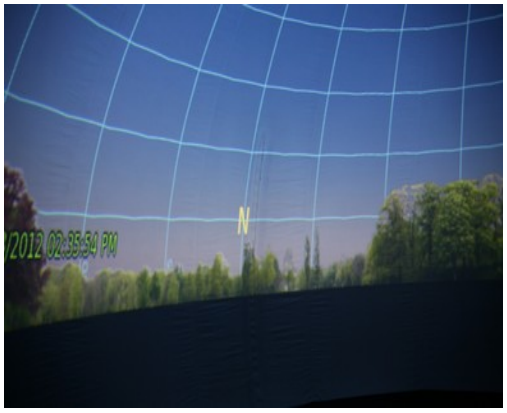
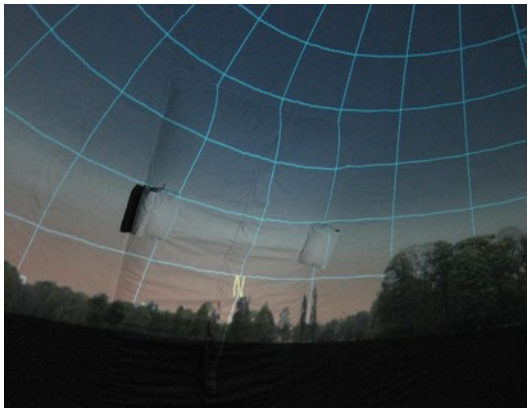
# Inflatable Domes Comparison: Digitalis® versus Go-Dome™

Compiled by Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc., last updated 2014-03-28.

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.

| Feature/specification | Digitalis Dome | Standard Go-Dome |
|---|---|---|
| **Doorway type** | Vertical zippered entry | Vestibule with “airlock” (two rows of inflated baffles to 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. Doorway bulges into the seating area, which is obvious under fulldome projection. Two vents near the top of the doorway are even more distracting. |
| **Photo of doorway under projection** |  |  |
| **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 at door.<br>• Easier entry and exit than airlock—no need to blindly squeeze past two rows of air-filled columns.<br>• Lower cost.<br>• Lower weight, smaller packed size.<br>• Smaller footprint: fits in more rooms.<br>• StayFLATE™ Technology keeps the dome inflated even while the door is open. | • 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. |

| Feature/specification | Digitalis Dome | Standard Go-Dome |
|---|---|---|
| **Carrying bag** | Digitalis Dome Duffel (custom designed and built by Digitalis) has wheels for easy transport and one large, durable U-shaped zipper that makes it easy to insert or remove dome—no need to lift the dome to put it in or take it out. Duffel has an external pocket for additional small items (instructions, dome repair kit, etc). Padded, reinforced bottom. | No wheels on duffel bag; only one cavity (for dome); thin fabric. Narrow, lightweight zipper. |
| **Weight of 5m dome & bag** | 29 kg (64 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. | 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 setting from inside the dome. Reducing fan speed saves your voice. | Very 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 user 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, then covered with strips of fabric to block light leaks. The cover strips are attached only by relatively weak double-sided tape. The relatively weak bond strength of the tape is a point of failure. Exposed tape from sloppy manufacturing tends to pick up lint and dust. |
| **Estimated set up time for 5m dome ( only one person; does not include projection system set up time)** | Five minutes | Ten minutes (the airlock requires extra time to inflate) |
| **Instructions** | Comprehensive, illustrated color printed manual included with dome | Minimal instructions available online only |
| **Manufacturing location** | Assembled in USA at Digitalis headquarters with imported fabric. | Made in China |
| **Material** | Digitalis' proprietary imported Nolux™ six-layer fabric; thicker fabric reduces pinholes | Thinner fabric |

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|---|---|---|
| **Standard limited warranty period** | Three years | One year |
| **US price in USD for 5m dome** | **$6,700**: 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. |