

Domestar 2 frequency geodesic dome: installation guide

Video Domestar 2-frequency
Installation guide

DOMESTAR Fréquence 1



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DOMESTAR Fréquence 2



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Welcome to the assembly instructions for the geodesic dome using DOMESTAR Fréquence 2 connectors. If you have any questions, click on [Contact](#) to get in touch with me: I'll be delighted to help you!

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Equipment required



- Set of 26 DOMESTAR 2-frequency connectors
- 65 wooden uprights (joists) in 2 sizes (see size calculation table below)
- 130 bolts: screws and nuts. I strongly recommend countersunk square bolt (round head, square neck): one blow from a hammer and they'll stay stuck in the wood and won't turn when you tighten them
- (optional) 26 or 52 wood screws

The countersunk square bolt is also known as square neck bolt or cup square bolt.

Tools required

- tools for cutting the uprights: ideally a radial saw, otherwise a circular saw or jigsaw
- a drill and a drill bit the thickness of the screws
- a spanner or ratchet to tighten the bolts, or an impact screwdriver (note: an impact screwdriver is NOT a percussion drill. With an impact screwdriver, you can screw or bolt much more strongly and quickly) or a simple screwdriver
- a hammer to drive in your countersunk square bolt.
- depending on the height of your geodesic dome bench or ladder

Size of your screws and bolts

The bolts must pass completely through the thickest side of the upright and the connector. I therefore advise you to choose a bolt length around 10 – 15 mm longer than the greatest thickness of your wood

FOR EXAMPLE, if your wood is 40x70mm, you'll be drilling through 70mm. So use an 80mm or 90mm bolt

In terms of thickness, I recommend 8mm bolts (=M8)

I recommend using bolts rather than screws. The assembly is much more solid, as the bolts go through. But above all, dome assembly will be easier and can be done by one person using bolts

Choosing the size of your dome

Domestar 2V (=frequency 2) connectors allow you to mount a geodesic dome in "frequency 1" which uses only 2 different sizes / lengths of upright. You will need

- 30 small A-pillars
- 35 large B-pillars

The size of the uprights will determine the size of the dome. Height, radius and diameter are therefore determined by the length of the uprights

Here is a table showing the possible dome sizes according to the length of the A and B uprights:

Radius (m)	Diameter (m)	A-pillar x30 (m)	B-pillar x35 (m)	Hole to hole A	Hole to hole B	Height	Floor area (m ²)	Base perimeter (m)	Length required (m)
1	2	0,487	0,558	0,547	0,618	1	2,9	6,3	36,9
1,1	2,2	0,541	0,620	0,601	0,680	1,1	3,6	6,9	41,0
1,2	2,4	0,596	0,682	0,656	0,742	1,2	4,2	7,5	45,1
1,3	2,6	0,650	0,743	0,710	0,803	1,3	5,0	8,2	49,3
1,4	2,8	0,705	0,805	0,765	0,865	1,4	5,8	8,8	53,4
1,5	3	0,760	0,867	0,820	0,927	1,5	6,6	9,4	57,5
1,6	3,2	0,814	0,929	0,874	0,989	1,6	7,5	10,1	61,6
1,7	3,4	0,869	0,991	0,929	1,051	1,7	8,5	10,7	65,7
1,8	3,6	0,924	1,052	0,984	1,112	1,8	9,5	11,3	69,8
1,9	3,8	0,978	1,114	1,038	1,174	1,9	10,6	11,9	73,9
2	4	1,033	1,176	1,093	1,236	2	11,8	12,6	78,0
2,1	4,2	1,088	1,238	1,148	1,298	2,1	13,0	13,2	82,1
2,2	4,4	1,142	1,300	1,202	1,360	2,2	14,2	13,8	86,3
2,3	4,6	1,197	1,361	1,257	1,421	2,3	15,5	14,5	90,4
2,4	4,8	1,252	1,423	1,312	1,483	2,4	16,9	15,1	94,5
2,5	5	1,306	1,485	1,366	1,545	2,5	18,4	15,7	98,6
2,6	5,2	1,361	1,547	1,421	1,607	2,6	19,9	16,3	102,7
2,67	5,34	1,399	1,590	1,459	1,650	2,67	21,0	16,8	105,6
2,7	5,4	1,416	1,609	1,476	1,669	2,7	21,4	17,0	106,8
2,8	5,6	1,470	1,670	1,530	1,730	2,8	23,0	17,6	110,9
2,9	5,8	1,525	1,732	1,585	1,792	2,9	24,7	18,2	115,0
3	6	1,580	1,794	1,640	1,854	3	26,5	18,8	119,2
3,1	6,2	1,634	1,856	1,694	1,916	3,1	28,2	19,5	123,3
3,2	6,4	1,689	1,918	1,749	1,978	3,2	30,1	20,1	127,4
3,3	6,6	1,744	1,979	1,804	2,039	3,3	32,0	20,7	131,5
3,4	6,8	1,798	2,041	1,858	2,101	3,4	34,0	21,4	135,6
3,5	7	1,853	2,103	1,913	2,163	3,5	36,0	22,0	139,7
3,6	7,2	1,908	2,165	1,968	2,225	3,6	38,1	22,6	143,8
3,7	7,4	1,962	2,227	2,022	2,287	3,7	40,2	23,2	147,9
3,8	7,6	2,017	2,289	2,077	2,349	3,8	42,4	23,9	152,0
3,9	7,8	2,071	2,350	2,131	2,410	3,9	44,7	24,5	156,2

Explanations

The geodesic dome I built had a radius of 2.67m (which I chose to optimise the cutting of my 3m joists). I therefore need to cut

- 30 A-pillars (small) measuring 1.399m
- 35 B-pillars (large) measuring 1.590m

NB: If you use another geodesic dome calculator, remember that

these calculators often give you the measurements from “hole to hole”, i.e. the centre of the connector. However, there is 3 cm between the centre of the connector and the start of the connector leg. That’s why the 2 “hole to hole” columns are 6cm longer. But you need to cut to the length of the 2 columns A and B

What wood should I use for the geodesic dome uprights?

I recommend using construction or decking timber that offers good strength at a fair price

The MINIMUM length and width of the uprights should be 30mm to ensure the stability of the structure

Decking joists are very attractive, with dimensions of around 62x38mm or 70x45mm. The joists are also often treated to class 3 or class 4, giving this wood very good resistance to rain

Construction rafters / half-rafters (on the websites of major building retailers, type in “construction timber”) are often even cheaper and thicker with dimensions of 75x50, but their treatment and rain resistance is often inferior (generally class 2 – this is yellow-coloured wood)

TIP: choose your own wood in the large building stores. Check that the wood is not twisted or warped. Twisted joists will make assembling your geodesic dome much more difficult!

TIP: optimise your wood purchase according to the size of upright you choose. I’ve prepared this table showing you how many 3m or 4m joists you’ll need depending on the size of your dome

Radius (m)	Diameter (m)	A-pillar x30 (m)	B-pillar x35 (m)	3m required	4m required
2,4	4,8	1,252	1,423		22
2,5	5	1,306	1,485	33	25
2,6	5,2	1,361	1,547	35	28
2,67	5,34	1,399	1,590	35	33
2,7	5,4	1,416	1,609	35	33
2,8	5,6	1,470	1,670	50	33
2,9	5,8	1,525	1,732	50	33
3	6	1,580	1,794	65	33
3,1	6,2	1,634	1,856	65	33
3,2	6,4	1,689	1,918	65	33
3,3	6,6	1,744	1,979	65	33
3,4	6,8	1,798	2,041	65	35
3,5	7	1,853	2,103	65	35
3,6	7,2	1,908	2,165	65	35
3,7	7,4	1,962	2,227	65	50
3,8	7,6	2,017	2,289	65	
3,9	7,8	2,071	2,350	65	

TIP: If you are going to treat the wood, I advise you to do it after cutting the wood but before assembling it: it will be easier to paint/spray the wood flat than once the geodesic dome is assembled

Preparing the construction of the geodesic dome

During this preparation phase we will

- Cut out the uprights
- Drill all the studs
- Insert all the screws

Prepare the location for the geodesic

dome

After determining the diameter of the geodesic dome using the table above, make sure you have enough space for your dome and that this space is flat enough

Cut out the uprights

You will cut out

- 30 small A-pillars
- 35 large B-pillars

Start by cutting the first upright and checking that its length is exactly what you wanted

Use this first upright as a template: trace the cutting line on the wood to be cut using this upright. Remember to cut just after the cut line, not on the cut line, to allow for the thickness of the blade

Drill the uprights

Now you need to drill the uprights to accommodate the bolts. Here again, great precision will help you during assembly

The bolt hole should be 40mm from the end of the upright

You need to drill through the LONG side of the upright to ensure maximum stability for the dome

Create a drilling pattern for greater precision

I strongly recommend that you create a drilling pattern for yourself



That's it, your pattern is ready



Now complete the 130 holes (!) in the studs using your template and trying to drill as straight as possible

Mark the side where you put the drill bit in: this is the side that will be placed against the connectors, as it is the most

accurate side

Insert the 130 bolts into the holes. Pay particular attention to the direction of insertion: insert the bolts through the OUTLET of your drill bit. This way, the end of the bolt is on the same side as the entrance to your drill bit and it's this side that will be against the connector

Use the hammer to ensure that the square part of the countersunk square bolt penetrates the wood



Tip: if the hammer isn't enough, you can use a screw and washer and tighten the bolt so that it goes into the wood

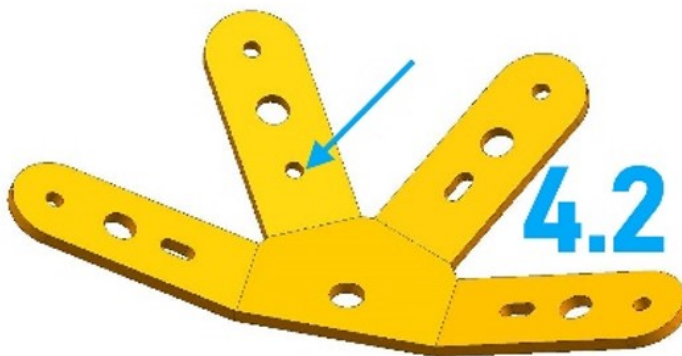
Presentation of connectors

In your Domestar pack you will find 4, 5 and 6-leg connectors

VERY IMPORTANT: The first hole in the branch, the one closest to the centre, indicates whether you need to screw a small or large upright to this branch

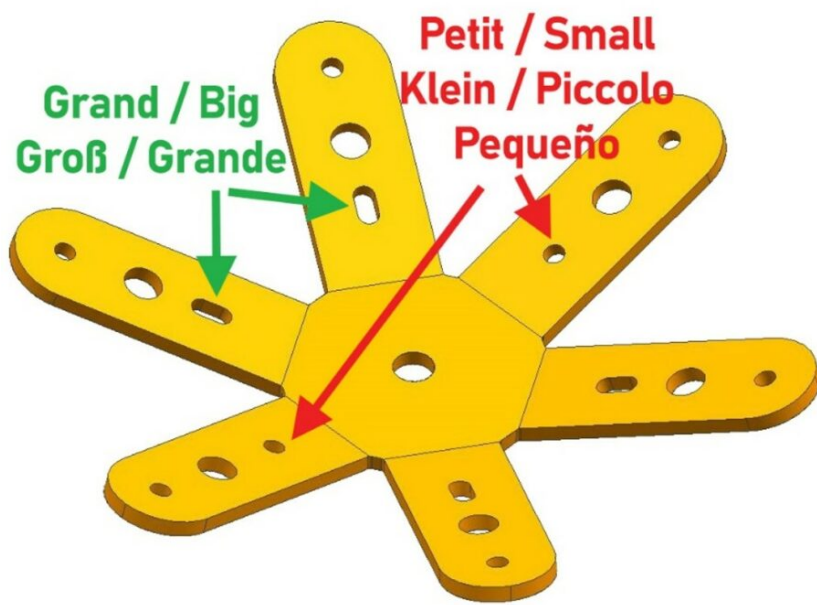
- Small hole = small upright
- Large hole = large upright

Please note that there are 2 **DIFFERENT** 4-leg connectors

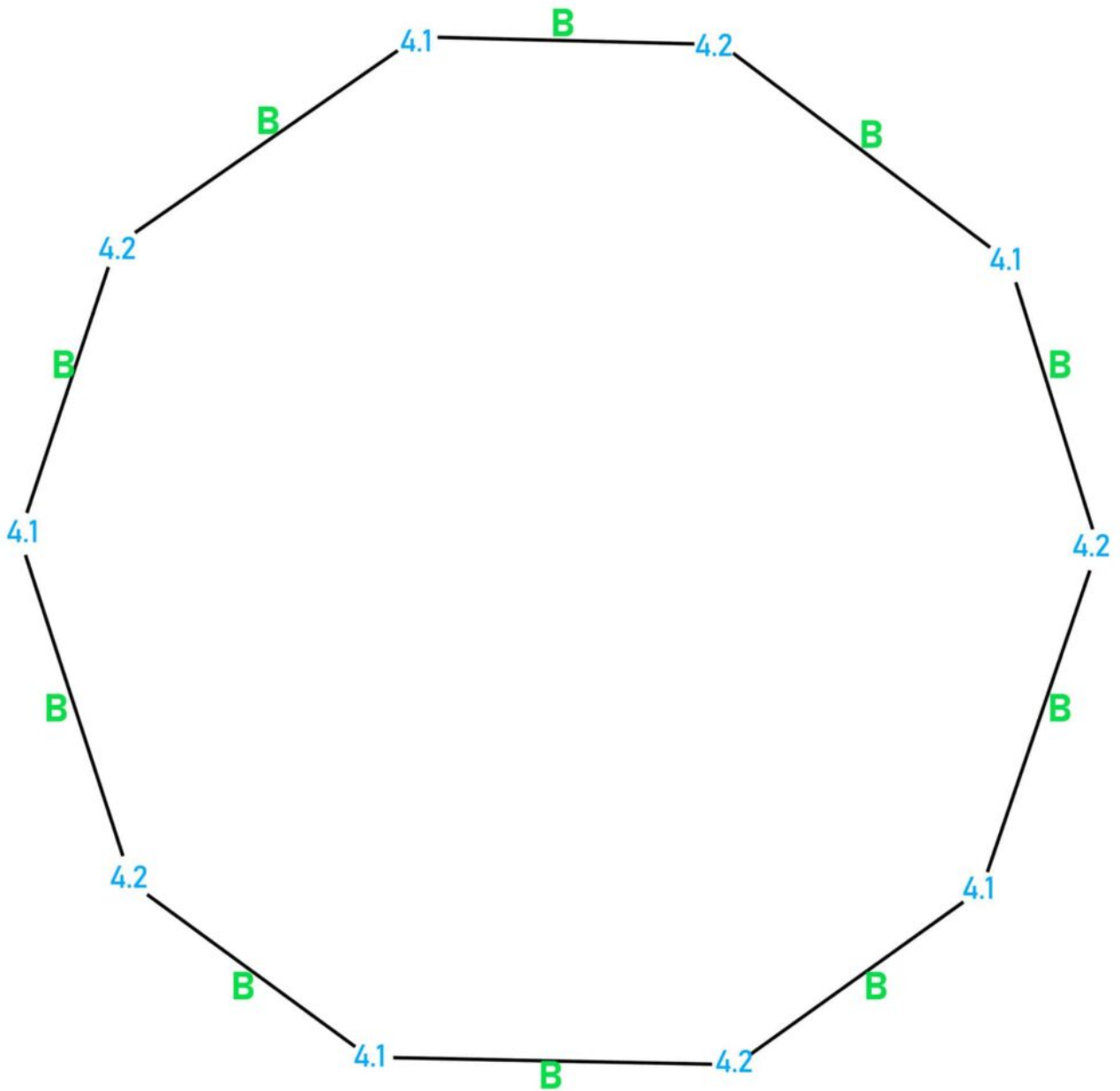


The "4.1" connector will accommodate a small A-post on its third leg, while the "4.2" connector will accommodate a large post on this 3rd leg and a small post on the second leg

Similarly, the 6-leg connectors (they're all identical) have some legs for small A-pillars and others for large B-pillars: don't be mistaken!



Step 1: the base



Parts required:

- 10x Large B-pillars
- 5x 4.1 connectors
- 5x 4.2 connectors

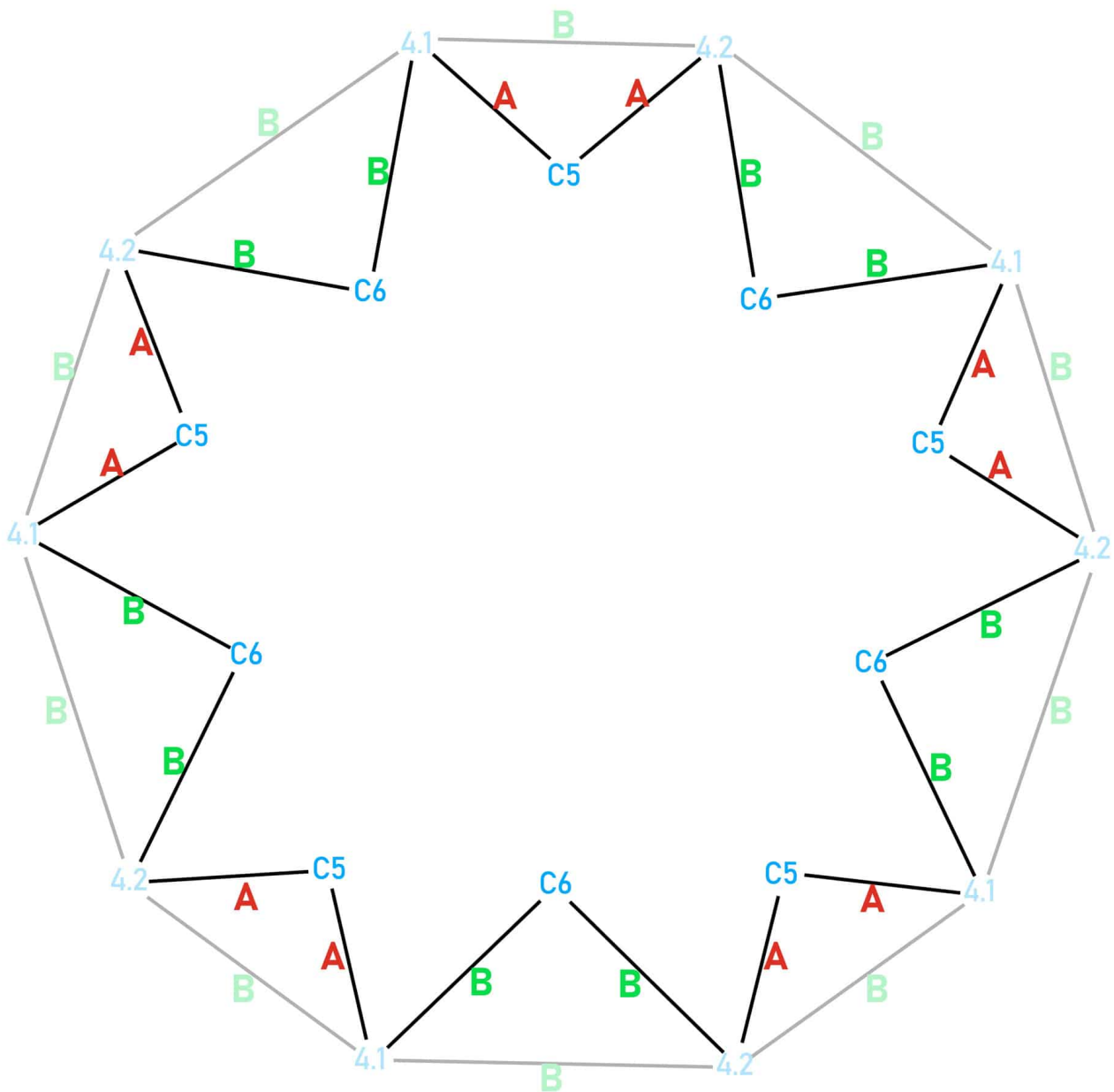


Taking care to separate the 4.1 and 4.2 connectors, screw the left-hand leg of the 10 connectors into a large B-post

Place these uprights in a circle, alternating one upright with a 4.1 connector and one upright with a 4.2 connector as shown in the diagram above

Screw on the right-hand leg of each connector. At first just put the nuts on, then when all the nuts are on tighten: do not tighten before

Step 2: the bottom triangles



Step 2A: the 5 triangles with the large uprights

Parts needed

- 10x Large B-pillars
- 5x 6-leg connectors (C6)

Take 10 large B-pillars and 5 6-pin connectors. Screw these connectors to 2 uprights, taking great care to use connectors with LARGE holes



Place these triangles on the base between 2 **large-hole** legs
(NOTE: the concave side towards the ground!)



Step 2A: the 5 triangles with the large uprights

Parts required

- 10x Small A-pillars
- 5x 5-pin connectors (C5)

Screw the small uprights to the 5-pin C5 connectors in pairs



Place these small triangles in the spaces left free at the base. Make sure they face the “small” holes

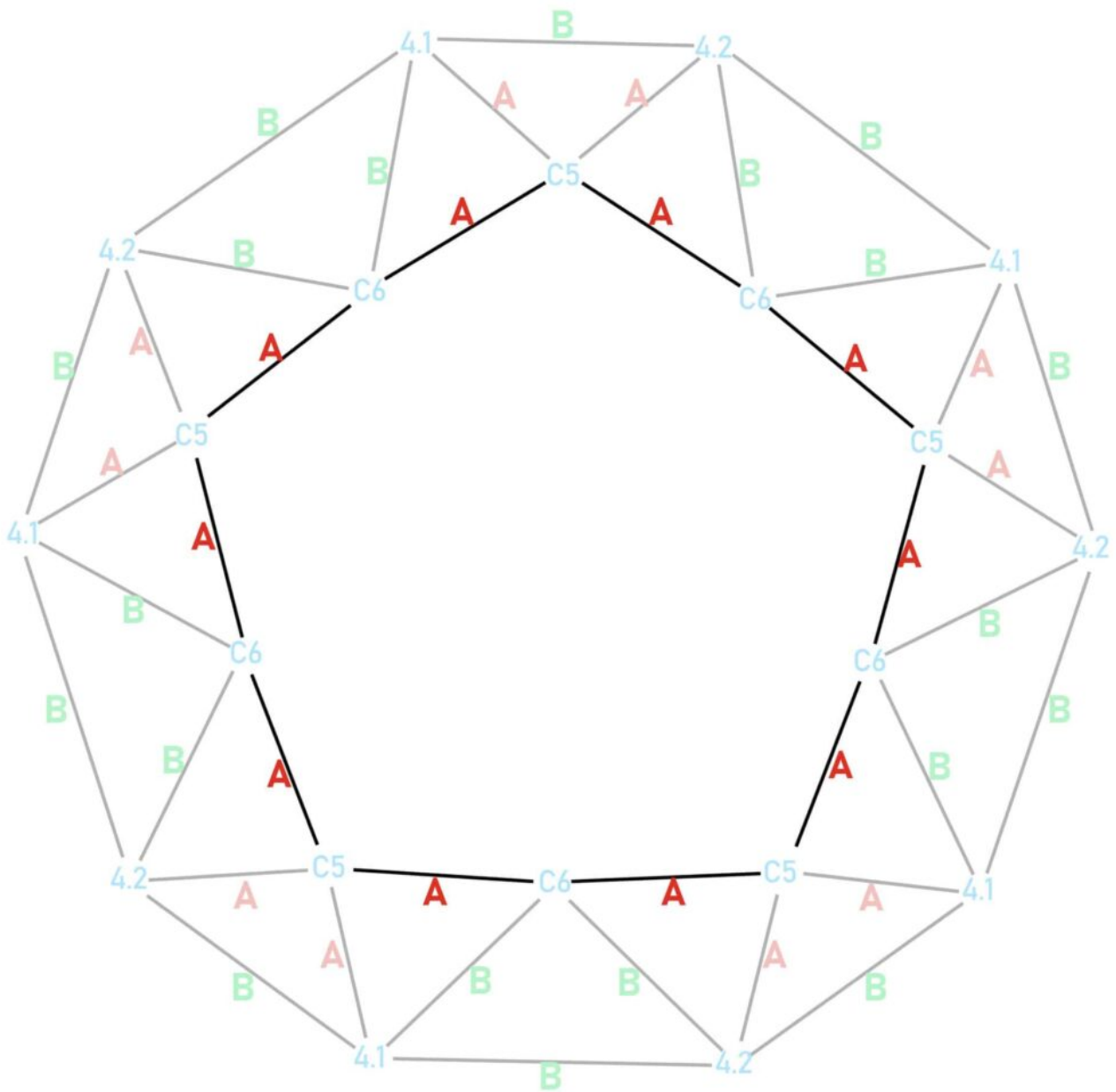


Screw these 10 triangles to the base. You can use other uprights to support these triangles during this phase





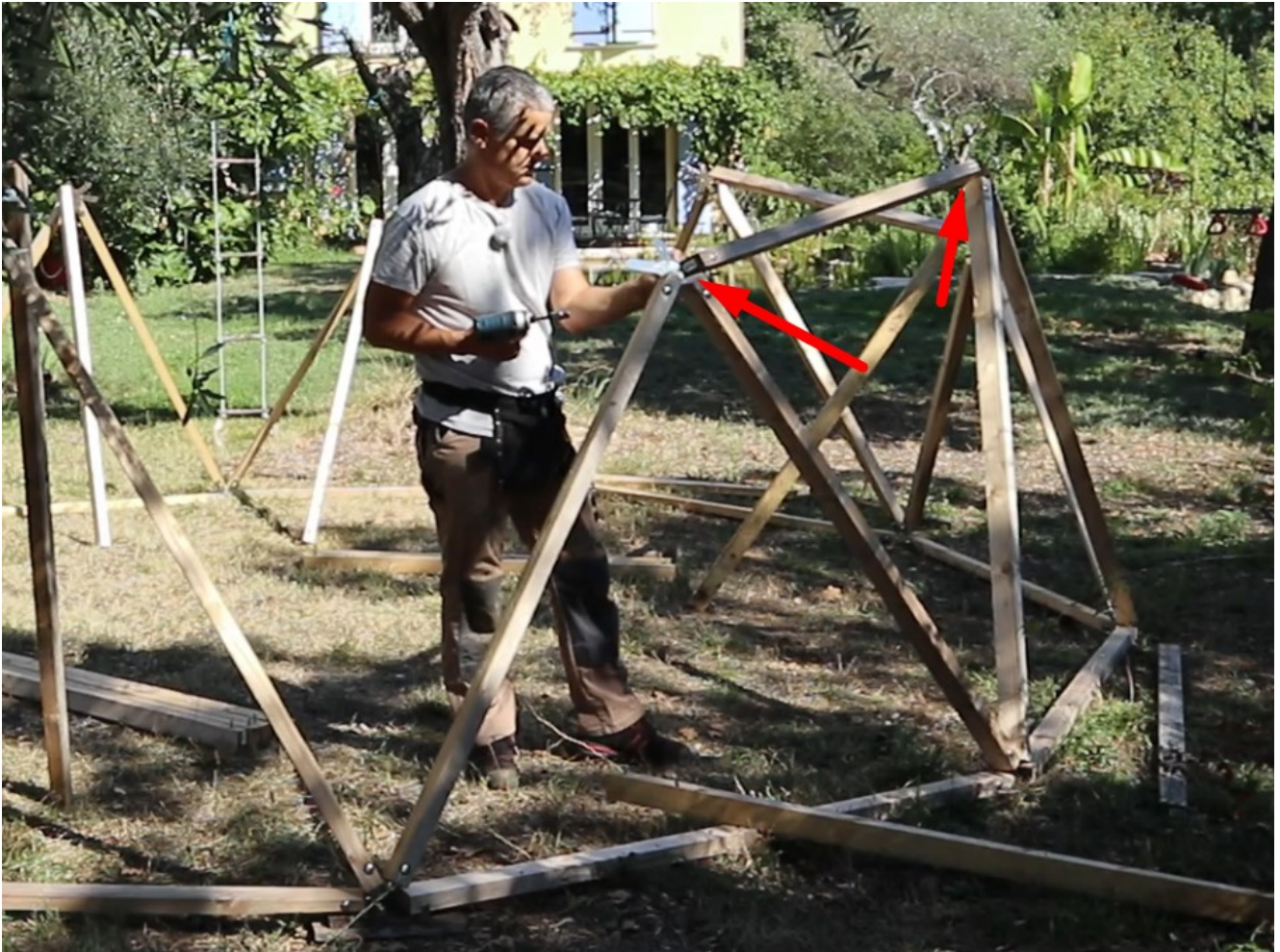
Step 3: Medium belt



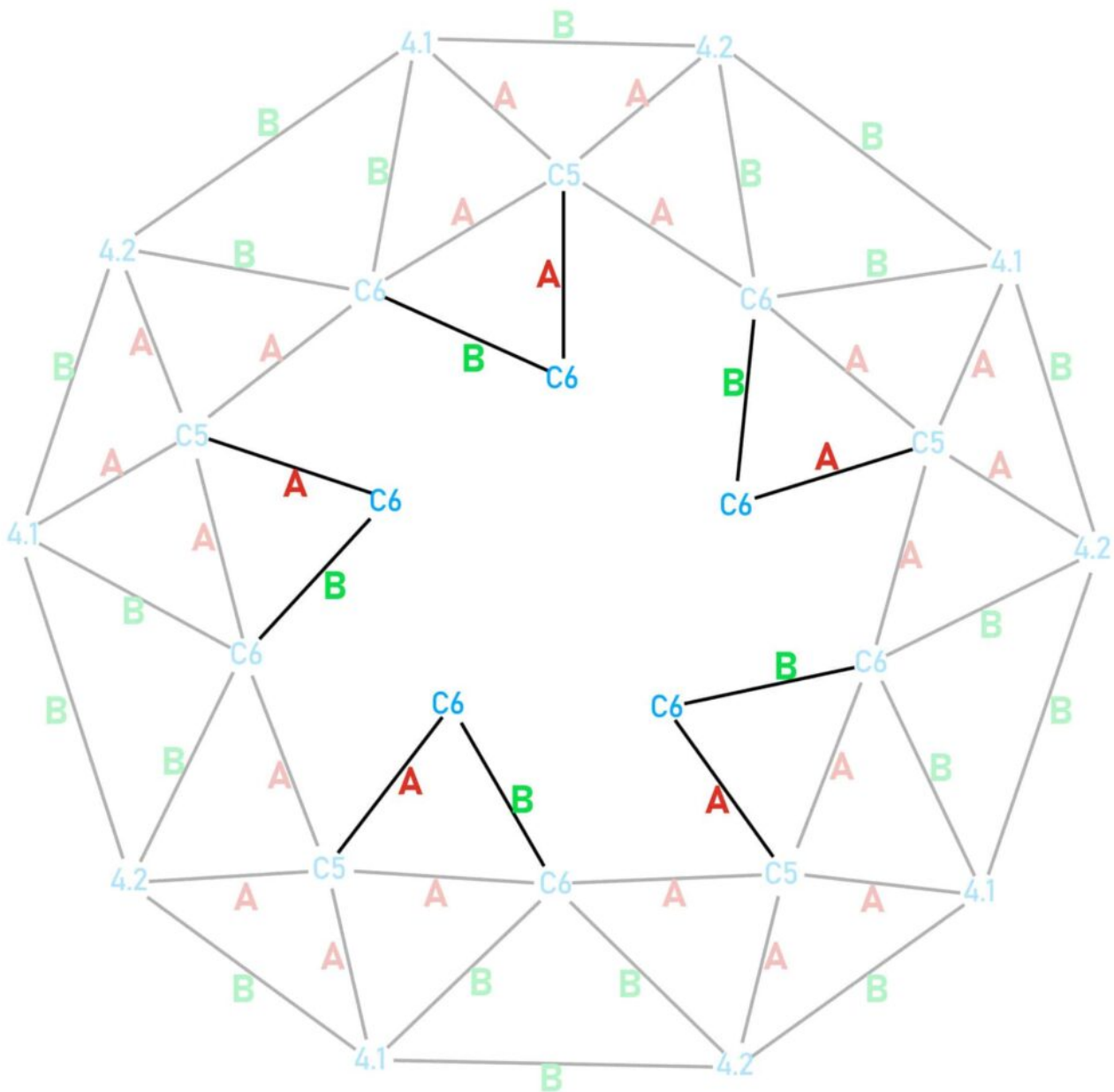
Parts needed

- 10x Small A-pillars

Screw the 10 uprights to the tops of the triangles to create the middle belt



Step 4: High triangles



Parts required

- 5x Small uprights A
- 5x Large B-pillars
- 5x 6-pin connectors (C6)

Here I've placed the 5 large uprights on my right (left in the photo) and the 5 small uprights on my left (right in the photo). Be **VERY CAREFUL** to use the correct holes in the 6-pin connector

- small hole for the small uprights

- large hole for the large uprights



Now screw these triangles into the middle belt, taking VERY CARE to use the right legs! Just a reminder

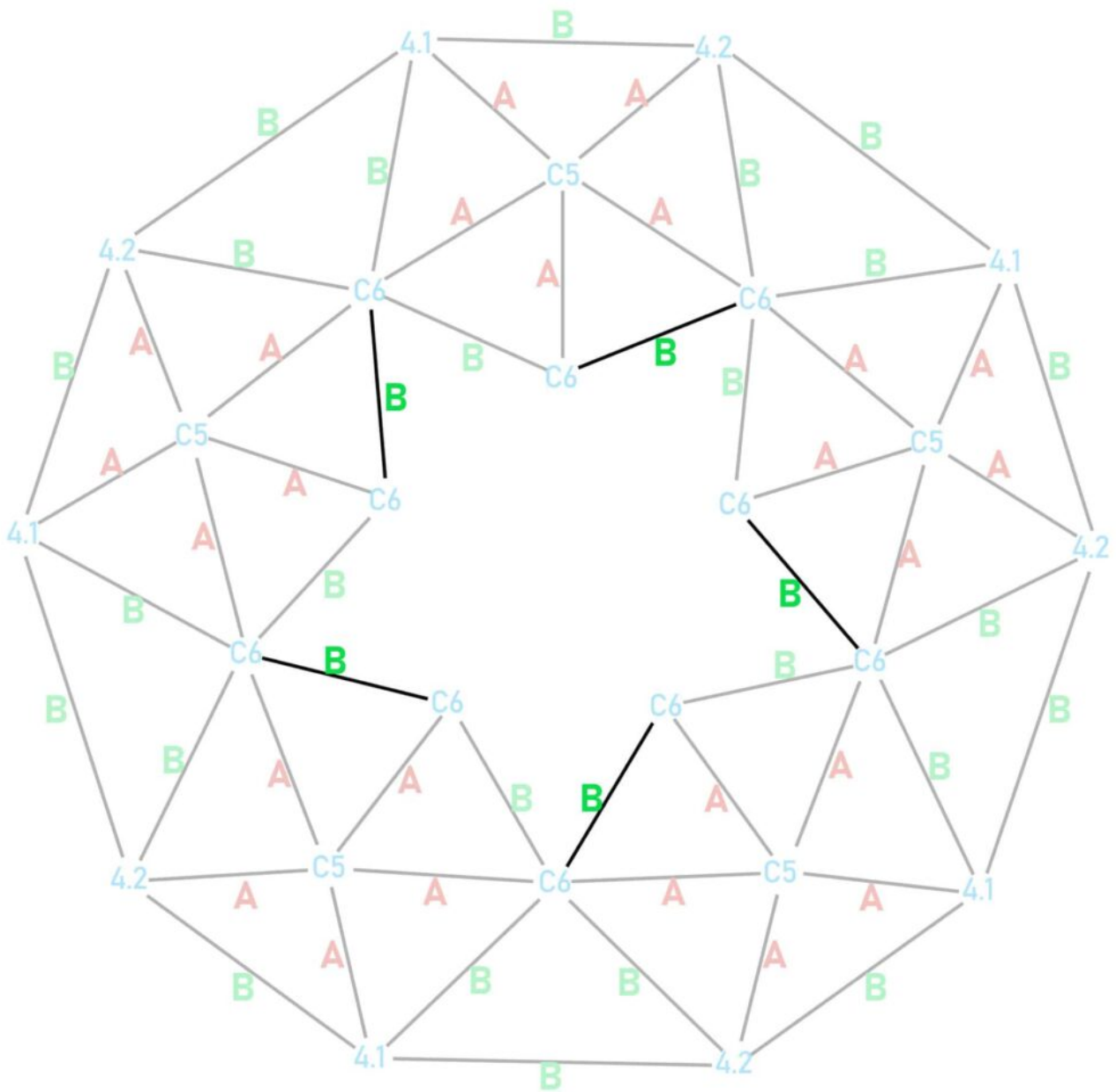
- small hole for the small uprights

- large hole for large uprights

For example, the photo above shows a small hole, so we'll screw a small upright into it



Step 5: Finishing the high triangles



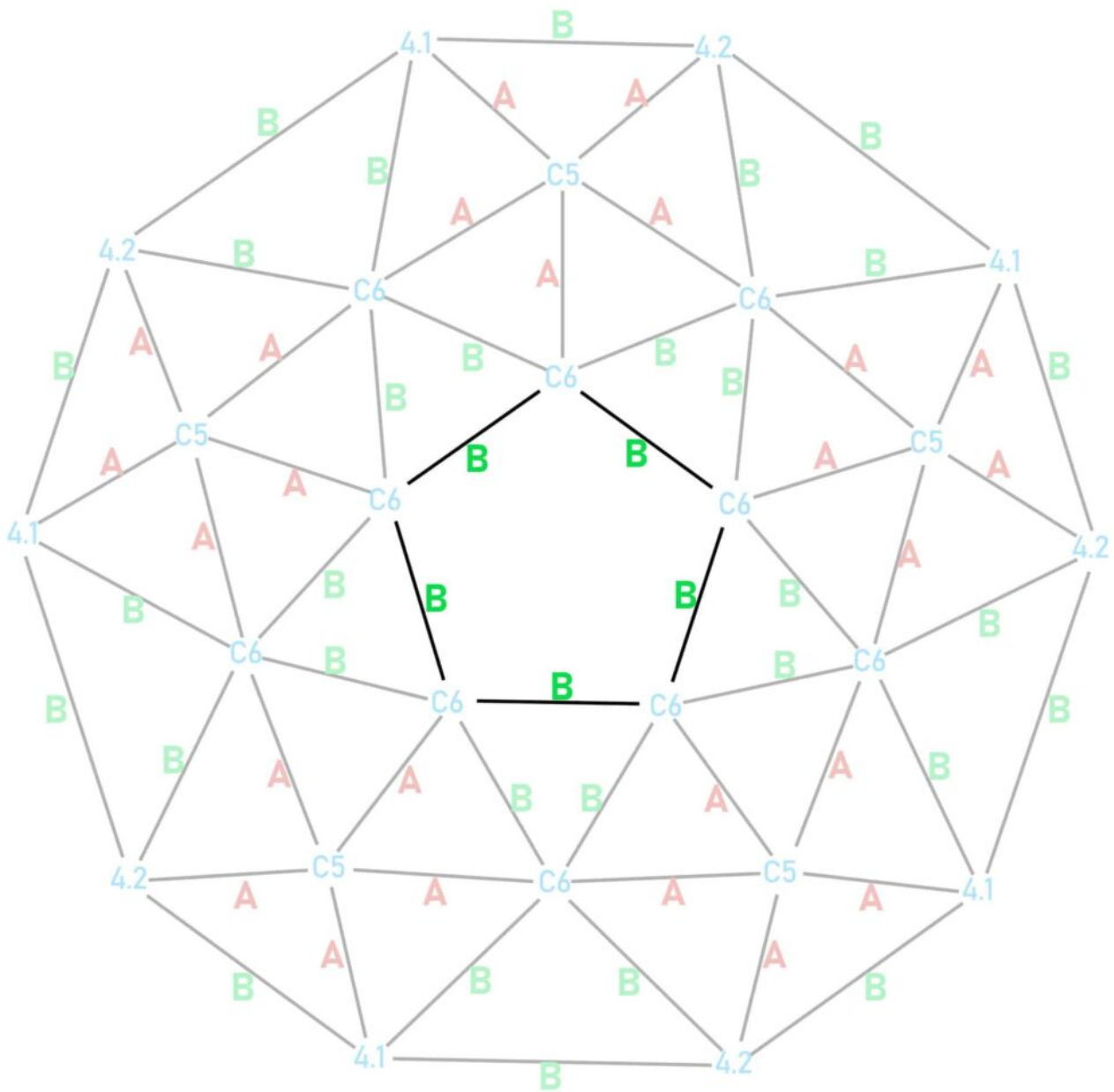
Parts required

- 5x Large B-pillars

Screw the large B-pillars between the legs left free on the middle belt and the top of the high triangles



Step 6: High belt

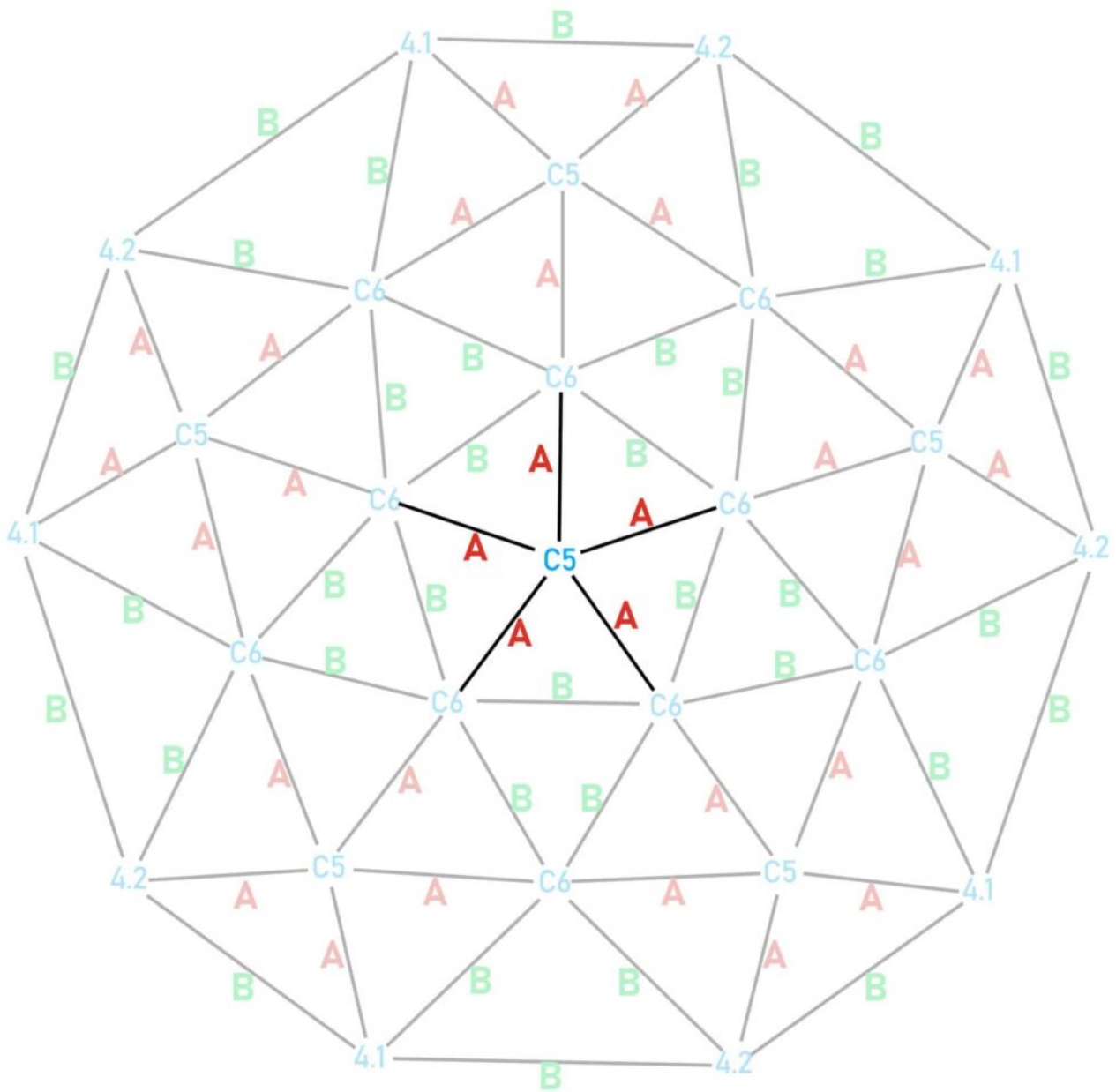


Parts required

- 5x Large B-pillars

Screw the large uprights to the tops of the triangles to make a high belt

Step 7: The top of the dome



Parts required

- 5x Small A-pillars
- 1 5-pin connector (C5)

Screw the C5 connector into a small A-post

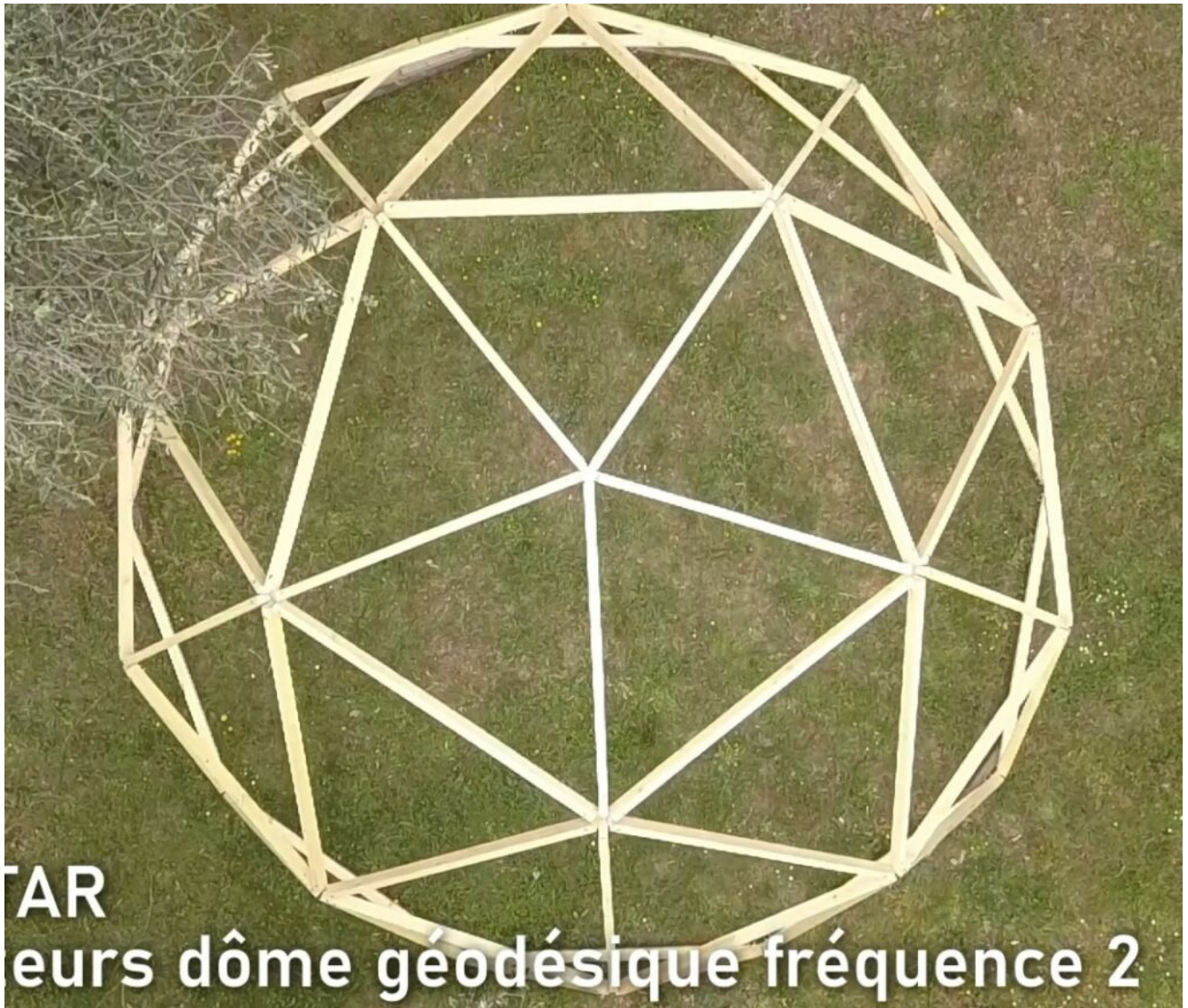


Screw this upright (with the C5 connector) into one of the connectors on the high belt from step 6



Add the other uprights, attaching them each time to the high belt and to the last C5 connector installed at the top

That's it: your dome is finished!



How to raise your Domestar V2 geodesic dome?

[Find out how you can increase the height of your dome](#) without changing its diameter by adding feet:



Where can I buy the materials I need?

If you have any advice to share about buying materials, drop me a line and I'll post the best tips here!

Wood

When it comes to wood in France, you can find decent prices without having to negotiate in the big building stores: Castorama, Leroy Merlin, Brico Depot... I find that the professionals are sometimes much more expensive than the building superstores unless you have an account and negotiate for a long time

Bolts

For bolts, I found the best prices in Europe at **auprotec**[\(website\)](#), with fast delivery at reasonable prices

TIP: it is often worth buying 100 bolts rather than 50 because of their policy of reduced prices according to quantity

[Direct link to countersunk square bolt](#)