



The Outside, **Inside**

CONSTRUCTION GUIDE

Premier Cloche

Thank you for purchasing a 'Premier' Cloche.

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

The following is a Guide to the successful construction of your cloche. Please use the **Checklist** supplied with your order, together with this Guide, to help you identify the individual parts of your cloche.

If you are unsure or confused about any aspect of assembly, please feel free to contact us via e-mail at info@premierpolytunnels.co.uk or by telephone on 01282 811250.

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

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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 Premier Cloche:

Tape Measure
Battery Drill
Sharp Knife

Claw Hammer
9mm Drill Bit

2 x 13mm Spanner
4mm Drill Bit

Marker pen
Wood Saw

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 cloche.

An oblong box made from timber forms the base of the cloche.

Steel hoops are equally spaced along the length of the box.

A steel ridge bar is suspended under the hoops at the centre point and runs the full length of the cloche.

Polythene, Shade Net, or Anti Bird Net is placed over the framework and battened in place around the timber base.

Where two steel tubes connect a simple fixing method using two ‘**P Clips**’ is always necessary.

The images below demonstrate the use of **P Clips**.



*****IMPORTANT! When assembling your cloche, no bolts, ends of steel tubes, etc, should protrude beyond the cloche hoops as these will cause damage to your cover.*****

CONSTRUCTION OF TIMBER BASE

You have been supplied with enough 3-inch x 1-inch timber to form an oblong box.

The two end timber rails are pre-cut at 1283mm long.

The side timber rails on **6ft long and 12ft long cloches** are also supplied cut to length. On **8ft long and 10ft long cloches** one of the 1800mm side timber rails will need to be cut to length.

The end timber rails should always overlap the side timber rails – In other words the side timbers should fit inside the end timbers (**Fig1**). If you need to cut the side timbers (on 8ft long and 10ft long cloches), the length of the cloche should be measured overall including the end timbers. Use a 6-inch off cut of this timber to cross the joint on the side timbers on the inside and nail in place (**Fig2**). (Please Note: These timber off cuts are supplied separate on 12ft long cloches).

With the end timber rails and side timber rails stood on their edge nail the four corners using a 3-inch nail. It is advisable to pre-drill the end timber rail with approximately a 4mm drill to avoid splitting the timber (try and get the nail in the centre, 1½-inch from each edge). (**Fig3 and Fig4**).

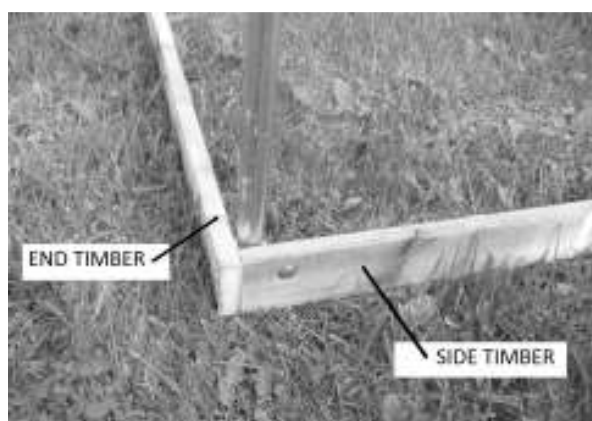


Fig1



Fig2



Fig3



Fig4

ASSEMBLING THE HOOPS

*****BE AWARE:** Different lengths of cloche have different hoop spacings.

- 6ft long cloches have 6ft hoop spacings (2 hoops)
- 8ft long and 12ft long cloches have 4ft hoop spacings (3 and 4 hoops)
- 10ft long cloches have 5ft hoop spacing (3 hoops)

The cloche hoops are supplied in 2 halves (one plain and one swaged) which slot together.

*****Please Note: Make sure the halve hoops with the plain end are all positioned on the same side of the timber base.*****

Stand a complete hoop inside the timber frame at each end. To secure the timber to the hoop 28mm 'P' Clips are used. At the corners two 'P' Clips are required – one which bolts to the bottom edge of the side timber rail and one which bolts to the top edge of the end timber rail. With the bottom of the hoop in line with the bottom edge of the base, mark the position of the holes through the 'P' Clip and drill through the timber with a 9mm drill. Bolt both 'P' Clips in place with a 40mm cup square bolt (**Fig5**).

For cloches greater than 6ft long, measure along the side timber rails and place a mark at the required hoop spacings. Position a hoop on this mark with a 'P' Clip bolted through the centre of the side timber rail (**Fig6 and Fig7**).



Fig5



Fig6



Fig7

ASSEMBLING THE RIDGE

With all the hoops in position it is now time to assemble the ridge. This will be one or more straight pieces of steel tube which slot together.

Place the ridge under the hoops using two 'P' Clips. Position the first 'P' Clip on the plain half of the hoop just next to the joint. Position the second 'P' Clip so that when the ridge is in place the centre of the ridge bar is in line with the joint on the hoops (**Fig8**).

The ridge should not protrude beyond the end hoops, but should be in line with the outside of them. Place a plastic end cap in each end of the ridge (**Fig9**).

Before tightening the centre hoops to the ridge, check the spacing.

All steel tube joints and 'P' Clips should now be secured with a self drill screw. Place the head of the screw in a drill chuck – These screws will drill their own hole and tap themselves into position. 'P' Clips have a choice of three holes to drill through which are designed to help with location. If you need to drill on a ridge joint a centre punch will help with getting the drill started, although this is not necessary. The joint in the cloche hoops will be secured at the same time as the 'P' Clip (**Fig10**).



Fig8



Fig9

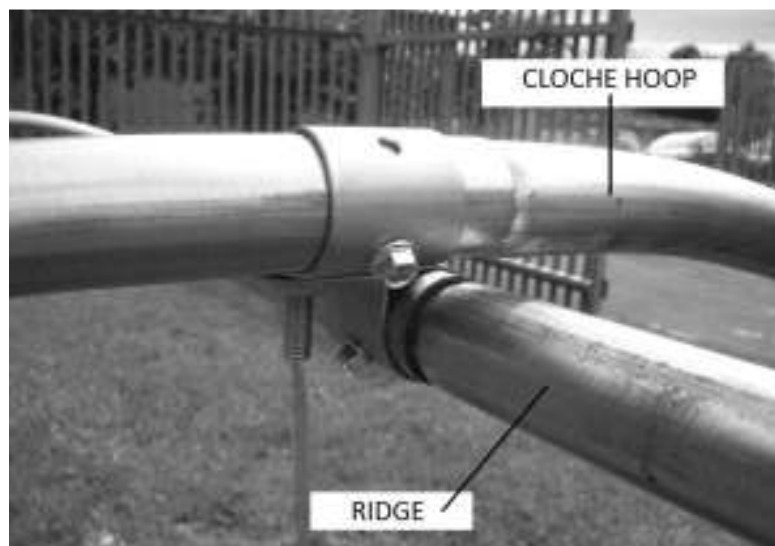


Fig10 – Cloche Hoop and Ridge joints secured with 'P' Clips (using the double 'P' Clips method) and Self Drill Screws.

FITTING THE COVER

*****Please Note: Whether you have chosen a Polythene cover, a Shade Net cover, or an Anti Bird Net cover, the fitting method is the same.*****

Open the cover out and drape it over the frame, centralising it in both directions (**Fig11**). Lightly stretch the cover along the length on one side at base level. Tack the cover in position along the side timber rail – A staple gun comes in handy here (**Fig12**). Tension the cover over the frame and tack on the opposite side. Pull the cover over the end hoop in the centre and tack in position in the centre of the end timber rail. Repeat this at the other end. At all four corners, cut the cover up to the corners of the timber base rail to allow the cover to come smoothly around the ends (**Fig13**). Pull the cover over the end hoop and fold in large pleats from the corner to the centre (**Fig14**). By pulling at different tensions and adjusting the angle of pull you should be able to get a smooth, tight finish from side to side over the cloche.

*****Please Note: It is easy to over tension Anti Bird Net and pull it out of shape, therefore take care when stretching so as to not pull the holes too far out of being a square.*****

The final fixing of the cover is to nail a timber batten around the outside of the timber base, which traps the cover in position. Nails should be placed approximately 4-inch apart (**Fig15**). Trim off the excess material with a sharp knife.



Fig11



Fig12

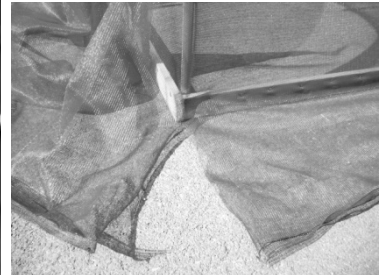


Fig13



Fig14



Fig15

FITTING THE EXTENSION LEGS

The extension legs attach to one of the bolts on two corners of the cloche's timber base. These corners should be on the same side/end of the cloche (**Fig16**).

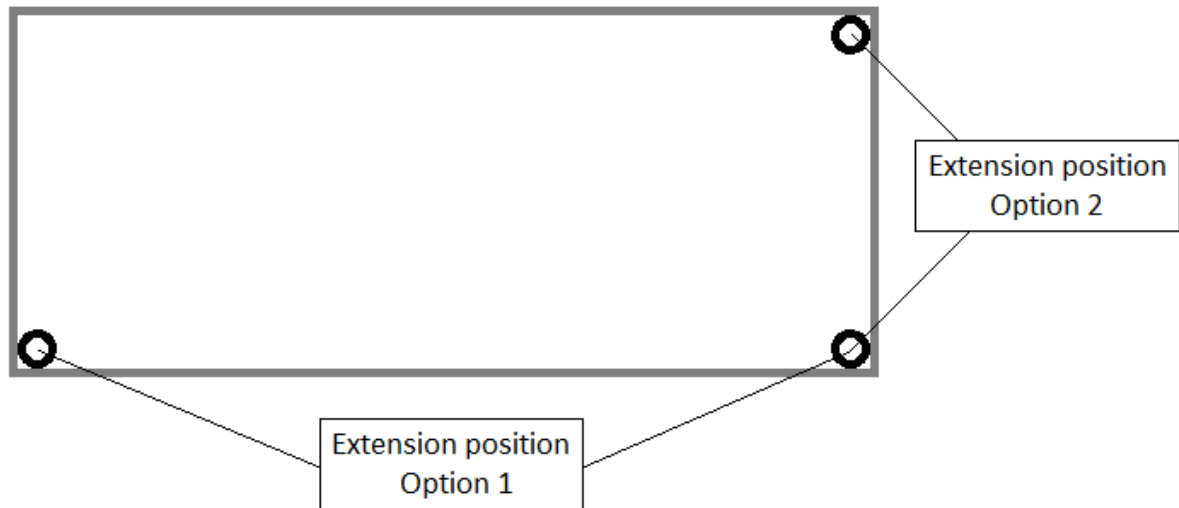


Fig16

A second nut should be tightened up to the existing one on the two chosen bolts (**Fig17**). This nut will act as a spacer for the extension leg.



Fig17

The flattened and pressed end of the extension leg should be slid onto the bolt connecting the timber base to the corner P Clip. These legs are fixed onto the bolt using the M8 Nyloc Nuts provided **(Fig18)**. Be careful not to over tighten the nut onto the bolt as this will trap the extension leg and prevent it from rotating easily.



Fig18

Finally insert a plastic end cap into the ends of the extension legs.

Well done! You are now ready to begin growing under your 'Premier' Cloche!