – 28P – 5.5SDS – 28EC

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

The centre ridge bar (standard on all polytunnels) is supplied in 4ft sections. One ridge starter with plain ends and one or more ridge extensions with one swaged end.

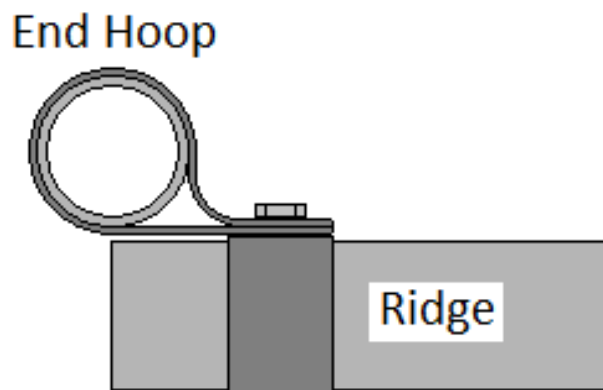
Place a 'P' Clip around the centre of each hoop. On the end hoops the leg of the P should be to the inside edge of the hoop and should face down the length of the tunnel.

Place a 'P' Clip around one end of the starter ridge. Bolt this starter ridge up to the 'P' Clip on one of the end hoops (Fig14).



**Fig14**

Adjust the starter ridge until the end is located half way through the end hoop (Fig15).

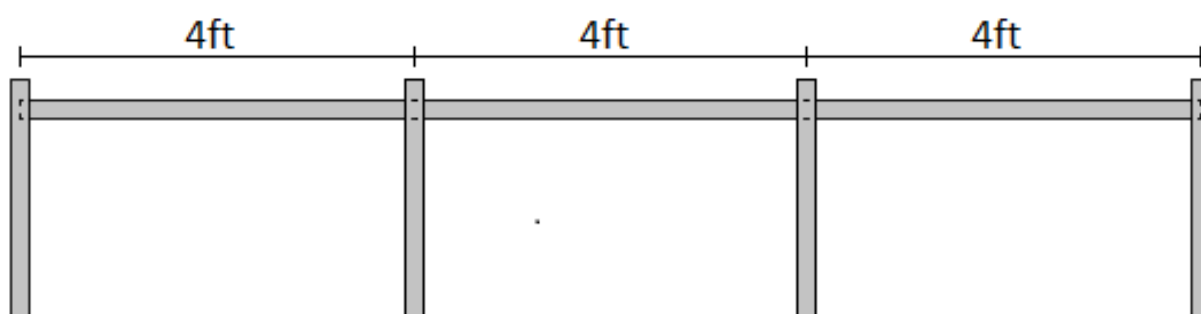


**Fig15**

With the starter ridge suspended from the hoop slide a ridge extension into the starter. Place a 'P' Clip around the ridge starter/extension wherever it crosses a hoop and bolt up to the 'P' Clip on the hoop. Do not tighten this bolt and nut until a later stage.

Keep adding ridge extensions and 'P' Clips whenever they cross a hoop until you reach the opposite end of the polytunnel. Bolting them up but not tightening.

Once a full ridge has been suspended loosely, measure the spacings for the hoops using the end with the starter ridge as the starting point. Adjust the 'P' Clips along the ridge until all the hoops are at 4ft spacings (**Fig16**).



**Fig16**

Adjust the 'P' Clips on the hoops so that the ridge runs in a straight line down the tunnel, as close to centre as possible. Once happy with the positions, tighten all the bolts and nuts and secure the 'P' Clips onto the ridge and the hoops using self drill screws.

Secure the ridge sections together using self drill screws located approximately 2cm away from the joins.

Fit a plastic end cap into each end of the ridge.



**Completed Centre Ridge.**



## CORNER STABILISERS

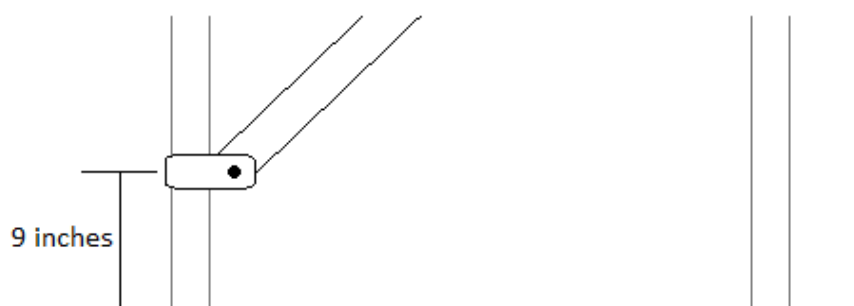
Check List code of parts required: 28/1530FF – 28CSK

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

These tubes are placed to form a triangle at each corner of the polytunnel (**Fig17**).



**Fig17**



**Fig18**

Place a 'P' Clip around the second to end hoop with the leg of the P towards the inside edge of the hoop and pointing towards the end hoop. This 'P' Clip should be located 9 inches up from the ground. Bolt one end of a corner stabiliser to this 'P' Clip but do not tighten (**Fig18**).

Place a 'P' Clip around the end hoop, again with the leg towards the inside edge and pointing towards the second hoop. Bolt the corner stabiliser to this 'P' Clip but do not tighten.

Check the 'P' Clip on the second to end hoop is still located 9 inches up from ground level – if it has moved then simply slide the clip up or down the hoop until back in position. Tighten this 'P' Clip and secure with a self drill screw making sure the head of the screw does not protrude past the hoop.

Using a spirit level to check the end hoop for vertical, slide the 'P' Clip up or down the hoop until in the correct position. Tighten and secure the 'P' Clip using a self drill screw making sure the head of the screw does not protrude past the hoop (**Fig19**).

The predrilled holes in the 'P' Clip may not be in a suitable location for the self drill screw, but the screw will make its own hole in a place suitably clear of the polythene.



**Fig19**

Repeat this process at each corner of the polytunnel.



## **CROP BARS**

Check List code of parts required: 28/750FF – 28P

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Crop Bars are horizontal bars which fit across an intermediate hoop at approximately head height (**Fig20**).



**Fig20**

Place two 'P' Clips around each intermediate hoop, one either side of the ridge. Bolt a crop bar to these 'P' Clips but do not tighten (**Fig21**).



**Fig21**

Using a spirit level to check the crop bars are level horizontally, slide the 'P' Clips along the hoop until in the correct position. Tighten and secure the 'P' Clips with a self drill screw making sure the head of the screw does not protrude past the hoop (**Fig22**).



**Fig22**

## **BUILDING THE DUMMY DOOR / END FRAME**

Check List code of parts required: 6END/6HEND – 6DFF – 40NAIL – POLPAN – NETPAN

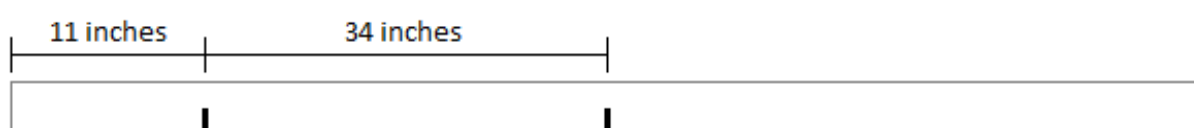
Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

2 inch x 2 inch timber is used for the end frame.

### **When the Polytunnel is to be placed on Soil / Soft Ground:**

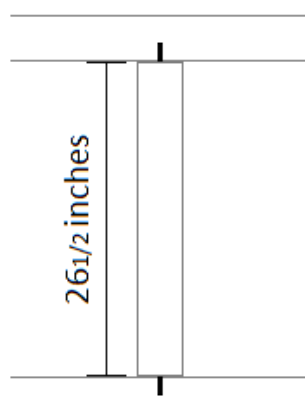
Using a flat surface or bench take the 2 inch x 2 inch x 2.4m end frame posts and measure 11 inches down from one end of each post and make a mark.

From this mark measure a further 34 inches down the post and make another mark (**Fig23**).



**Fig23**

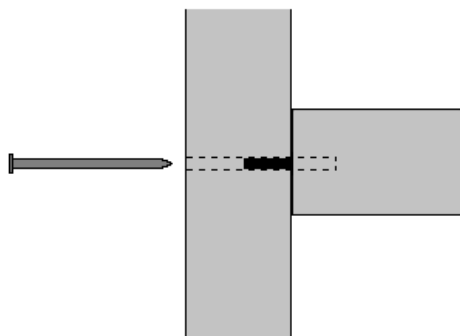
Once the posts have been marked, insert a pre-cut 2 inch x 2 inch x 26½ inch timber cross piece between the posts at each of these marks lining the middles up with the marks (**Fig24**).



**Fig24**

To fix a cross piece, drill a 5mm hole through the side of each post in line with the centre of the cross piece/marks on the posts. Nail a 4 inch nail through these holes and into the cross piece (**Fig25**).

Screw an 'L' bracket across each of the joints (**Fig26**).



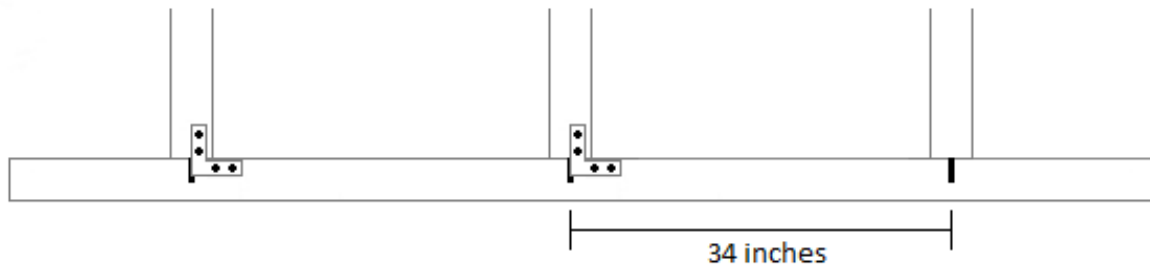
**Fig25**



**Fig26**

### **When the Polytunnel is to be placed onto Concrete / Hard Standing:**

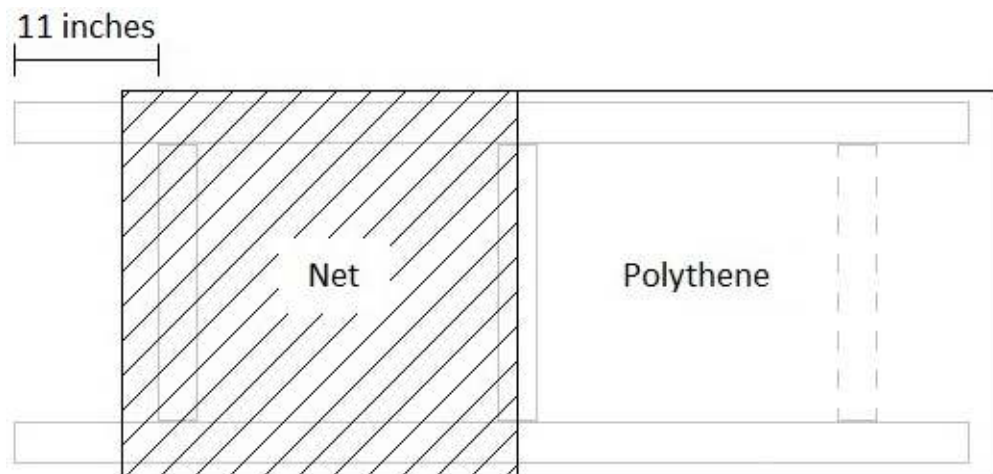
When the polytunnel is to be placed on hard standing a third cross piece should be fitted. Measure 34 inches down from the centre of the second cross piece and make a mark (**Fig27**). Fit the cross piece in the same way as the others (4 inch nails and 'L' brackets).



**Fig27**

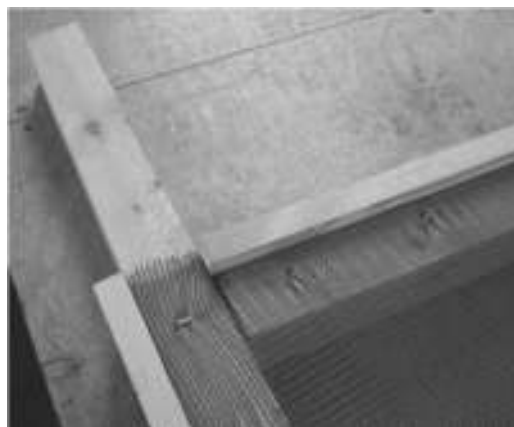
Tack a net panel to the top half of the end frame (between the first and second cross piece) on the opposite side to the 'L' brackets, and a polythene panel to the bottom half (**Fig28**).

Get as much tension as possible on the panels – a staple gun comes in handy here.



**Fig28**

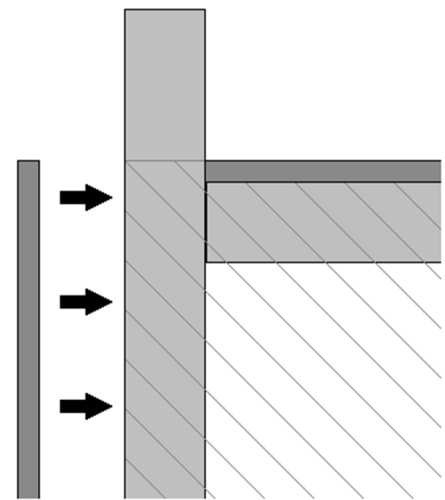
Cut a piece of 19mm x 38mm timber batten to fit between the posts on the top of the lintel (first cross piece). Fold the net around the lintel and nail the batten in place trapping the net. It is important that the batten protrudes out from the frame by approximately 7mm as this forms the rebate around which the main cover will be trapped (**Fig29**).



**Fig29**

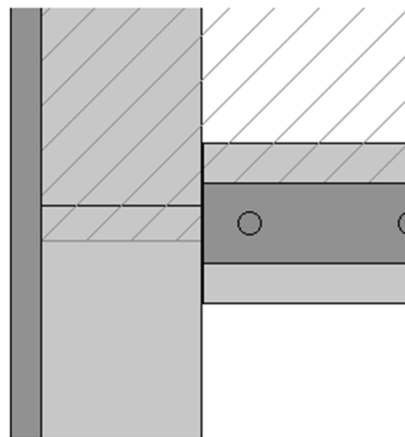
Take two full 1.8m lengths of batten and nail these down the outside edge of the posts, with the top in line with the first batten (**Fig30**). These battens must also protrude beyond the frame to form a rebate. Pull both the net panel and polythene panel around the posts to be trapped by the batten. Put tension into the net and polythene panel as you nail the battens.

**\*\*\*Please note that this rebate may need to be cut at a later stage in order for the base/side rail to be fixed to the door post, take extra care when doing this\*\*\***



**Fig30**

Next, nail another batten across the middle of the second cross piece, overlapping both the net and the polythene panels. This batten should be cut down so it does not overlap onto the posts (26½ inches). This ensures enough space for the main cover and the batten which traps it (**Fig31**).



**Fig31**

When the polytunnel is fixed onto hard standing and a third cross piece has been fitted, nail another batten across this third cross piece to hold the polythene panel. This batten should not overlap onto the posts (26½ inches).

Trim off the excess net and polythene from around the edges, but leave the bottom of the polythene panel as this will be buried in a trench along with the bottom of the posts (**Fig32**).

If the polytunnel is going onto hard standing then trim off the polythene at the bottom of the third cross piece as well.



**Fig32**

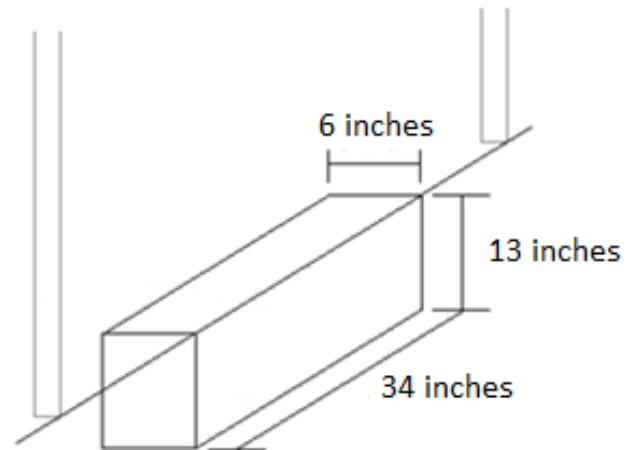
## **HANGING THE DUMMY DOOR / END FRAME**

Check List code of parts required: 28DP – DPBPK (only on hard standing)

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

### **When the Polytunnel is to be placed on Soil / Soft Ground:**

Dig a trench approximately 13 inches deep, 34 inches long and 6 inches wide. This trench should be central under the end hoop to which the end frame will be fixed (**Fig33**).



**Fig33**



**Fig34**

Hold the end frame in position with the legs and polythene in the trench and the top of the posts against the hoop. Centralise the end frame in the end hoop and mark the posts under the hoop (**Fig34**).

Cut the posts on the marks and reposition in the trench with the tops under the hoop. Place a 'P' Clip around the hoop, with the leg of the P down the outside face of the post. Centralise the end frame and mark through the hole in the 'P' Clips (**Fig35**).

Drill through the posts on this mark with a 9mm drill. Bolt the 'P' Clip to the posts using a cross head roofing bolt (**Fig36**) with a washer under the nut. Remember the leg of the 'P' Clip should be down the outside face of the post with the least amount of timber protruding past the outside of the hoop.



**Fig35**



**Fig36**

Check the frame is central to the hoop and level vertically. Back fill the trench keeping the end frame in line with the hoop and vertical (**Fig37**).



**Fig37**

Recheck the end frame for vertical then tighten and secure the 'P' Clips to the hoop with a self drill screw on the inside. You may be unable to use the pre-drilled holes in the 'P' Clip, but the screw will make its own hole in a place suitably clear of the polythene.

### **When the Polytunnel is to be placed onto Concrete / Hard Standing:**

Do not dig a trench, instead cut the bottom of the dummy door/end frame so that the bottom cross piece sits on the floor.

Centralise the frame in the hoop and then fit to the hoop as with the soil/soft ground option.

Secure the bottom of the door posts to the ground using angle brackets as shown in the 'Base Plates' section on page 8.

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## **DOOR**

Check List code of parts required: SDK – DDF/SDF – POLPAN – NETPAN

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

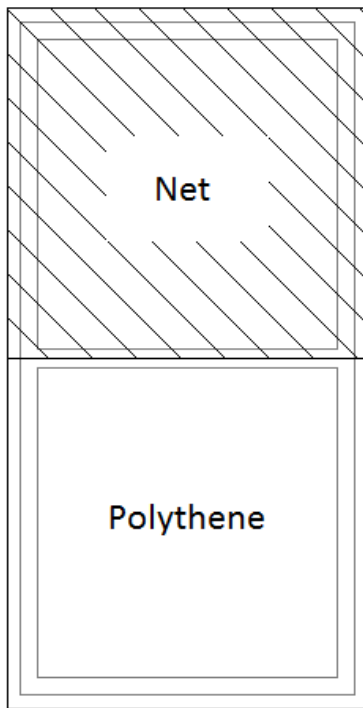
2 inch x 1 inch timber is used for the doors.

Using a flat surface or bench take the two 2 inch x 1 inch x 1.7m door legs and the 3 cross pieces to which fit between the legs.

Using 6 corner braces and screws, fix a cross piece between the legs at each end and one in the centre. These enable you to build the door square without checking (**Fig38**).



**Fig38**



**Fig39**

Tack the net and polythene panel to each half of the door and get as much tension as possible on the polythene (**Fig39**) – a staple gun comes in handy here.

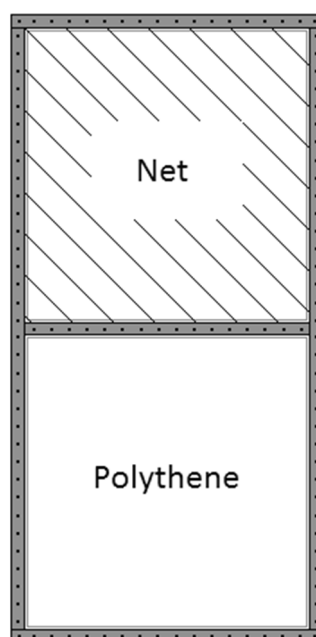


**Fig40**

Cut two pieces of 19mm x 38mm batten the full width of the door and nail these on top of the net and polythene at each end, making sure there is a nail at each side of the joint of the frame. This is important as it gives the door added stiffness (**Fig40**).

Cut two battens to fit down the door legs and nail in position (nails should be about 4 inches apart).

Cut and fix the final batten across the centre cross piece and trim off all excess material around the edges.



**How the door should look once finished.**

## DOOR HINGES

Check List code of parts required: DDF

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Two, 3 inch butt hinges should be screwed to the inside edge (the opposite side to the batten) of the door approx 9 inches from each end (**Fig41**). Before screwing the hinges to the door decide which way you want the door to open, remembering that the net panel is going to be to the top, and screw the hinges to the appropriate side.

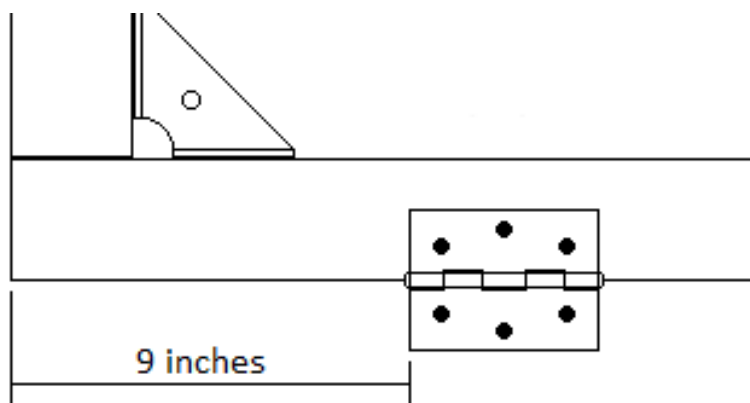


Fig41

## HINGED DOOR CATCH

Check List code of parts required: DDF

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

The catch is a simple hook and eye. Screw one half of the catch to the door and the other on top of the door frame cover batten (once covered).

**Please note this catch is not attached until the tunnel has been fully covered.**



Hook and eye door catch.



## DOOR FRAME – HINGED DOOR

Check List code of parts required: 6DFK – 6DFF – 28DP – DPBPK (only on hard standing)

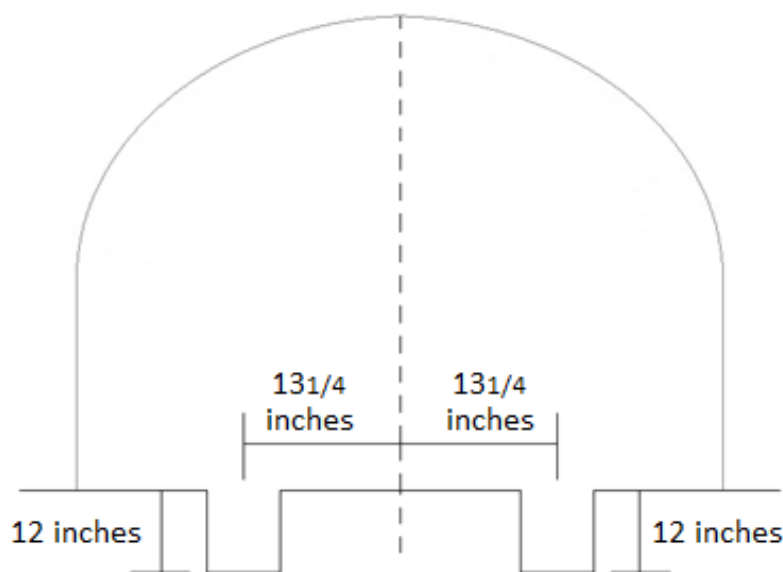
Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

2 inch x 2 inch timber is used for the door frame.

It may help to place a string line across the end hoop – This can then be used as a line for the door frame, or just use your eye to line the frame with the end hoop.

The door opening will be 26½ inches if using the standard door supplied with your kit.

Mark the end hoop 13¼ inches each side of centre (this is where the door posts will fix) and dig two holes approximately 6 inches square and 12 inches deep directly below these marks (**Fig42**).



**Fig42**

Decide which way you want your door to open and position the 8ft door post, which will carry the door hinges, into the hole with the inside edge up to the mark on the hoop. Check the post for vertical and mark the timber under the hoop (**Fig43**). Cut the post on this mark.

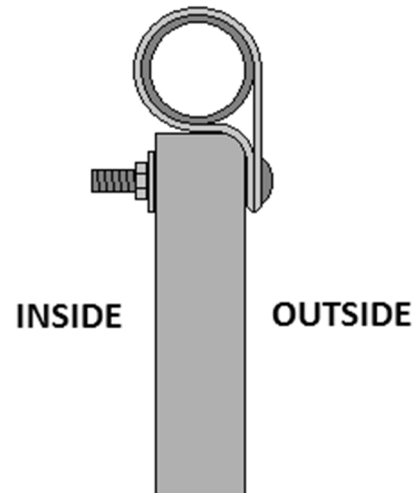


**Fig43**

Re-position the post in the hole. Place a 'P' Clip around the hoop with the leg of the P to the outside. With the 'P' Clip running down the outside face of the post, drill the post and bolt to the 'P' Clip using a cross head roofing bolt with a washer under the nut (**Fig44**). The post should not protrude past the end hoop (**Fig45**). Make sure the inside edge of the post is still in line with the mark on the hoop. Tighten and secure the 'P' Clip to the hoop with a self-drill screw. You may be unable to use the pre-drilled holes in the 'P' Clip, but the screw will make its own hole in a place suitably clear of the polythene.



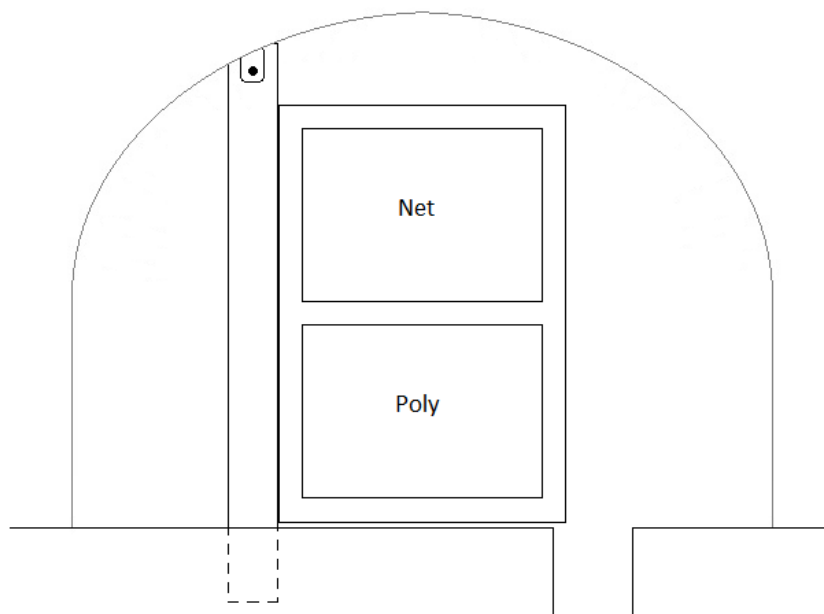
**Fig44**



**Fig45**

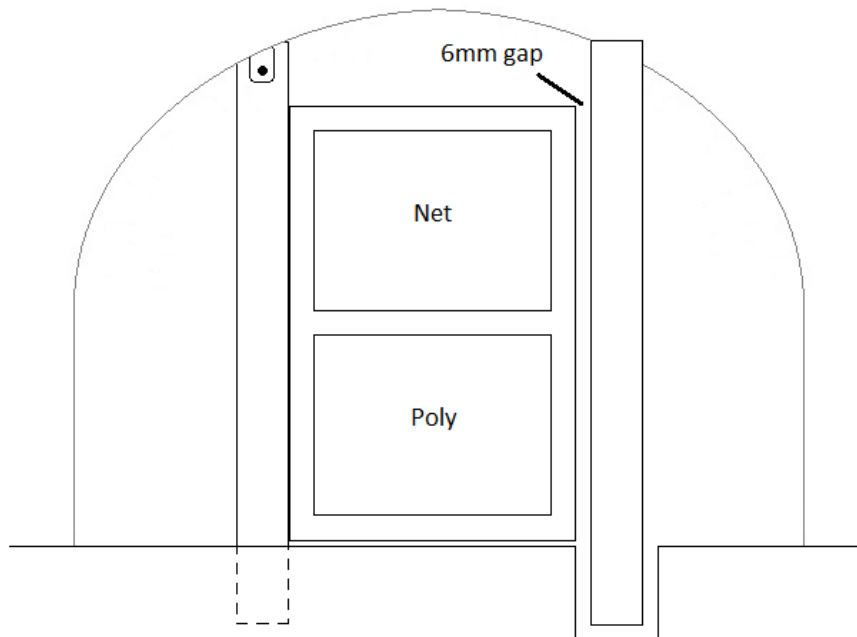
Making sure the post is vertical, backfill the hole until at ground level.

Hang the door on this post leaving adequate room at the bottom for the door to open without catching (**Fig46**).



**Fig46**

Place the second door post in its hole and hold up to the door leaving a gap of approximately 6mm between the door and post (use a 6 inch nail or screwdriver shaft to get this gap). Mark the post under the hoop and cut. Hang the post using the same method as used when hanging the first post and, when you are happy with the position and the gap, secure the 'P' Clip and back fill the hole (**Fig47**).



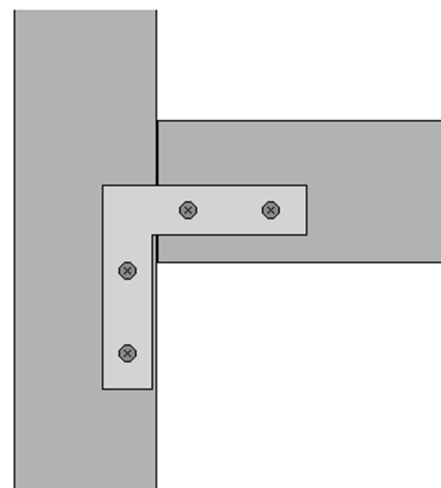
**Fig47**

The timber lintel supplied should be cut if necessary to fit between the posts.

Drill a 5mm hole through the side of each door post 1 inch above the top of the door. Sit the lintel in place between the door posts and on top of the door with a 6mm gap once again between lintel and door, fix in place with a 4 inch nail through the previously drilled holes (**Fig48**). Screw an 'L' bracket across each joint on the inside of the polytunnel (**Fig49**).



**Fig48**



**Fig49**

**\*\*\*Please note: When placing a polytunnel on a hard base, Angle Brackets should be used to secure the bottom of the Door Posts – see the 'Base Plates' section on page 8.\*\*\***

## **DOOR FRAME – SLIDING DOOR**

Check List code of parts required: SDFK – 6DFF – 28DP – DPBPK (only on hard standing)

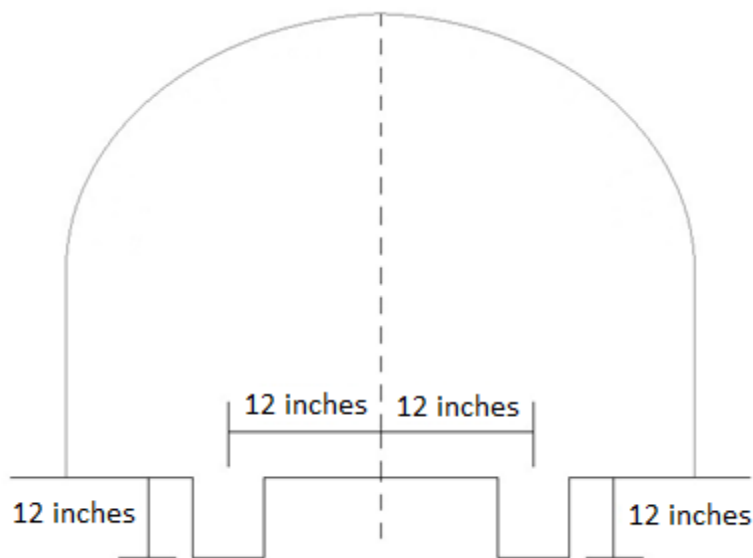
Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

2 inch x 2 inch timber is used for the door frame.

It may help to place a string line across the end hoop – This can then be used as a line for the door frame, or just use your eye to line the frame with the end hoop.

The door opening will be 24 inches if using the standard sliding door supplied with your kit.

Mark the end hoop 12 inches each side of centre (this is where the door posts will fix) and dig two holes approximately 6 inches square and 12 inches deep directly below these marks (**Fig50**).



**Fig50**

Position one of the 8ft door post into one of the holes (preferably the hole on the highest side of the tunnel when on sloping ground) with the inside edge up to the mark on the hoop. Check the post for vertical and mark the timber under the hoop (**Fig51**). Cut the post on this mark.

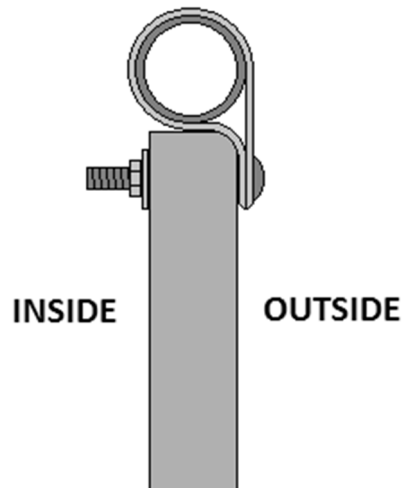


**Fig51**

Re-position the post in the hole. Place a 'P' Clip on the hoop with the leg of the P to the outside. With the 'P' Clip running down the outside face of the post, drill the post and bolt to the 'P' Clip using a cross head roofing bolt with a washer under the nut (**Fig52**). The post should not protrude past the end hoop (**Fig53**). Make sure the inside edge of the post is still in line with the mark on the hoop. Tighten and secure the 'P' Clip to the hoop with a self-drill screw. You may be unable to use the pre-drilled holes in the 'P' Clip, but the screw will make its own hole in a place suitably clear of the polythene.



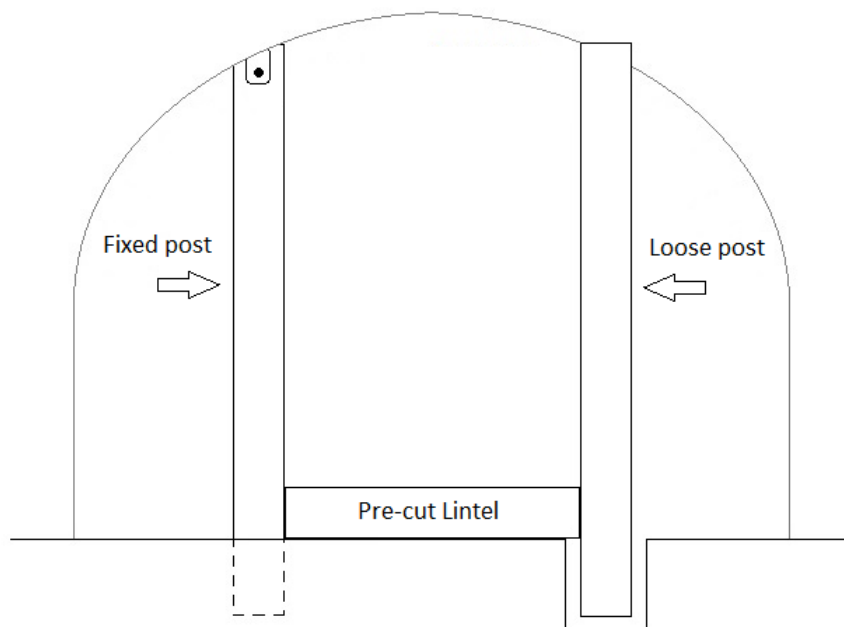
**Fig52**



**Fig53**

Making sure the post is vertical, backfill the hole until at ground level.

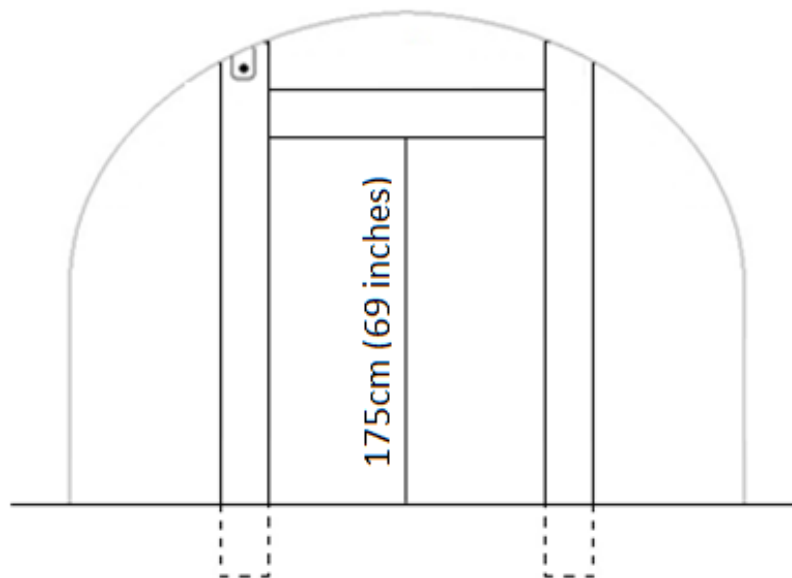
Place the second door post in its hole. Mark the post under the hoop and cut on the mark. Hang the post using the same method as used when hanging the first post but leave the 'P' Clip loose. Using the pre-cut timber lintel as a spacer to make sure the posts are 24 inches apart, backfill the hole (**Fig54**).



**Fig54**

It is important that the timber lintel is the correct height so that the door is free to slide without leaving a large gap at the bottom.

The measurement from ground level to the **underside** of the door frame lintel should be 69 inches (**Fig55**) – this will leave a gap of 1 inch under the door.



**Fig55**

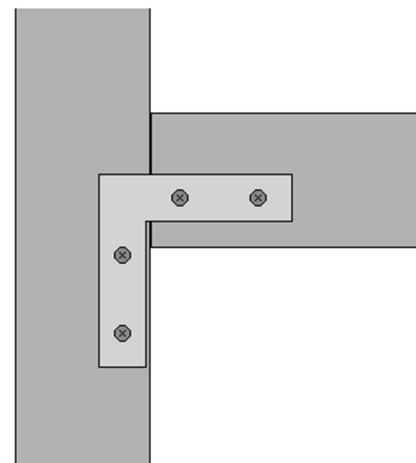
Measure 69 inches up from ground level on the fixed door post and make a mark. Drill a 5mm hole through the side of the door post 1 inch above this mark. Holding the lintel so the bottom face is in line with this mark, fix in place with a 4 inch nail through the previously drilled hole (**Fig56**).

Making sure the lintel is level horizontally (a spirit level comes in handy) butt the loose door post up to it and drill another 5mm hole through the post and into the lintel. Fix in place with a 4 inch nail.

Screw an 'L' bracket across each joint on the inside of the polytunnel (**Fig57**).



**Fig56**



**Fig57**

You can now fix the second post to the hoop by tightening and secure 'P' Clip to the hoop with a self-drill screw. You may be unable to use the pre-drilled holes in the 'P' Clip, but the screw will make its own hole in a place suitably clear of the polythene.

**\*\*\*Please note: When placing a polytunnel on a hard base, Angle Brackets should be used to secure the bottom of the Door Posts – see the 'Base Plates' section on page 8.\*\*\***

## TIMBER BASE RAILS

Check List code of parts required: 3118TIM – 40NAIL – 28SRC – 28TCB – 318TIM

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

3 inch x 1 inch timber is used for the timber base rails.

This timber rail goes around the outside of the polytunnel framework at ground level and finishes at the door posts (Fig58).

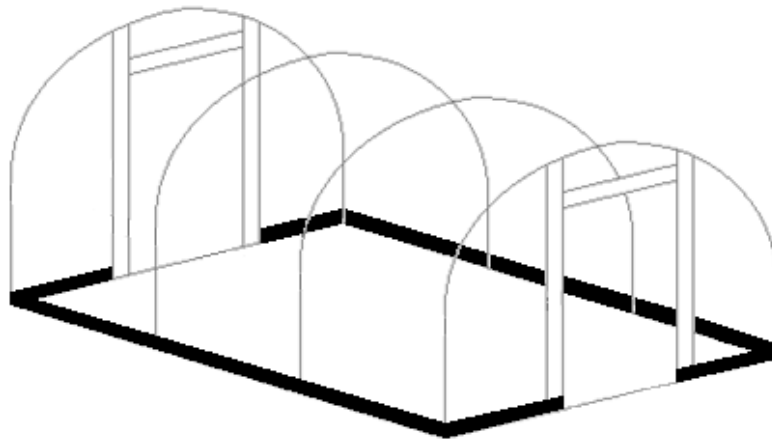


Fig58

The rails which make up the sides of the polytunnel are placed end to end and fixed at each hoop.

At each intermediate hoop a 'P' Clip is used to fix the timber rails to the hoop (Fig59).

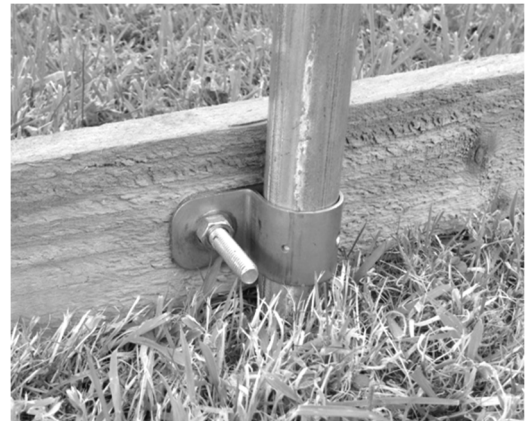


Fig59

At the corners a corner bracket should be placed around the hoop and the timber rails bolted through this bracket (Fig60).

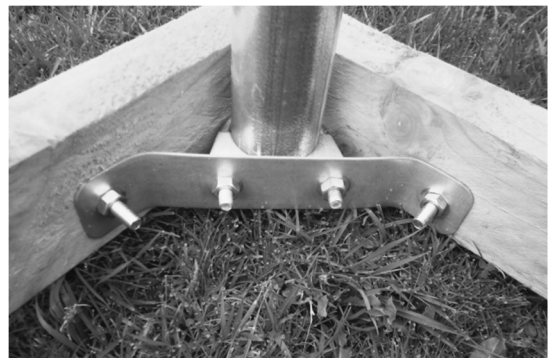


Fig60

These side timbers should be left overhanging by at least 1 inch at each end. Wherever a joint in the rail occurs, nail an 8½ inch piece of the same timber (supplied) across the joint on the inside (**Fig61**).



**Fig61**

Cut a length of timber to fit across the front of each door post and butt up to the overhanging side timber.

To attach the end rail to the door post drill a 9mm hole through the end rail and door post and bolt in place with a 75mm cup bolt with a washer under the nut on the inside (**Fig62**).

If the polytunnel is being placed onto hard standing then drill the 9mm hole through the angle bracket on the inside of the door post and through the end rail. The 75mm bolt then fixes the end rail, door post and angle bracket together.



**Fig62**

At the outer corners, bolt the timber to the corner bracket (**Fig60 on page 27**).

Nail a 3 inch nail through the side timber and into the end rail and cut off the overhang.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: If a ventilation screen is being used then the base rail will require spacing out – see the ‘Ventilation Screens for Timber Base and Side Rails’ section on page 31.\*\*\***



## **FORMING A REBATE ON THE BASE RAILS**

Check List code of parts required: 193818BAT – 40NAIL

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: If you are using a Timber Side Rail it is not necessary to create a rebate on the Timber Base Rails as the ventilation net will be secured to the Base Rail adequately with a single batten.\*\*\***

In order that the polythene cover can be attached easily and securely, a rebate needs to be formed around the base rails (**Fig63**). Where a batten crosses a joint a nail should be positioned at each side of the joint, this will make the joint more robust.



**Fig63**

Once you have formed the rebate all the way around from outer post to outer post it is necessary to cut off (at an angle) any rebate that protrudes at the corners (**Fig64**).



**Fig64**

## TIMBER SIDE RAILS AND VENTILATION NET

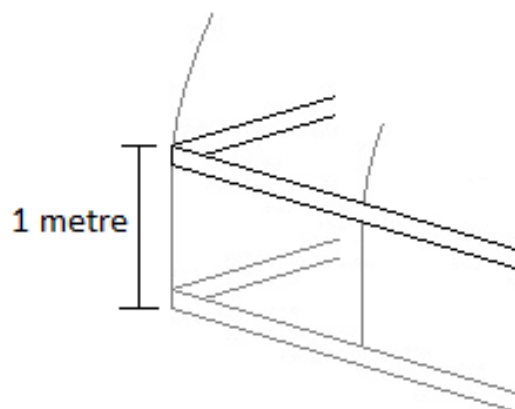
Check List code of parts required: 3118TIM – 193818BAT – 40NAIL – 28SRC – 28TCB – 318TIM – 1NET

Check List code of parts required ONLY when using Ventilation Screens: 500POLY – INPAN

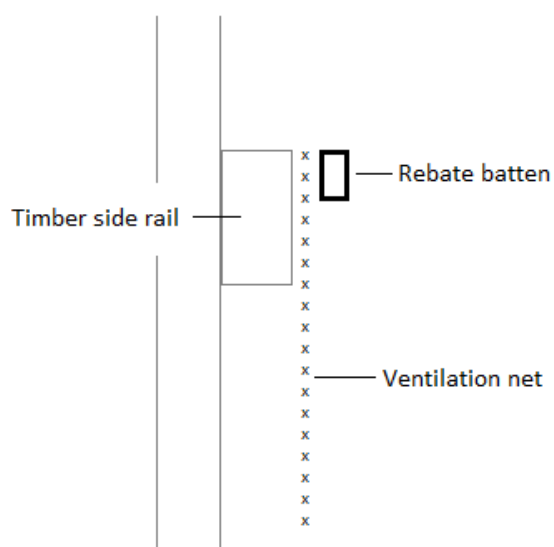
Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Timber side rails are identical to timber base rails and should be fixed using the same method (see 'Timber Base Rail' section on page 27) but placed **1m** from the ground on the straight side of the polytunnel leg (**Fig65**).

If a ventilation screen kit is to be used then it is required that the side rail runs as level horizontally as possible and there is no more than 800mm between the base rail and side rail. It is also required that the side rail is spaced out from the tunnel (please see 'Ventilation Screens for Timber Base and Side Rails' section on page 31), this is so the screen can wind up and down with ease.



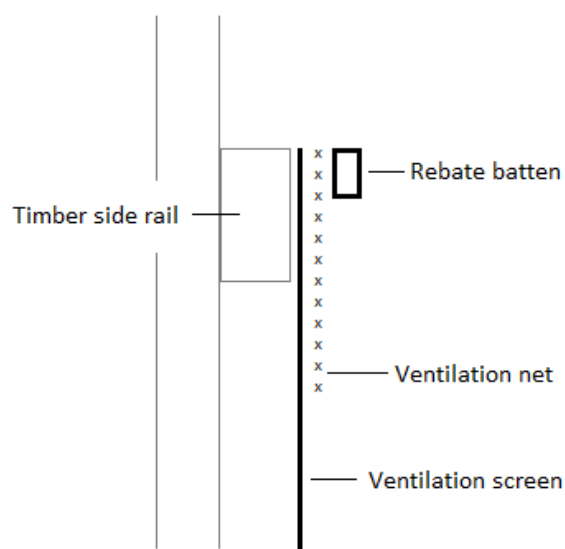
**Fig65**



**Fig66**

The ventilation net should be trapped between the timber side rail and the rebate batten, along the top edge of the side rail (leaving some excess at each end) from door post to door post (**Fig66**).

**PLEASE NOTE:** If a ventilation screen kit is being used then the ventilation screen polythene should be placed between the netting and the timber side rail (**Fig67**). The ventilation screen and the netting should only run down the length of the tunnel and not around the corner to the door posts.



**Fig67**

With a ventilation screen kit, the polythene infill panels should be placed between the side rail and the rebate batten on the ends of the tunnel, and should come around the corners by approximately 24 inches (**Fig68**).



**Fig68**

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### **VENTILATION SCREENS FOR TIMBER BASE AND SIDE RAILS**

Check List code of parts required: 28/1220PP – 28/1270PS – 5.5SDS – 28EC – HAND – WINKIT – CC – VFPT – 800TVK – 193818BAT – 314TIM

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

In your 800TVK pack there is a 0.8m piece of timber with an 800mm aluminium track screwed in place – this 800mm length should be used to set the gap between the timber base rails and timber side rails.

**\*\*\*IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS GAP IS 800mm\*\*\***

This piece of timber and a similar piece without the track attached are the verticals which are placed between the base rail and side rail at each corner at a later stage.

When assembling the timber side rail, it is necessary to space it out from the hoops to make room for the vent screen – this is done by placing a short spacer block of timber (supplied) between the rails and all hoops (side only, not on the ends) (**Fig69**).

A plate (**Fig70**), should be placed behind the corner bracket on the end hoops only – the plate on the base rail should point upwards and the plate on the side rail should point downwards. The plate should be on the side of the polytunnel (not the end) and is used later to fix the vertical timbers.



**Fig69**



**Fig70**

Once the tunnel is covered and the side rail has been lowered back to its original position you can now drill and bolt in place the vertical timbers at each corner of the tunnel using the previously mentioned plates (**Fig71**). The aluminium track is screwed to one edge of the timber – this edge of the timber should face down the length of the polytunnel.

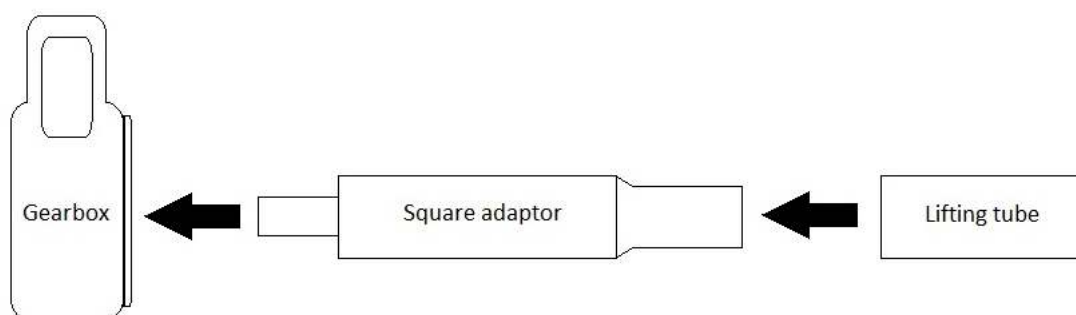
**\*\*\*Don't forget to slide the gearbox mechanism into the track before fitting\*\*\***



**Fig71**

Assemble the 28mm steel lifting tube as a complete length using the self drill screws with the square adaptor at the gearbox end (**Fig72**). Insert the adaptor into the gearbox and cut the tube to fit between the vertical timbers with a little room for movement.

Place a plastic end cap in the opposite end to the gearbox to finish it off neatly (**Fig73**). Slot the square adaptor into the gearbox with the steel lifting tube resting on the top of the base rail.

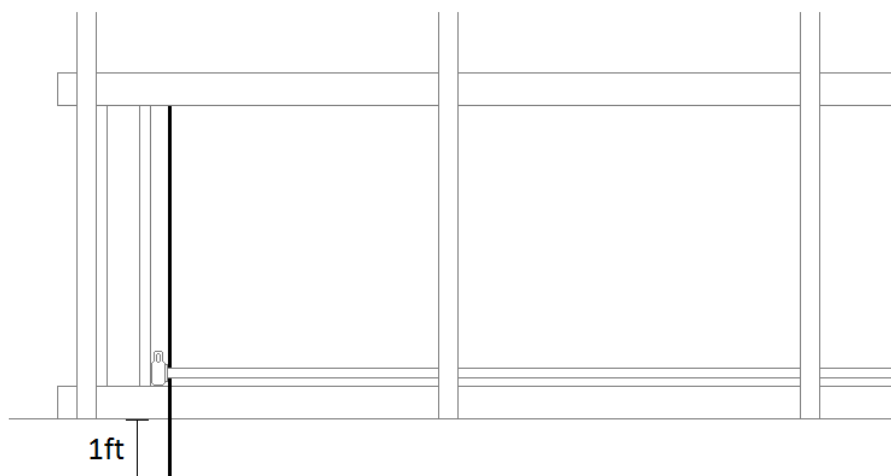


**Fig72**



**Fig73**

Trim the polythene screen in line with the ends of the lifting tube and trim off the excess along the ground leaving approximately 1ft of overlap (**Fig74**).



**Fig74**

Wrap the excess screen around the lifting tube and clamp in place using the plastic 'C' Clips (**Fig75**). A 'C' Clip should be placed around the lifting tube at every hoop and in the centre of each bay.

Place the handle in the gearbox and wind the screen onto the lifting tube. If the screen does not roll up parallel, relocate the 'C' Clips around the tube until it rolls up correctly (**Fig76**).



**Fig75**



**Fig76**

Finally, on the ends of the polytunnel, tension the polythene infill panels and the ventilation netting down to the base rail and batten in position.

Tension the infill panels out to the door posts and batten in place.

Finish by battening both the polythene infill panels and side ventilation net onto the vertical timbers at each corner.

## ALUMINIUM BASE RAILS

Check List code of parts required: M830H/M865H – M8NUT – 28ARC – 28ACB – ALYJOIN – ALLEN – 900SAGR – 1530SAGR – 1830SAGR

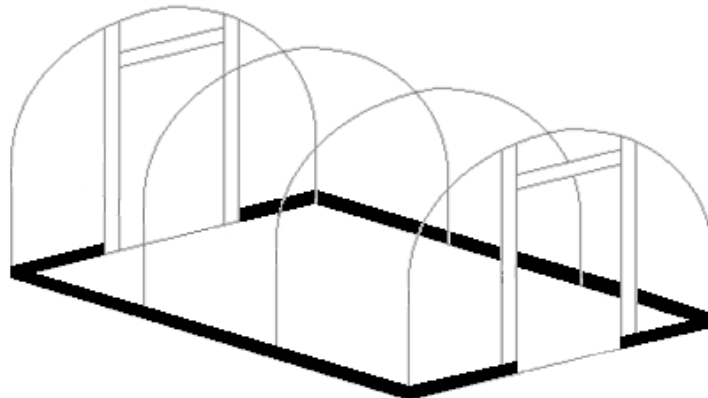
Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Tools required:

Hacksaw/Angle grinder      3mm Allen key (Supplied)

**\*\*Always wear a dust mask and eye protection when using an angle grinder\*\***

This aluminium rail goes around the outside of the polytunnel framework at ground level, leaving only the door opening (**Fig77**).



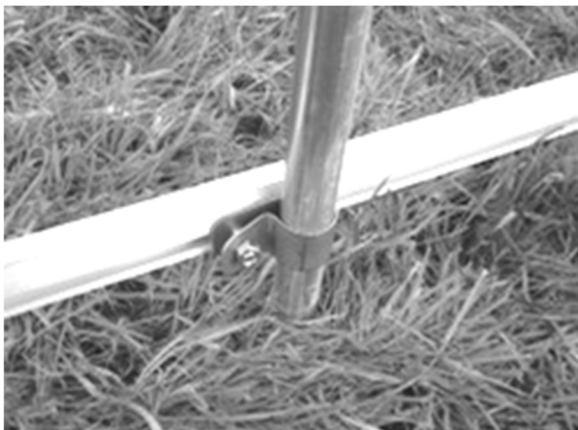
**Fig77**

The rails which make up the sides of the polytunnel are made up of a 3ft starter piece and either 5ft or 6ft extensions. These aluminium sections are placed end to end and fixed at each hoop.

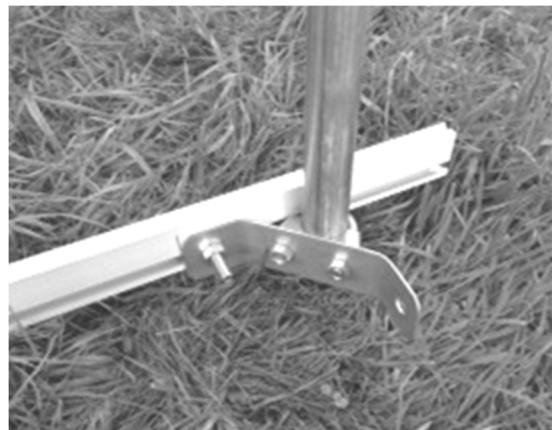
At each intermediate hoop a 'P' Clip is used to fix the aluminium rails to the hoop (**Fig78**).

**\*\*\*Please note: the bolts for these clips must be slid into the aluminium rail from the end\*\*\***

At the corners a corner bracket should be placed around the hoop and the aluminium rails bolted through this bracket (**Fig79**).

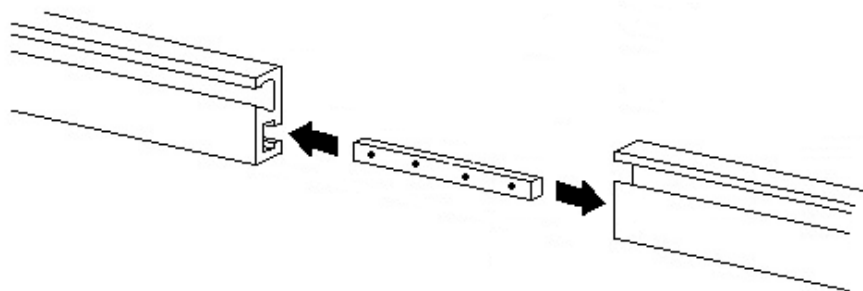


**Fig78**



**Fig79**

Wherever a joint in the rail occurs, a joiner is used to fix the two aluminium lengths together (**Fig80**). The grub screws for these joiners are tightened into the aluminium sections using the Allen key supplied. These joiners must be inserted as you add each section of base rail.

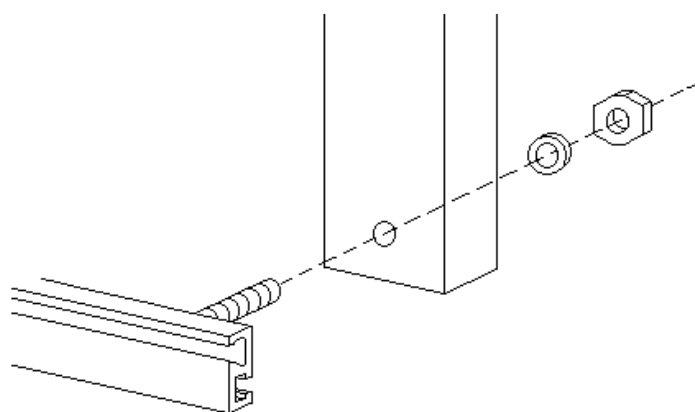


**Fig80**

Cut down a 3ft length of aluminium (with either an angle grinder or a hacksaw) to fit across the front of each door post and butt up to the overhanging aluminium rail.

To attach the end rail to the door post drill a 9mm hole through the end rail and door post and bolt in place with a 65mm hex bolt with a washer under the nut on the inside (**Fig81**).

If the polytunnel is being placed onto hard standing then drill the 9mm hole through the angle bracket on the inside of the door post. The 65mm bolt then fixes the end rail, door post and angle bracket together.



**Fig81**

Bolt the opposite end of the end rail to the corner bracket and cut off the overhang on the side rail. Make sure to smooth off any sharp corners to avoid the cover splitting at these points.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: If a ventilation screen is being used then the base rail will require spacing out – see the ‘Ventilation Screens for Aluminium Base and Side Rails’ section on page 37.\*\*\***

## ALUMINIUM SIDE RAILS

Check List code of parts required: M830H/M865H – M8NUT – 28ARC – 28ACB – ALYJOIN – ALLEN – 900DAGR – 1530DAGR – 1830DAGR

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

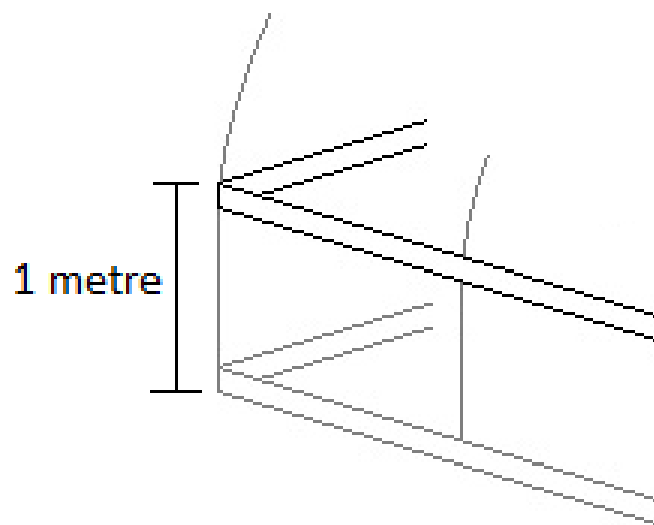
Tools required:

Hacksaw/Angle grinder      3mm Allen key (Supplied)

**\*\*Always wear a dust mask and eye protection when using an angle grinder\*\***

Aluminium side rails are fitted identically to aluminium base rails and should be fixed using the same method (see the 'Aluminium Base Rail' section on page 34) but placed **1m** from the ground on the straight side of the polytunnel leg (**Fig82**). The only difference being that instead of a single aluminium grip rail, a **DOUBLE** aluminium grip rail is used.

If a Ventilation Screen Kit is to be used then it is required that the side rail runs as level horizontally as possible and there is no more than 800mm between the base rail and side rail. It is also required that the side rail is spaced out from the tunnel (please see the 'Ventilation Screens for Aluminium Base and Side Rails' section on page 37) – this is so the screen can wind up and down with ease.



**Fig82**



## **VENTILATION SCREENS FOR ALUMINIUM BASE AND SIDE RAILS**

Check List code of parts required: 28/1220PP – 28/1270PS – 5.5SDS – 28EC – HAND – WINKIT – CC – VFPA – 800AVK – 35SP – M8WASH – UPROF - TPROF – BUPROF

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Tools required: Rubber hammer

In your 800AVK pack there is a 0.8m piece of timber with an 800mm aluminium track bolted in place – this 800mm length should be used to set the gap between the timber base rails and timber side rails.

**\*\*\*IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS GAP IS 800mm\*\*\***

This piece of timber and a similar piece without the track attached are the verticals which are placed between the base rail and side rail at each corner at a later stage.

When assembling the base rail and side rail it is necessary to space them out from the hoops to make room for the vent screen.

On the aluminium base/side rails this is done by placing 35mm plastic spacers on every bolt between the fixings and the rails (**Fig83**).

Washers are placed either side of the spacers on the bolts (**Fig83**).

On the end hoops, a flat plate should be placed over the bolt, between the spacer and the aluminium rail (**Fig84**). The plate should be on the side of the polytunnel (not the end) and is used later to fix the verticals. The plate on the base rail should point upwards and the plate on the side rail should point downwards.



**Fig83**



**Fig84**

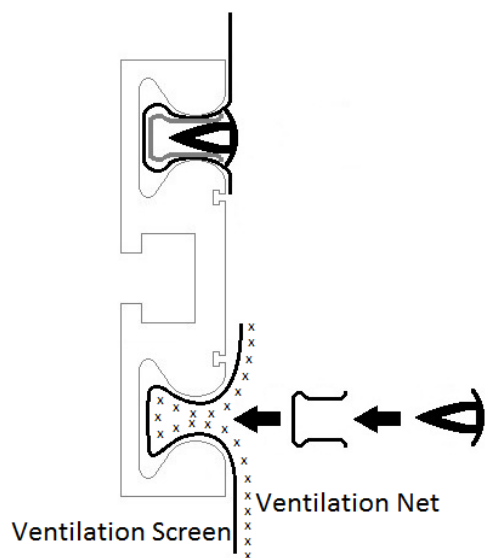
**\*\*\*Please Note: The rails at the ends of the tunnel (from hoop to door post)  
DO NOT require spacing out\*\*\***

After raising the side rail and fitting the cover, push the side rails back down to their original position. You can now bolt in place the verticals using the previously mentioned plates (**Fig84**).

Slide the gearbox into the track and insert a self drill screw approximately 5mm in from each end of the track to stop the gearbox from coming out (**Fig85**).



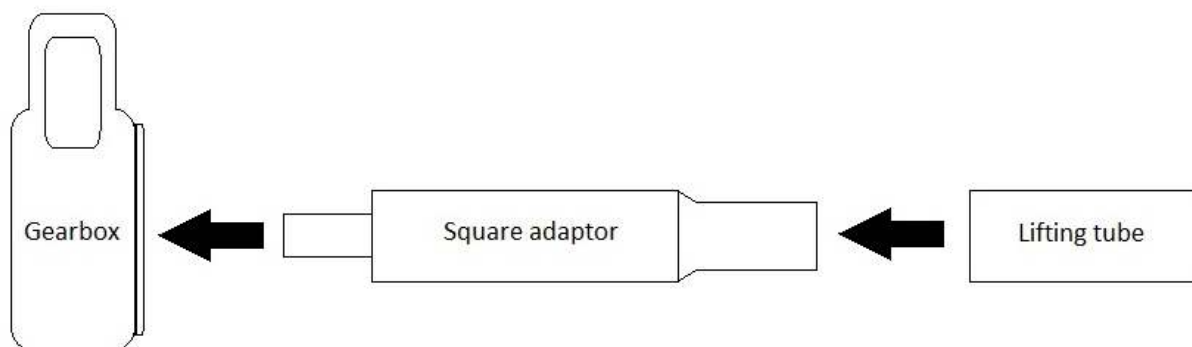
**Fig85**



**Fig86**

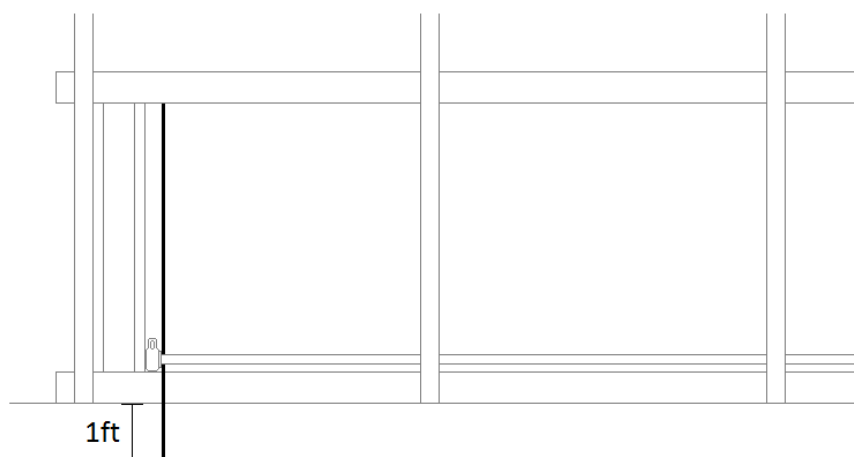
The ventilation screen and the ventilation net are both fixed into the bottom cover slot down the length of the side rail from vertical to vertical. The screen is to be placed in the slot first and then the net on top of it. Use the **BLACK** plastic 'U' profiles to fix these and NOT the grey profiles (**Fig86**). Insert plastic 'T' profiles into the 'U' profiles to secure.

Assemble the 28mm steel lifting tube as a complete length using the self drill screws with the square adaptor at the gearbox end (**Fig87**). Insert the adaptor into the gearbox and cut the tube to fit between the vertical timbers with a little room for movement. Place a plastic end cap in the opposite end to the gearbox to finish it off neatly. Slot the square adaptor into the gearbox with the steel lifting tube resting on the top of the base rail.



**Fig87**

Trim the polythene screen in line with the ends of the lifting tube and trim off the excess along the ground leaving approximately 1ft of overlap (**Fig88**).



**Fig88**

Wrap the excess screen around the lifting tube and clamp in place using the plastic 'C' Clips (**Fig89**). A 'C' Clip should be placed around the lifting tube at every hoop and in the centre of each bay.

Place the handle in the gearbox and wind the screen onto the lifting tube. If the screen does not roll up parallel, relocate the 'C' Clips around the tube until it rolls up correctly (**Fig90**).



**Fig89**



**Fig90**

Tension the ventilation net down to the base rails and out to the verticals, using **Grey** plastic 'U' profiles to fix in place. Insert a plastic 'T' profiles into all the 'U' profiles to secure them in place.

With your order you will also have received polythene infill panels for each corner. Using the **Grey** plastic 'U' profiles fit these panels into the bottom cover slot of the side rail from the door posts at each end of the tunnel out to and around the corner to the verticals. Insert a plastic 'T' profile into the 'U' profiles to secure.

Tension the panels down to the base rail and fit in place using a **GREY** plastic 'U' profile and 'T' profiles to secure.

Next tension the end panels out to the door posts and the verticals and fix in place, using batten for the door posts and 'U' profiles for the verticals (**Fig91**). Insert a 'T' profile into the 'U' profile on the vertical.



**Fig91**

## **VENTILATION SCREENS FOR TIMBER, ALUMINIUM COMBINATION**

Check List code of parts required: 28/1220PP – 28/1270PS – 5.5SDS – 28EC – HAND – WINKIT – CC – VFPA – 800TVK – 35SP – M8WASH – UPROF – TPROF – BUPROF – 193818BAT – 314TIM

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Tools required: Rubber hammer

In your 800TVK pack there is a 0.8m piece of timber with an 800mm aluminium track screwed in place – this 800mm length should be used to set the gap between the timber base rails and timber side rails.

**\*\*\*IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS GAP IS 800mm\*\*\***

This piece of timber and a similar piece without the track attached are the verticals which are placed between the base rail and side rail at each corner at a later stage.

When assembling the timber base/side rail it is necessary to space it out from the hoops to make room for the vent screen – this is done by placing a short spacer block of timber (supplied) between the rails and all hoops (side only, not on the ends) (**Fig92**).

On the timber base/side rail a plate (**Fig93**), should be placed behind the corner bracket on the end hoops only – if the plate is on the base rail it should point upwards and if on the side rail it should point downwards. The plate should be on the side of the polytunnel (not the end) and is used later to fix the vertical timbers.



**Fig92**



**Fig93**

When assembling the aluminium base/side rail it is necessary to space it out from the hoops to make room for the vent screen.

This is done by placing 35mm plastic spacers on every bolt between the fixings and the rails down the length of the tunnel (**Fig95**). The rails at the ends of the tunnel do not require spacing out.

Washers are placed either side of the spacers on the bolts (**Fig94**).

On the end hoops, a flat plate should be placed over the bolt, between the spacer and the corner bracket. The plate should be on the side of the polytunnel (not the end) and is used later to fix the verticals (**Fig95**). If the plate is on the base rail it should point upwards and if on the side rail it should point downwards.



**Fig94**



**Fig95**

Once the tunnel is covered and the side rail has been lowered back to its starting position you can now drill and bolt in place the vertical timbers at each corner of the tunnel using the previously mentioned plates (**Fig96**). The aluminium track is screwed to one edge of the timber – this edge of the timber should face down the length of the polytunnel.

**\*\*\*Don't forget to slide the gearbox mechanism into the track before fitting.\*\*\***



**Fig96**

Insert a self drill screw approximately 5mm in from each end of the track to stop the gearbox from coming out (**Fig97**).



**Fig97**

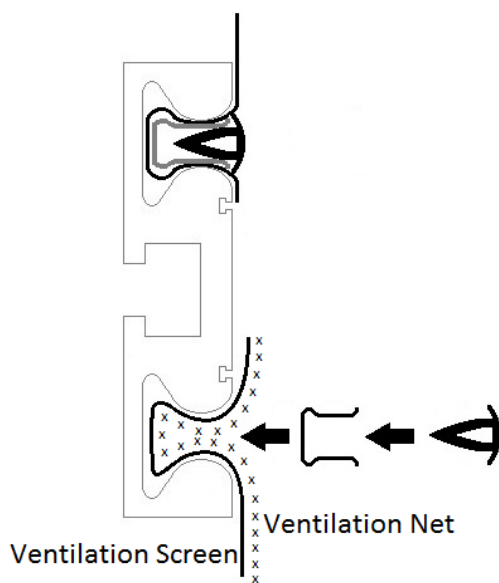
When using aluminium side rails, you must now fit your polythene infill panels into the bottom cover slot of the side rail. These should go from the door post out to and around the corner to the verticals. Use the **GREY** plastic 'U' profiles to fix the panels into the side rail (**Fig98**).



**Fig98**

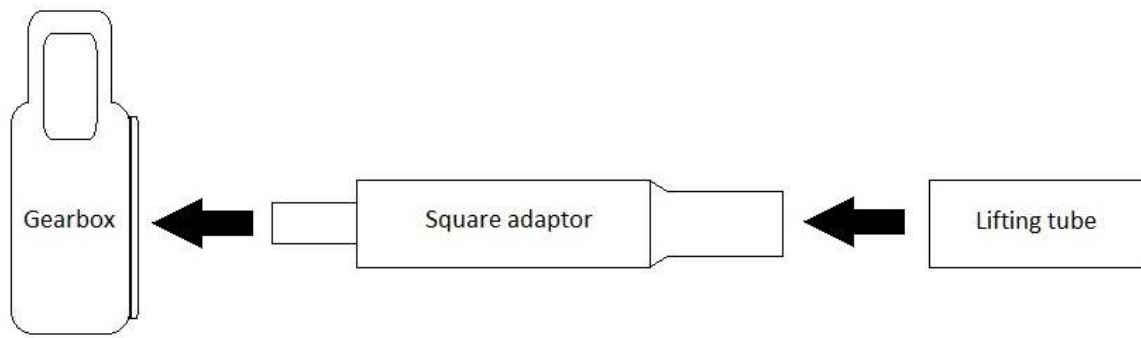
Next fix the ventilation screen and ventilation net into the bottom cover slot of the side rail, but only down the length of the tunnel from vertical to vertical. The screen is to be placed in the slot first and then the net on top of it. Use the **BLACK** plastic 'U' profiles to fix these and NOT the grey profiles (**Fig99**).

Once the infill panels, ventilation screen and ventilation net have been fixed with 'U' profiles, secure them by inserting plastic 'T' profiles into the 'U' profiles (**Fig99**).



**Fig99**

Assemble the 28mm steel lifting tube as a complete length using the self drill screws with the square adaptor at the gearbox end (**Fig100**). Cut this tube to fit between the verticals with a little room for movement. Place a plastic end cap in the opposite end to the gearbox to finish it off neatly (**Fig101**). Slot the square adaptor into the gearbox with the steel lifting tube resting on the top of the base rail.

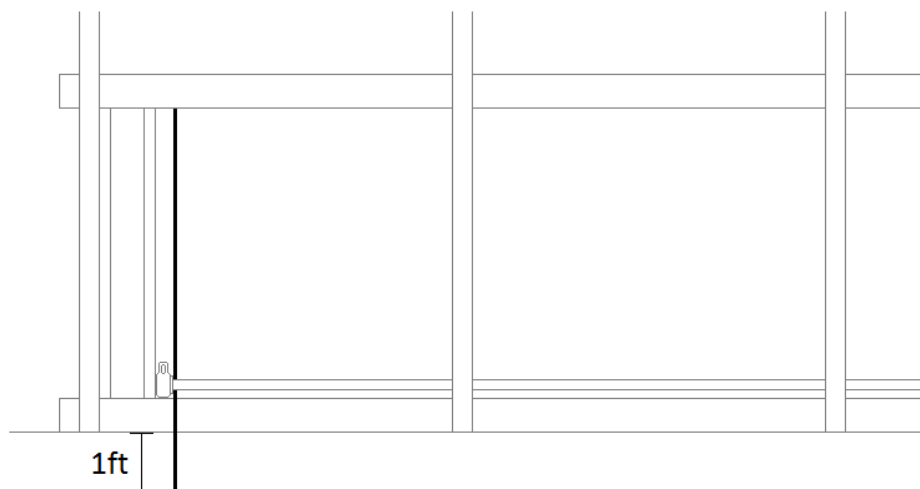


**Fig100**



**Fig101**

Trim the polythene screen in line with the ends of the lifting tube and trim off the excess along the ground leaving approximately 1ft of overlap (**Fig102**).



**Fig102**

Wrap the excess screen around the lifting tube and clamp in place using the plastic 'C' Clips (**Fig103**). A 'C' Clip should be placed around the lifting tube at every hoop and in the centre of each bay.

Place the handle in the gearbox and wind the screen onto the lifting tube. If the screen does not roll up parallel, relocate the 'C' Clips around the tube until it rolls up correctly (**Fig104**).



**Fig103**



**Fig104**

Tension the ventilation net and infill panels down to the base rail and depending on which base rail option you have chosen (timber or aluminium) either batten in place or fix using the **Grey 'U' and 'T' profiles**.

Next tension the net and infill panels out to the verticals and the door posts, and batten in place.

### **FORMING A REBATE FOR YOUR DOOR FRAME**

Check List code of parts required: 6DFK/SDFK (batten only) – 40NAIL

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

In order to fix the cover around the door frame and give it the necessary strength to remain held in position under extreme weather, it is trapped in a rebate which must be formed around the outside edge of the door frame with 19mm x 38mm battens.

Cut a piece of 19mm x 38mm timber batten to fit between the posts on the top of the lintel. It is important that the batten protrudes out from the frame by approximately 7mm as this forms the rebate around which the main cover will be trapped (**Fig105**).

Take two full 1.8m lengths of batten and nail these down the outside edge of the posts, with the top in line with the batten on the lintel (**Fig105**). These battens must also protrude beyond the frame to form a rebate.



**Fig105**



## **FINAL FIX**

Check List code of parts required: 5.5SDS

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Check the structure all around for alignment and the positioning of all the bars. If you are happy, check all the joints and 'P' Clips are tight and secured with a self drill screw (**Fig106 & Fig107**).

If there are any joins or 'P' Clips that aren't tightened or secured then do this now.

Keep all screws to the inside of the polytunnel, away from where the polythene cover may rub.

**\*\*\*The only joints that should not be secured at this stage are the hoops onto the foundations – these joints are secured once the cover has been completed and tensioned.\*\*\***



**Fig106**



**Fig107**

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## **ANTI HOT SPOT TAPE**

Check List code of parts required: 19AHST

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

This is a self adhesive foam tape which is placed over each hoop.

Anti Hot Spot Tape should be used just prior to covering your polytunnel.

This tape should be placed over each hoop from ground to ground or to the top of the Side Rail.

On the end hoops the tape should be placed at a 45-degree angle on the corner of the hoop in order to protect the polythene cover as it stretches around the hoop to the door frame.



## COVERING THE POLYTUNNEL

### Timber base rail option:

Check List code of parts required: 600TAD/720TAD – 193818BAT – 6DFK/SDFK (batten only) – 6END/6HEND (batten only) – 40NAIL

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

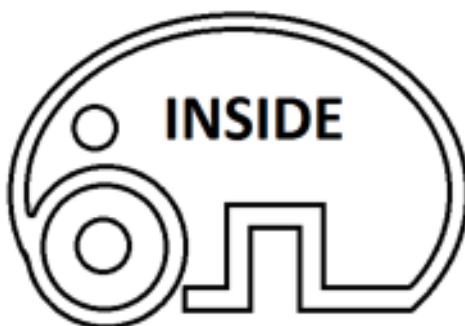
**\*\*\*TOP TIP:** Nail any battens up prior to covering the polytunnel as this will speed up the job of getting the cover secure before any gusts of wind arise. **Do not allow the point of the nails to protrude through the batten.**

On any sides where base rails are being used without side rails, loosen the clamps holding the base rail to the hoops. Raise the base rails by 1½ - 2 inches and retighten the clamps, securing the 'P' Clips with a self drill screw.

Roll the cover out along the side of the polytunnel after checking and clearing the ground of sharp objects.

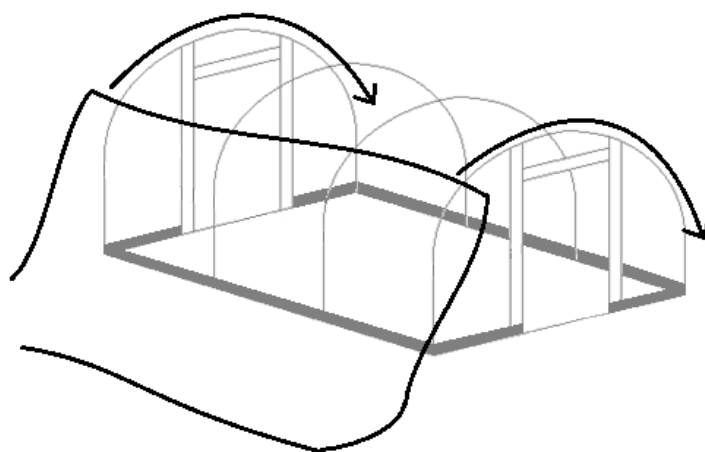
**ONLY ROLL OUT YOUR COVER ON A CALM DAY AS YOU ARE EFFECTIVELY OPENING A LARGE SAIL.**

This Thermal Anti Drip polythene must be placed with the Anti Drip side facing inside the polytunnel. The word "INSIDE" is written within the elephant logo and you should be able to read this when stood inside the polytunnel (**Fig108**).



**Fig108**

With one person at each end, hold the edge of the sheet which, when pulled over the framework, will ensure the correct side of the polythene is on the inside of the polytunnel. Stretch the sheet tight along the length of the polytunnel and walk to the opposite side of the structure, taking the sheet over the framework and being careful not to snag the sheet on any protrusions (**Fig109**).



**Fig109**

The polythene is very strong and resistant to tearing so don't be afraid to pull it as hard as you can, but it is advisable to grip the polythene only around the edges as in the event of damage this area will be trimmed off.

Centralise the sheet along the width and length of the polytunnel – You will find that the sheet will not reach to the ground at the ends, but this is correct and there is no need to worry (**Fig110**).



**Fig110**

- **STEP 1:** Cut a 19mm x 38mm batten to fit across the top of the door frame and end frame between the outer battens that form the rebate. Starting at one end of the polytunnel, trap the polythene with this batten pressed tight against the rebate batten. The polythene should be smoothed out 4 inches either side of the lintel centre and the batten nailed in place along this 8 inch length only (**Fig111**).



**Fig111**

At the opposite end of the polytunnel the same method of fixing should be used, but this time the polythene should be pulled along the length of the polytunnel as tight as possible before nailing the batten in position.

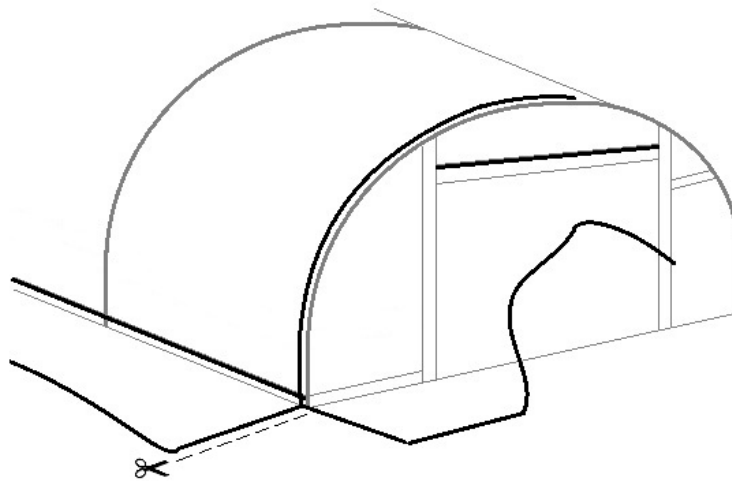
- **STEP 2:** Tension the polythene down to the base rail on one side, starting in the middle – This is best done with one person at a hoop either side of centre. Do not over tension, but when the cover is smooth from the ridge down to the base rail batten the cover to the rail tight up to the rebate. Using this method, work your way out to the ends.  
Repeat this on the second side but this time get as much tension as possible into the cover (**Fig 112**).

**\*\*\*Make sure to pull the cover along the length of the tunnel as well as down to the base rail – this will mean the cover will not dip between the hoops too much.\*\*\***



**Fig112**

- **STEP 3:** With just the four corners and the door frames left, it will now be necessary to cut the polythene at the corners, but **ONLY** below the base/side rails, to allow the cover to come smoothly around the ends (**Fig113**). It is important that the cover is cut in line with the end of the tunnel, **NOT** the length.



**Fig113**

- **STEP 4:** Starting at the lintel, grip the polythene and, while pulling tightly, twist the wrist to create a selection of pleats working out to the Door Post, nailing the batten as you go (**Fig114**). Repeat this same method down each door post (**Fig115**).



**Fig114**



**Fig115**

You should have run out of pleats by the time you reach the level of the straight side after which the polythene should form a smooth flat panel (**Fig116**).

Tension the cover down to the base rails at each corner and fix with a batten.



**Fig116**

- **STEP 4:** Loosen the clamps holding the base rails to the hoops and push them back down to ground level. Retighten the clamp and secure the 'P' Clips with a self drill screw.

Now the cover has been tensioned and the clamps have been retightened and secured it is **IMPORTANT** to secure the hoops to the foundation tubes using a self drill screw located approximately 2cm away from the joint (this joint may have already been secured along with one of the 'P' Clips holding the base rails).

Trim off the excess polythene around the outside of the polytunnel (**Fig117**).



**Fig117**

## COVERING THE POLYTUNNEL

### Timber side rail option:

Check List code of parts required: 600TAD/720TAD – 193818BAT – 6DFK/SDFK (batten only) – 6END/6HEND (batten only) – 40NAIL

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

The clamps holding the timber side rails to the hoops should be loosened and the side rail raised by 1½ - 2 inches. Retighten the clamps and secure the 'P' Clips with a self drill screw. Do the same with the base rails on any sides of the polytunnel where side rails aren't used.

Cover the polytunnel using exactly the same method as for timber base rails (**page 46**) but fix to the timber side rail. Once the cover is fitted, loosen the clamps holding the side rail to the hoops and push the side rail base down to its starting position. Retighten the clamps and secure the 'P' Clips with a self drill screw (**Fig118**).



**Fig118**

Now the cover has been tensioned and the clamps have been retightened and secured it is **IMPORTANT** to secure the hoops to the foundation tubes using a self drill screw located approximately 2cm away from the joint (this joint may have already been secured along with one of the 'P' Clips holding the base rails).

Trim off the excess polythene around the outside of the polytunnel (**Fig119**).



**Fig119**

**\*\*\*When a side ventilation screen is being used please see either the 'Ventilation Screen for Timber Base and Side Rails' section on page 31 or the 'Ventilation Screen for Timber / Aluminium Combination' on page 40 (depending on which options have been chosen), to see how to fix your netting and infill panels.\*\*\***

Tension the ventilation net down to the base rail and depending on which base rail option you have chosen (timber or aluminium) either batten in place or fix using the **GREY 'U' and 'T' profiles (Fig120)**.

Next tension the net out to the door posts, and batten in place.



**Fig120**

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## **COVERING THE POLYTUNNEL**

### **Aluminium base rail option:**

Check List code of parts required: 600TAD/720TAD – UPROF – TPROF – 6DFK/SDFK (batten only) – 6END/6HEND (batten only) – 40NAIL

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Tools required: Rubber hammer

**\*\*\*TOP TIP:** Nail any battens up prior to covering the polytunnel as this will speed up the job of getting the cover secure before any gusts of wind arise. **Do not allow the point of the nails to protrude through the batten.**

On any sides where base rails are being used without side rails, loosen the clamps holding the base rail to the hoops. Raise the base rails by 1½ - 2 inches and retighten the clamps, securing the 'P' Clips with a self drill screw.

Roll the cover out along the side of the polytunnel after checking and clearing the ground of sharp objects.

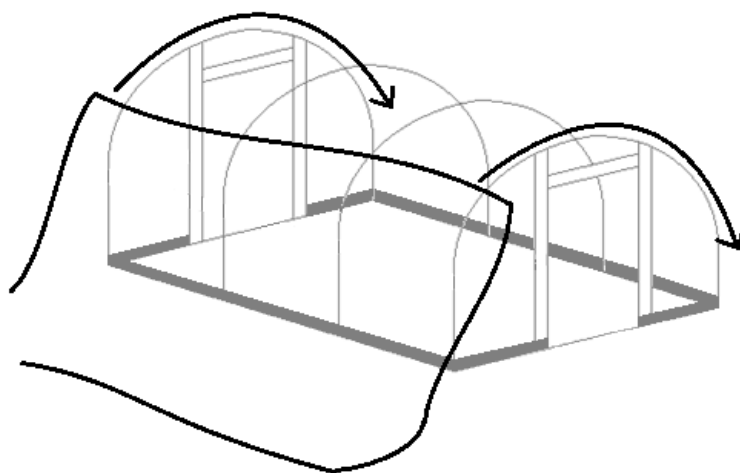
**ONLY ROLL OUT YOUR COVER ON A CALM DAY AS YOU ARE EFFECTIVELY OPENING A LARGE SAIL.**

This Thermal Anti Drip polythene must be placed with the Anti Drip side facing inside the polytunnel. The word "INSIDE" is written within the elephant logo and you should be able to read this when stood inside the Polyunnel (**Fig121**).



**Fig121**

With one person at each end, hold the edge of the sheet which, when pulled over the framework, will ensure the correct side of the polythene is on the inside of the polytunnel. Stretch the sheet tight along the length of the polytunnel and walk to the opposite side of the structure, taking the sheet over the framework and being careful not to snag the sheet on any protrusions (**Fig122**).



**Fig122**

The polythene is very strong and resistant to tearing so don't be afraid to pull it as hard as you can, but it is advisable to grip the polythene only around the edges as in the event of damage this area will be trimmed off.

Centralise the sheet along the width and length of the polytunnel – You will find that the sheet will not reach to the ground at the ends, but this is correct and there is no need to worry (**Fig123**).



**Fig123**

- **STEP 1:** Cut a 19mm x 38mm batten to fit across the top of the door frame and end frame between the outer battens that form the rebate. Starting at one end of the polytunnel, trap the polythene with this batten pressed tight against the rebate batten. The polythene should be smoothed out 4 inches either side of the lintel centre and the batten nailed in place along this 8 inch length only (**Fig124**).



**Fig124**

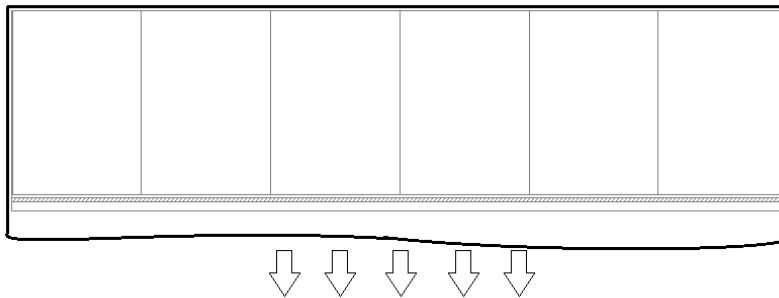
At the opposite end of the polytunnel the same method of fixing should be used, but this time the polythene should be pulled along the length of the polytunnel as tight as possible before nailing the batten in position.



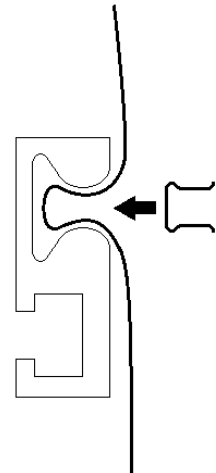
- **STEP 2:** Tension the polythene down to the base rail on one side starting in the middle – This is best done with one person at a hoop either side of centre (**Fig125**). Do not over tension, but when the cover is smooth from the ridge down to the rail, insert one of the plastic 'U' profiles into the cover slot on the rail (**Fig126**). A rubber hammer is preferred for this job as standard metal ones may crack the plastic profile.

Work your way out to the ends using this method.

Once the cover has been fitted with 'U' profiles down the full length of the polytunnel, insert plastic 'T' profiles into the 'U' profiles to secure in place.



**Fig125**



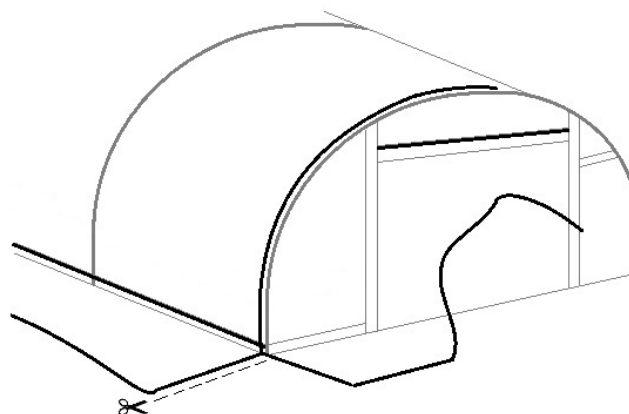
**Fig126**

Repeat this operation on the opposite side of the polytunnel, starting in the middle and working out – only this time get as much tension into the cover as possible. It is acceptable to grip the cover below the base/side rails to achieve the correct tension.

**\*\*\*Make sure to pull the cover along the length of the tunnel as well as down to the base rail – this will mean the cover will not dip between the hoops too much.\*\*\***

**\*\*\*It is useful to push the cover into the cover slot before inserting the plastic 'U' profile as it eliminates the chance of slicing the cover.\*\*\***

- **STEP 3:** With just the four corners and door posts left, it will now be necessary to cut the polythene at the corners, but **ONLY** below the base rails, to allow the cover to come smoothly around the ends (**Fig127**). It is important that the cover is cut in line with the end of the tunnel, **NOT** the length.



**Fig127**

- **STEP 3:** Starting at the lintel, grip the polythene and, while pulling tightly, twist the wrist to create a selection of pleats working out to the Door Post, nailing the batten as you go (**Fig128**). Repeat this same method down each door post (**Fig129**).



**Fig128**



**Fig129**

You should have run out of pleats by the time you reach the level of the straight side after which the polythene should form a smooth flat panel (**Fig130**).

Tension the cover down to the base rails at each corner and fix with 'U' and 'T' profiles.



**Fig130**

- **STEP 4:** Loosen the clamps holding the base rails to the hoops and push them back down to ground level. Retighten the clamp and secure the 'P' Clips with a self drill screw.

Now the cover has been tensioned and the clamps have been retightened and secured it is **IMPORTANT** to secure the hoops to the foundation tubes using a self drill screw located approximately 2cm away from the joint (this joint may have already been secured along with one of the 'P' Clips holding the base rails).

Trim off the excess polythene around the outside of the polytunnel (**Fig131**).



**Fig131**

## COVERING THE POLYTUNNEL

### Aluminium side rail option:

Check List code of parts required: 600TAD/720TAD – 40NAIL – DDFK/SSDFK (batten only) – END/HEND (batten only) – UPROF – TPROF

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

Tools required: Rubber hammer

The clamps holding the aluminium side rails to the hoops should be loosened and the side rail raised by 1½ - 2 inches. Retighten the clamps and secure the 'P' Clips with a self drill screw. Do the same with the base rails on any sides of the polytunnel where side rails aren't used.

Cover the polytunnel using exactly the same method as for aluminium base rails (**page 51**) but fix to the aluminium side rail.

Once the cover is fitted, loosen the clamps holding the side rail to the hoops and push the side rail base down to its starting position. Retighten the clamps and secure the 'P' Clips with a self drill screw (**Fig132**).



**Fig132**

Now the cover has been tensioned and the clamps have been retightened and secured it is **IMPORTANT** to secure the hoops to the foundation tubes using a self drill screw located approximately 2cm away from the joint (this joint may have already been secured along with one of the 'P' Clips holding the base rails).

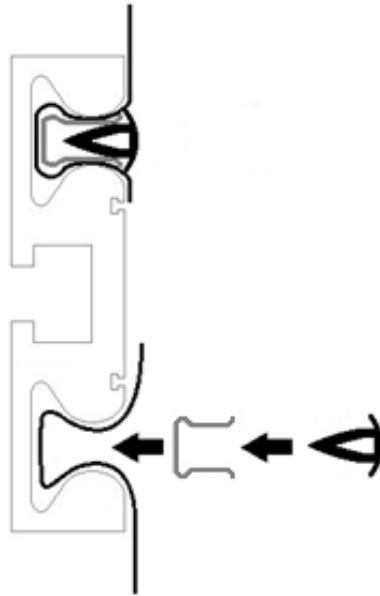
Trim off the excess polythene around the outside of the polytunnel (**Fig133**).



**Fig133**

**\*\*\*When a side ventilation screen is being used please see either 'Ventilation Screen for Aluminium Base and Side Rails' section on page 37 or 'Ventilation Screen for Timber / Aluminium Combination' on page 40 (depending on which options have been chosen) to see how to fix your netting and infill panels.\*\*\***

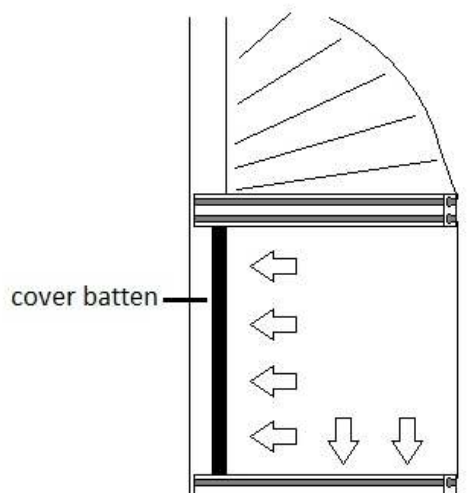
Fix the ventilation net into the lower cover slot of the Side Rail, using **Grey 'U' and 'T' profiles**; from door post to door post (**Fig134**).



**Fig134**

Tension the ventilation net down to the base rail and depending on which base rail option you have chosen (timber or aluminium) either batten in place or fix using the **Grey 'U' and 'T' profiles**.

Next tension the net out to the door posts, and batten in place (**Fig135**). Trim off any excess.



**Fig135**

## SLIDING DOOR ASSEMBLY

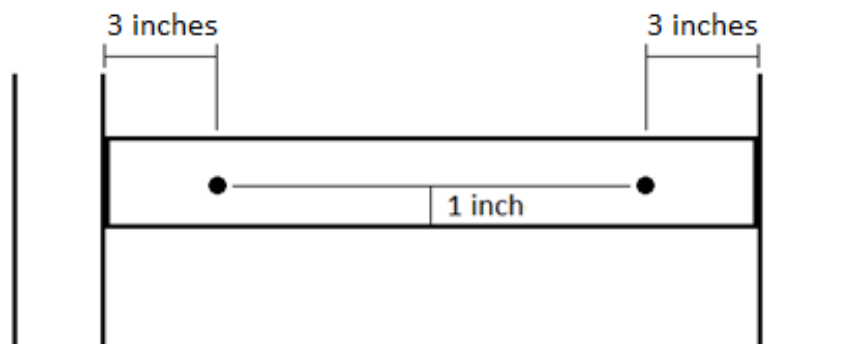
Check List code of parts required for polytunnels on soft ground: 1530AT – 28/500PP – DRK – STKIT – DB – TINFIL – SDF (screw in eyes only)

Check List code of parts required for polytunnels on hard standing ground: 1530AT – 28BP – 8LB – DRK – STKIT – DB – TINFIL – SDF (screw in eyes only)

Please use the Parts Check List supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the different parts of your polytunnel and confirm the quantities.

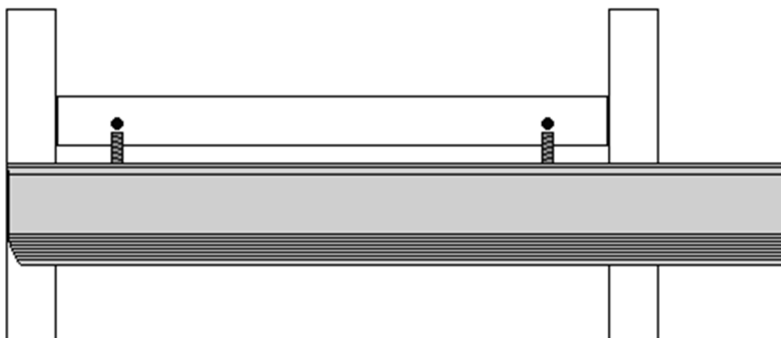
After completing and covering your polytunnel you can assemble the sliding door system.

Measure 1 inch up from the bottom edge of the door frame lintel and drill two 9mm holes through the timber batten and the face of the lintel approximately 4 inches in from each post (**Fig136**).



**Fig136**

Next, slide two 8mm x 80mm hexagon bolts into the 'T' slot on the back of the door track. Position these bolts in line with the holes drilled in the lintel and push into position (**Fig137**). Adjust as necessary so that the edge of the track is in line with the outside edge of the door post which will hold the drop bolt when the door is closed.



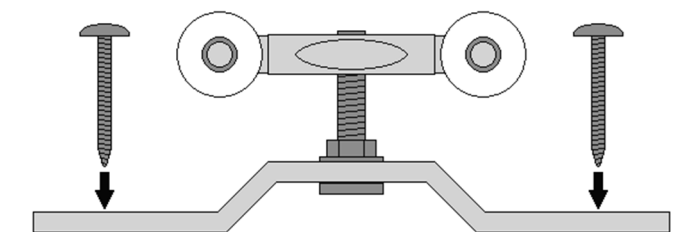
**Fig137**

Place a washer and nut on the bolts and tighten (**Fig138**).



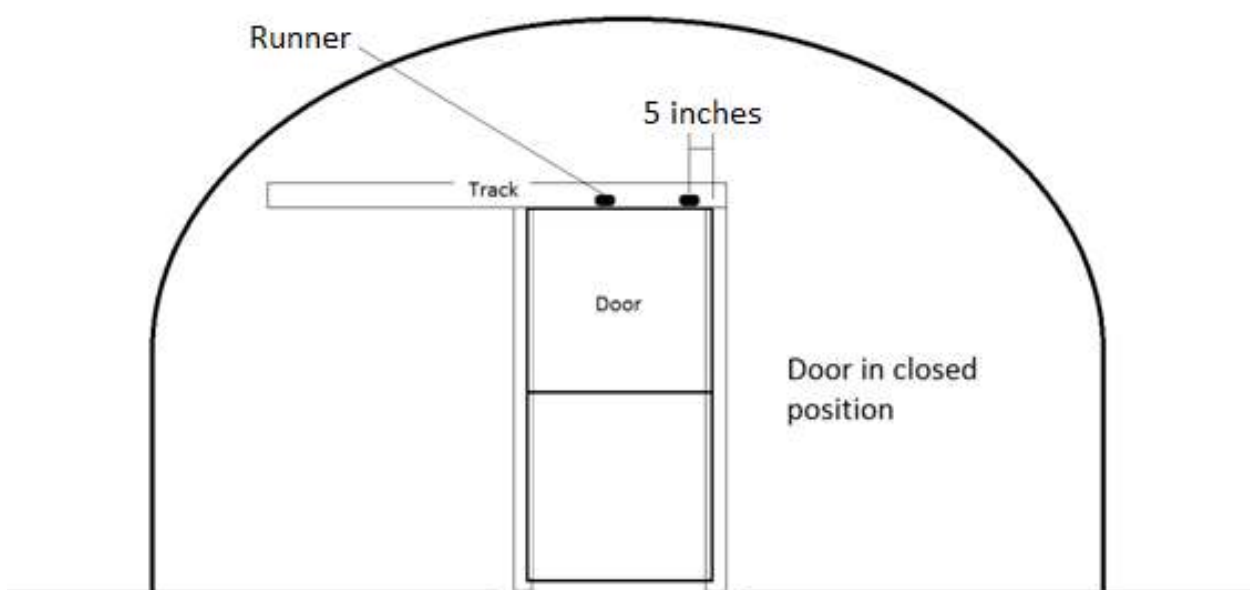
**Fig138**

Having pre-assembled your door and covered it with net and polythene, you now need to screw the first runner (wheel) in position on the top edge of the door (**Fig139**) – this is the end of the door that is covered in net.



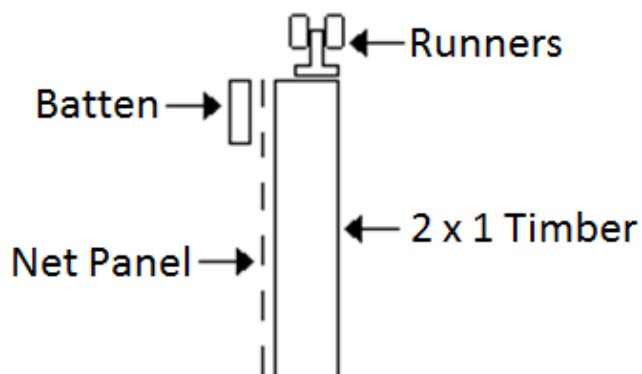
**Fig139**

The first runner should be screw onto the door 5 inches away from the side where a catch would usually be fitted on hinged doors (**Fig140**).



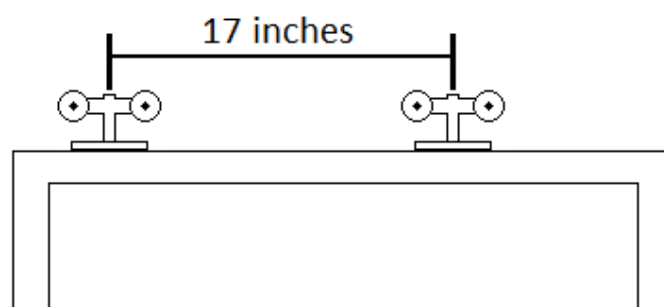
**Fig140**

The runner should be placed up to the **inside** edge of the door. (Please note; the **outside** edge is where the battens holding the net panel are fixed) – (**Fig141**).



**Fig141**

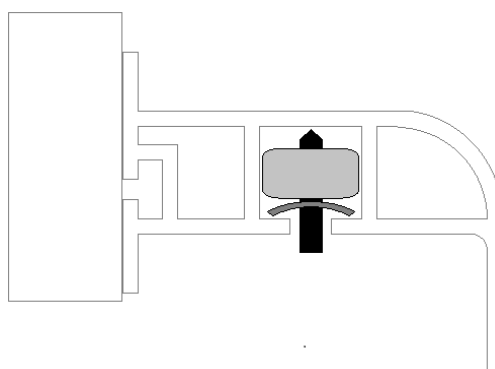
The second runner should be placed 17 inches apart from the first runner (**Fig142**), and should be placed up to the inside edge of the door again.



**Fig142**

Slide the door into the track with the battens facing outwards. Adjust the runners up or down on the threaded bolts until the door sits square to the door frame.

Assemble and insert a door stop into each end of the track (**Fig143**) – leave these loose in the track for the time being.



**Fig143**

When you are happy that the stops are in the right position so that the door will not open or close too far, you can now tighten the stops to lock in place.

Insert the plastic finishing end caps into the ends of the track to round off the sharp corners (**Fig144**).



**Fig144**

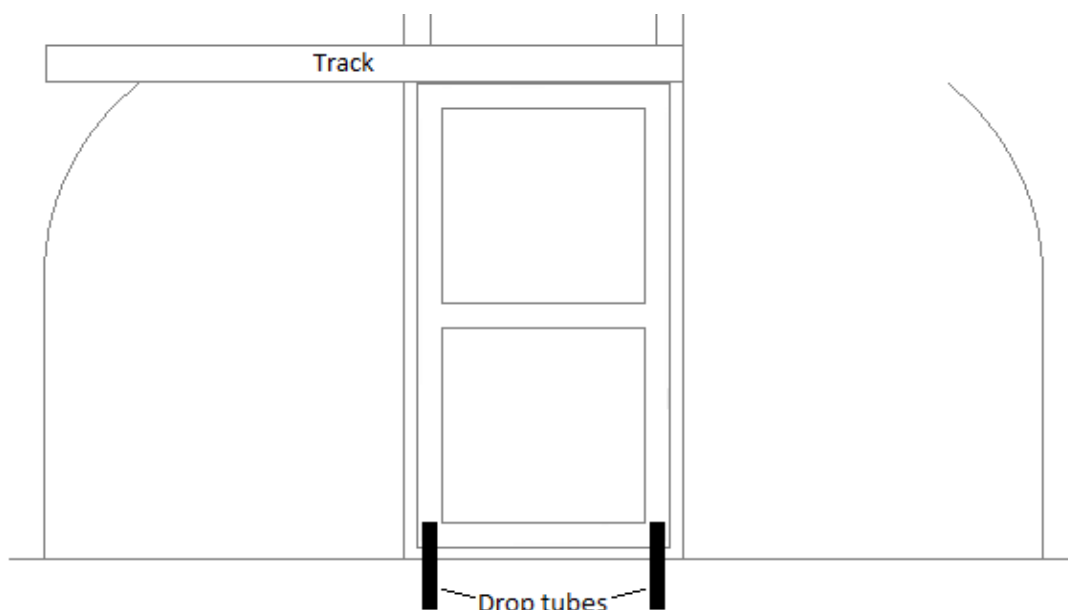
When the door is in the closed position it should overlap each door post equally – approx 1 inch.

Drive a 500mm long tube (supplied) into the ground at each end of the door to stop it from swinging out away from the polytunnel (**Fig145**).



**Fig145**

With the door in the closed position, these drop tubes should be positioned in line with the outer edge of the door face (**Fig146**).

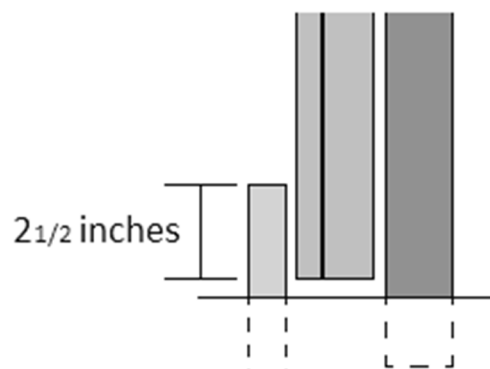


**Fig146**

The two drop tubes should be left protruding from the ground so that they overlap the doors by 2½ inches (**Fig147**).

Ensure you position these drop tubes slightly away from the door in order for it to slide freely between the polytunnel and the drop tubes.

**Please Note:** When the tunnel is being placed on to hard standing all sliding door drop tubes are replaced with base plates. These should be fitted in the same way as 'Base Plates' on page 8.

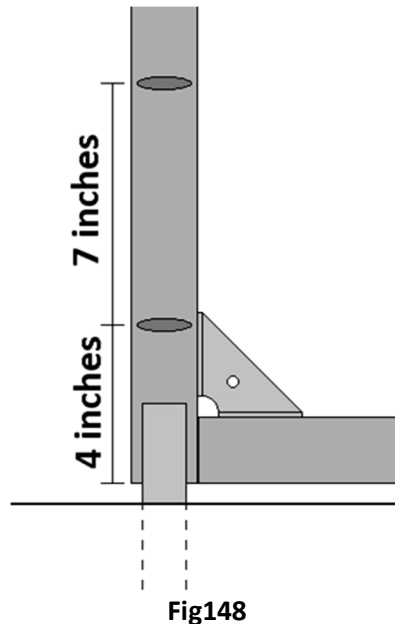


**Fig147**



A drop bolt is supplied with a single sliding door. This acts as a door catch.

There are two screw-in eyes for the drop bolt – the first of these ‘eyes’ should be screwed into the batten at the bottom corner of the door (on the side of the door where a catch would usually be fitted to lock/hold the door closed) in line with the drop tube approximately 4 inches up from the bottom edge of the door. The second ‘eye’ should be screwed approximately 7 inches higher than the first (**Fig148**).



Drop the bolt through the ‘eyes’ and into the drop tube – this will hold the door shut (**Fig149**).  
Open the door and drop the bolt into the other drop tube to hold the door open (**Fig150**).

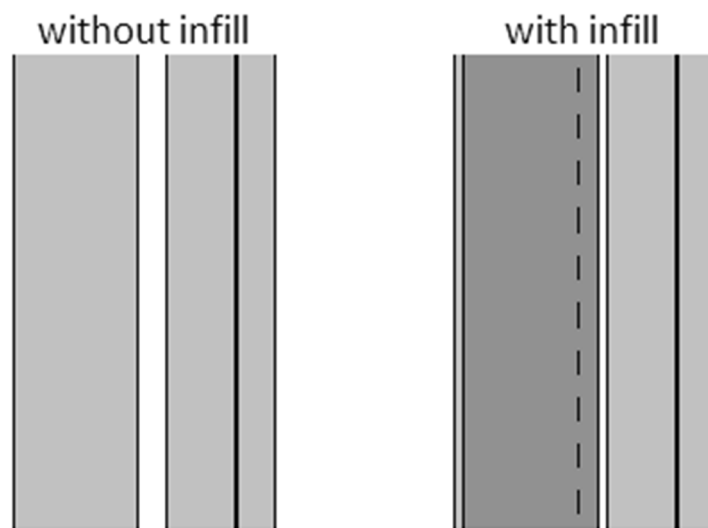


Two timber infills are supplied with each sliding door frame. These are nailed to the inside of the door posts and fill the gap between the frame and the door (**Fig151**).

**Please note; At no point should they come in contact with the door as this would stop it from sliding smoothly.**



**Fig151**



**Well done! You are now ready to begin growing and relaxing in your Premier Polytunnel!**

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