

Digitalis Dome Instructions

How to use your portable inflatable dome.

Version 2.5, November 20, 2018

SAFETY WARNINGS

- **For indoor use only.** The dome is not weather proof. It is also lightweight and could blow around, harming your audience or equipment.
- **Always use with adult supervision.**
- **Do not let children play on or near the dome.**
- There is a **danger of suffocation** if someone should become trapped in a deflated dome. Understand and practice emergency evacuation as outlined below.
- **Do not use near sources of heat or flame.** While the fabric is fire retardant, it can still be damaged.
- **Check your local fire regulations for requirements.** Some jurisdictions may require permits or use under overhead sprinklers.
- **Be careful where you locate your fan** so as not to suck any potentially hazardous materials into the dome such as gases or dust. **Keep children away from the fan.**
- **Take care when lifting or moving the dome as it is relatively heavy.**

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Should you need to exit the dome quickly you have two options:

- A) Lift the side of the dome opposite the fan and push it up over your head toward the opposite side. The dome will float over the audience into a pile on the opposite side.



 **Be sure to practice this technique before you take audiences in the dome!**

- B) Ask everyone to lift and calmly crawl out under the edges of the dome at any location except near the fan and fan tube.

OVERVIEW

A Digitalis inflatable dome provides a low cost, flexible option for planetarium shows. The dome is inflated by a high velocity industrial floor fan, which continually blows fresh air through the dome. Usually the audience will sit directly on the floor, although seats can be used if your projection system is high enough.


Your Digitalis dome is constructed from a single layer of our own proprietary NoLux™ fabric. This fabric consists of six distinct layers for opaqueness and durability. The fabric is matte to reduce wrinkle visibility, and gray for darker black levels from digital projectors.



Exclusive StayFLATE™ technology keeps the dome inflated even with the door open, and prevents rapid deflation in case of power loss.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- **PROTECT FROM FREEZING.** Do not store or use your dome at temperatures near or below freezing. The fabric layers can freeze and rip apart or degrade if frozen, especially if handled.
- **Treat the fabric gently.** Always use two hands when arranging the dome and do not put excessive force on the seams. Never pull on a vent cover, zipper cover, or the zenith area (top of the dome).
- For longer fabric life, limit walking or sitting on the fabric of the dome.
- Make sure the floor in your setup area is clean and free of sharp objects.
- To clean dust off the dome, use a brush or gently vacuum with a soft upholstery attachment.
- To clean stains use a slightly damp sponge, ideally before any stain has time to dry.
- **If wet, dry completely before packing.** Trapped moisture can lead to mold or mildew problems.
- If you discover any tears or rips it is best to repair these immediately so that they do not grow further. Some seams are sewn, while others use an adhesive instead of stitches. Sewn seams can be repaired with a sewing machine and number 69 bonded nylon thread. Tears or punctures can be covered with an adhesive patch.

 **A repair kit is included in the pocket of your dome duffel bag.** Please consult the repair instructions provided with your dome, and if necessary, contact Digitalis technical support for advice: support@DigitalisEducation.com or +1-360-616-8915.

SET UP INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Check your site.

Make sure you have enough space and clearance for your dome. Especially watch out for suspended lights or sprinklers.

Dimmer areas are preferable to bright areas to reduce the chances of any light leaking into the dome. Dark floors are preferable with digital projectors, as a white floor can reflect back up onto the dome and reduce the contrast. If your audience covers most of the floor area this usually isn't an issue.



Remember: Only use indoors and away from ignition sources such as hot lights, heaters, open flames, etc.



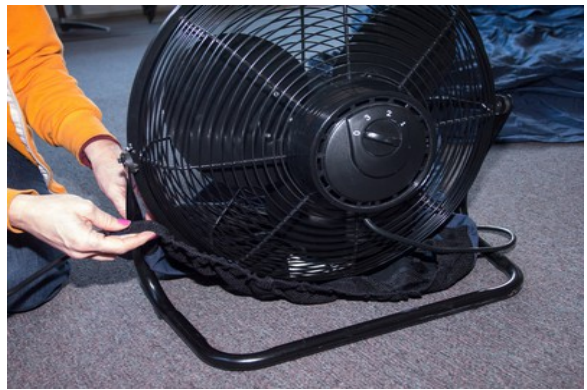
Step 2: Unroll the dome.

Remove the dome from the bag. Remove the compression straps, and stow them in the bag. Unroll the dome starting from where your fan will be located.

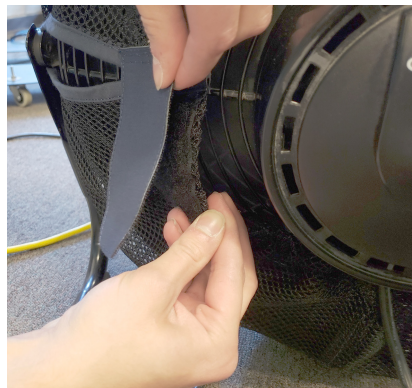
Try to position the fan in a darker area so that bright light will not be visible through the fan tube.

Step 3: Attach the fan.

A. Pull the bottom of the fan tube opening under the bottom of the fan.



B. Adhere the hook-and-loop tabs on either side around each fan leg.



Step 4: Inserting the door support pole (OPTIONAL).

If you do not want to have to hold the top of the doorway up while your audience is entering or exiting the dome, you can use the support pole (included with Digitalis Domes beginning March, 2014).

A. In the dome carrying bag you will find two small red liner bags containing two support poles (one is a spare).



B. Take the pole out of its bag, and link all of the sections together.



C. Once all the sections are linked, spread the dome fabric out and find the zipper doorway. Make sure the doorway is straight—this will make it easier to insert the pole.



D. Find the brightly colored pull tab at the bottom of the doorway attached to the zipper cover. You can grasp the pull tab to help insert or take out the pole. After locating the pull tab, you will see brightly colored webbing around a small sleeve.



E. The TOP of the pole is marked with a RED tip. Insert the end with the red tip into the sleeve. The black tipped end of the pole will protrude out the end of the sleeve and is designed to rest on the floor when the dome is inflated.





Step 5: Inflate the dome.

If you are using a fan speed controller, plug the fan into the controller, and plug the controller into a surge suppressor inside the dome. This allows you to adjust air flow from inside the dome.

If you do not have a fan speed controller, you will need to adjust fan speed outside the dome. Turn the fan and fan speed controller to high to inflate the dome. Adjust the dome as needed to inflate where you want it. Watch clearances.

Step 6: Adjust air flow.

Once the dome is fully inflated, turn the fan speed down to a quieter setting. Turn the fan speed up while the door is being used to maintain air pressure.

If at any time the skirt of the dome begins to flap, you have too much air pressure. Turn down the fan speed to stop this flapping.

If your fan is too powerful even on low and the dome is still flapping, use a compression strap around the fan tube to reduce the tube diameter. This should reduce airflow as needed.


Step 7: Entry and Exit.


We recommend setting expectations with your audience in a group before you begin loading everyone into the dome. Warn people to watch their footing as they enter to avoid tripping. Ask them not to grab the dome as this will increase wear and tear on your dome.



Always have your fan at its highest setting when opening the door to keep the dome inflated.

We recommend that you be near the door to assist people and remind them to watch their step. **Ask people to try not to pull, push, or otherwise interact with the zipper or zipper cover.** This will significantly reduce wear and tear to your dome, and reduce soiling from skin oils.

 Note that the support pole may permanently bend or break if an audience member steps directly on it. The best way to prevent damage is to be at the door and assist people entering and exiting the dome. **Damage from stepping on the pole is considered unreasonable use and is not covered under your warranty.** However, your Digitalis Dome comes with a spare support pole and more can be purchased from Digitalis if needed.

 If you are **NOT** using the optional door support, you will need to support the top of the doorway with one hand while the door is open. If the door is allowed to gape open the dome will deflate quickly. Have your audience lined up and ready to enter or exit quickly to minimize deflation. Sometimes it may be necessary to load in batches and allow the dome to reinflate in between.



Entry with StayFLATE pole



Entry without StayFLATE pole

TAKE DOWN INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Turn off the fan.

Exit the dome, and turn off the fan. Stay outside the dome, and move to the zippered doorway.

Step 2: Flip the dome.

Grasp the lower edge of the zipper cover and lift it with a firm and quick upward motion. Make sure the doorway area lays flat, so you will be able to take out the support pole (if used). Pack all equipment that was inside the dome and clear the dome packing area.

Step 3: Remove the support pole (if used) and disconnect the fan.

Find the bottom of the zipper cover. Hold on to the webbing tab with one hand, and pull the pole out with the other hand. Straighten out the zipper to make it easier to remove the pole.

Undo the hook and loop straps and remove the fan tube from the fan.

Step 4: Arrange the dome.

Arrange the dome fabric in the form of a triangle, so that the zenith (dome top) is at the apex of the triangle, with the exterior layer of the dome resting on the floor. Keep the exterior layer against the floor to protect the innermost layer (the projection surface) from dirt on the floor. Remember not to pull on the zenith circle area, vent covers, or the zipper cover!



Step 5: Prepare the dome for rolling.

A. Fold one half of the dome toward the center.



B. Make sure the fabric is not bunched up, then fold that same half to the center again.



C. Repeat on the other side: Fold half to the center, then fold in half again.



D. Fold one half over the other half to create a single long strip. The zenith will be at one end, the base of the dome at the other.



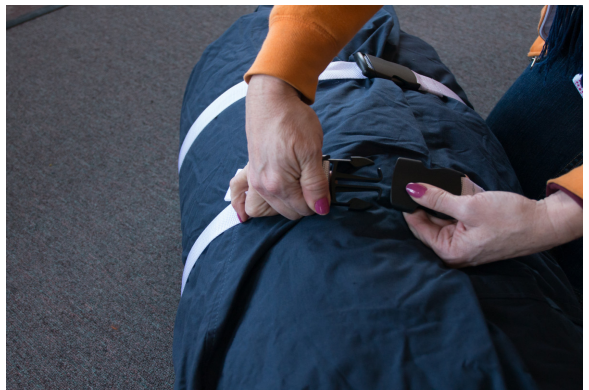
Step 6: Roll the dome.

Roll the fabric from the zenith toward the base so that the rolled up dome is no wider than the width of the bag. You may need to push out air as you are rolling the dome



Step 7: Put the dome in its bag.

A. Put the two compression straps around the dome, and tighten them as needed to expel trapped air.



B. Tip the dome up on end, and pull the black lining bag over the dome (bottom left).

C. Flip the dome and bag over and tighten the draw string (bottom right).



D. Roll the dome the into the Digitalis Dome Duffel bag.



E. Zip up the bag.



F. Buckle the straps, and tighten them as needed.



Note that the Digitalis Dome Duffel bag has two straps on the top to assist lifting the dome into a car. There are also straps at each end which will help you move the dome around and also enable two people to lift the dome together into a vehicle.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Contact your local distributor for assistance.

You can also email us at support@DigitalisEducation.com or call +1-360-616-8915.

Your dome serial number is: