Inflatable Domes Comparison: Digitalis™ versus Go-Dome™

Compiled by Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc., last updated 2012-7-10.

While both Digitalis Domes and Go-Domes are specially designed for digital projection systems, there are significant differences between Digitalis domes and the Go-Dome standard model. Digitalis does resell customized* Go-Domes for those customers who require an "airlock" entryway.

Feature/specification	Digitalis Dome	Standard Go-Dome
Doorway type	Vertical zippered entry	Vestibule with "airlock" (two rows of inflated baffles that users must squeeze through)
Quality of projection on dome doorway	Excellent. The zipper is almost exactly the same color as the dome interior, so it virtually disappears into the projection.	Poor. The doorway bulges into the seating area, which is very noticeable under fulldome projection. Two vents near the top of the doorway are even more distracting.*
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Floor space required for 5m/16 feet diameter dome (diameter of interior seating area)	Approximately 5m x 6m (16 x 20 feet). The simple zippered doorway does not require any extra floor space in that dimension. The fan tunnel only protrudes approximately 122cm (4 feet) away from a Digitalis dome, for a compact set up.	Approximately 6.5m x 7m (21 x 23 feet). The inflation fan tunnel is much longer and the airlock doorway requires extra floor space in that dimension as well.
Doorway advantages	 Much better projection surface near the doorway. Easier entry and exit than airlock—no need to blindly squeeze past two rows of air-filled columns. Lower cost. Lower weight and smaller packed size. Smaller footprint, so it fits in more rooms. 	 Does not deflate as rapidly as a Digitalis dome when doorway is open. Easier handicapped access (through door rather than lifting side of dome). Easier for situations when audience members will be entering and exiting randomly (conferences, for example). This is usually not the case for classroom lessons, where the students should enter and exit as a single group.
Carrying bag	Duffel bag has wheels for easy transport. Bag has external pockets for stowing additional small items (dome repair kit, for example).	No wheels on duffel bag; only one cavity (for dome).

Feature/specification	Digitalis Dome	Standard Go-Dome
Weight of 5m dome	29 kg (63 lbs)	35 kg (77 lbs) for standard Go-Dome
Inflation fan type	45cm (18 inch) round industrial floor fan with three native speeds. Separate fan speed control inside the dome allows infinite control over fan speed (airflow/noise level) from inside the dome.	Carpet blower type fan with three native speeds. These native fan speeds are the only speed choices available, and the fan speed can only be adjusted from outside the dome.
Fan noise level	Whisper quiet. The fan speed control allows you to adjust fan speed well below the fan's lowest native speed, and you can do this from inside the dome. Even at the highest setting the fan is quieter than a carpet blower.	Loud. Even with the fan on its lowest setting.
Probability of dome "bouncing" (if air pressure inside the dome is too high, the bottom edge of the dome will bounce up and down, allowing a lot of light to enter).	The combination of a wide dome skirt and a fan speed control eliminate this possibility. In the unlikely event that the dome does start to bounce, simply turn down the fan from inside the dome.	Based on our experience, the weight of the airlock doorway can easily lift the skirt opposite the doorway off the ground, letting in a great deal of light. There is no fan speed control to lower air pressure if the fan's native low speed is still too high.
Vertical seam technology	Professionally welded with heat set adhesive; this avoids pinholes and fabric puckering caused by sewn stitches. The welds are extremely strong, stronger than the fabric itself!	Seams are sewn together and then the stitch holes are covered with strips of fabric along each seam to avoid light leaks. The cover strips are attached only by double-sided tape. The relatively weak bond strength of the tape is a point of failure, although easy to repair. Exposed tape also tends to pick up lint and dust.
Estimated set up time for 5m dome (one person working alone; does not include projection system set up time)	Five minutes	Ten minutes (the airlock requires extra time to inflate)
Instructions	Comprehensive printed manual included with dome	Minimal instructions available online only
Manufacturing location	Made in USA by Digitalis with Digitalis' proprietary imported Nolux™ six-layer fabric	Made in China
Standard limited warranty period	Three years	One year*
US price in USD for 5m dome	\$5,600 : Includes dome, wheeled duffel bag for dome, inflation fan, fan speed control, and fan transit case.	\$9,600 : Includes dome and non- wheeled duffel bag only.

*Note: If ordered through Digitalis, a Go-Dome is custom built without the door vents and comes with double the standard warranty (two years).

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