# GIGANT HIGH (with second level windows)



Exaco Edits 12.20.24 Janssens Version 2023

# **ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS**

Note: This is an all-inclusive manual. It shows optional accessories and customizations that may not apply to your greenhouse. Direct any questions to Exaco.



Assembly Videos can be found by scanning the code to the left with your smartphone.

Or find the link to our YouTube page at www.exaco.com. Go to the Victorian Greenhouse Playlist for all videos.





# **Table of Contents**

Introduction & General Information	4-18
Structural Documents	5
Preparing the Construction Site	5
Foundation	5
Storage of Greenhouse Until Assembly	6
Required Tools	6
Basic Assembly Order of Greenhouse	6
Safety Considerations	6-7
Additional Remarks and Helpful Suggestions	7-8
Doors and Door Optional Upgrades	9-11
Windows and Window Options	11
Optional Accessories and Upgrades	11-12
Placement of Greenhouse	12-13
Foundation and Anchoring	13-15
Greenhouse Floor	15-16
Water and Electricity	16
Ventilation and Cooling	16
Heating the Greenhouse	17
Using the Greenhouse as Additional Living Space	17
Maintenance	17-18
Foundation Measurements and Planning	19
Diagram of Greenhouse Extrusions/Profiles	20
Assembling your Greenhouse Frame	
Foundation Frame and Side Walls	21-33
Portal Framing	34-35
Building the Roof	36-42
Roof Decorations & Downspouts	43
Installing the Glazing	44-45
Glazing and Gasket Installation	42-47
Door Assembly and Installation	49-73
Standard Kit Sliding Door Assembly and Information	49-54
UPGRADE OPTION: Sliding Door Low Threshold Installation	55-60

Standard Kit Hinged Door Installation	61-73
Window and Vents	74-86
Roof Window/Vent Assembly/Installation	74
Roof Vent Openers	75-77
UPGRADE OPTION: Roof Vent Fly Screen	78
Louvered Window Assembly/Installation	79-81
Louvered Window Cover	82
UPGRADE OPTION: Louver Vent Fly Screen	83
Push Out Window Assembly	84-86
Shelving Options	
Top Shelf	87
Seed Tray	88
OPTIONAL ACCESSORY: 2 Slat Shelf Assembly	89
OPTIONAL ACCESSORY: 5 Slat Shelf Assembly	90
Misting System	91
Customer Service Information	92

Thank you for purchasing a Janssens' Gigant Greenhouse, imported and distributed in North America by Exaco in Austin, TX. Exaco will provide all the North American based customer support for your greenhouse. Please feel free to reach to Exaco customer service with any questions you may have during assembly!

Questions? Need Assembly Support?

Please call Exaco at 877-760-8500 or email customerservice@exaco.com.

# THE FOLLOWING SECTION CONTAINS IMPORTANT RESOURCE INFORMATION - PLEASE READ BEFORE BEGINNING ASSEMBLY

#### Introduction

In this manual, you will find the assembly instructions for all Gigant greenhouses. However, all Gigant greenhouses are custom made – so all options may not have been chosen for your build and the size of the greenhouse may vary from what is pictured in the manual. We have intended to include all optional accessory assembly instructions for your convenience. If you believe something is missing, please reach out to Exaco for help. Please check your order closely so you understand which accessories your greenhouse includes before building. It is also very helpful to plan out where each of these additional accessories will go to determine if you need to insert bolts/hardware during the build.

This greenhouse is designed for cultivation of plants/flowers. Therefore leakage, water drops and condensation inside the building are allowed. The building may only be entered by competent persons during cultivation or maintenance. Painted aluminum profiles/extrusions are powder-coated for a durable finish. The rubber strips have been treated with oil/silicone on the interior to facilitate the assembly. The building should be mounted on a solid concrete foundation deep enough to get a solid and frost-free ground. Anchoring of the foundation is vital (see notes in "Anchoring" section) and should be checked periodically. During winter, the roof will need to be cleared of snow or supported in a suitable way (see additional notes in "Maintenance" section). The greenhouse should be built in a location protected from strong winds. Protective gear (such as gloves) should be used during assembly in order to avoid injuries. One should at all times pay attention to the local building regulations.

The Gigant greenhouse has been engineered and manufactured in Belgium using the metric system. We strongly recommend having a metric or combination tape measure on hand during assembly. We have converted and added inches to the manual when feasible – however for the most accurate and precise measurements many do still remain in metric. Conversion of metric to inches results in unusual fractional increments or decimals that become difficult to measure on a standard US customary ruler/tape measure. Using the metric system keeps your measurements more precise. If you prefer to work only in inches, you may use a converter tool available in app stores for smart phones.

#### **Structural Documents**

Please note that we only have structural certifications available for our regularly stocked greenhouses. We do not provide structural certifications on these large custom units as it needs to be site specific. If you are applying for a permit or need a structural certification or permit set, we do have an engineering firm that we work with on a regular basis. Your local engineer may reach out to them for documents that they have created from past projects for a fee. If your local engineer needs specific files/information, they may also reach out directly to Exaco.

If you are applying for permits, you should secure these BEFORE placing an order for the greenhouse. Your site/municipality may require extra bracing that will need to be ordered with the greenhouse itself.

## **Preparing the Construction Site**

A properly prepared construction site is an absolute requirement for the smooth assembly of your greenhouse!

- The ground must be stable, firm, level and free of all obstacles.
- A space of about 30 inches is required around the greenhouse for the placement of ladders and installing the glazing.
- All materials for anchoring the greenhouse to a wall, on a wall, or to the foundation (such as
  plugs, wedge bolts, chemical anchors, etc.) are NOT provided in the kit because their use
  varies by region, construction site, and contractor.
- Leftover packaging, plastic, cardboard, and/or pallets are not taken back.
- The greenhouse should be built in a place sheltered from wind or heavy storms.
- Always observe the locally applicable building regulations.

#### **Foundation**

- It is required that the Gigant greenhouse be placed on a sufficient load-bearing (concrete) foundation that is deep enough to reach up to a solid frost-free ground. The structure includes heavy duty portal frames, corner anchors and vertical gable end supports that should be anchored INTO concrete especially in any area that is open to wind or extreme weather.
- The dimensions of our aluminum structures are always the outer dimensions of the structure.
- We recommend a concrete foundation strip foundation on the outer dimensions of the greenhouse, although a slab will work as well. It must be 100% level and flat so that the lower profile can be mounted on it without the need of much additional levelling.
- For structural integrity and support strength, the portal frames, vertical gable end supports, and the PRO210 anchors at the corners must be embedded in concrete. Additional information on foundation and anchoring can be found further on in the section on "Foundation and Anchoring". Please reach out to Exaco with any questions for preparing the site.
- Get detailed advice on the foundation from your local professional climate/regional requirements may vary.
- The anchoring and routine checking of condition must be provided by the owner or operator.

## Storage of the greenhouse until assembly

- The delivery must be stored in a dry place, protected from direct sunlight and any form of moisture. You may store the packaged items outdoors, but they must be securely covered and protected with a tarp from moisture and weather.
- Excessive water, moisture, humidity or condensation in the packaging can quickly lead to corrosion on profiles (from packaging) and/or glass in the form of white deposits, spots, etc.!
- The glass box is very heavy and fragile, handle it with care and always place it on a firm and level surface for safety.
- Look at the safety-instructions on the sticker on the glass box before opening the glass box.

## **Required/Recommend Tools**

- Metric or Combination Measuring Tape (highly recommended)
- Socket wrench or spanner 10mm (it is helpful to have multiple)
- Needlenose or other pliers (helpful when installing corner posts)
- Level
- Screwdrivers (Phillips and Flathead)
- Drill + bits
- Impact driver and 1/2" drill bit (useful to notch channel to insert missed bolts)
- Metal Saw to cut aluminum profiles when needed (i.e. low threshold kits)
- Caulk gun
- Scissors (to cut the rubber)
- Stable Ladder/s at least 6' tall depending on the height of your greenhouse.
- Clear silicone caulk is included with the kit, you may find it desirable to use color-matched caulk (i.e. black) in some places.
- There are pop rivets included in the kit however, they are metric and will not work with a standard rivet gun. You may choose to purchase standard rivets to use with your own rivet gun or you may just use self-tapping screws.

## **Basic Assembly Order of Greenhouse**

- 1. Preparing your site must be level and accommodate anchoring of the structure (see section above and "Foundation and Anchoring" in section further on in this manual)
- 2. Unpacking, sorting, and checking components. Sorting of the profiles/extrusions according to size and shape will be helpful. The aluminum profiles (extrusions) are identified by their cross-section and length. Packages for specific accessories should be kept together i.e. doors, windows, louvered windows, low thresholds. It is helpful to have a metric or combination tape measure for this.
- 3. Assembly of the complete aluminum framework, temporarily fixing it in place.
- 4. Checking the horizontal and vertical alignment of the structure again with a level.
- 5. Tightening and fastening all structural components.
- 6. Anchoring/securing of the greenhouse to the ground.
- 7. Glazing installation.

#### **Safety Considerations**

- Only assemble in dry and windless weather
- Keep children away from the construction site.

- Glass safety
  - Store the tall pallets of glass on firm level surfaces ONLY.
  - Keep your glass pallet dry! Moisture can cause the panes of glass to stick together and may be difficult to separate.
  - Important! Please follow glazing removal instructions on the pallet for steps to safely remove glass panes from the pallet. Contact Exaco if you have not seen these steps!
- The Gigants are <u>not</u> considered a DIY assembly. Due to the level of construction, site prep, and anchoring as well as the challenges of long, heavy roof glass, we strongly recommend professional installers.



To help guard against glass panels falling forward, Exaco recommends the following precautionary steps BEFORE unloading:

- 5. Unscrew the upper wooden brace
- 6. Move it up and forward
- 7. Reattach it to the crate
- 8. Remove the lower wooden brace entirely

Afterwards, carefully remove glass panels by pulling them down and out (see picture )



- Tempered glass is surprisingly strong. The corners are the most vulnerable please be aware of the corners when handling and installing glass.
- Use a quality glass suction cup when handling glass, gloves are recommended.
- Watch your step! Be sure ladders are securely placed before climbing them.

## **Additional Remarks:**

This manual is prepared for all standard constructions and is also applicable as a guide for other customized models where we recommend assembly by a skilled team. We reserve the right to make construction changes.

#### **IMPORTANT!**

- Always read the entire manual before starting
- When unpacking the profiles, do not use sharp or pointed objects to avoid damaging the paintwork.
- Always comply with local building regulations, which are the responsibility of the buyer/owner.
- Insurance: it is advisable to inform your insurance company about the installation of your greenhouse.
- During heavy snowfall, the greenhouse roof must be cleared OR sufficiently supported OR the greenhouse must be heated to maintain a temperature of 12°C. (Please see section on "Maintenance of Greenhouse" for additional information for heavy snow/wind areas)
- During a storm, all open parts should be closed (roof windows, doors, side windows, etc.).

- The black rubber strips are treated with oil on the inside, which facilitates quick and easy assembly.
- It is recommended to clean your greenhouse twice a year, check the gutters, check moving parts and oil the pistons and openers, and clear the door's bottom rail of sand or gravel. See also "Maintenance of Greenhouse" section.

## **Helpful Suggestions**

- Understand which greenhouse accessories you have and where they will be placed. There will be prompts throughout the manual to insert bolts during assembly for doors, windows, etc.
- If you forget to add a bolt where one is needed, you may create an insertion point in the channel with a ½" drill bit and an impact driver. If possible, do it in a place that will be covered by the piece you will be attaching. We do also have hammerhead/T bolts available for purchase that may be added later.
- Look through the entire manual and watch the assembly videos to help you prepare and understand the greenhouse assembly process.
- You may start with assembly of the doors and roof windows. This helps create familiarity with the materials and construction process and gives a head start when it comes to assembly time.
- The stainless-steel hardware included with your greenhouse is preferred for damp greenhouse settings. This high-quality metal is malleable however, and the heads of the screws can be stripped or break if proper precautions are not taken. Set your driver (impact driver is preferred) to a low setting and hand tighten the screw at the end to avoid snapping the screw head.

Please thoroughly read the email that was sent to you from Exaco customer service for additional addendums to the manual and other important information.



Refer to the Exaco YouTube Playlist for the Victorian Greenhouse for animated assembly videos as well as specific installation videos regarding your greenhouse. This playlist is also accessible via the QR code to the left.

Please reach out to Exaco for additional assembly resources and help.

Questions? Need Assembly Support? Please call Exaco at 877-760-8500 or email <a href="mailto:customerservice@exaco.com">customerservice@exaco.com</a>.

<u>Please refer to your customized configuration document for the dimensions of your greenhouse.</u>

# A few important notes:

- Use the metric measurements on the configuration document if you need them in inches convert to inches yourself. Any inch measurements on the configuration may be generously
  rounded, so it is best to start from the metric measurement. You may use Google or other
  apps for phones to convert as well.
- When preparing your site, please pay close attention to the locations of the portal frames, heavy duty gable end supports and the corner anchors. You will need to leave holes for these to be embedded into the concrete after the structure is built. This is important for the most stable and secure connection especially in any high wind/extreme weather areas. Reach out to Exaco for help in determining the locations of these supports for your customized unit as it may vary significantly. There is some information in the "anchoring" section, but each unit is different.
- The Gigants are <u>not</u> considered a DIY assembly. Due to the level of construction, site prep, and anchoring as well as the challenges of long, heavy roof glass, we strongly recommend professional installers.

# **Optional Accessories Available for Exaco/Janssens Greenhouses**

#### **Doors**

Gigant doors may be placed on the long or short side of the greenhouse in any bay (except the corner). There are heavy duty support frames intermittently on the long side and two on the gable end that support the structure - you will want to be sure there is not one in the middle of a double doorway. Additional single or double sliding doors and/or hinged doors are available.

#### **Door Options:**

- **Sliding Doors:** Single or double options are available. The sliding door/s of the greenhouse hang/slide along the outside of the greenhouse and feature brush weatherstripping. Keyed locks are included. Double doors will have no center support. If you are building on a stem wall you must upgrade to a hinged door.
- Low Threshold Kits: The standard sliding door will use the 4 ½" base frame for the threshold a low threshold kit for the sliding doors will bring that down to a 1 ½" threshold for the doorway. The upgrade to a low threshold kit requires cutting the base frame at the doorway to allow installation of a 1 1/2" high threshold to secure the sliding door guide and make walking in and out of the greenhouse easier. Available for single or double sliding doors. Kits for single doors may need to be cut to the shorter size.
- Hinged Doors: These are a very handsome option, but are significantly more challenging. We recommend installation by a highly skilled handyman. The hinged doors are time-consuming, require adjustments, and special tools (such as a grinder) may be needed. The doors are inset into the frame of the greenhouse and are further weatherproofed with rubber gaskets. The doors feature their own door jamb including low threshold and high-quality adjustable hinges for easier hanging. Traditional handles with a keyed lock will keep your greenhouse secure. Double or single hinged doors are available. A hinged door is recommended if the greenhouse is placed on a stem wall. It is preferable to order hinged

doors with the greenhouse as they must be sent via freight truck and shipping costs can be prohibitive if shipped at a later date.

#### Drop Door Kits –

- You may choose to place your "ground mount" greenhouse on a knee/stem wall if you would like to add height to your greenhouse. If you do this, you will need to upgrade to hinged doors (sliding doors do not work) and purchase a "drop door" kit. This will give you framing pieces needed to frame a header above your existing door when it is brought down to ground level.
- The standard drop door kit allows you to place the greenhouse on a knee wall height of your choice – we give enough material for up to a 30" high knee wall. If you are building a taller wall, let us know at the time of order and we can include additional material.
- NOTE: The Drop Door kit is hardware ONLY and does not include the glazing for above the door. The reason for this is the knee wall height is custom to your site, so the glass for above the door will be a custom size. It is best to wait until the greenhouse is fully built and then order the header glass so you can be sure of the exact size needed (slight variations can happen during builds). The glass needs to be tempered safety glass with a width of 28 ¾" and thickness of 3/16" or ¼" the height will be determined by your build. Please reach out to a local glass shop to order we do not have custom sizes. You cannot cut any of the tempered glass pieces to fit, they will shatter into many pieces.
- You must upgrade to hinged doors if you are placing your greenhouse on a knee wall.
   Hinged doors are better suited for this application than sliding doors for the following reasons:
  - Hinged doors are more forgiving of any texture/lip/capstone/veneer that may be on your knee wall. They allow about 1" of clearance beyond the exterior of your greenhouse for the above items.
  - Hinged doors are designed to open 180 degrees. If you happen to build your wall beyond the exterior dimensions of the greenhouse, it may restrict the width of the opening somewhere between 90 to 180 degrees however they will still open at least 90 degrees.
  - Sliding doors slide along the outside of the greenhouse. If you place a sliding door on a knee wall the final exterior dimensions of your knee wall (including any capstone/lip/veneer) MUST match the exterior dimensions of your greenhouse footprint so the door can slide along the outside of your wall.
  - MOST IMPORTANTLY, sliding doors need to have a rail mounted at the top in which the wheels roll. This holds the weight of the door. When placing a sliding door on a knee wall there is not an ideal way to mount the top rail to the greenhouse, so we recommend using a metal strap to support this rail attached to the horizontal structural piece above the door (gutter extrusion or gable horizontal profile). This will require customization on your side and possibly additional materials and may not be as desirable as the easily dropped hinged doors.

 Please reference the table of contents for the pages which address how a drop door kits and knee walls under "Foundation Measurement and Planning": "Planning/Building a Stem Wall", and "Hinged Door/s on a Stem Wall with Drop Door Kit"

#### **Custom Centering a Door on a Wall**

With additional parts and on-site customization, you may center a single door on a wall with an even number of bays - or a double door on a wall with an odd number of bays by creating narrow side lights on either side of your doorway. Please order one additional PRO1456 from Exaco to frame this extra pane. Once completed, you will need to purchase the narrower side light glass locally as this is a custom size that Exaco does not stock.

#### Windows

You may choose manual or auto openers for your vents. The roof vents allow hot air up at the ridge to escape, while the louver or push out side wall window acts as an intake for cooler air. The roof vents are usually staggered and some placed on both sides of the ridge beam. Occasionally if there is prevailing wind from one direction, more windows may be placed on that side. We recommend the manual spindle opener be used for windows facing strong gusts of wind. The windows cannot be placed side by side. There are a variety of openers available for roof vent windows.

#### • Roof Vent Openers

- Manual Stick openers these will be packaged in every roof window kit. They are entry level openers that work on a peg/notch system. Not recommended for daily use but may be used to "lock down" the window if needed (auto openers must be disengaged or your piston will burst).
- Manual Spindle openers a high-quality stainless steel threaded rod to securely crank the window to desired open position with use of a removable long handle. These are heavy-duty and will hold up well to strong winds if needed.
- Automatic Opener (Ventomax) this opener utilizes a piston that is filled with oil that expands between 68 to 70 degrees. The oil pushes out the rod of the piston to open the window. When the piston is engaged, there is no manual control of the window. If there is rain when the temperature is above 68 in the greenhouse, it is likely that the roof vent will be open and rain will come in. During the cold months the pistons may be disengaged if heating the greenhouse.

#### • Louver/Jalousie Side Wall Window

- Placed in a sidewall bay, often opposite the door for a cross breeze
- Comes with a manual opener installed or optional auto opener (Sesam Liberty) may be installed
- If you are installing an exhaust fan, the louvered window with auto opener may act as your intake vent.
- Note that the louvered window cannot be placed next to the portal frames.
- **Push Out/Top Hang Side Wall Window** This window hangs from the top and the bottom pushes out. A manual or auto opener may be used. These cannot be placed side by side.

## **Optional Accessories**

There are a variety of optional accessories available, some of which are listed below.

- Shadecloth We do have a few options that are being developed for interior shadecloth for the Gigant. If shade is needed, you may also consider looking into using an aftermarket window tint to block some UV rays to keep it cool.
- Shelves the shelves manufactured by Janssens are problematic in the Gigant due to the large structural supports that block attachment points. If you are interested in shelving, you may reach out to see if one of the options would work for you.
  - Seed tray/Seedbed The seed tray is 20" wide and has a 4" planting depth with a white polycarbonate bottom to allow for drainage. These do not work well in a Gigant due to the heavy duty wall supports that block the attachment points.
  - Top Shelf is 4" wide and can mount either above the seed tray or on its own at your preferred height. These do not work well in a Gigant due to the heavy duty wall supports that block the attachment points.
  - Slat shelves extremely flexible in terms of height, usage, and all around placement, but they can also be problematic it depends a lot on your support frames. The slat shelves are 59" long (across two sections of glass) and may be run end to end for a long stretch of shelving. They may also be centered across 3 panes of glass if desired. Slat design works well for holding pots/planters or it may be used for a work surface. Again, these shelves will only work on the 15' long sides due to the heavy-duty portal frames on the long sides. Only available in black or green. These shelves may be shipped via FedEx or UPS.
    - 2 Slat Shelves 9" wide x 59" long
    - 5 Slat Shelves 21" wide x 59" long
- Fly Screens:
  - Roof Window Fly Screen easily installs into roof vent opening
  - Louver Window Fly Screen clips onto outside of louvered window
  - Push out/Top Hang Window Fly Screen easily installs in vent opening
- Ventilation An exhaust fan may be installed to blow out the hottest air. Installation of an exhaust fan in a Gigant will be most effective on one gable end of the greenhouse. Due to the large size of a Gigant, there is a chance that you may need to look into a third party exhaust fans. Exaco only stocks smaller exhaust fans for the smaller hobby greenhouses. Replace a glass pane in the gable with a lexan panel into which you can mount the fan. If you are installing in a sidewall, you will need to purchase additional framing, lexan and a custom piece of glass from a local glass shop. Many exhaust fans will use an external thermostat to control at what temperature it turns on and off. Place an exhaust fan opposite your side windows to create a cross breeze. For the most effective cross breeze, it is often recommended to close window vents to force airflow through your louver window.
- Heaters see below "Heating the Greenhouse"

#### **Placement of the Greenhouse**

The placement of the greenhouse varies by intended usage, climate, location, and space available. There is a wealth of information to be found online on this subject, here are some considerations:

• Will your greenhouse be in full sun or get afternoon shade? Glass greenhouses do what they are intended to do - heat up quickly on sunny days. Great for the winter, but depending on your climate, it can be a challenge during summer months. Think about what you will be

- growing as well as the seasonal usage of your new greenhouse to determine appropriate sun exposure. It may help to watch the seasonal variations of sun angles in your yard to determine the placement.
- Depending on what you are growing and where you are located, you may wish to orient your
  greenhouse east/west or north/south many garden bloggers have weighed in on this and
  research may help you consider the options. In many areas of the US, we do get plenty of
  hours of sunlight. Some users end up placing the greenhouse based on layout/space
  available, aesthetics and convenience.
- The site must be level. If it is not, you will need to prepare the area to provide a firm and level surface to construct your greenhouse. This may include building a retaining wall or placing your greenhouse on a stem wall or just leveling out the site. Consider rainwater flow in your yard if you are in a hilly area.

#### **Foundation and Anchoring**

All greenhouses must be securely anchored. The Gigant has multiple types of anchors:

- The corner brackets will attach to the interior at the foundation/base frame (holding it together in the corners) and extend an additional 12" below ground level. If you are in a high wind area or are trying to meet the structural specifications for a permit you may wish to purchase additional corner anchor posts (PRO210) for use at all the vertical members. Please see the foundation measurement page for additional diagrams and information.
- The heavy-duty portal frames that support the roof also anchor the greenhouse. These large 2" x 6" supports are connected on the interior of the greenhouse and extend 15 3/4" (40cm) into the surface below. For the strongest connection, it is recommended to embed these in concrete after the structure is built. Please see the foundation measurement page for additional diagrams and information.
- In addition to the portal frames, the Gigant units also have heavy supports at the gable ends that must be embedded in concrete as well. They are designed to extend 15 ¾" (40cm) into the ground as well. This anchoring method provides a very sturdy structure.

The manufacturer recommends an 8"-10" wide concrete strip foundation (minimum) that extends down to the frostline in your area. Please consult your local building codes for this information. It is recommended to leave a 4" diameter hole at the corners for the anchors and larger holes for the portal frames and gable supports to be embedded in concrete after the greenhouse frame is assembled and it is confirmed to be level and square. You will need to adjust your 8" strip foundation out to at least 10" to accommodate the portal frames and gable end supports.

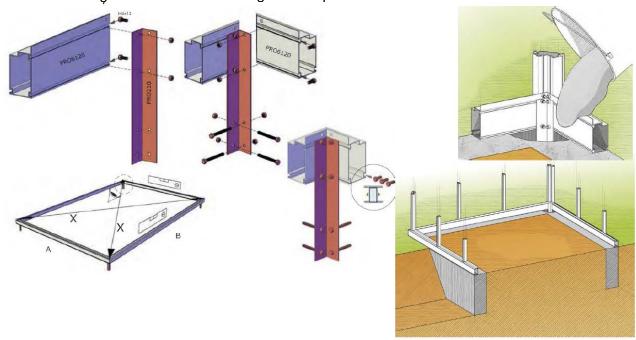
Some users have chosen a variety of alternative anchoring methods based on their climate, location, soil composition, and site considerations. These include full concrete slabs, concrete footers, pier and beam constructions. Please be careful if you are choosing an alternative methods to ensure it is strong and stable for such a large structure. When planning your anchoring method, you should keep in mind frost line/ground heaving, wind load, greenhouse location, size and weight of the structure, ground composition, weather, climate, and local building code. If you are unsure, you should consult with a local and experienced builder. Warranty coverage does not extend to damage resulting from improper anchoring of the greenhouse outside of manufacturer's recommendations (see above).

If you are applying for permits, you should secure these BEFORE placing an order for the greenhouse. Your site/municipality may require extra bracing that will need to be ordered with the greenhouse itself. Exaco does not provide structural certifications on these large custom units as it needs to be site specific. If you are applying for a permit or need a structural certification or permit set, we do have an engineering firm that we work with on a regular basis. Your local engineer may reach out to them for documents that they have created from past projects for a fee. If your local engineer needs specific files/information, they may also reach out directly to Exaco.

#### **Anchoring Options (detail):**

MANUFACTURER AND ENGINEER RECOMMENDED OPTION: Embedding the anchors into your concrete – most secure, manufacturer recommended.

It is recommended to leave a 6" diameter hole for the anchors to be embedded in concrete after the greenhouse frame is assembled and it is confirmed to be level and square. You can also have a PVC pipe or Sonotube embedded into your concrete. The PVC or Sonotube must be at least 6" wide in diameter, centered on the interior of the greenhouse (2.25" in from the edge). Note the Gigant also has portal frames and gable end supports to be embedded as well that are larger – see foundation diagram for specifics.



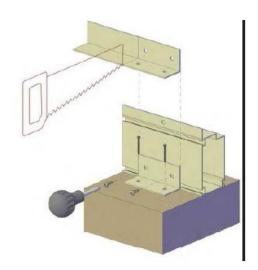
OPTION 2 (not recommended, but this variation can be used to supplement embedding the frames): Use L brackets with concrete screws/self-tapping screws

VIDEO: <a href="https://youtu.be/3W62iOgLVG4?t=59">https://youtu.be/3W62iOgLVG4?t=59</a> (may be found at minute 0:59 in the Exaco animated assembly video.

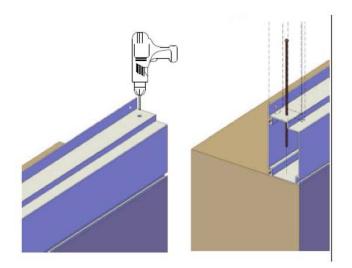
#### Steps:

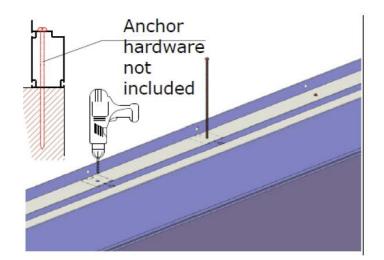
 You can cut angle irons into 4" long L brackets to mount the top half into the foundation frame and the bottom half into the concrete or other foundation.

- Use self-tapping screws or pre-drill and use normal screws to mount the top part into the foundation frame of the greenhouse.
- Use concrete anchor screws (link provided below) to attach the bottom part to your concrete. We HIGHLY recommend predrilling and using a hammer drill to drill the anchors in.
- Tapcon Concrete Anchor Screws:
   https://www.homedepot.com/p/Tapcon-1-4-in-x-1-3-4-in-410-Stainless-Steel-Hex-Head-Concrete-Anchors-8-Pack-26120/202097033



OPTION 3 (recommended to add additional anchoring points): Long Anchor into foundation frame Drill access holes as shown to the bottom right. Be sure to line these up with the holes in the vertical flange so they will be covered by a glazing bar (PRO1456). Use appropriate fasteners for your wall (not included). You may also leave holes at the corners to embed the long PRO210 anchors in concrete after the greenhouse is built. This is similar to what is shown for the ground mount version.





#### Flooring

The greenhouse does not include flooring material, allowing it to be customized to your needs and use. When planning your flooring, consider the intended use of the greenhouse, the plants that will be grown, drainage, heat sink benefits of the material, insulation, weed blocking, as well as aesthetics. If you use a natural flooring option - consider including a weed barrier. Here are a variety flooring options to consider:

• Soil - this is a great option if you have fertile soil and wish to plant directly into the ground. This can be used in combination with other options below.

- Pea gravel, crushed stone, etc. provides natural drainage and some crushed rocks help with weed control
- Pavers and bricks A very nice looking option with natural drainage capabilities. May also be used for paths in combination with in ground planting areas.
- Wood Looks very nice, but requires more maintenance. Keep in mind that the wood may deteriorate before the greenhouse lifespan is over.
- Full concrete slab This can double as your anchoring surface as well. Keep in mind that greenhouses can be wet environments so texture and drainage need to be considered.
- Tiling this can be a beautiful option as well. If your greenhouse is a functioning greenhouse, consider water drainage. Tile may get very slippery when wet.

#### Water and Electricity

You may choose to bring water and electricity into your greenhouse. If possible, it is recommended to plan for this ahead of time so that you can plumb/wire underneath the base frame of the greenhouse. Generally, users will bring electricity under the frame at the most convenient location and then attach conduit to the frame of the greenhouse to the desired location. Custom matched spray paint is available if needed.

#### **Ventilation and Cooling of Greenhouse**

Glass greenhouses are effective at heating up quickly on sunny days. If you discover your greenhouse is becoming warmer than you desire, here are some options for cooling.

- Shadecloth Please reach out to Exaco to see what options we currently have available.
- Exhaust Fan An exhaust fan may be installed to blow out the hottest air. Installation of an exhaust fan in a Gigant will be most effective on one gable end of the greenhouse. Due to the large size of a Gigant, there is a chance that you may need to look into a third party exhaust fans. Exaco only stocks smaller exhaust fans for the smaller hobby greenhouses. Replace a glass pane in the gable with a lexan panel into which you can mount the fan. If you are installing in a sidewall, you will need to purchase additional framing, lexan and a custom piece of glass from a local glass shop. Many exhaust fans will use an external thermostat to control at what temperature it turns on and off. Place an exhaust fan opposite your side windows to create a cross breeze. For the most effective cross breeze, it is often recommended to close window vents to force airflow through your louver window.
- Misting System in dry environments, a misting system turning on at the hottest point of the day can cool a greenhouse up to 15 degrees.
- Tinting Aftermarket tinting may be applied to the glass panes
- Whitewash available from some greenhouse retailers, this can be washed off when the hot season is over.
- Exterior shade cloth an exterior shade cloth, though not as beautiful, can be highly effective.
   An aluminet shade cloth is a metallic woven shade cloth that goes up and over the outside of the greenhouse. The metallic surface reflects the heat of the sun's rays before they get inside the greenhouse, while also providing shade.

#### Heating the greenhouse

Although the greenhouse heats up quickly during sunny days, you will likely find you will need to provide supplemental heat during cold winter nights and cold cloudy days.

- Heaters electrical, propane and wood stoves have all been used. Be sure to properly vent according to manufacturer instructions. Find a BTU calculator online to determine how powerful a heater you need. This is based on a variety of factors including greenhouse material, size, location/climate, low temperatures and desired goal temperature.
- Heat Sink The more mass you have inside your greenhouse, the more heat can be absorbed during the warm day to release at night. This can help mitigate huge temperature swings during light frost, but can also reduce your heating costs. Easy ways to add mass that can retain heat are raised beds, a large dark water tank, or organic material. There is much information online about planning/designing more in-depth heat sinks in your greenhouse including flooring choices.
- Resources on insulated floors and geothermal heat can be found on many garden blogs.

#### Can I Use My Greenhouse as an Additional Living Space?

- These structures are designed to be a greenhouse first and foremost. As packaged, the
  greenhouse is not designed to be water/air tight. Greenhouse plants do benefit from a turn of
  air. You will need to do some extra sealing with silicone on the roof around the glass to
  achieve watertightness.
- We recommend any furniture be indoor/outdoor and that fine wood furniture/electronics be avoided or sufficiently protected.
- The glass is single pane, so there is a good chance for condensation on the inside that might drip. The roof windows do have auto openers, so it is likely the roof vents will be open during a rainstorm if the temperature in the greenhouse is above 68 degrees. You can switch to all manual openers if preferred.
- On sunny days, glass greenhouses can get warm very quickly. Depending on your climate, you will likely be fighting the heat in the summer (late spring/early fall).

It has been done, but you will need to make customized adjustments such as extra sealing, climate control, window tinting and heating. Indoor/outdoor furnishings are strongly recommended. Exaco will not be held responsible for any damages.

#### Additional Weather Considerations and Maintenance of Greenhouse

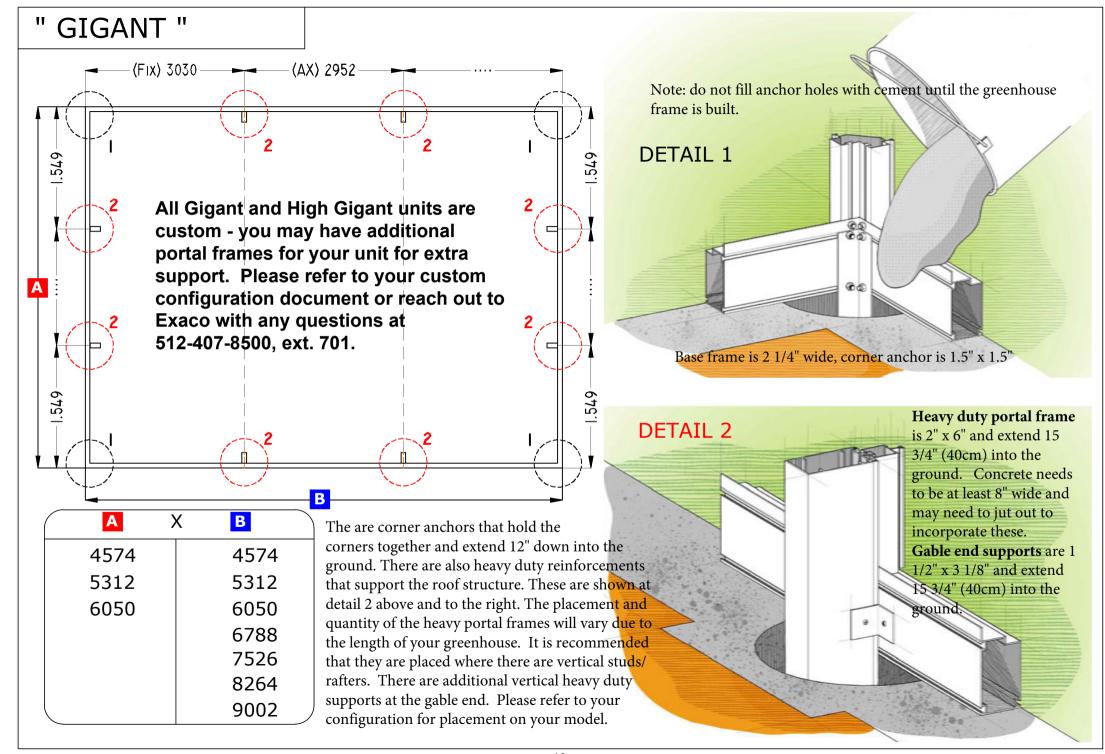
The following will help keep your greenhouse in tip top shape:

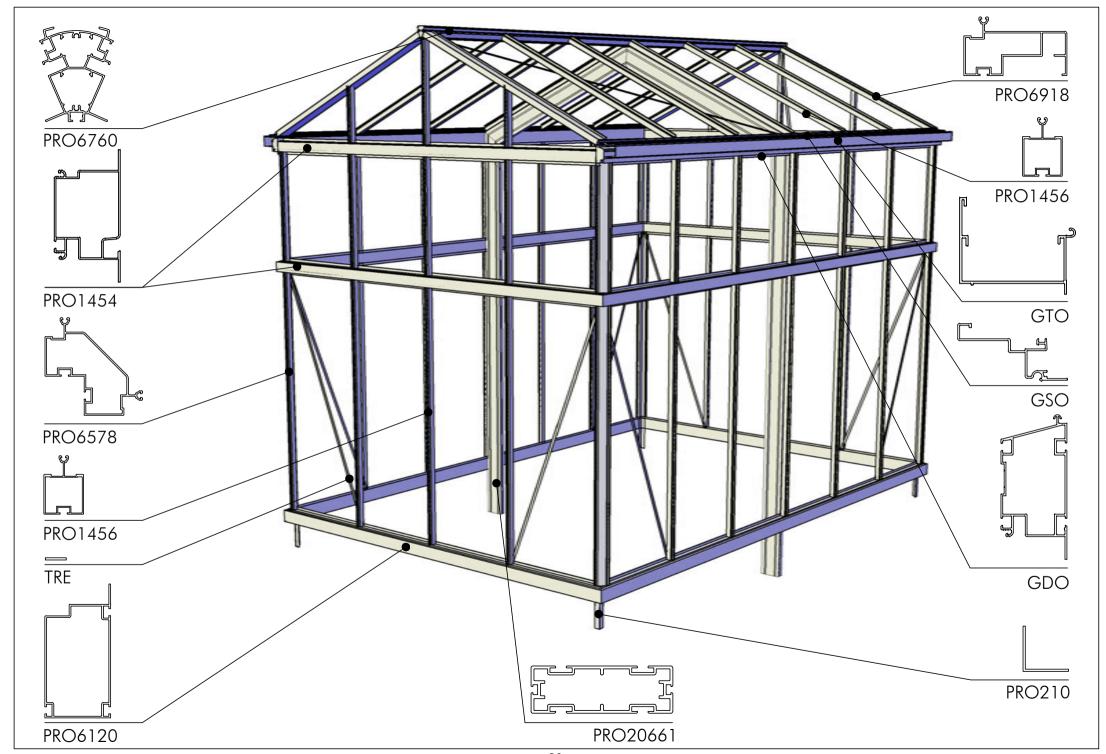
- **WINTER/SNOW/ICE CONSIDERATIONS:** Please take the proper precautions to protect your investment from heavy snow.
  - The roof will need to be cleared of snow, this removes weight from the roof and also allows the sun to shine in and heat your greenhouse
  - Heating your greenhouse may also help some of the snow melt/slide off to assist in keeping the roof clear. If you are heating the greenhouse, you may wish to disengage your pistons so the roof vents do not open.

- If you are expecting heavy snowfall that you will not be able to clear in a timely manner, we recommend bracing your ridge beam with a 2x4 in the center to help support the weight. Snow should still be cleared as soon as it is possible.
- If you are in an area that routinely gets significant snow there are some options to strengthen and support your greenhouse:
  - Install self-tapping screws in addition to the bolts where the rafters meet the ridge beam and the gutters (noted in assembly manual).
  - Purchase extra spandrels/deco supports for the ridge and gutters.
  - Add a stainless steel cable with a turnbuckle connecting opposite sidewalls/spandrels to prevent the sidewalls from bowing out if there is excessive weight on the roof.
  - NEW for 2024! We now have special bracing available for the VI46 (12'7" wide) models for high snow areas. Please call Exaco for details.
- HIGH WIND AREA CONSIDERATIONS: It is recommended to install your greenhouse in an
  area protected from high winds. If high winds are an issue in your area, we recommend the
  following:
  - Purchasing additional portal frames at the time of order will help increase the wind and snow loads. Embedding the anchors into concrete will provide the strongest anchor.
     Alternatively, you may further strengthen the anchoring the greenhouse by:
    - Cutting PRO210 anchors into 4" sections to use as L brackets into the base of the greenhouse and down into the concrete foundation
    - Use long anchor bolts through the frame (underneath the glazing bars)
  - Use included red shims on ALL glass panes when installing your glazing (see section on "Glazing Installation"). This is good practice regardless of wind load for your area.
- Pistons and openers Several times each year oil your piston rods, threading, and moving parts of your openers. You may use WD40 or even olive oil. If your pistons stop opening your windows, you likely need to oil them to loosen them up.
- It is recommended to clean your greenhouse twice a year, check the gutters, check moving parts and oil if necessary, and clear the door's bottom rail of sand or gravel.
- Glass Maintenance
  - Cleaning Glass use a gentle cleaner, such as Palmolive dish soap with a soft cloth. A squeegee with a long handle is helpful as well. Distilled white vinegar can be used to remove hard water spotting.
  - Replacement Glass if you need to replace a piece of broken glass, please refer to the glass spec sheet in this manual. Replacement panes of 3/16" standard tempered safety glass should be ordered from a local glass shop. Exaco will not ship large pieces of glass, locally ordered replacement panes of standard tempered safety glass will match the original panes.

Questions? Need Assembly Support?

Please call Exaco at 877-760-8500 or email <a href="mailto:customerservice@exaco.com">customerservice@exaco.com</a>.

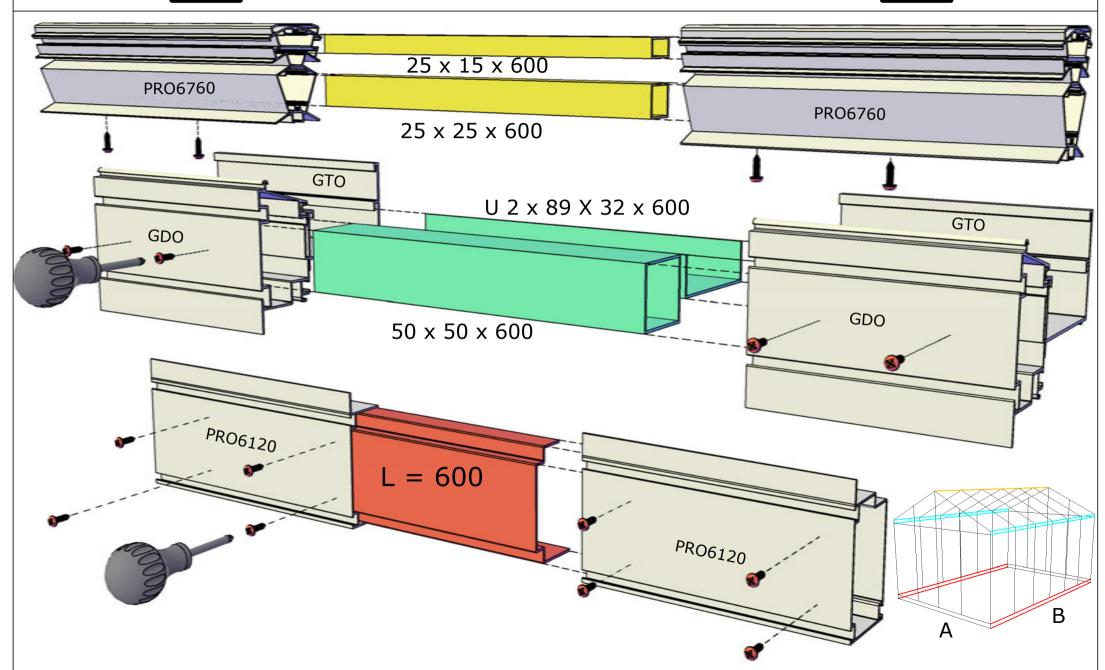


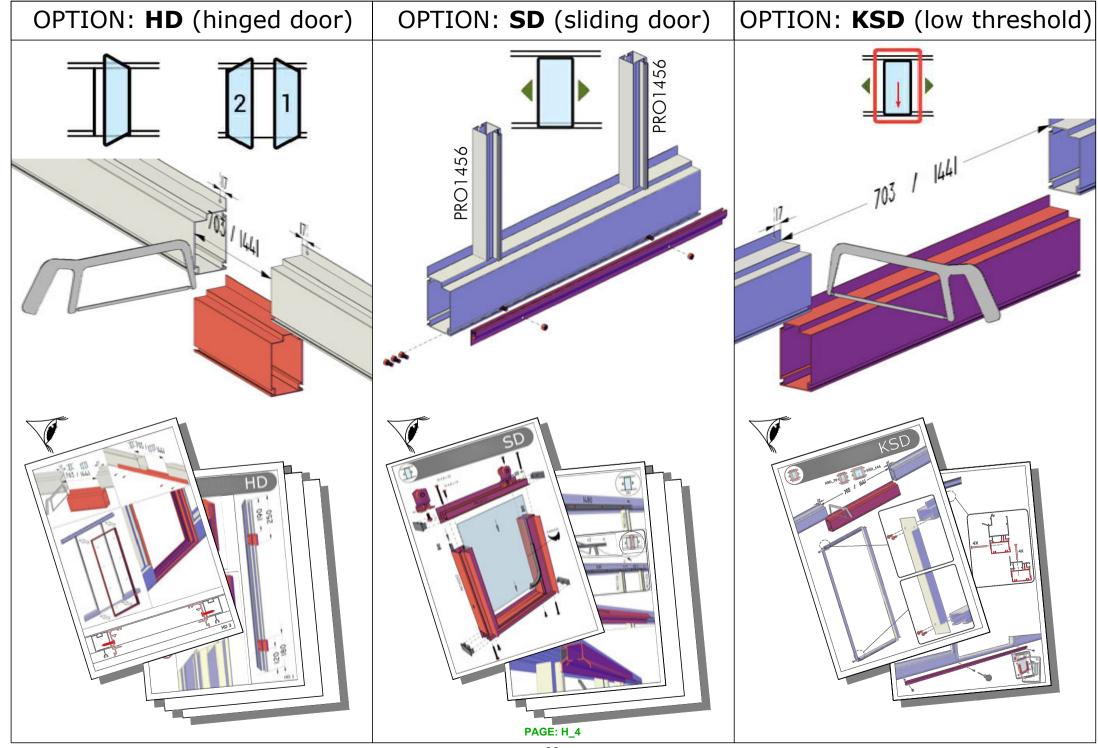


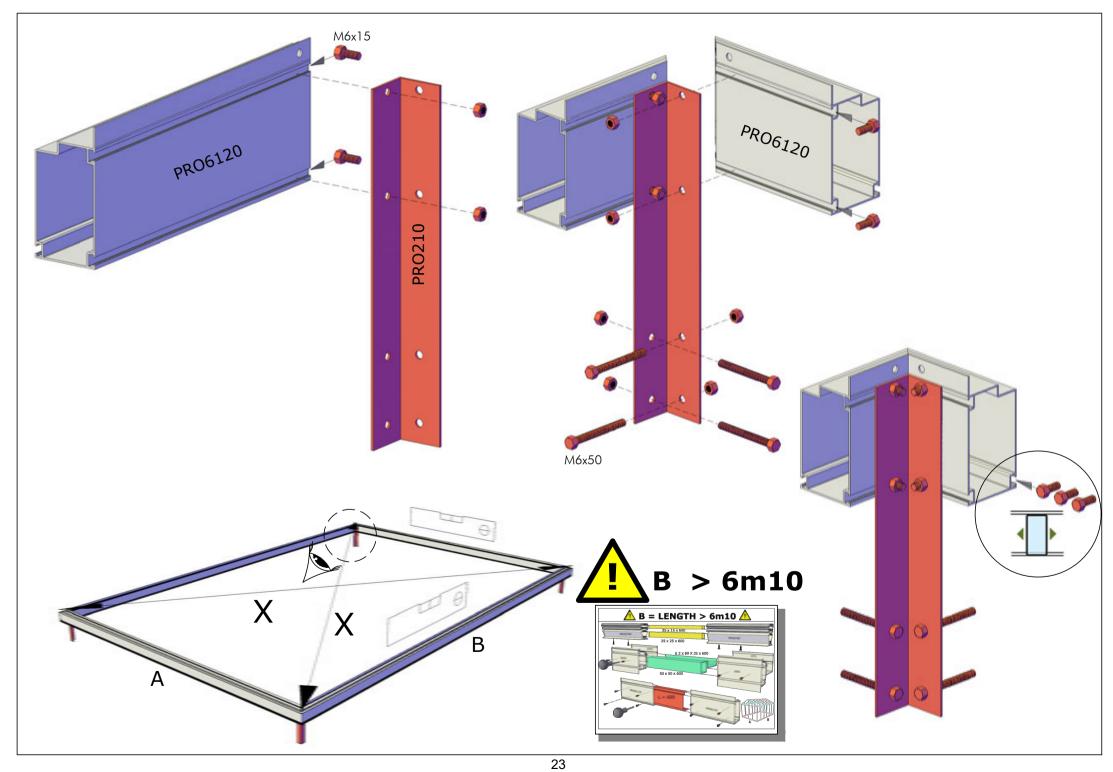


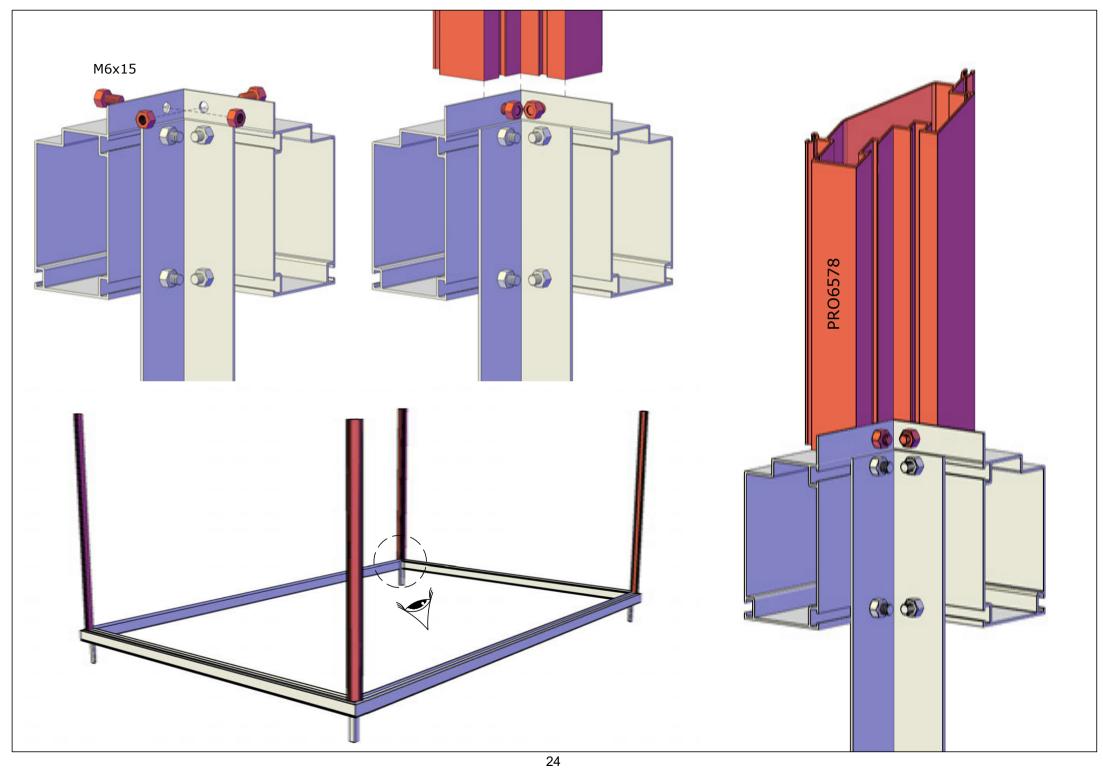
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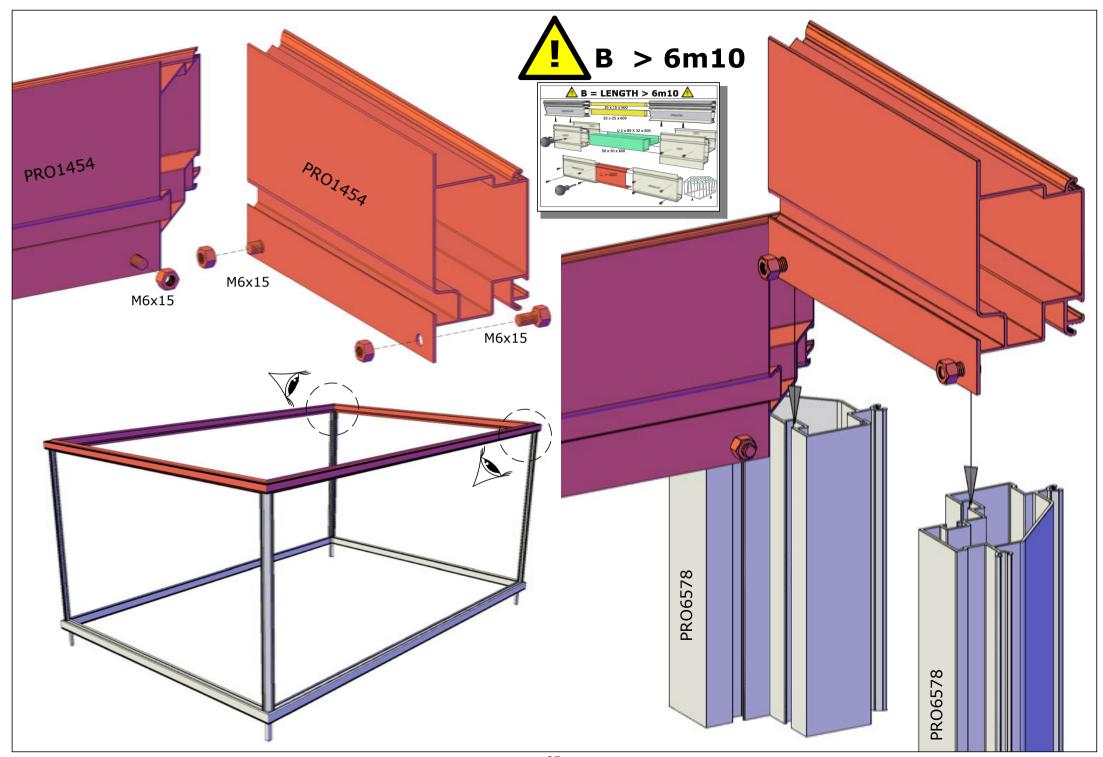


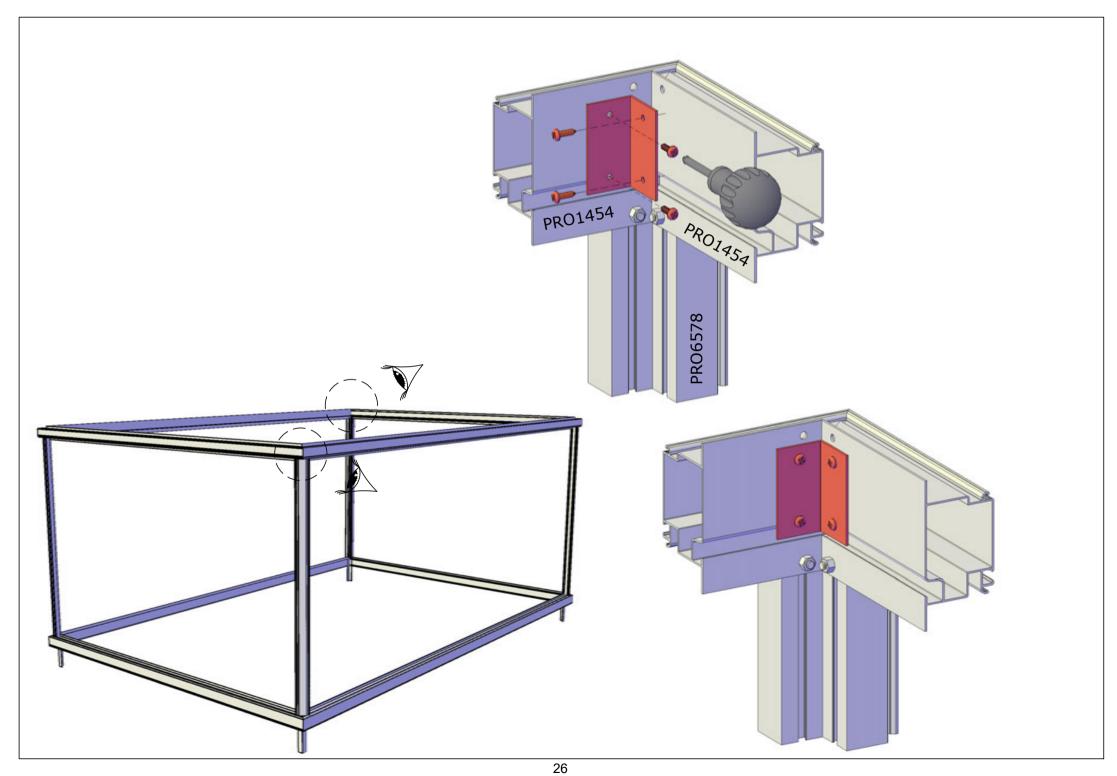


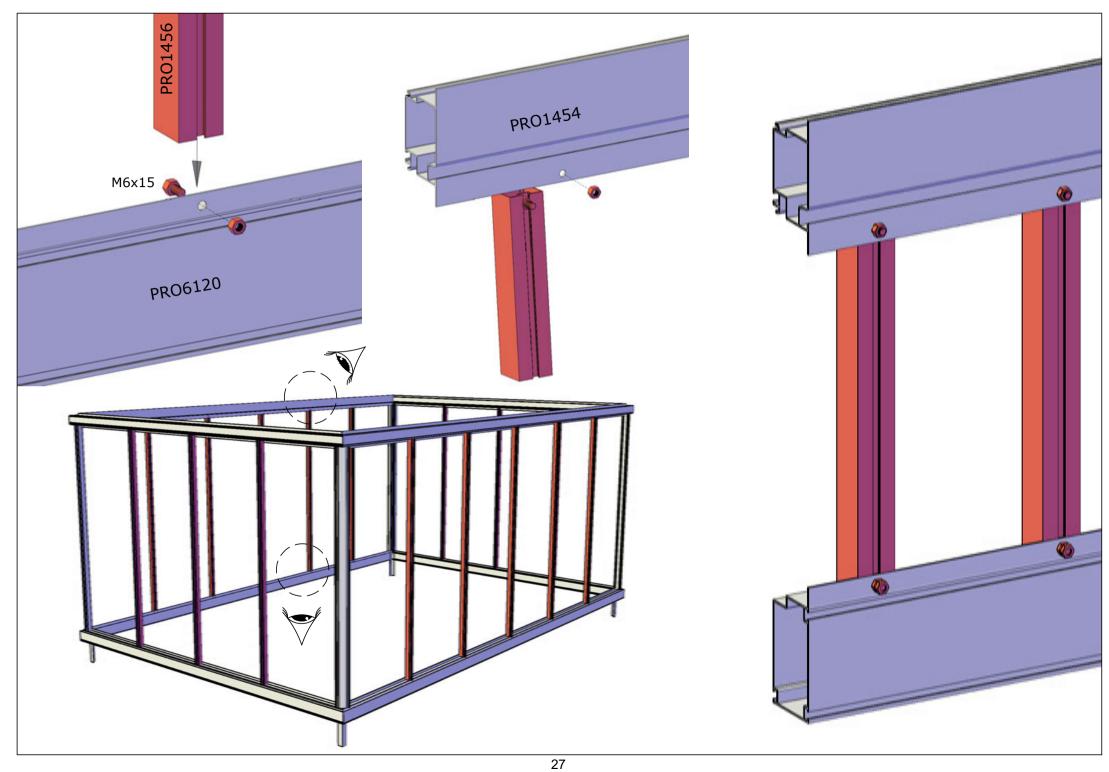


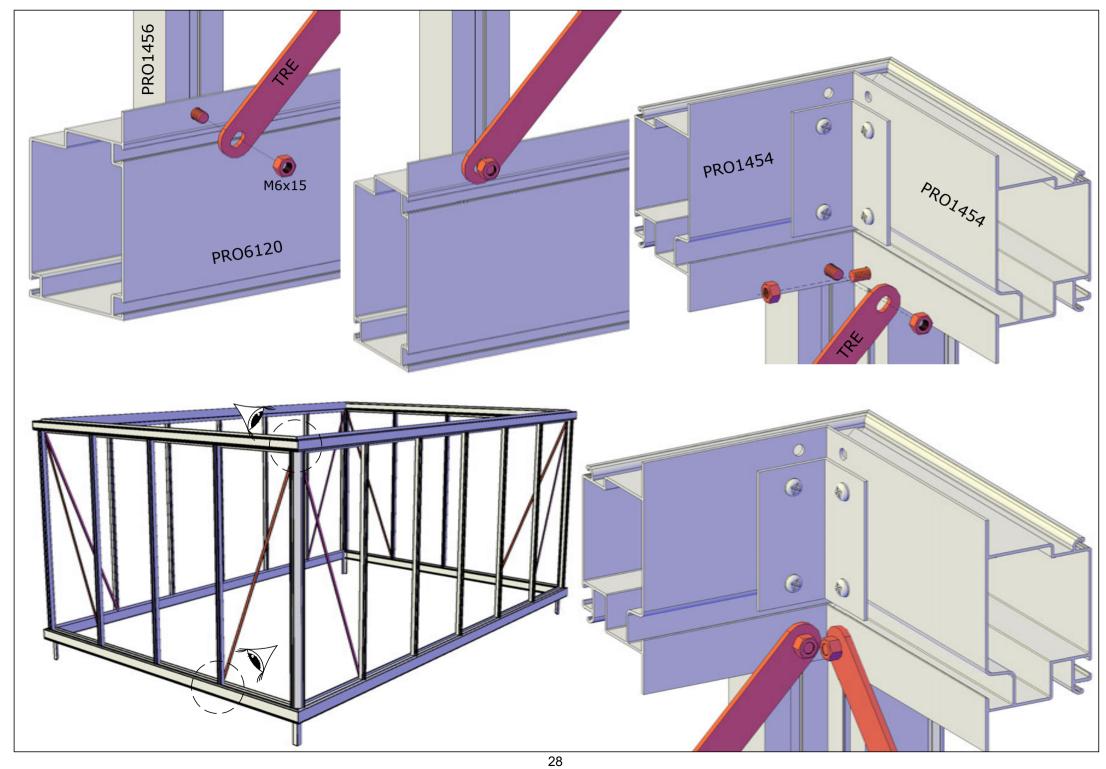


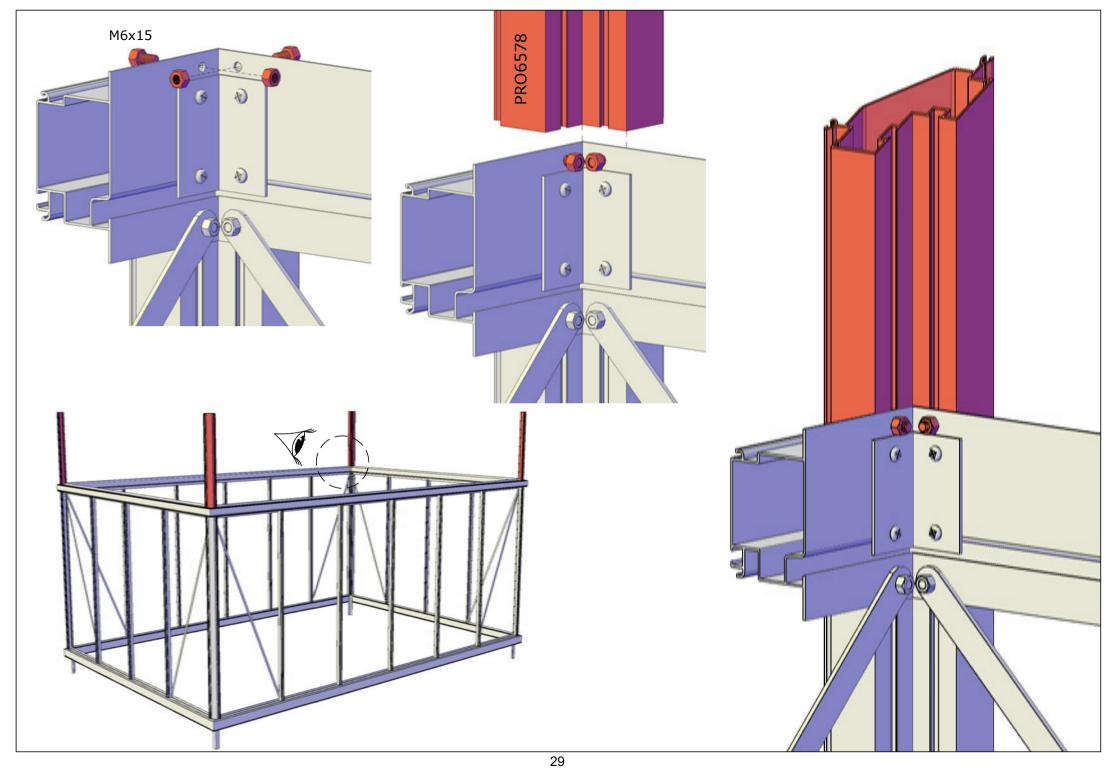


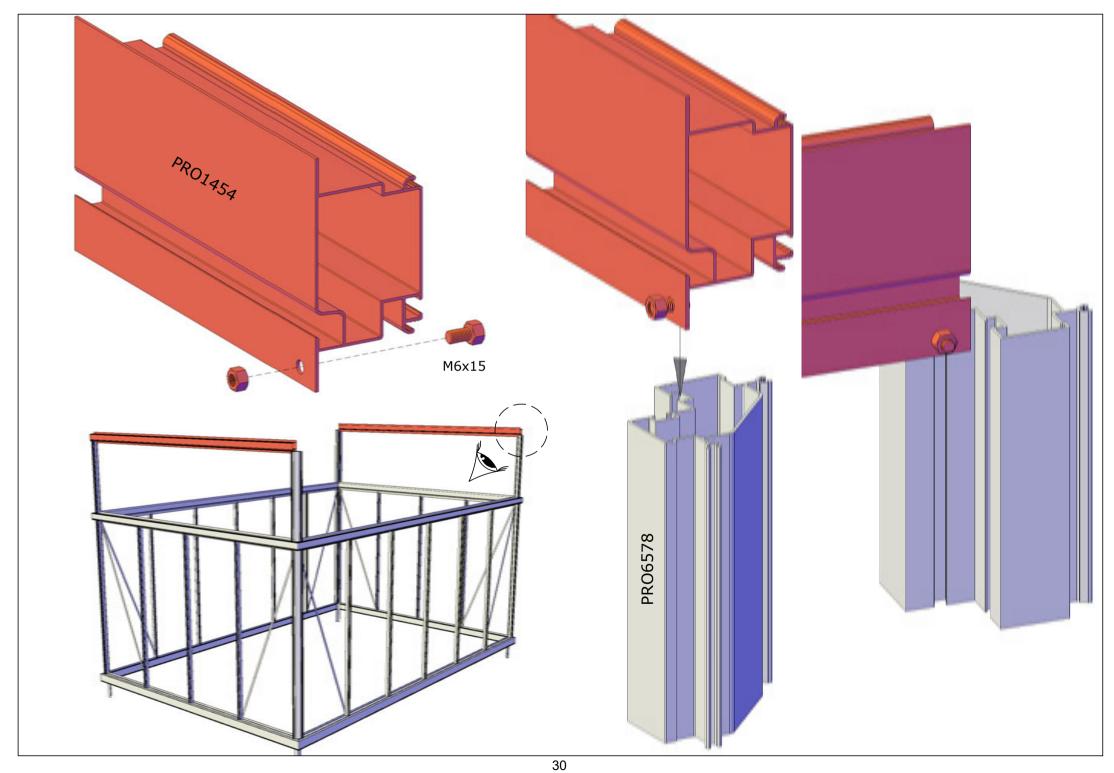


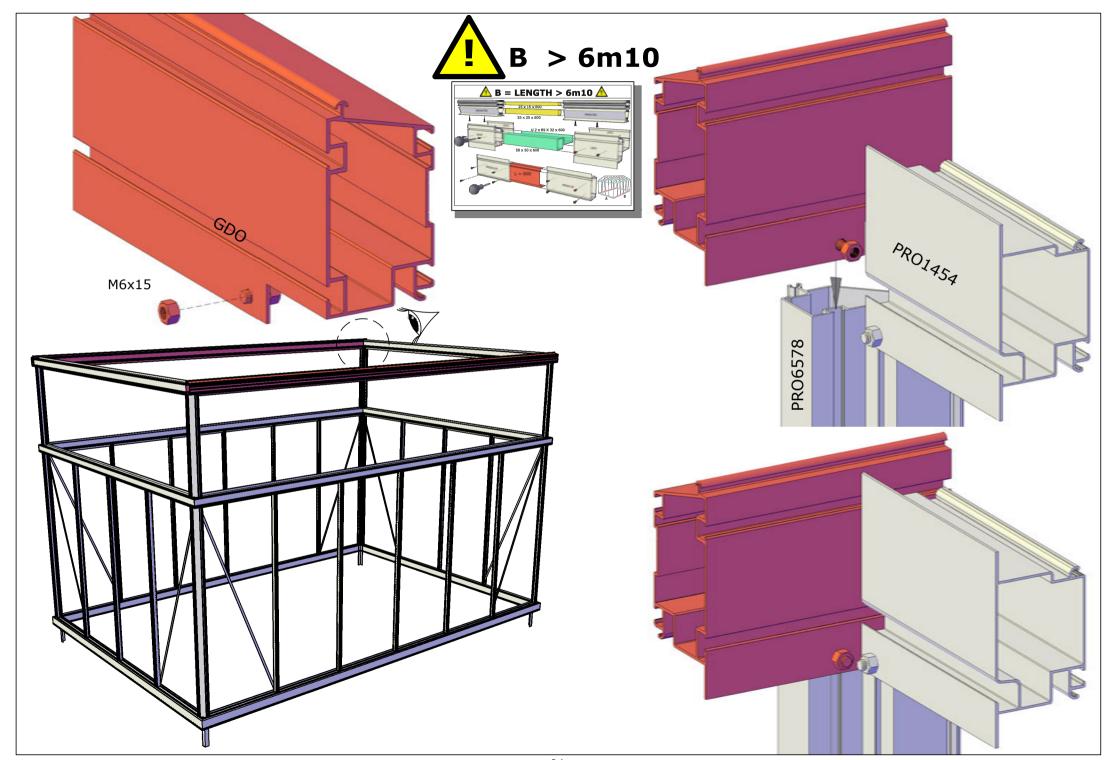


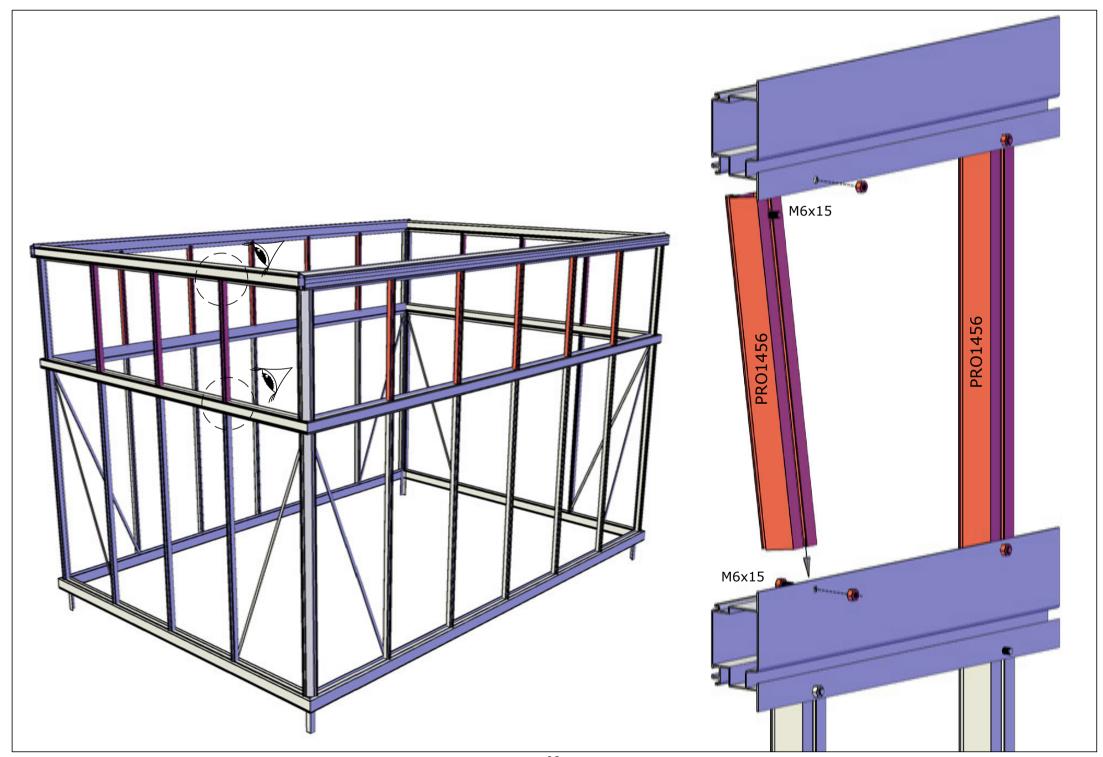


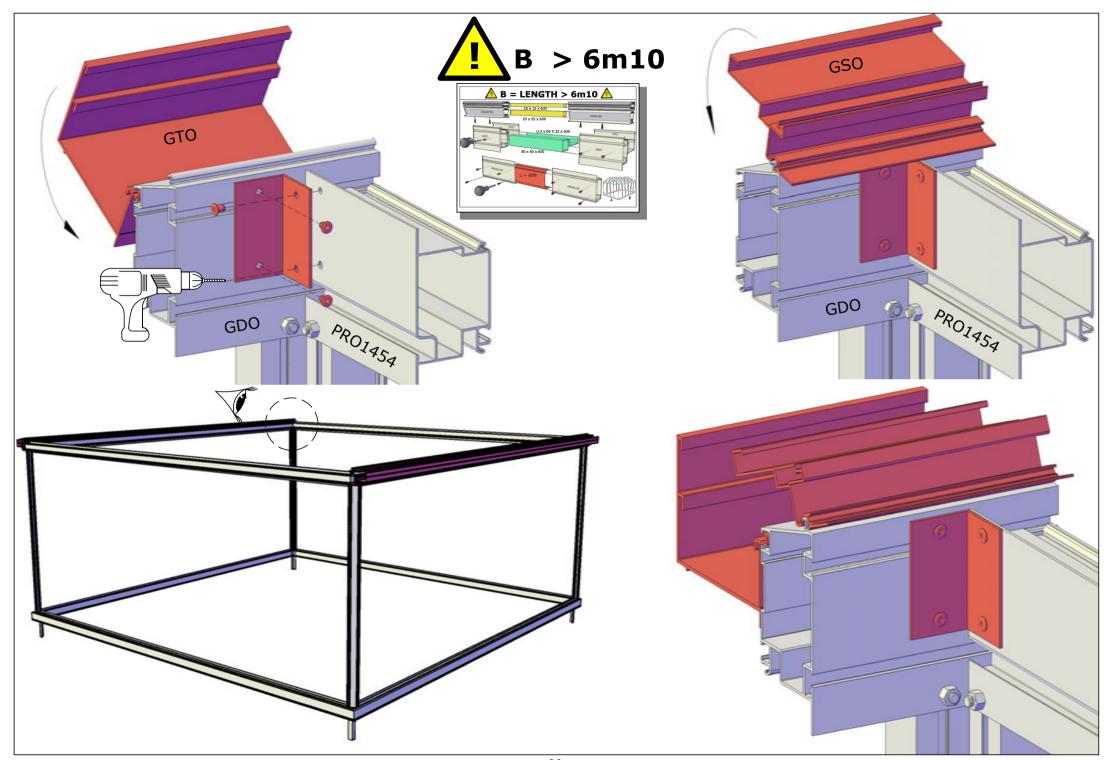


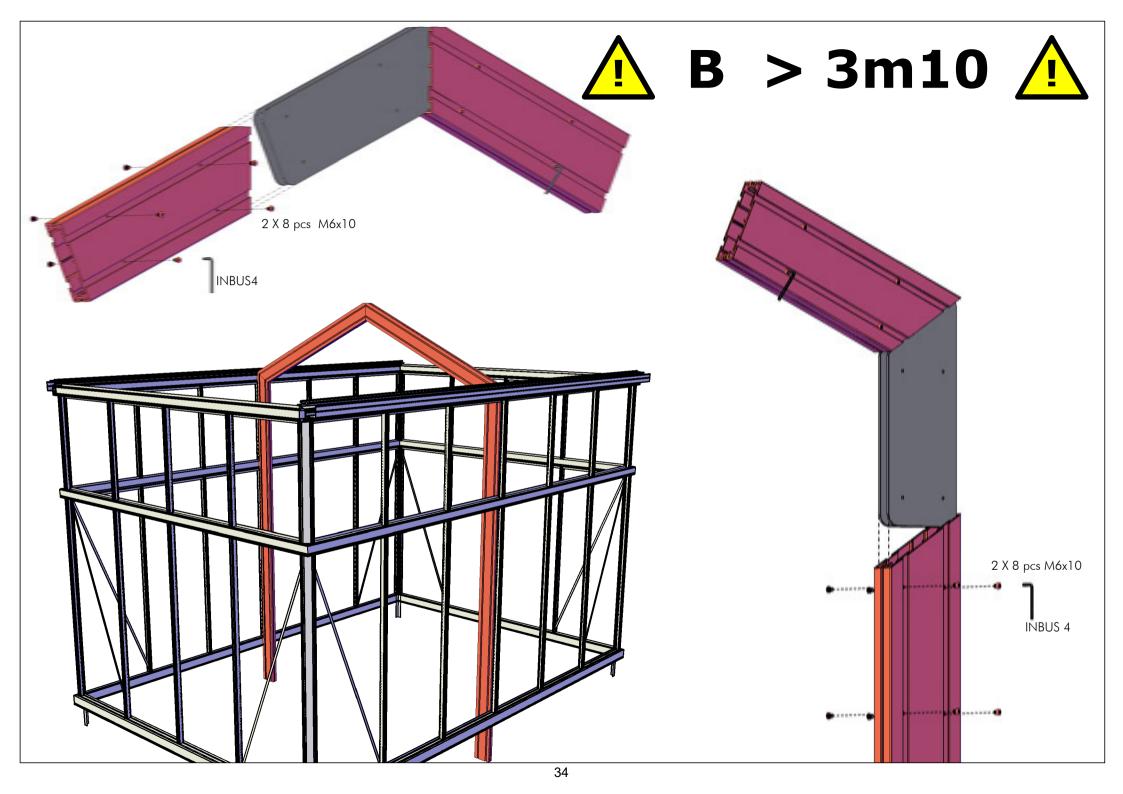


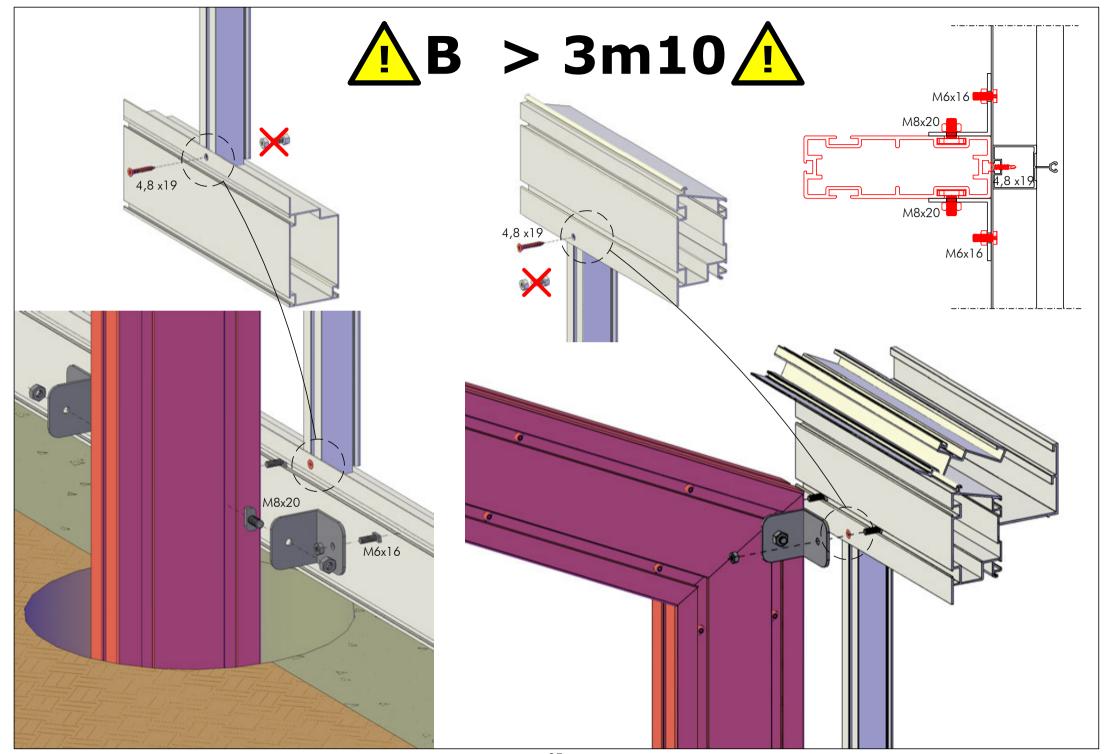


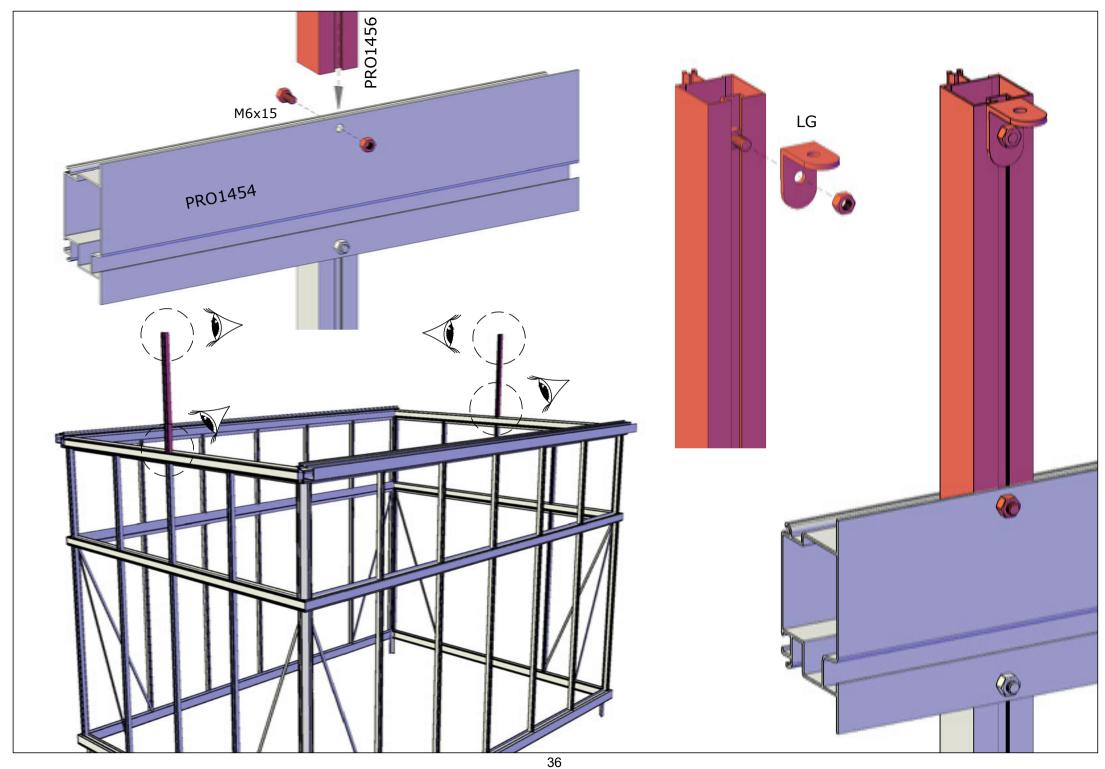


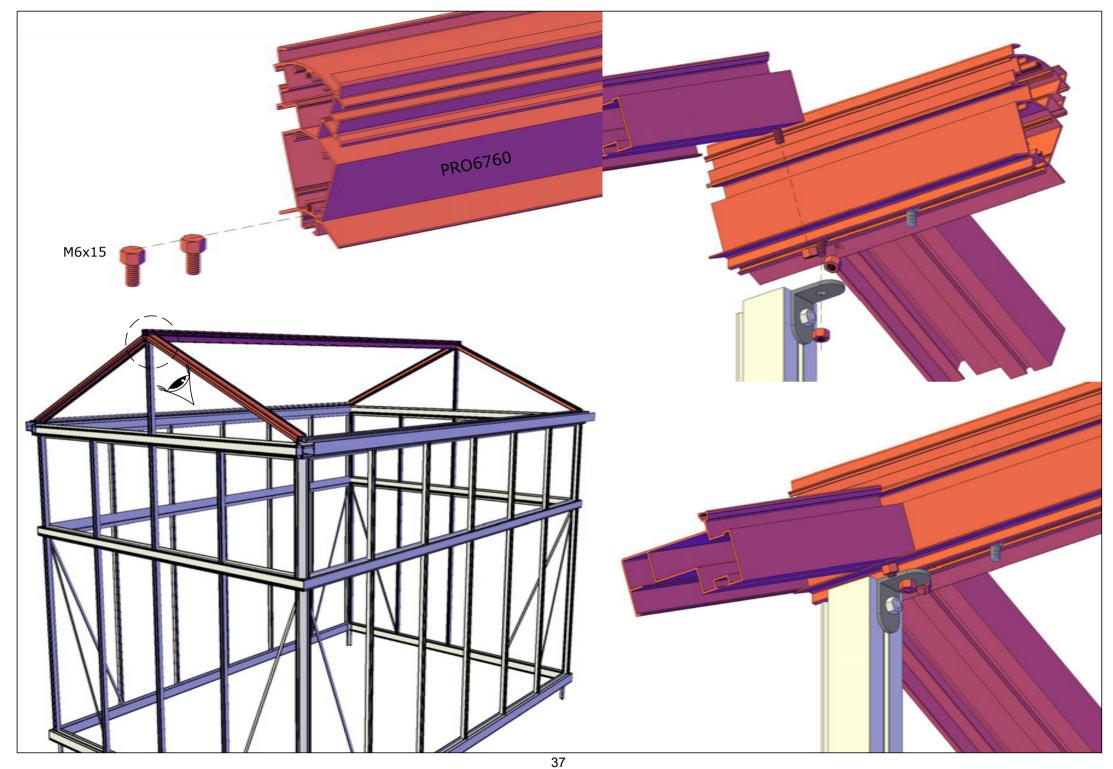


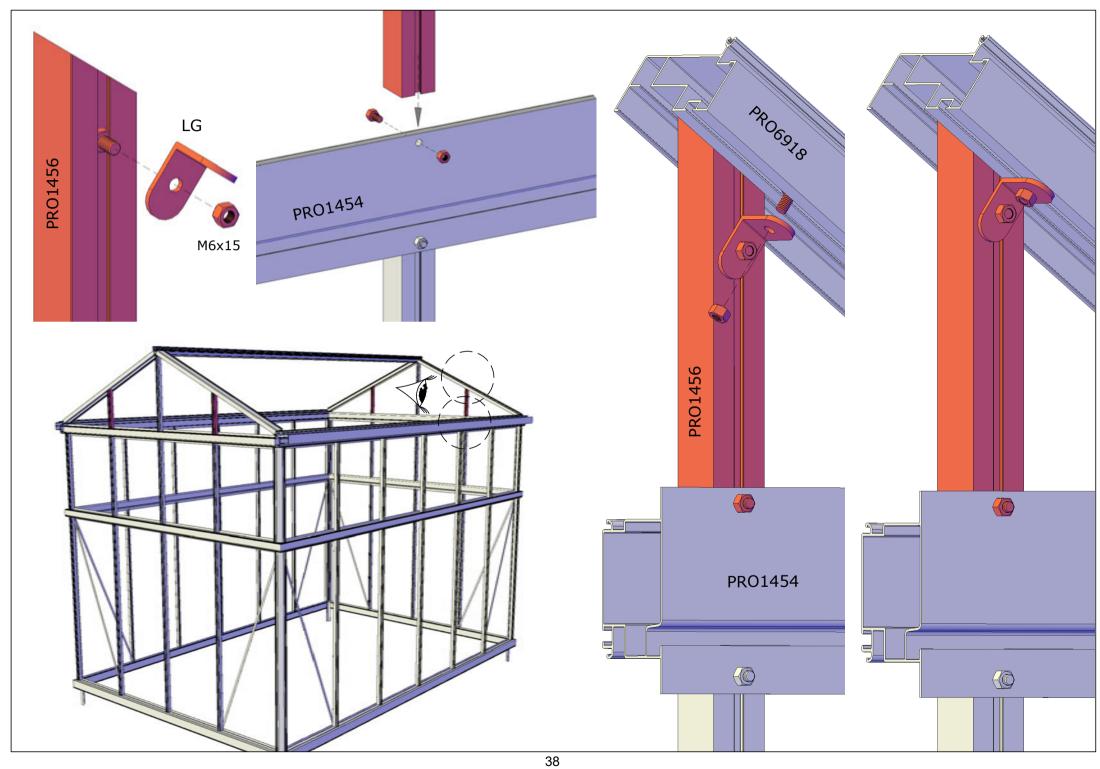


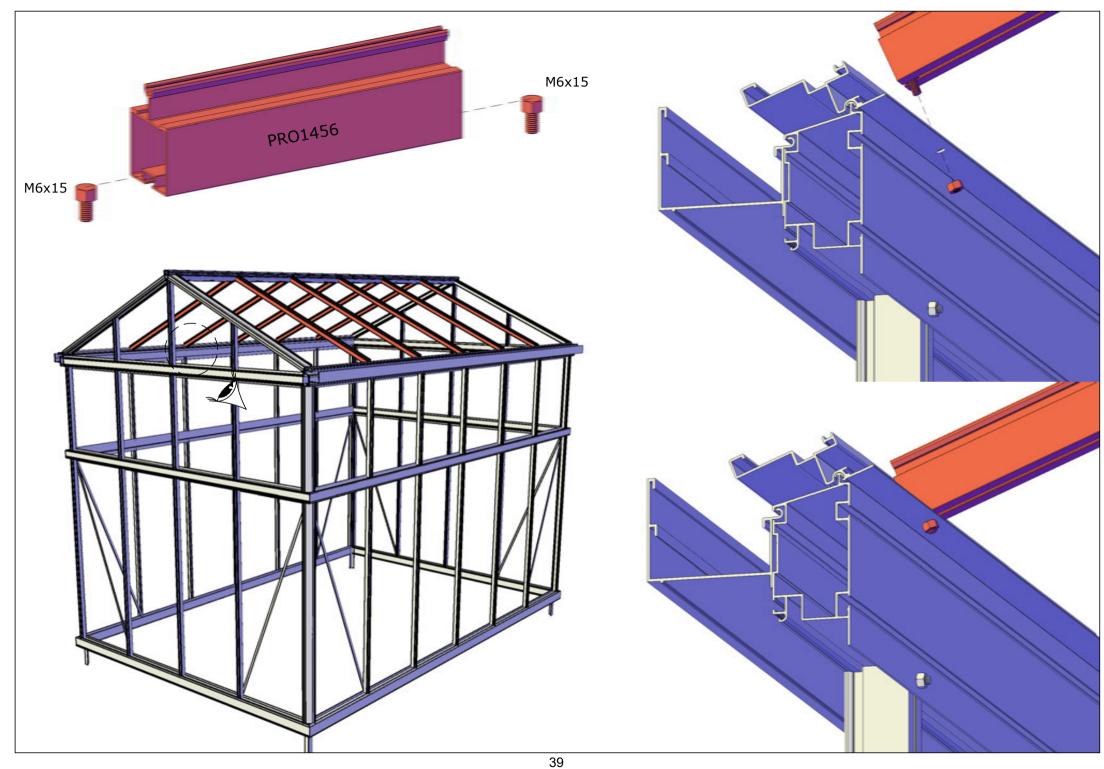


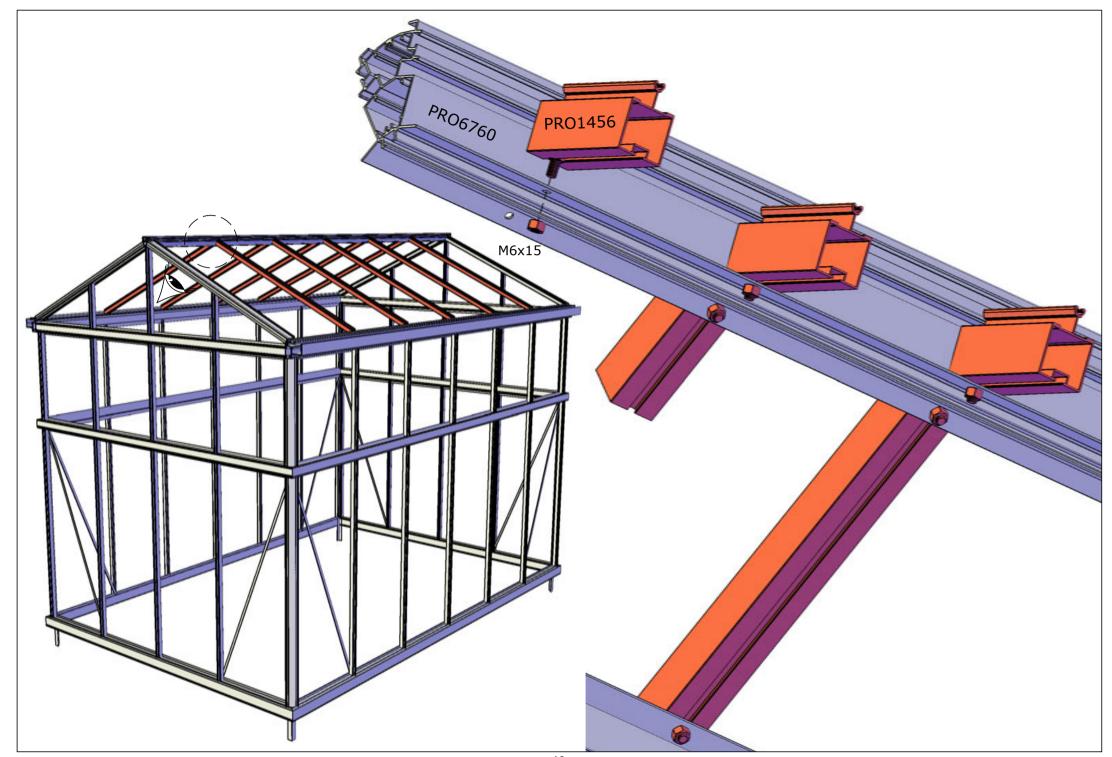


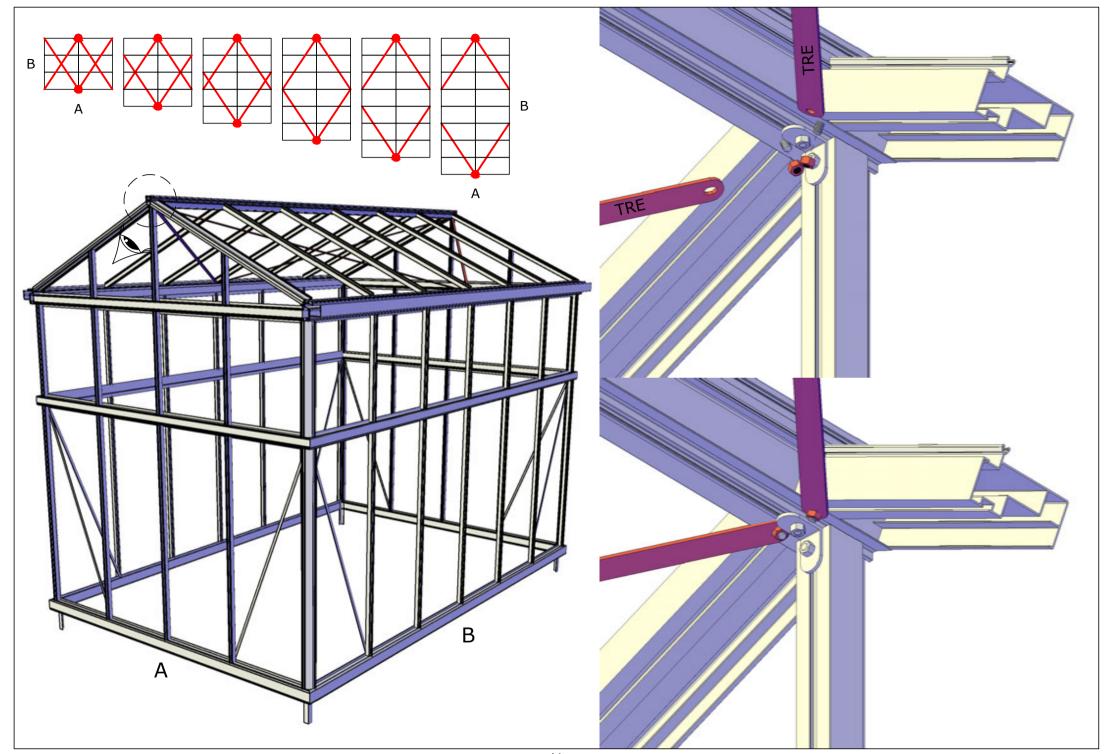


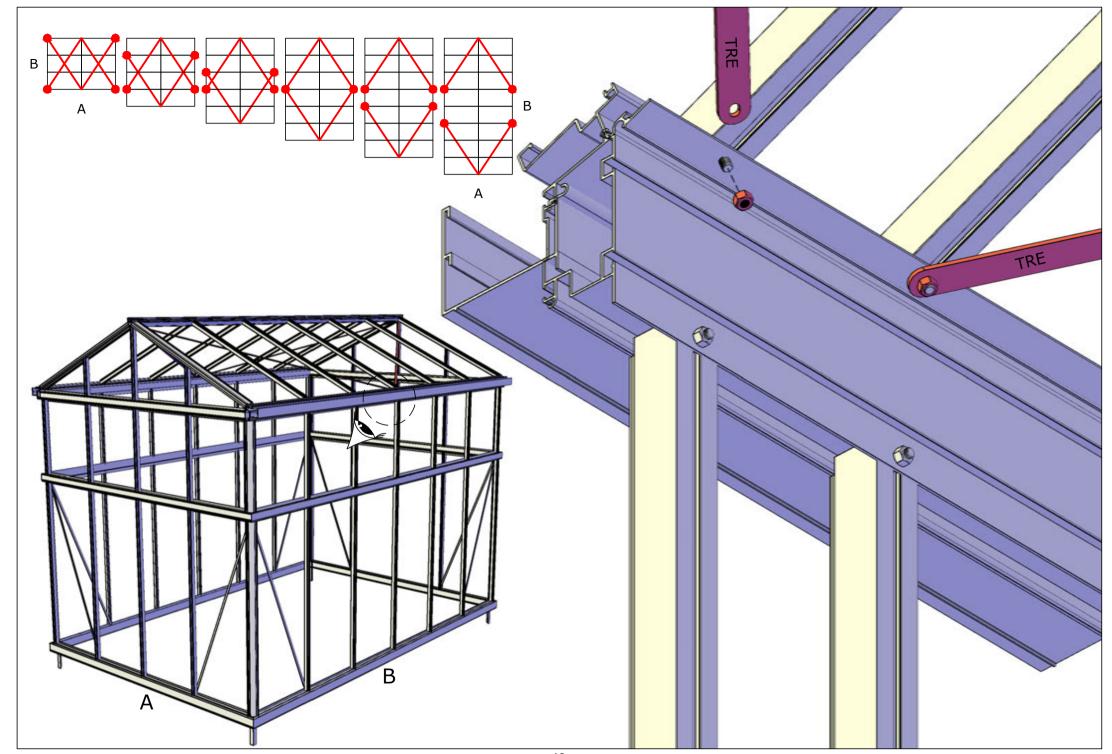


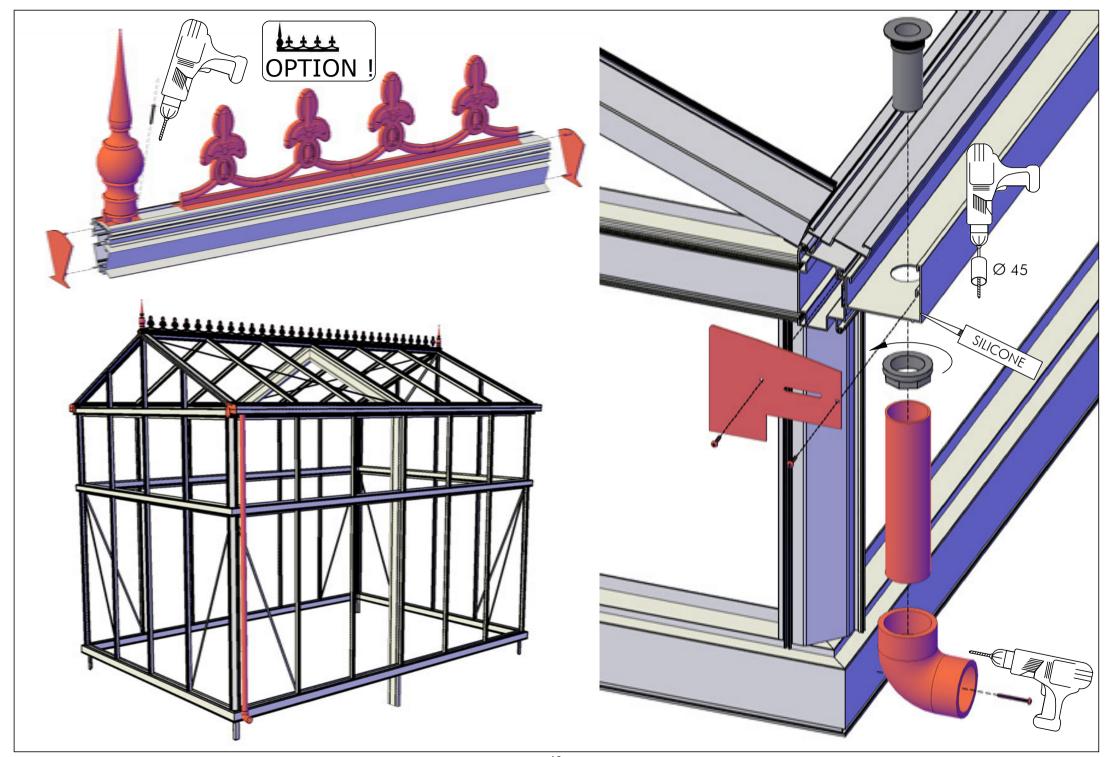


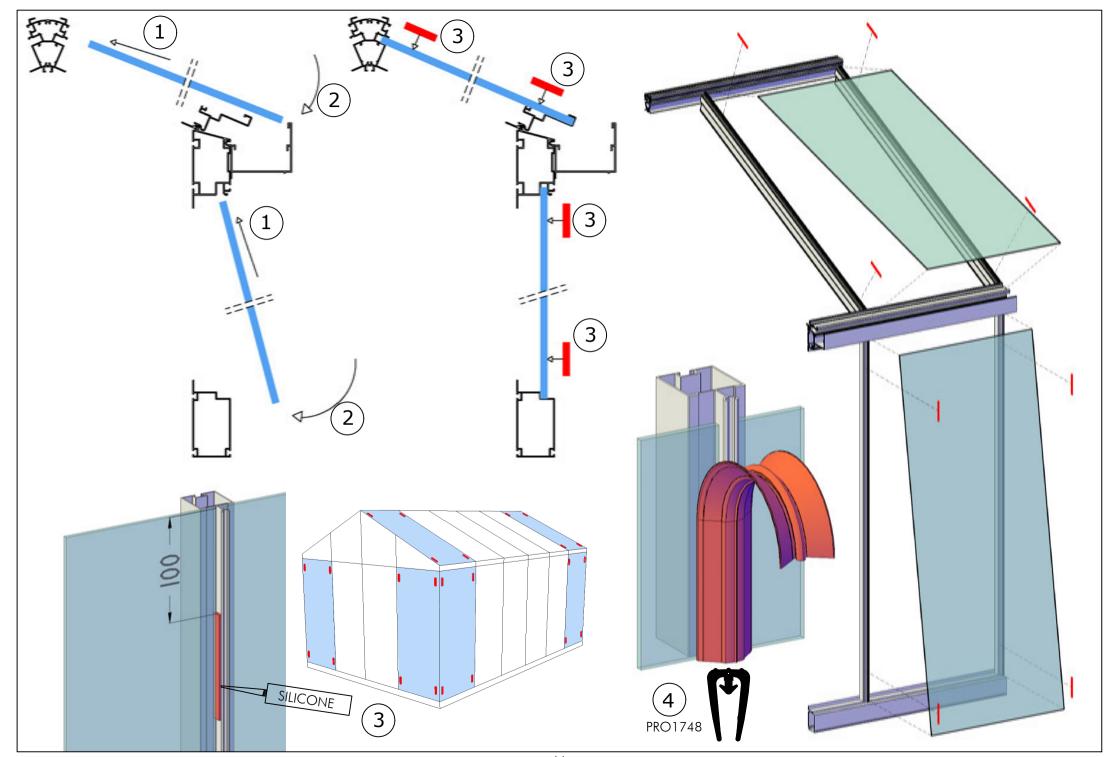


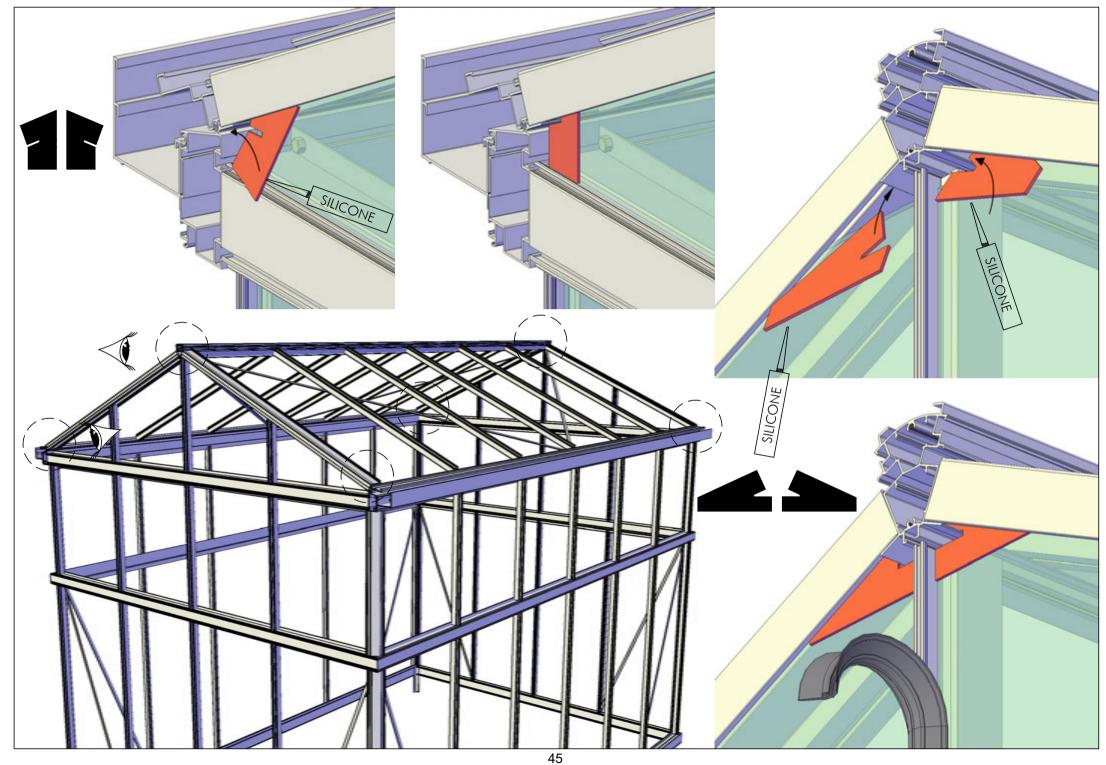


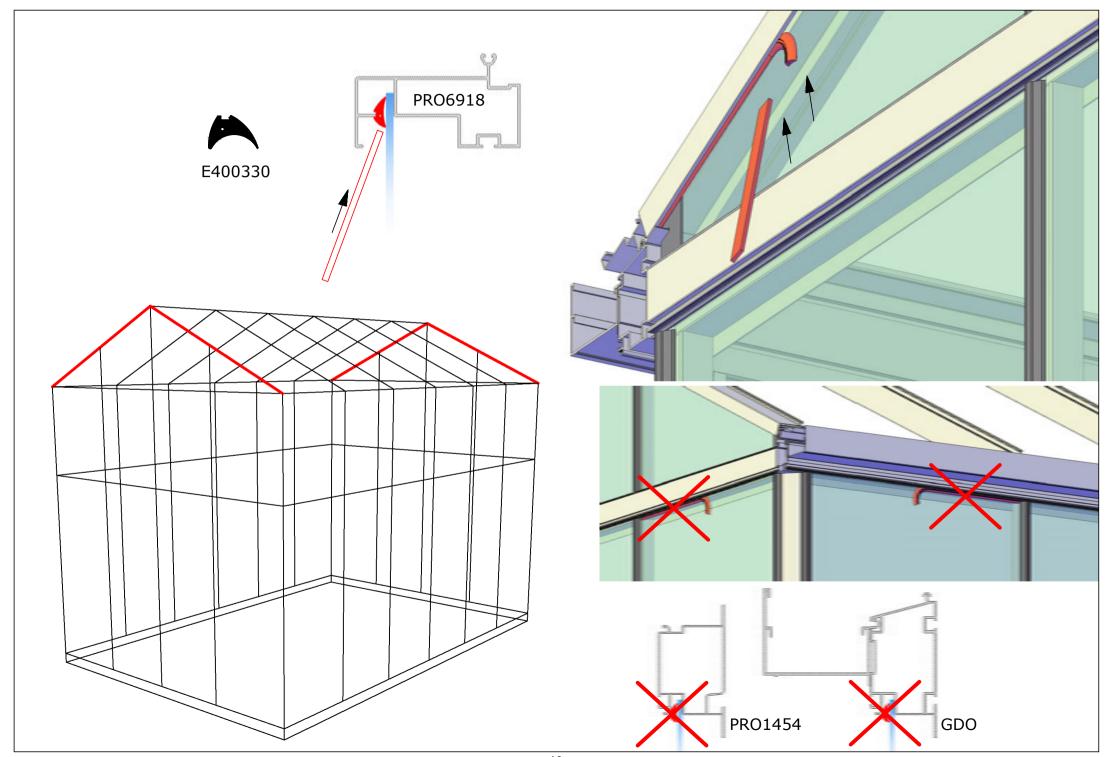


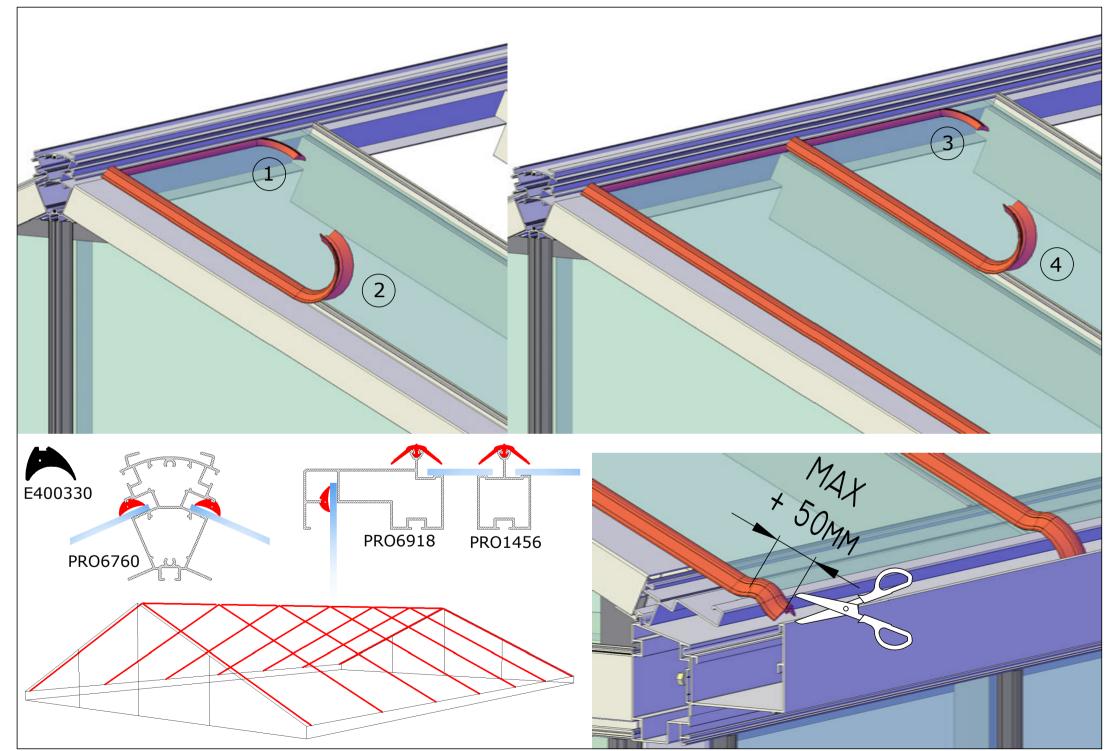








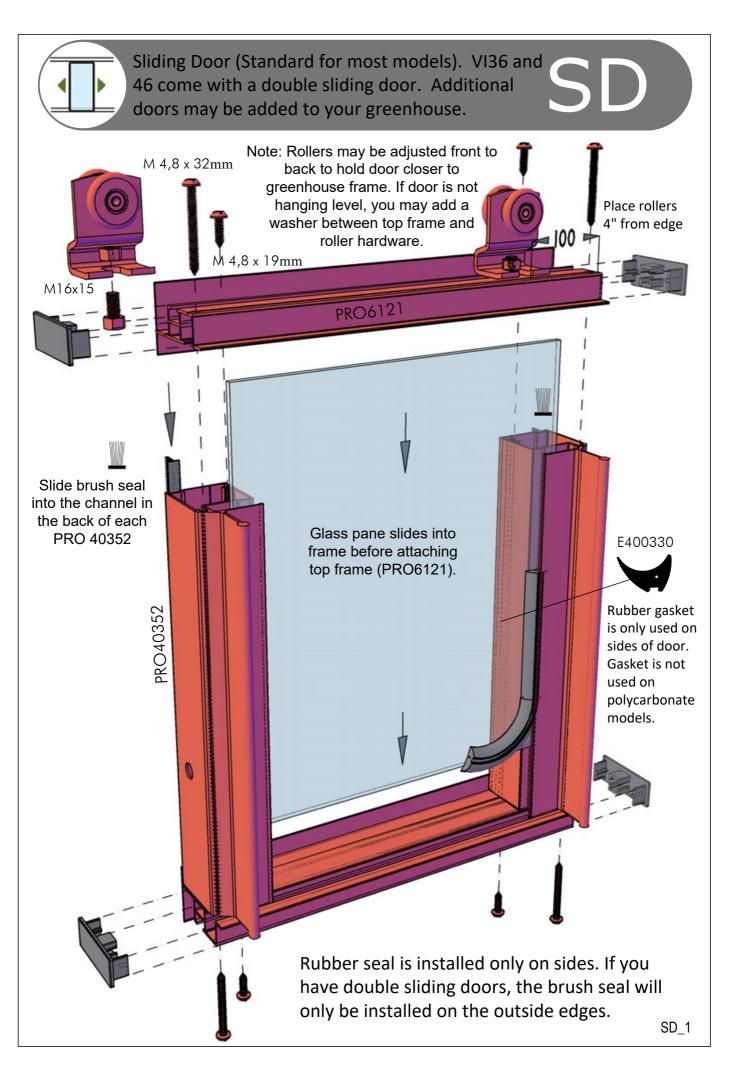


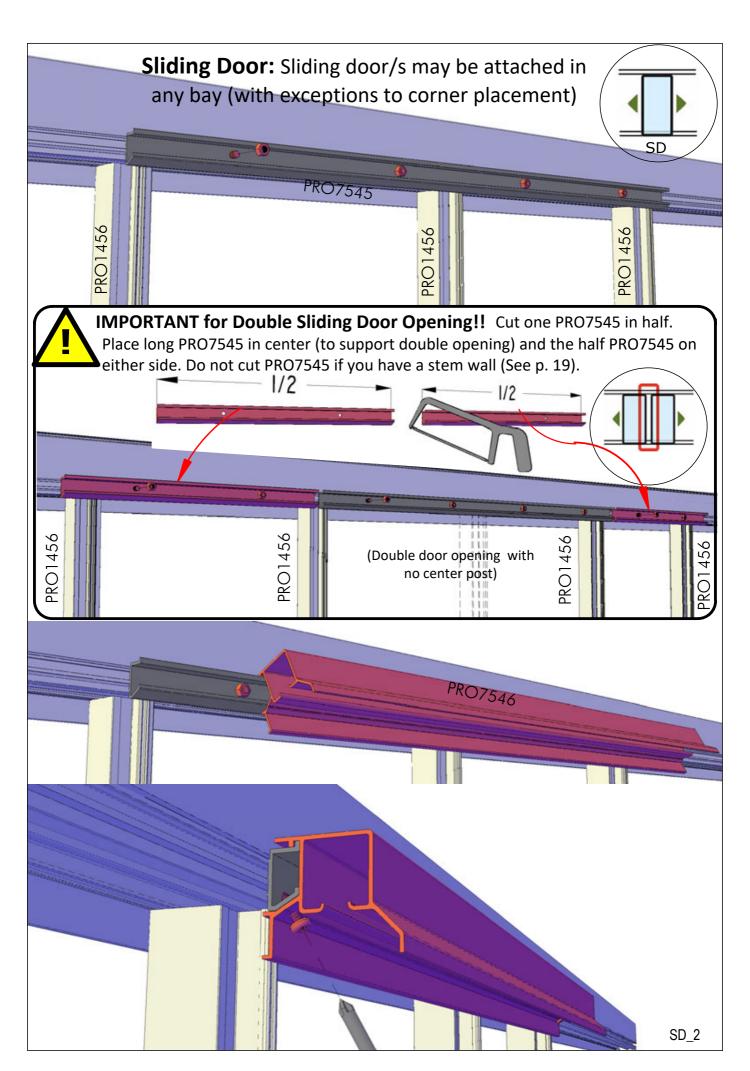


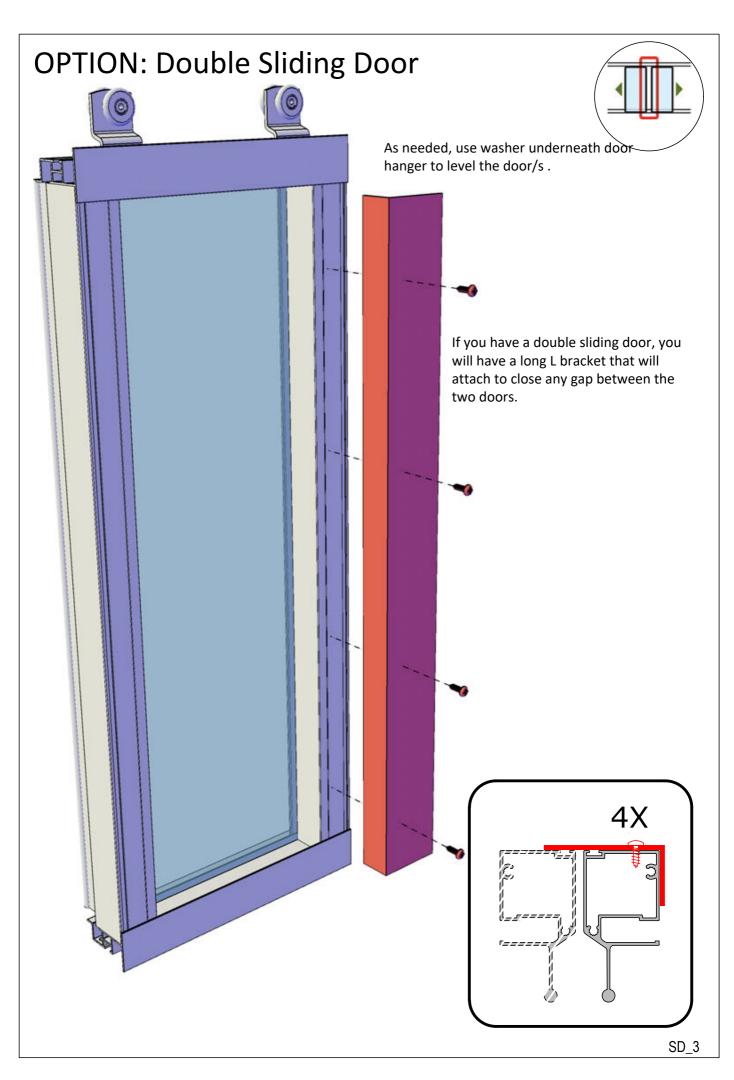
## **ACCESSORIES**

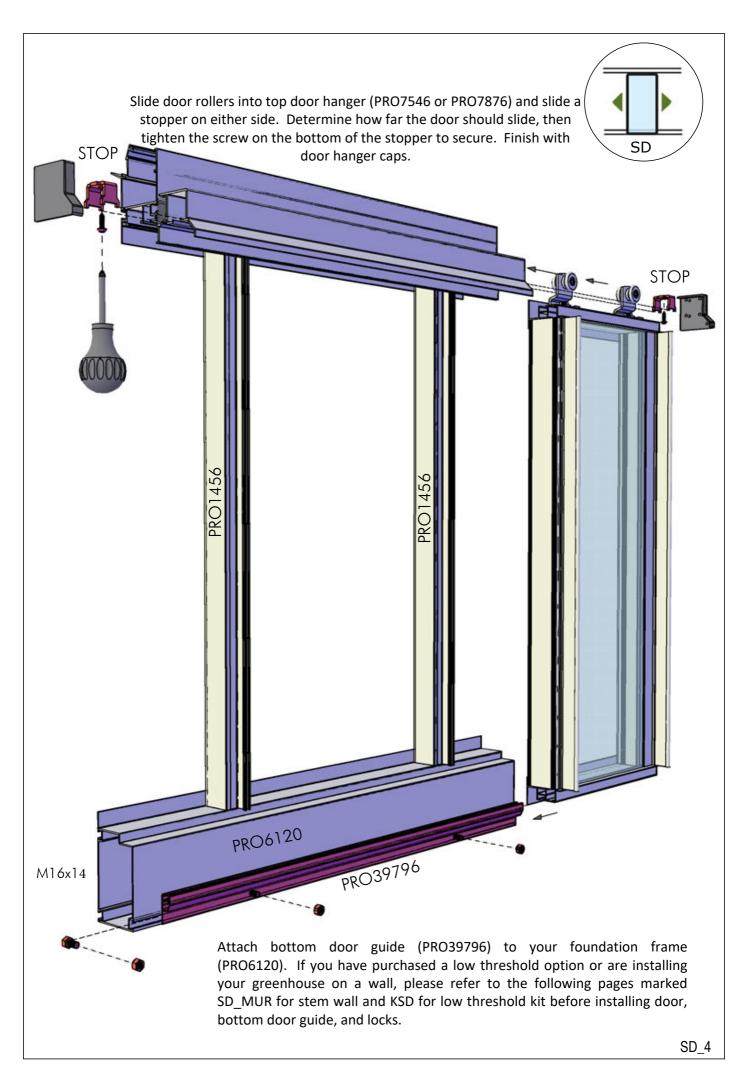
This section contains many of the optional accessories. You will have some, but likely not all, items seen in this section.

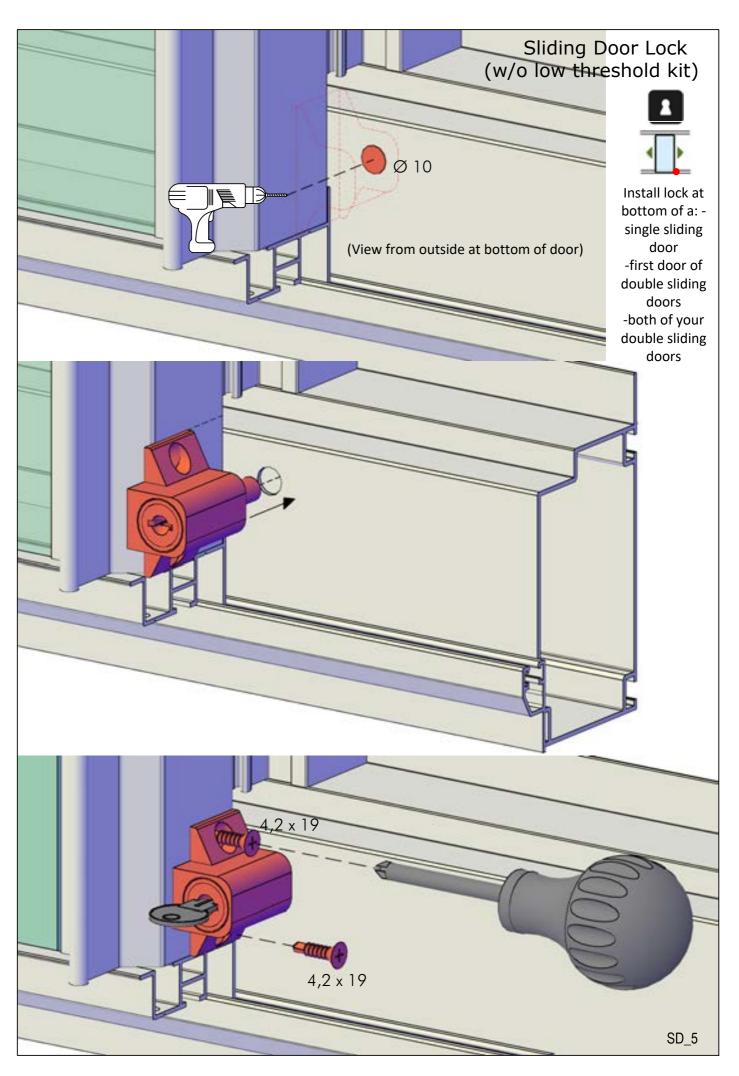
IMPORTANT: Find Janssens Accessory installation video on our site here: https://www.exaco.com/greenhouse-victorian.php It will be immensely helpful!

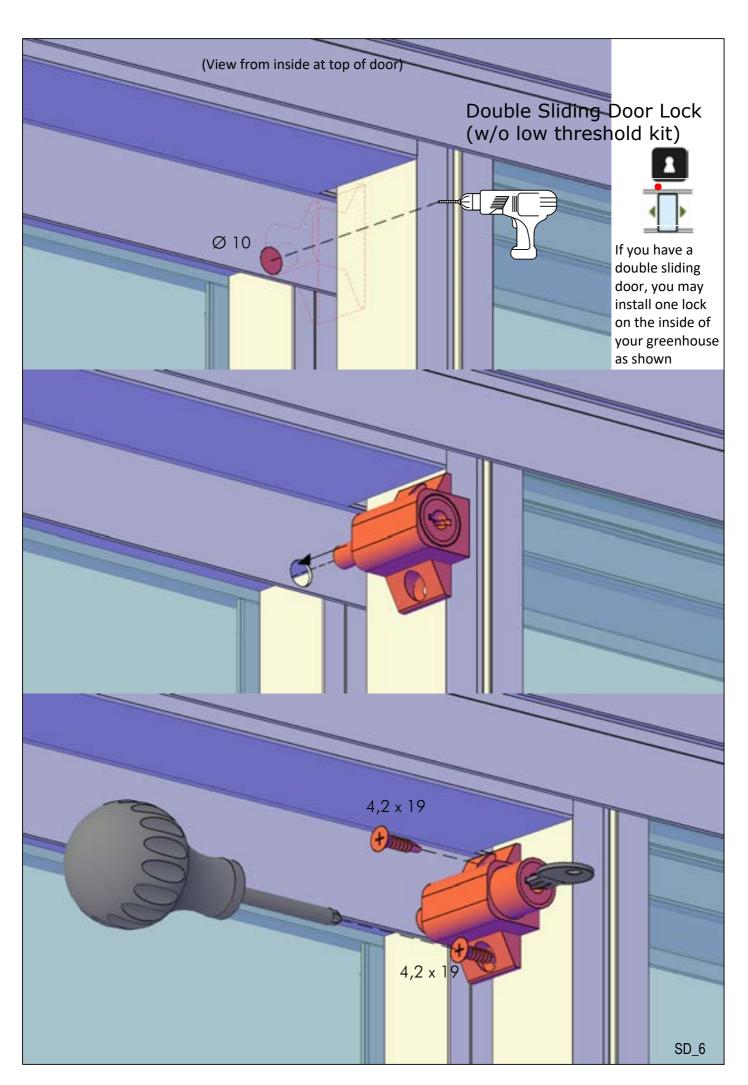


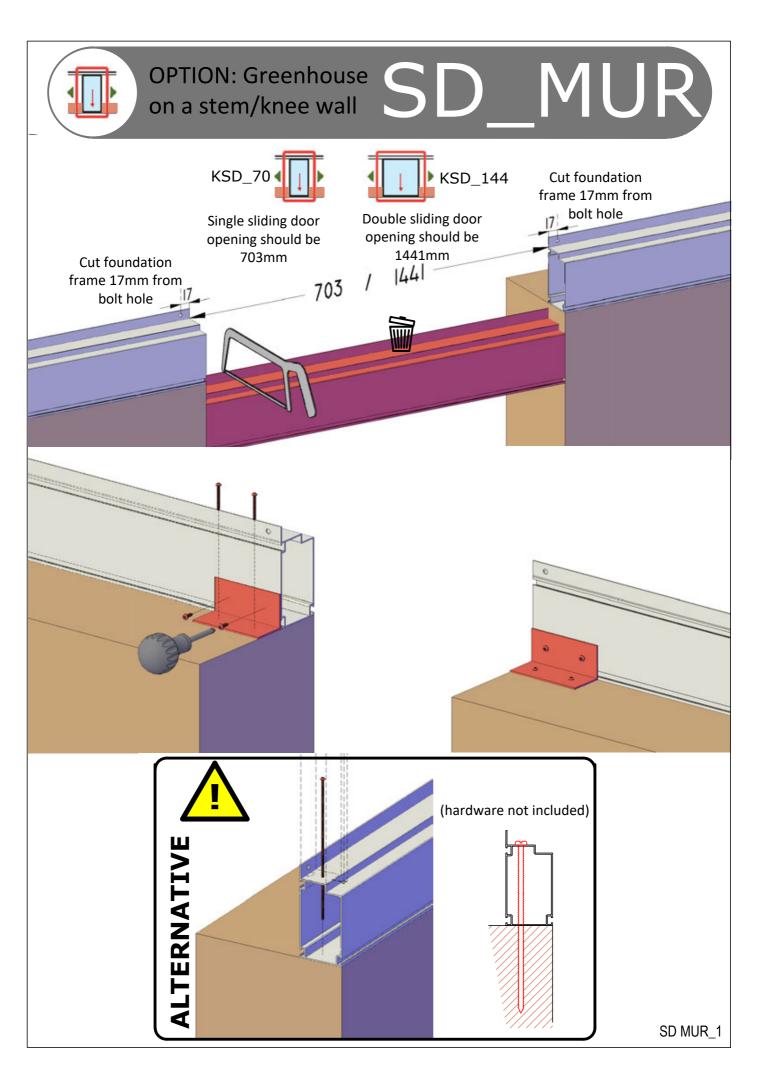


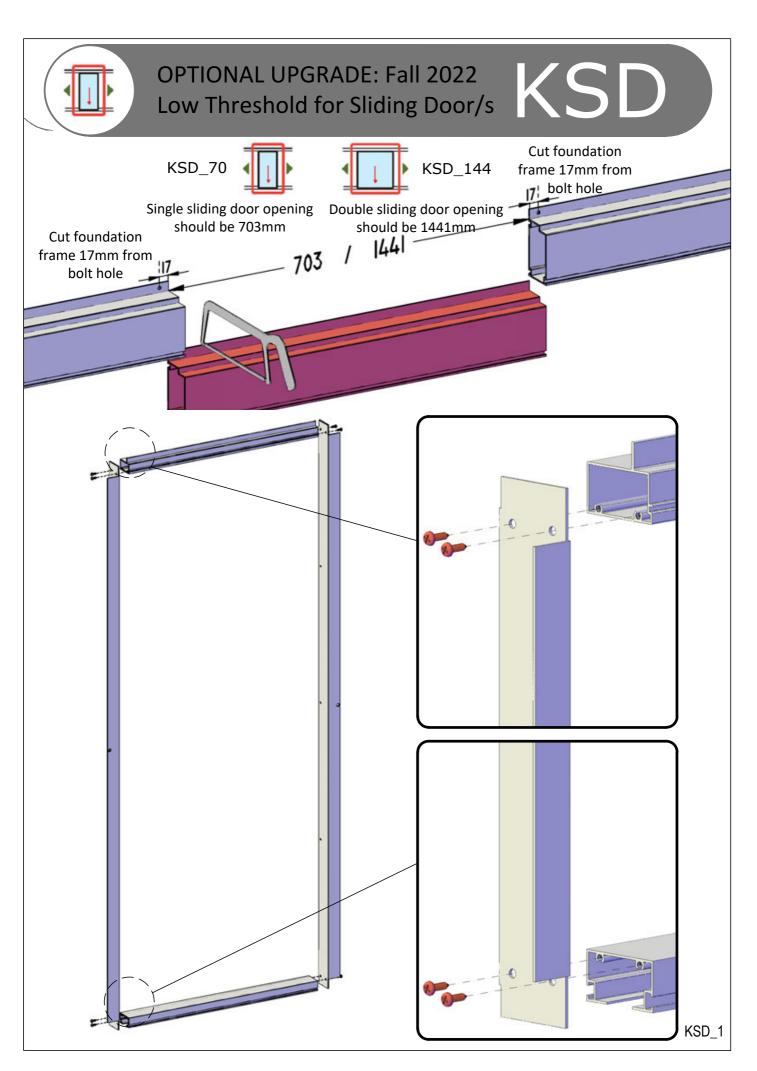


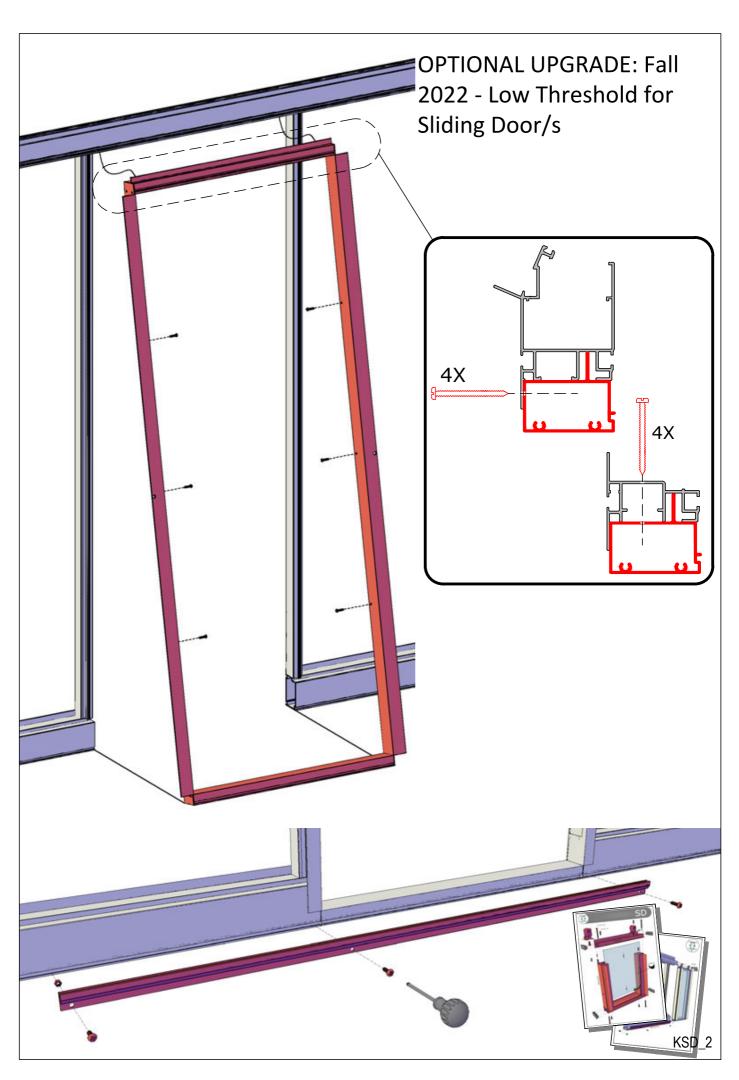


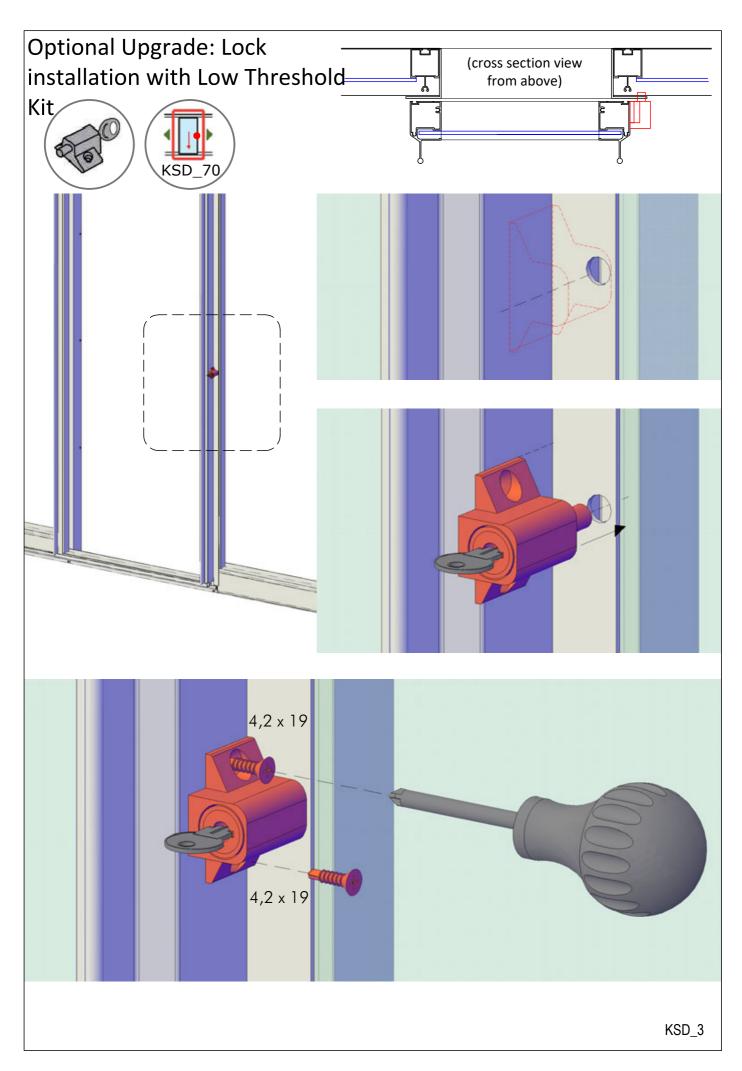


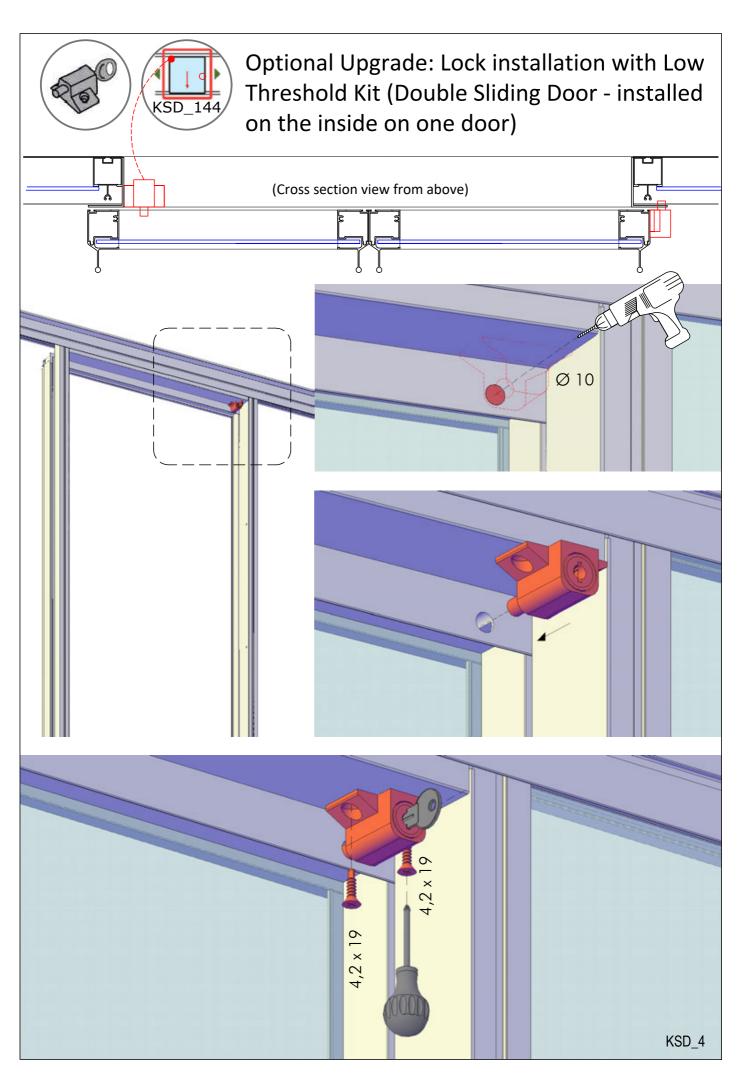


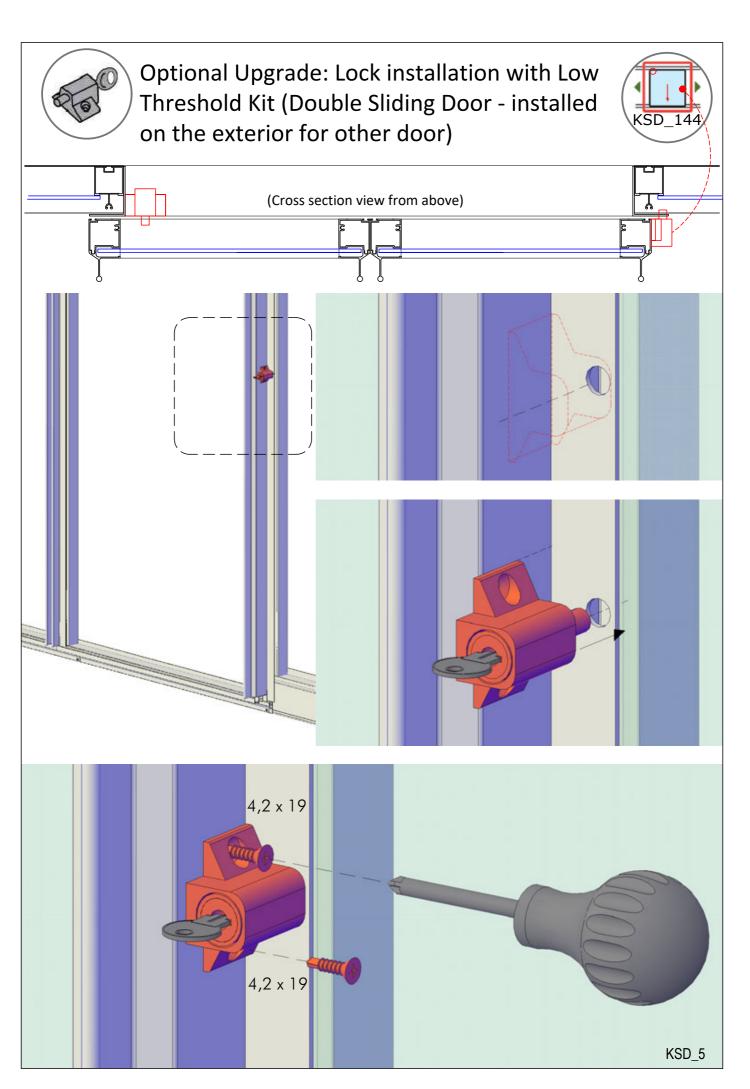


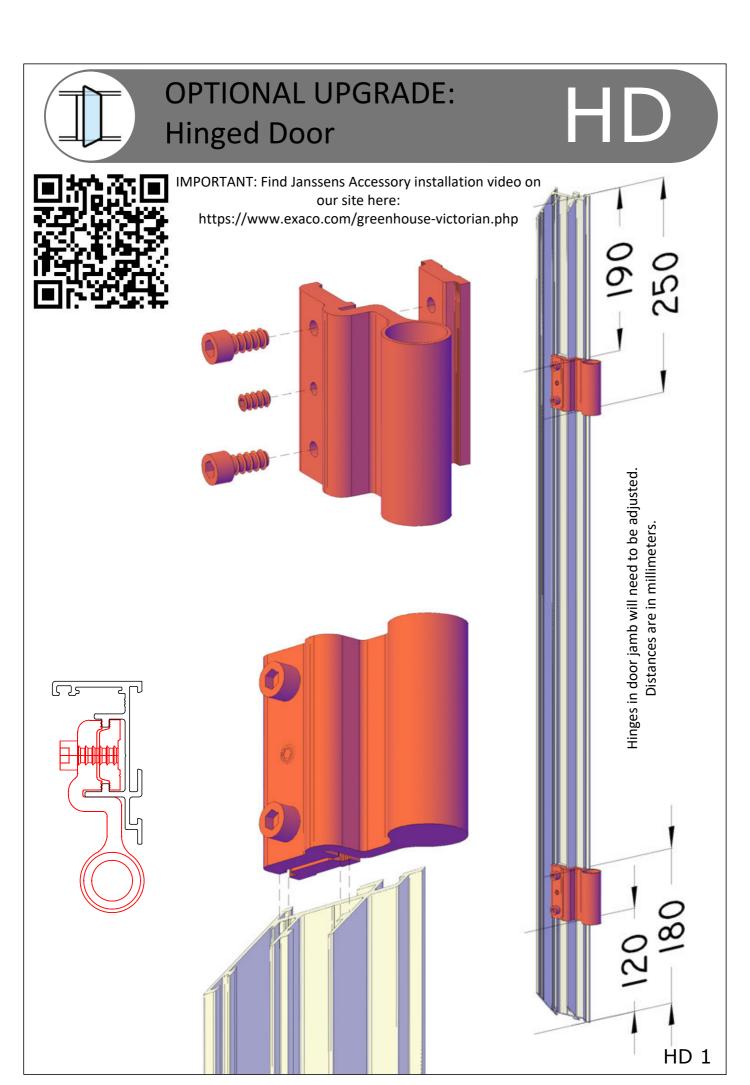


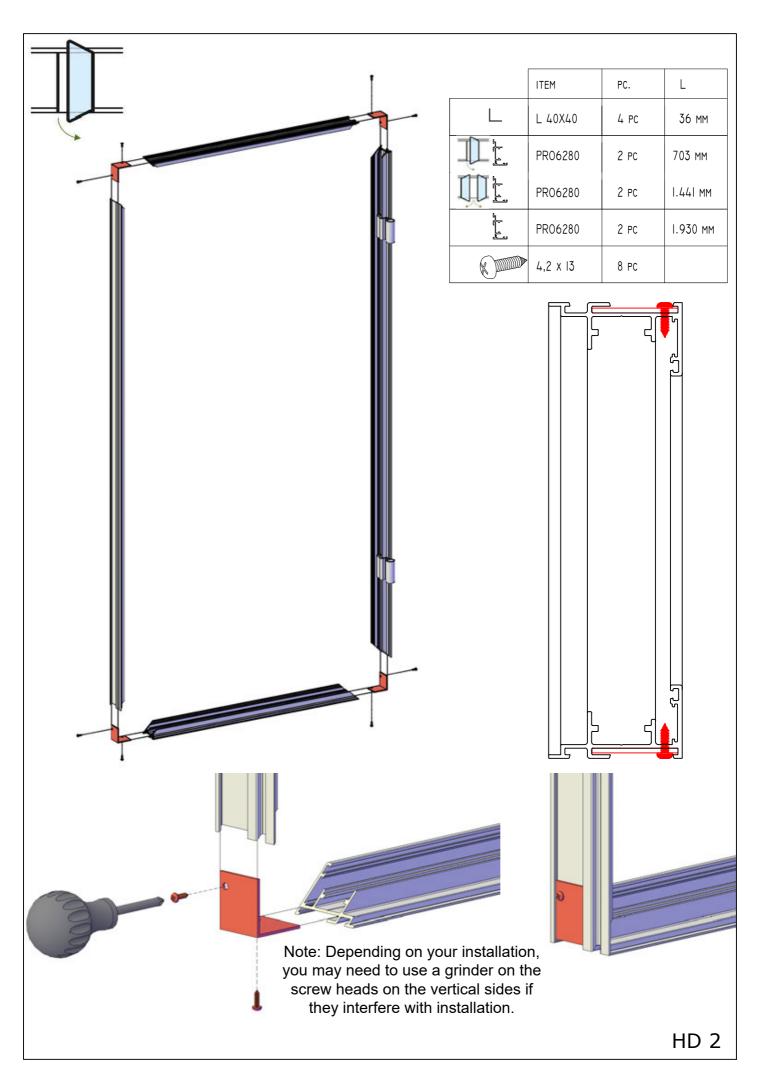


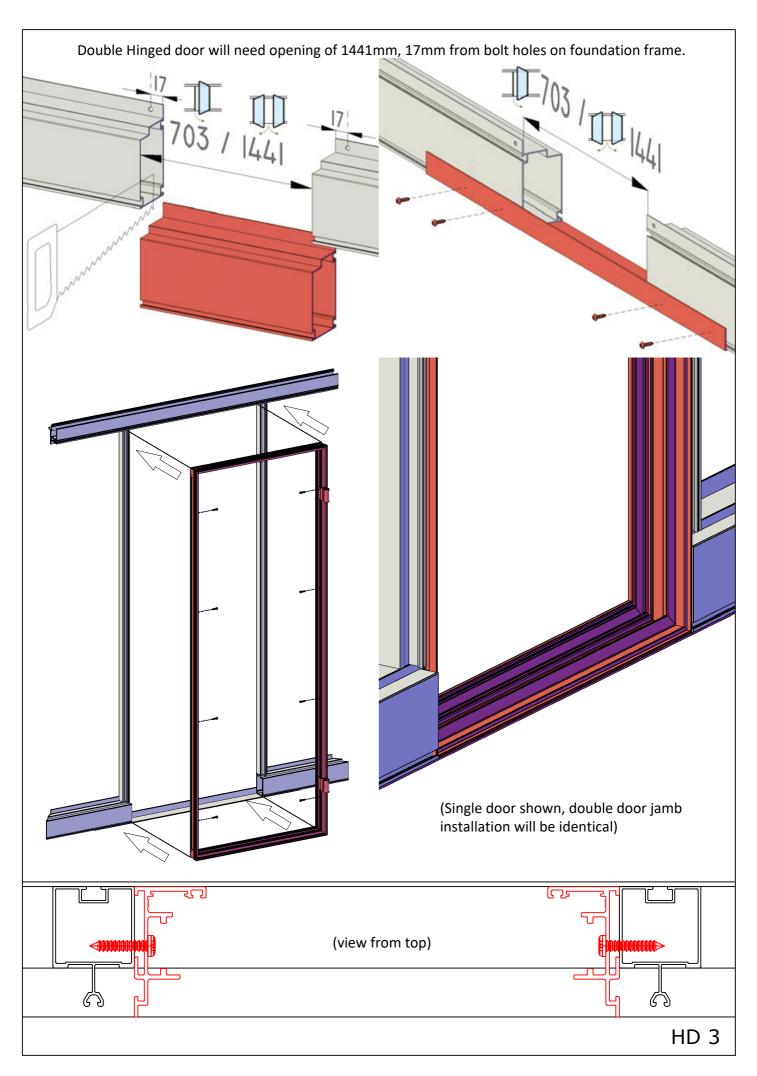


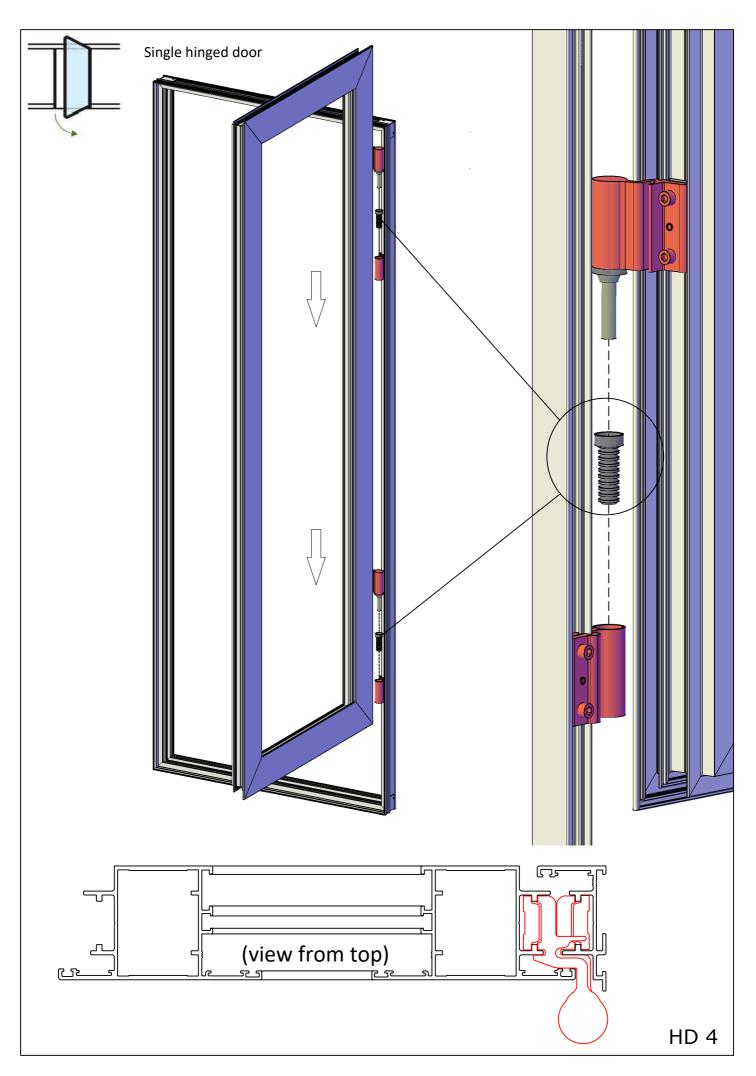


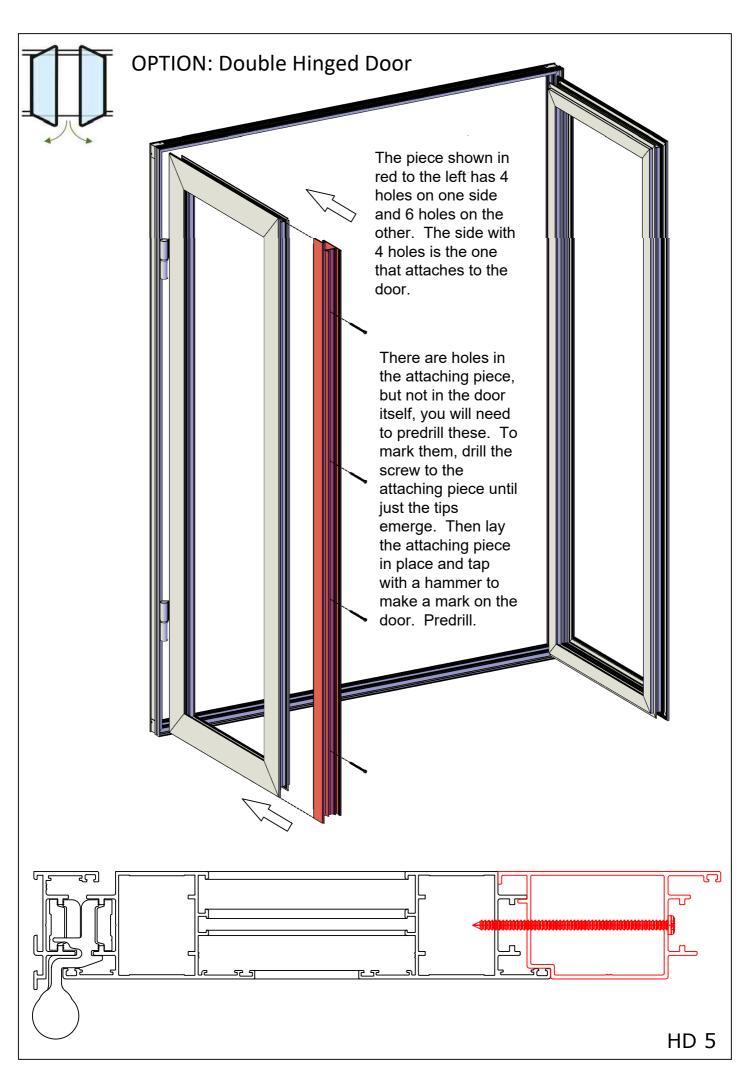


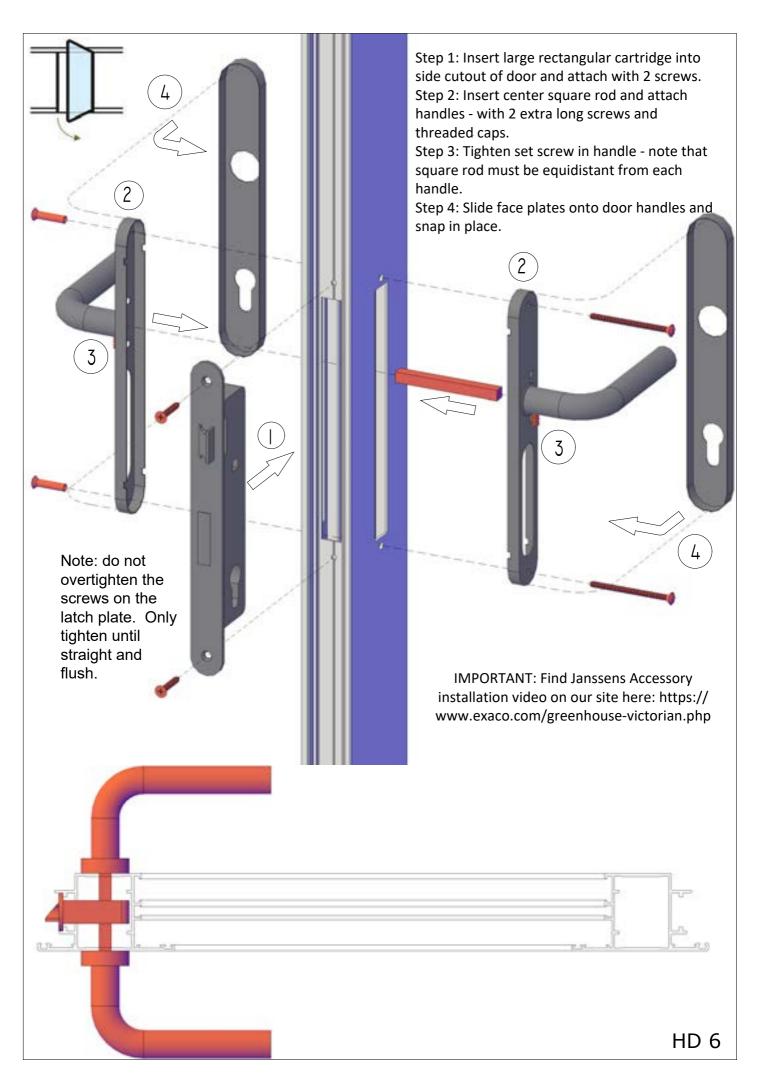


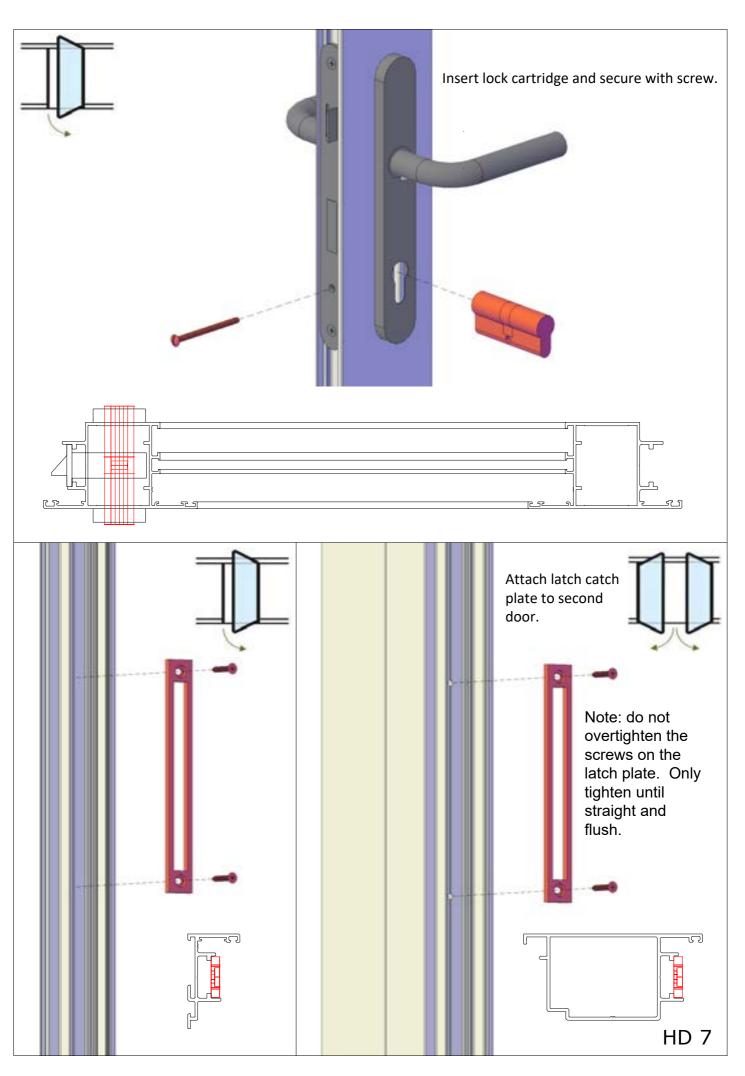


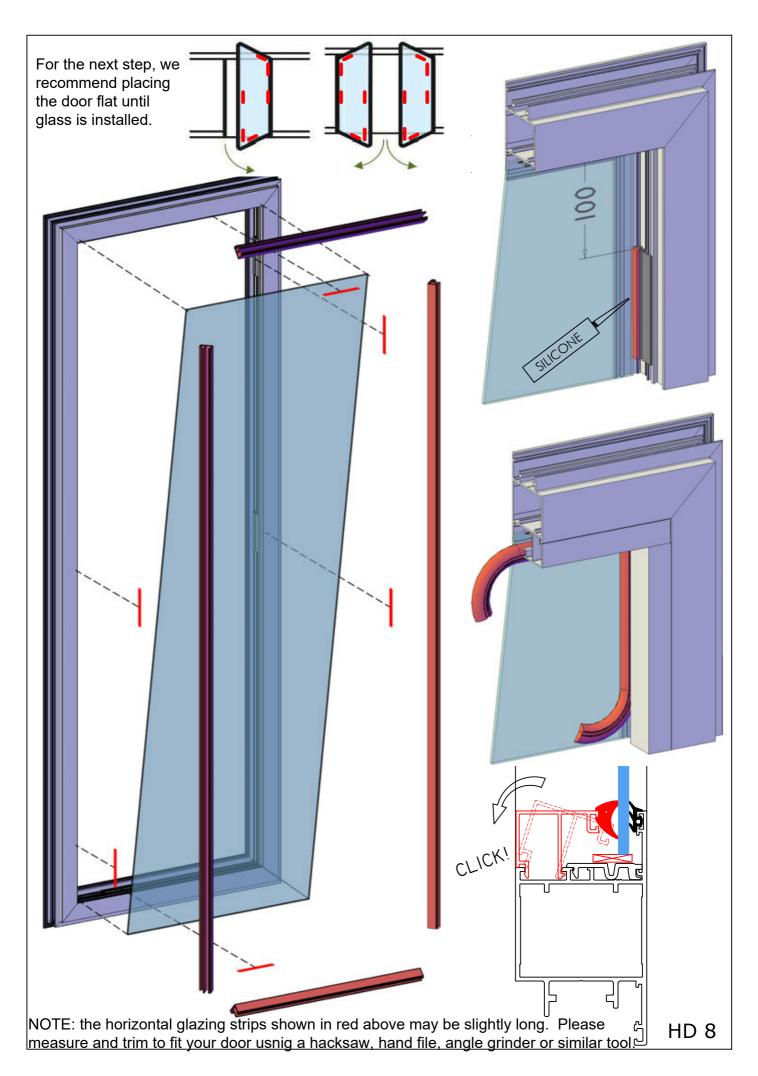


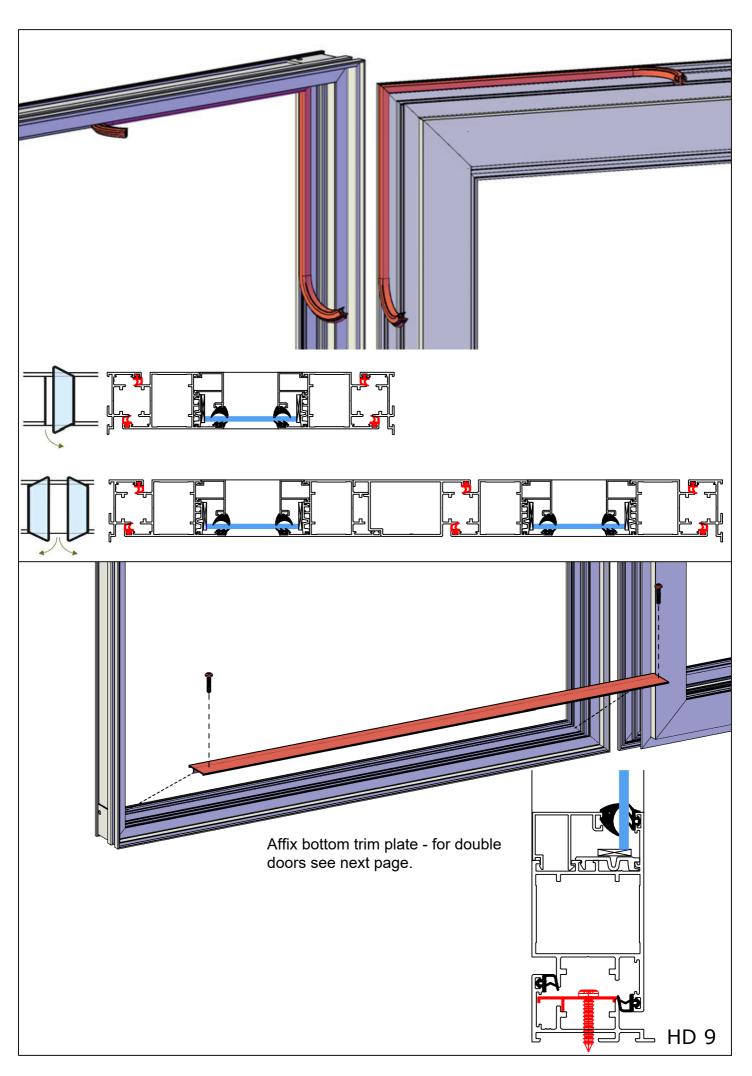


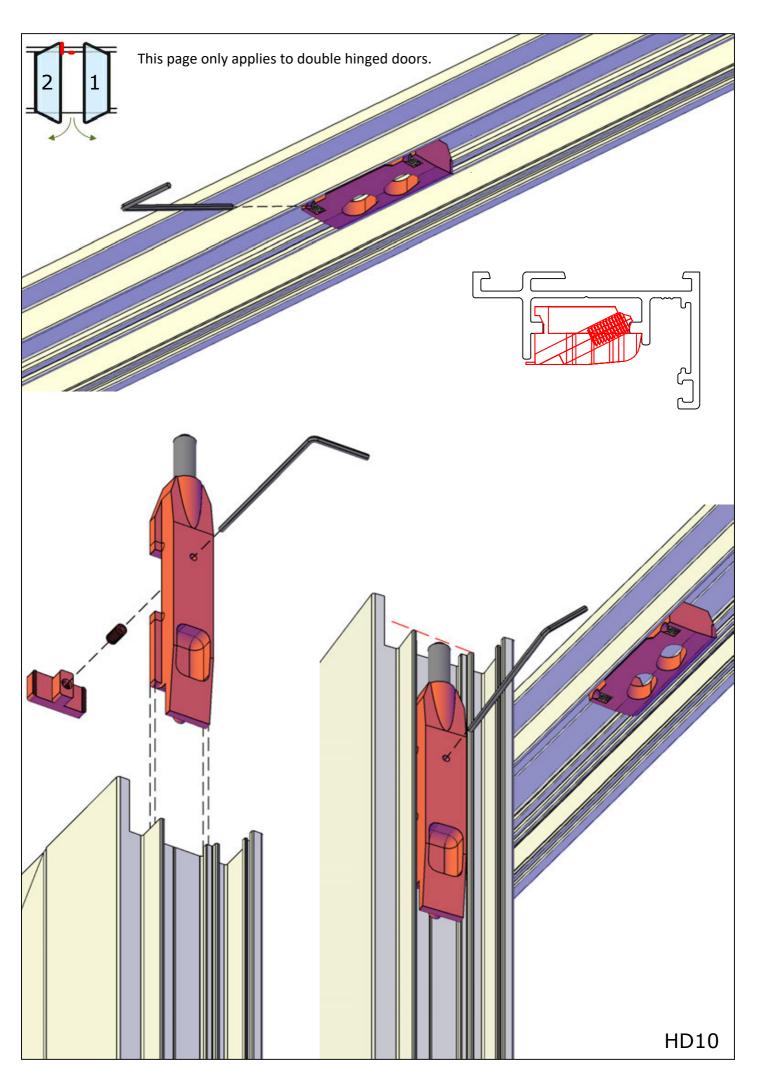


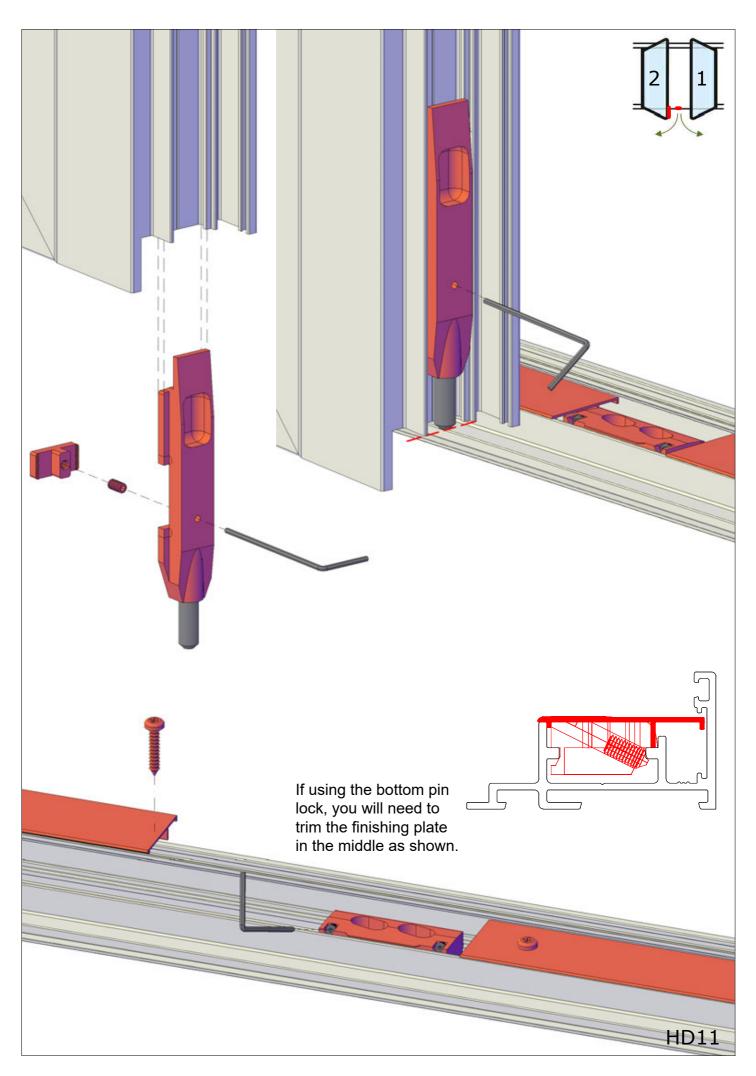


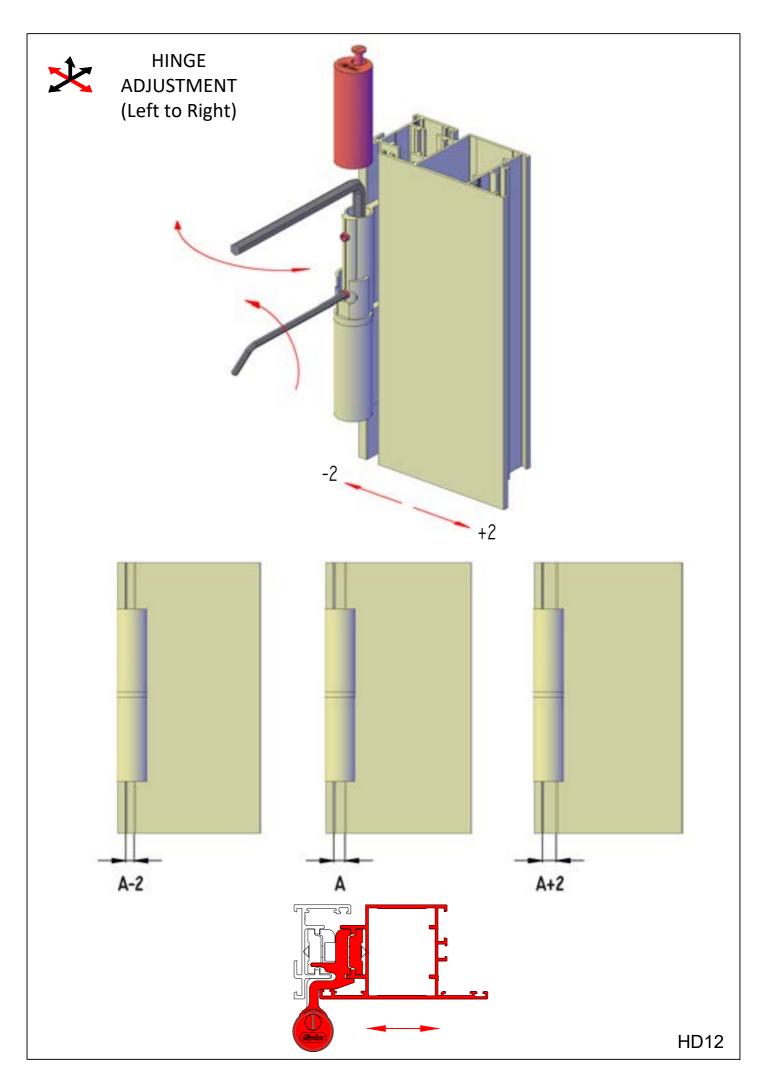


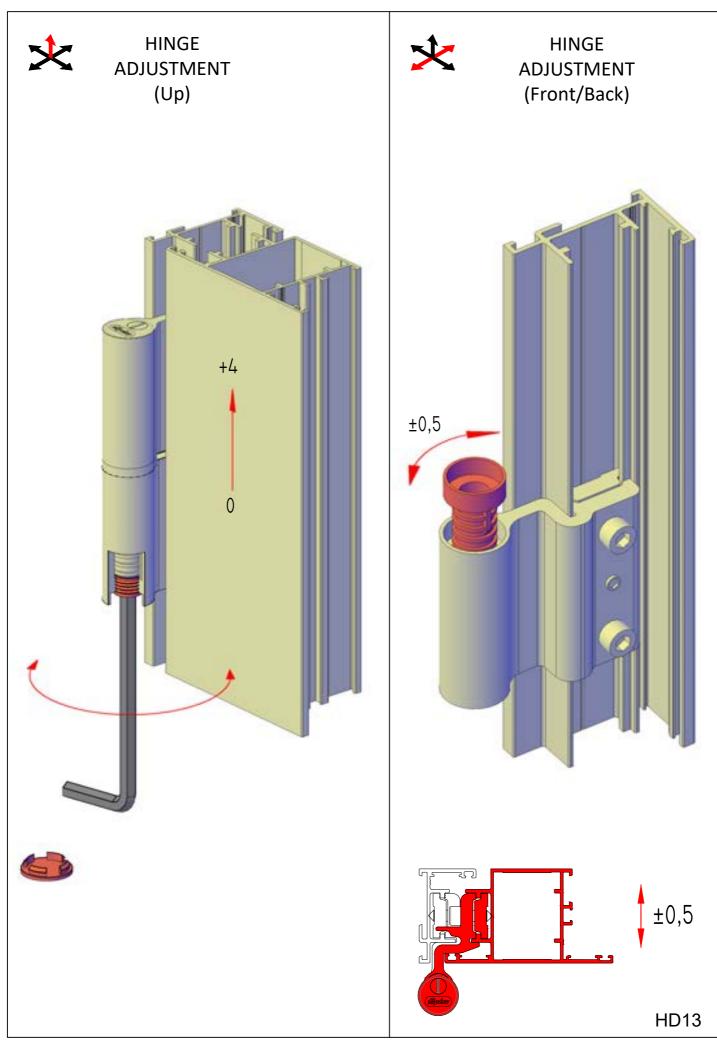


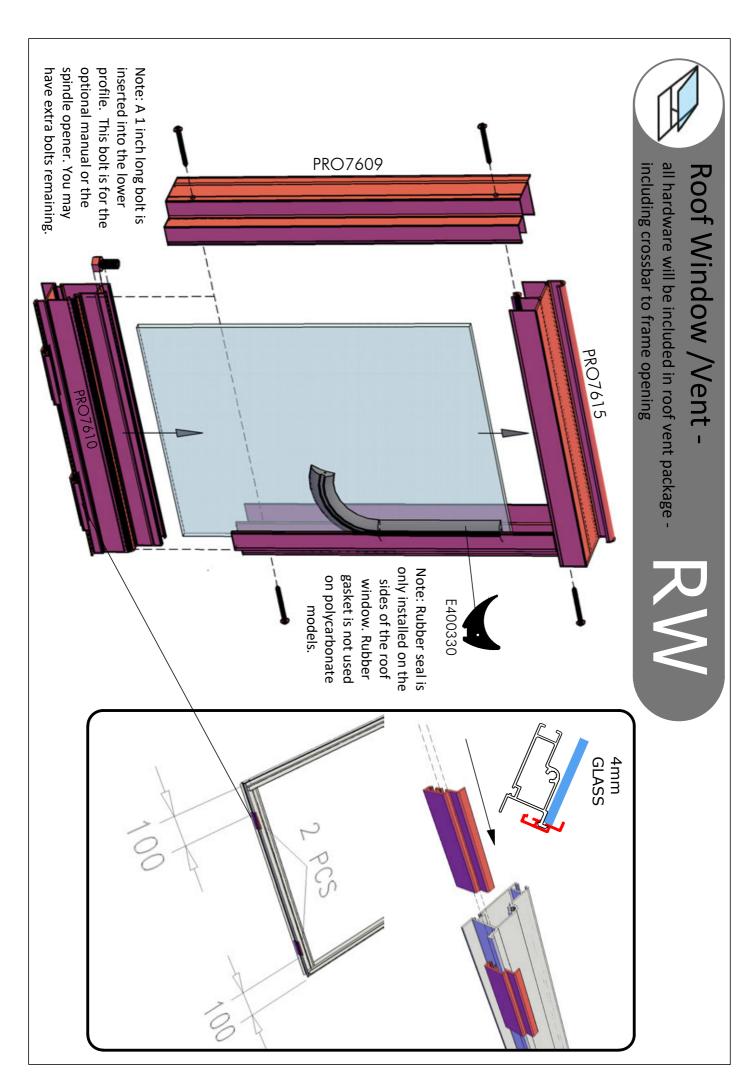


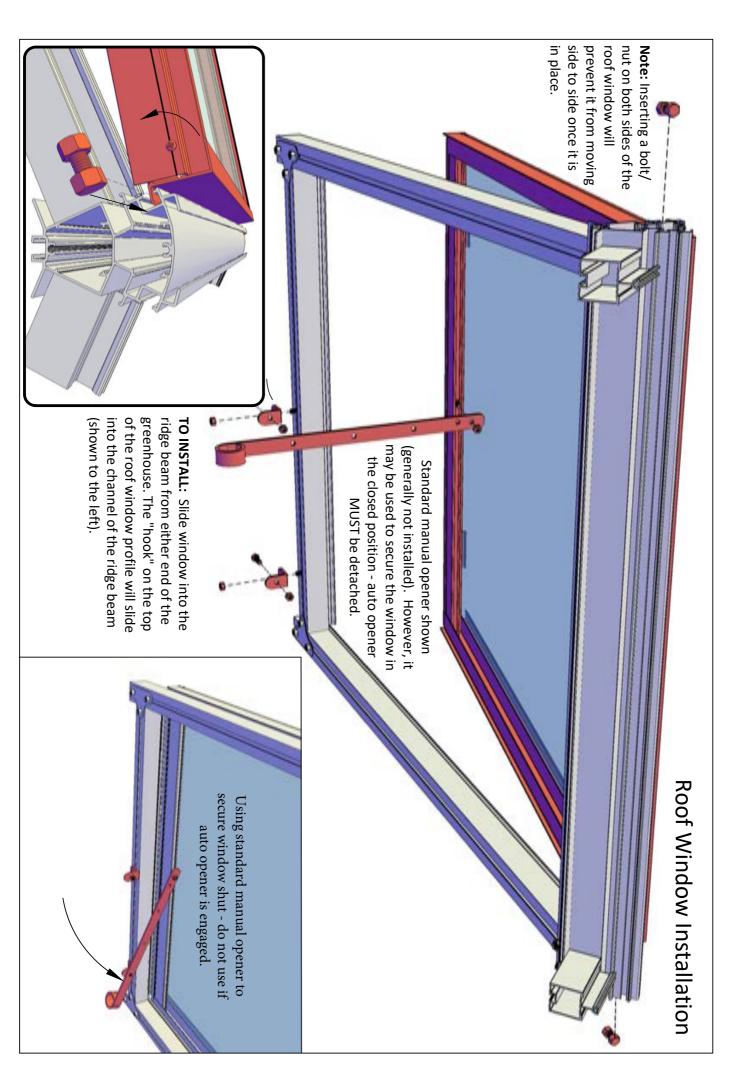


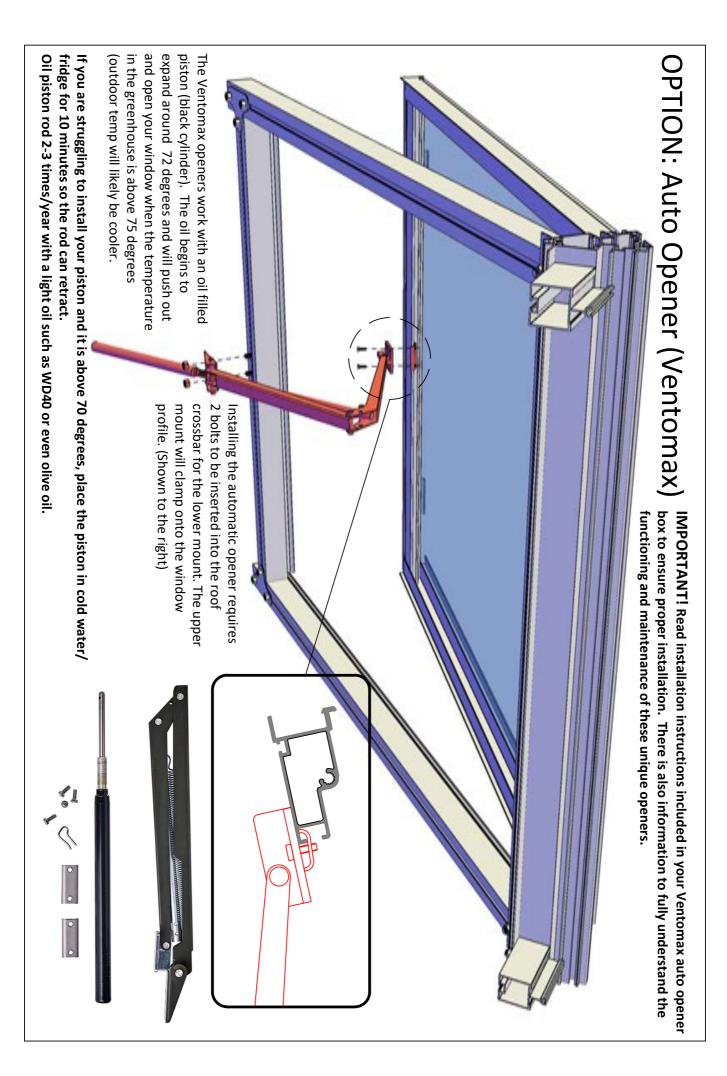


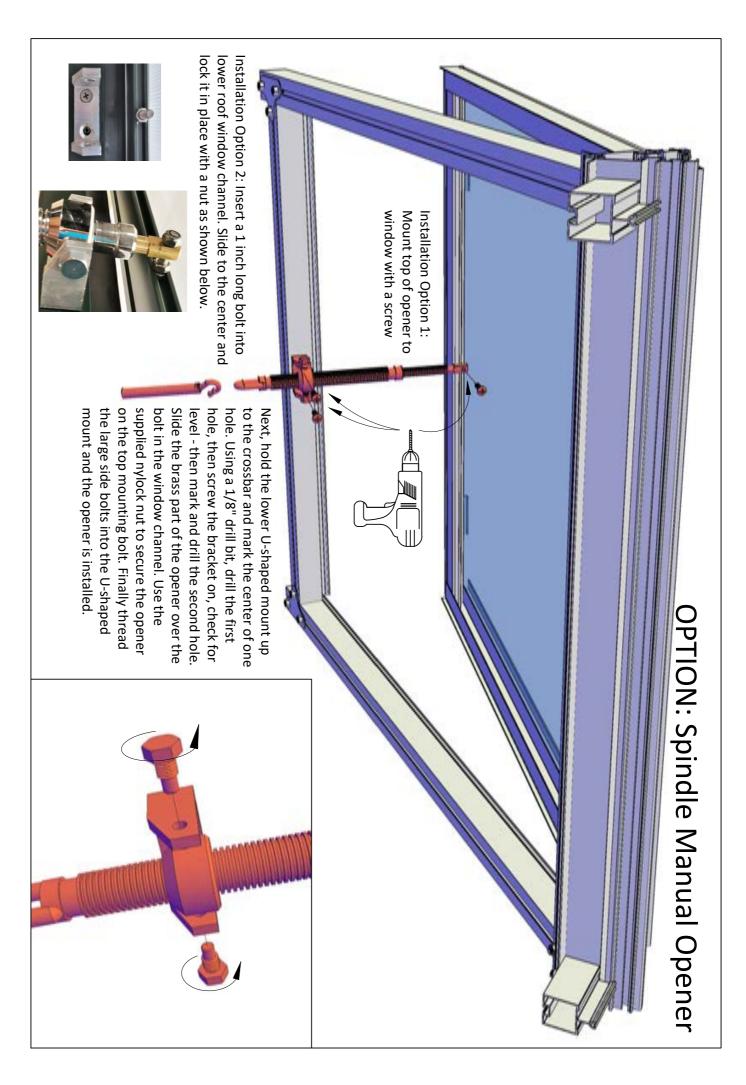


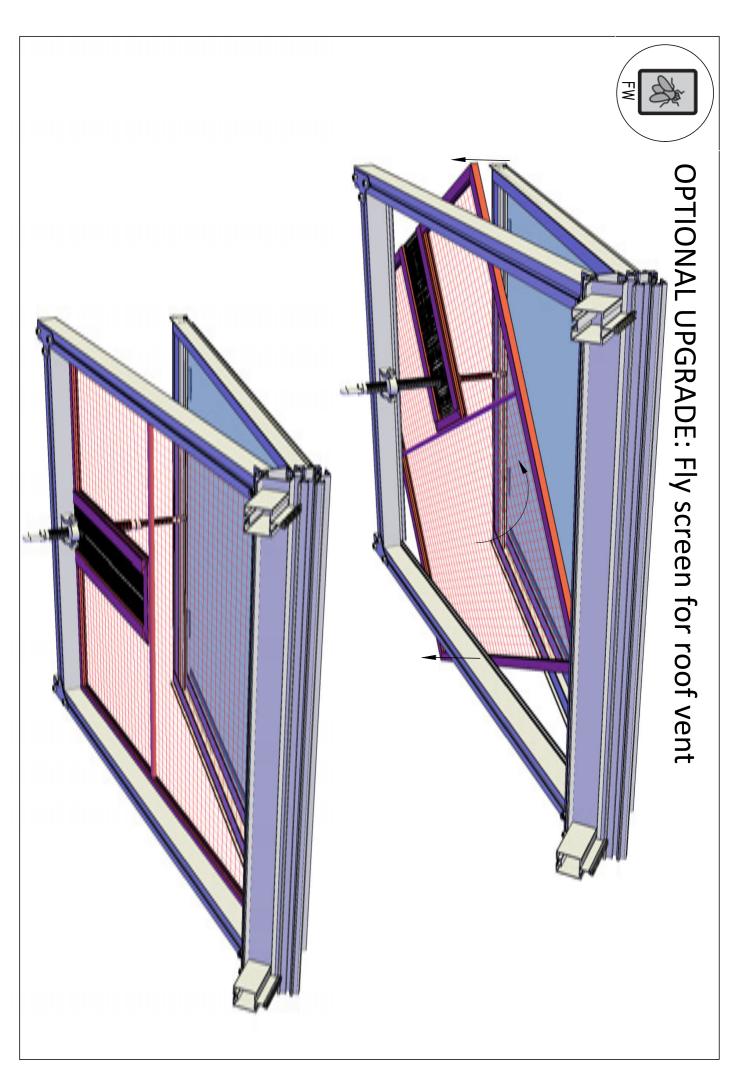












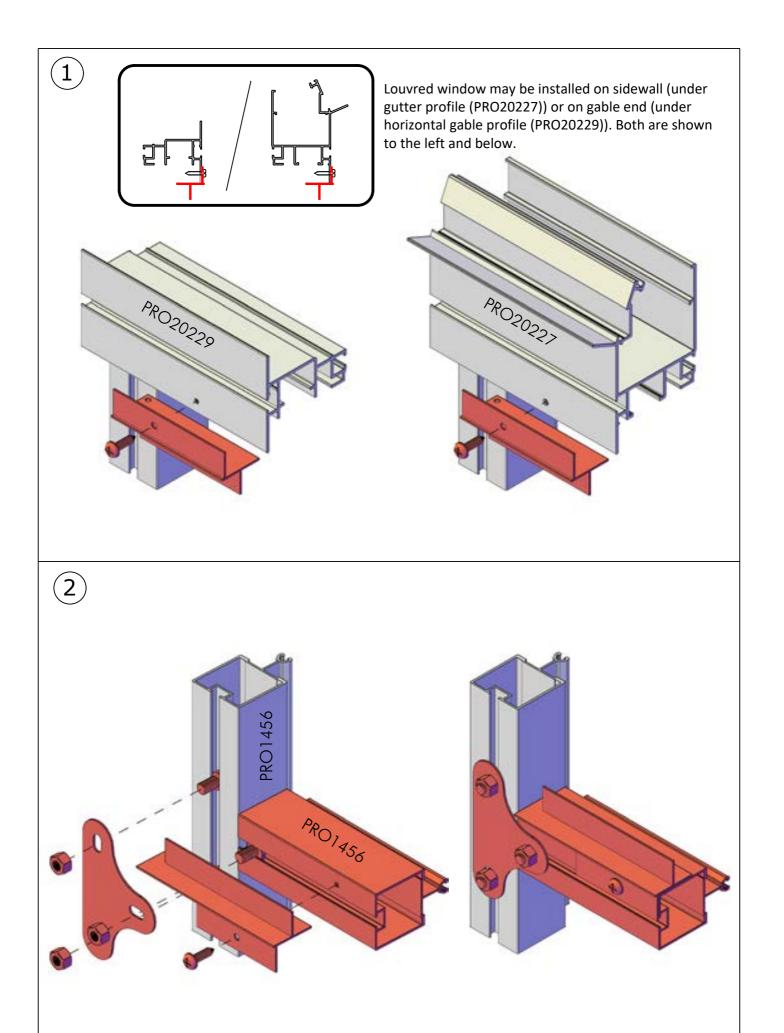


## Louvre Window - All Standard Royal models include one louvred window

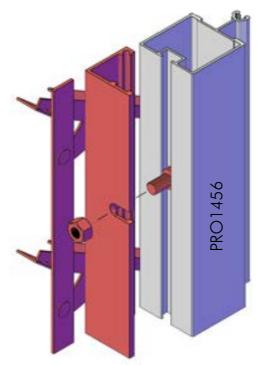


Note: All louvered window are black (even with green models)



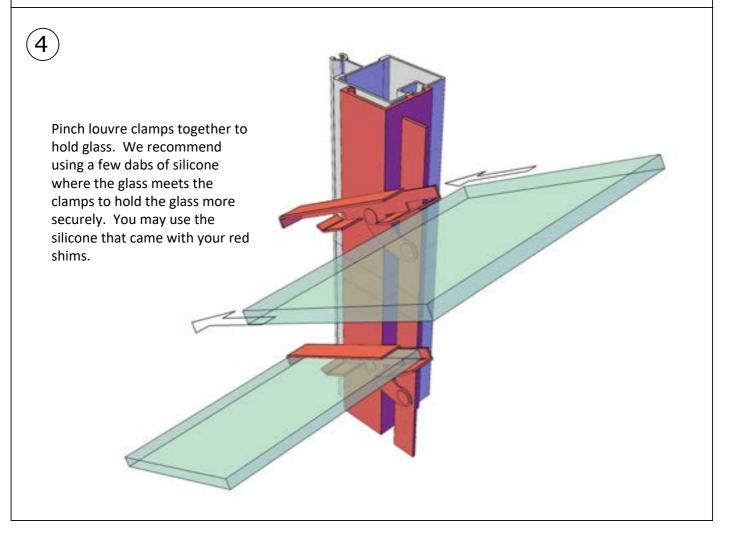






Insert a washer (not included) between black louvre frame and the greenhouse profile at all four bolt locations.

4X



## **Louver Window Cover**

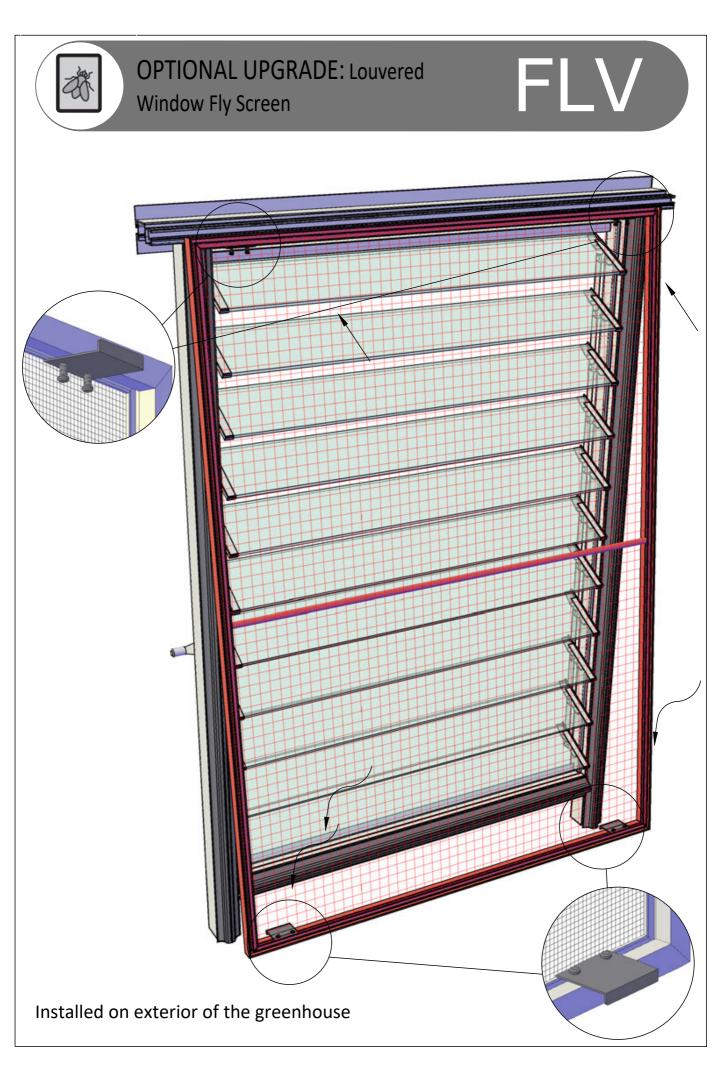
During cold weather, the louvered window may get drafty. Your kit includes as lexan cover to seal the louvers during this time.

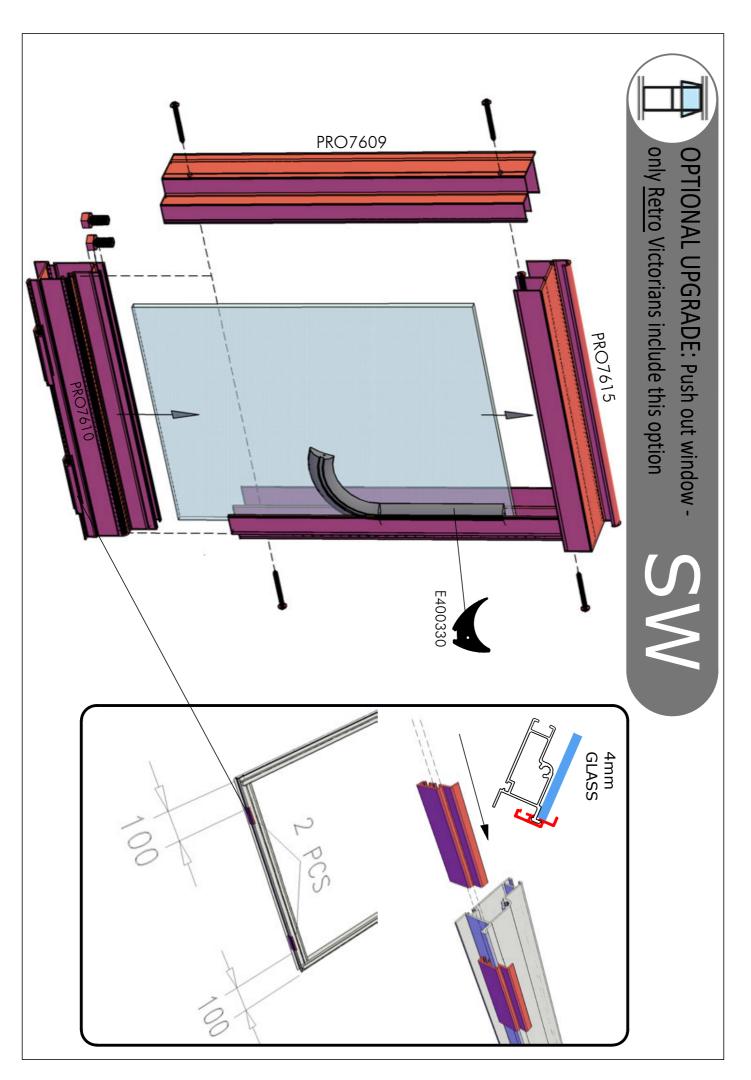
## To install the Lexan panel:

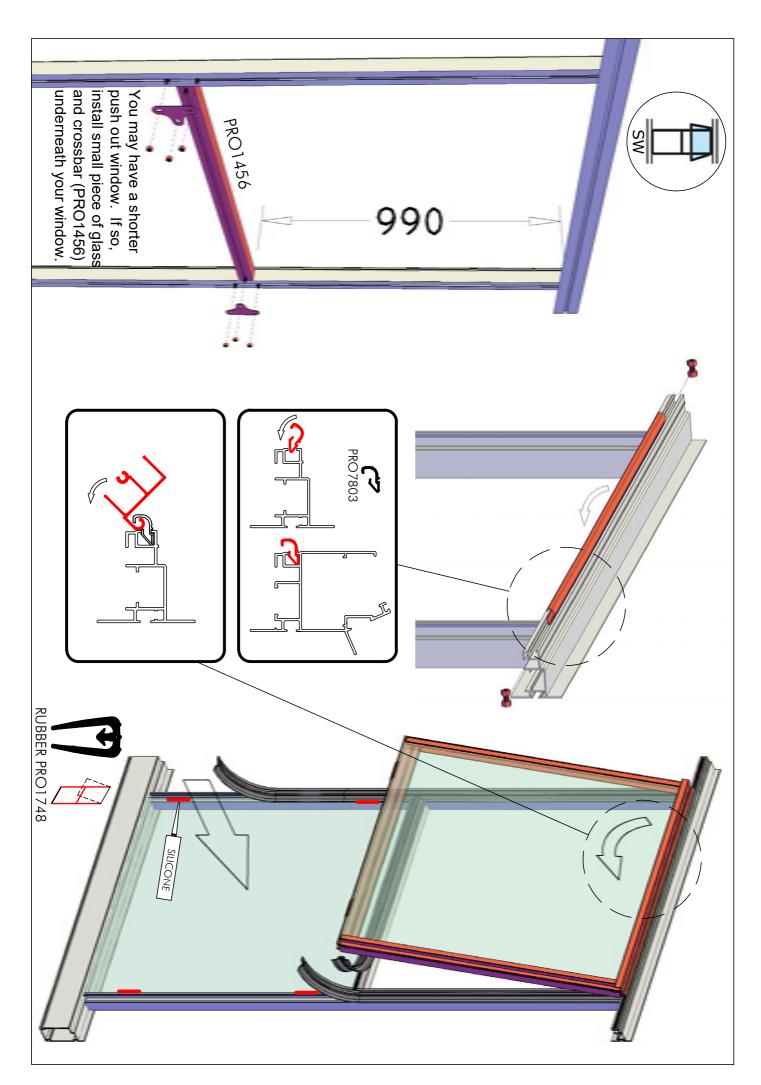
- Unscrew the piston from your auto opener
- Go outside the greenhouse and pull back the heavy duty rubber gaskets that hold in the panes of glass to the left, right, and bottom of the louvered window (see picture to the right)
- Place the lexan panel over the louvers as though it were a pane of glass and replace all the heavy duty gaskets (see photos below)

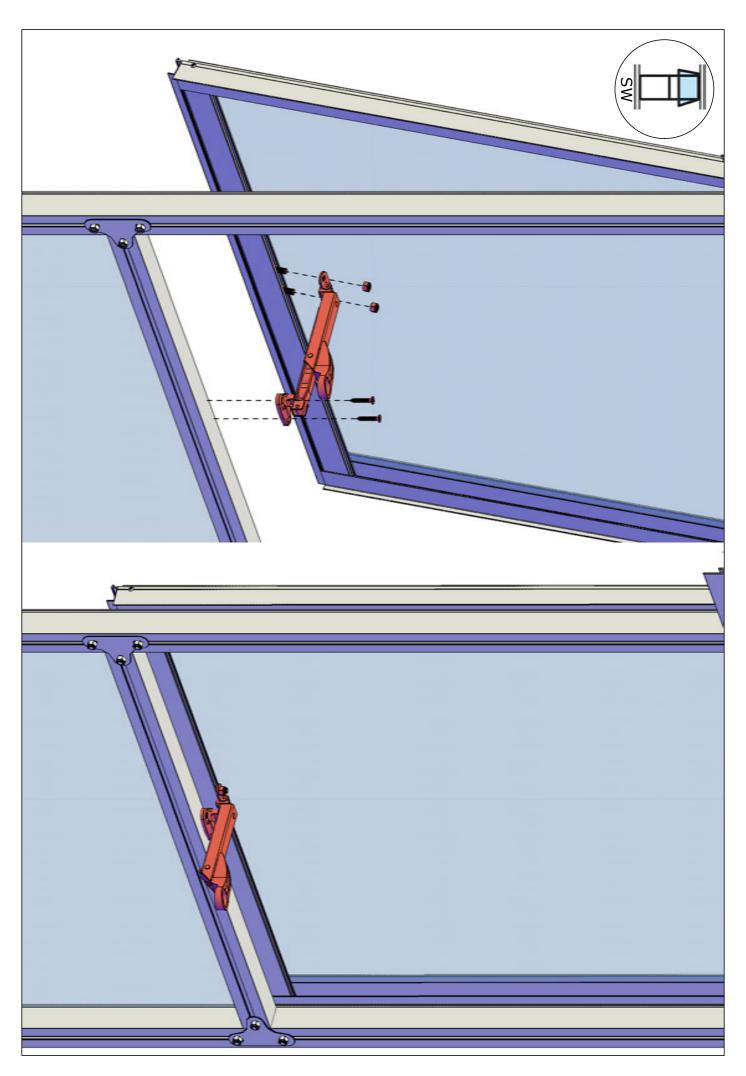


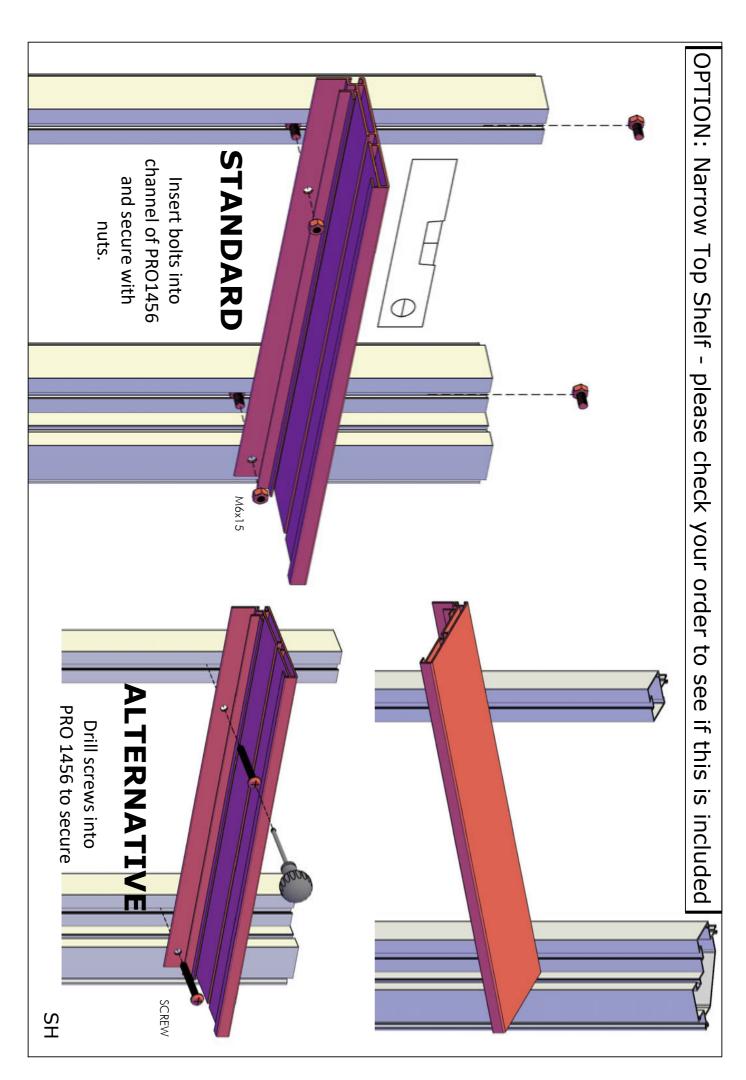


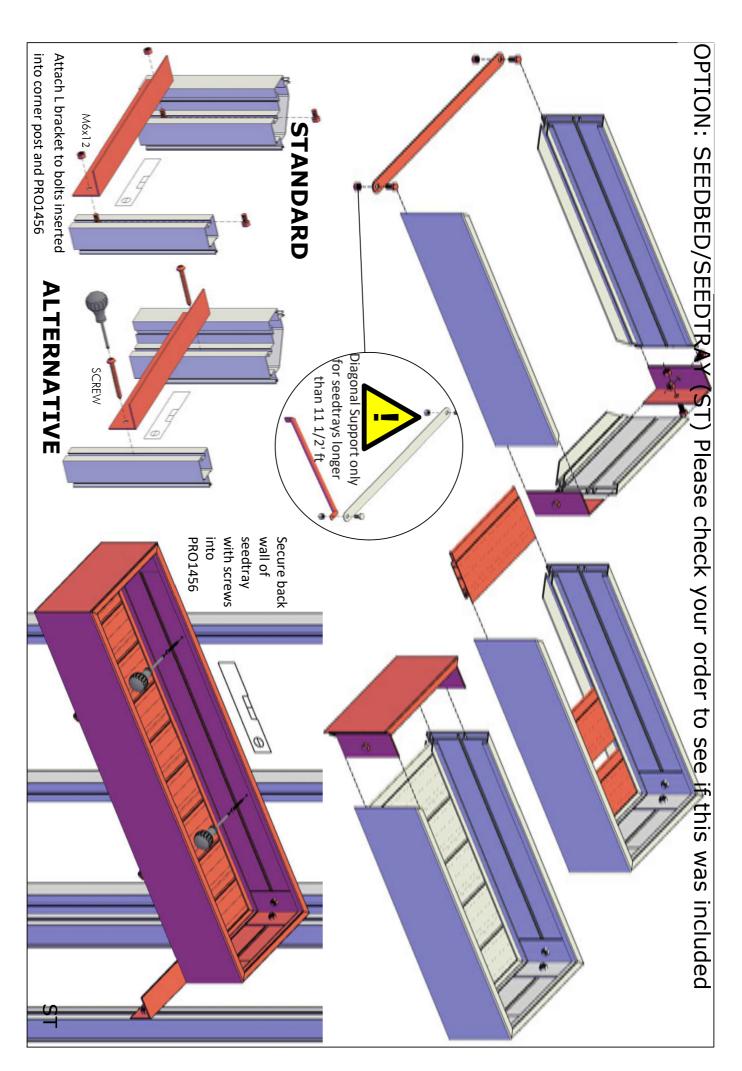


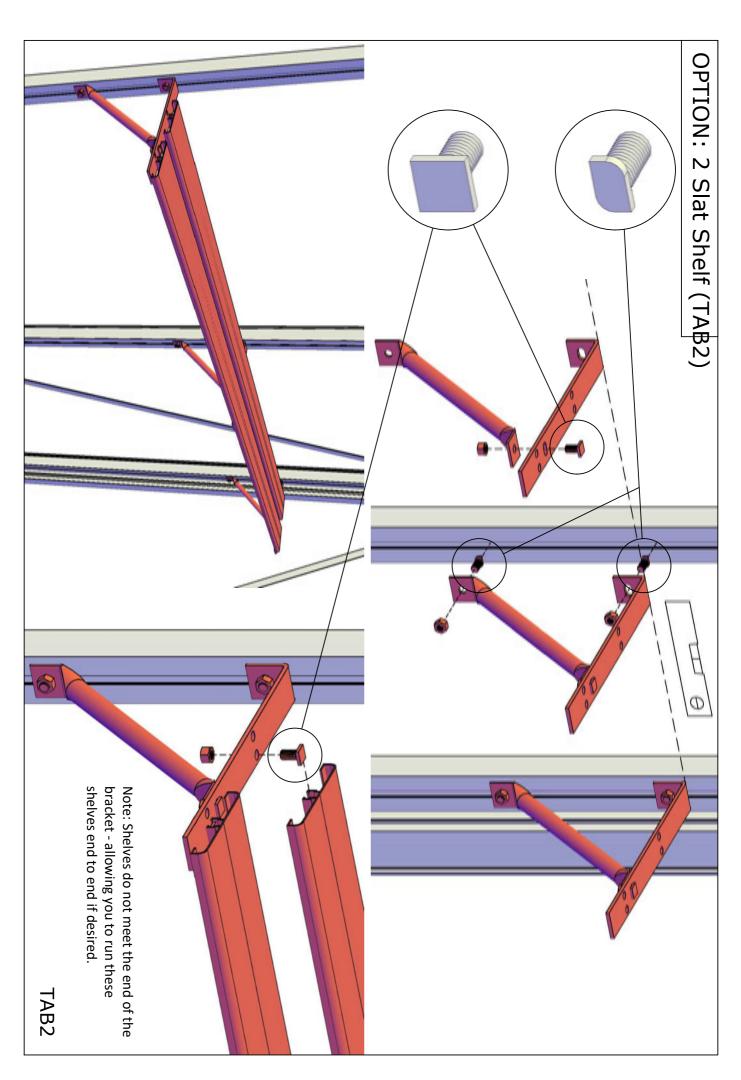


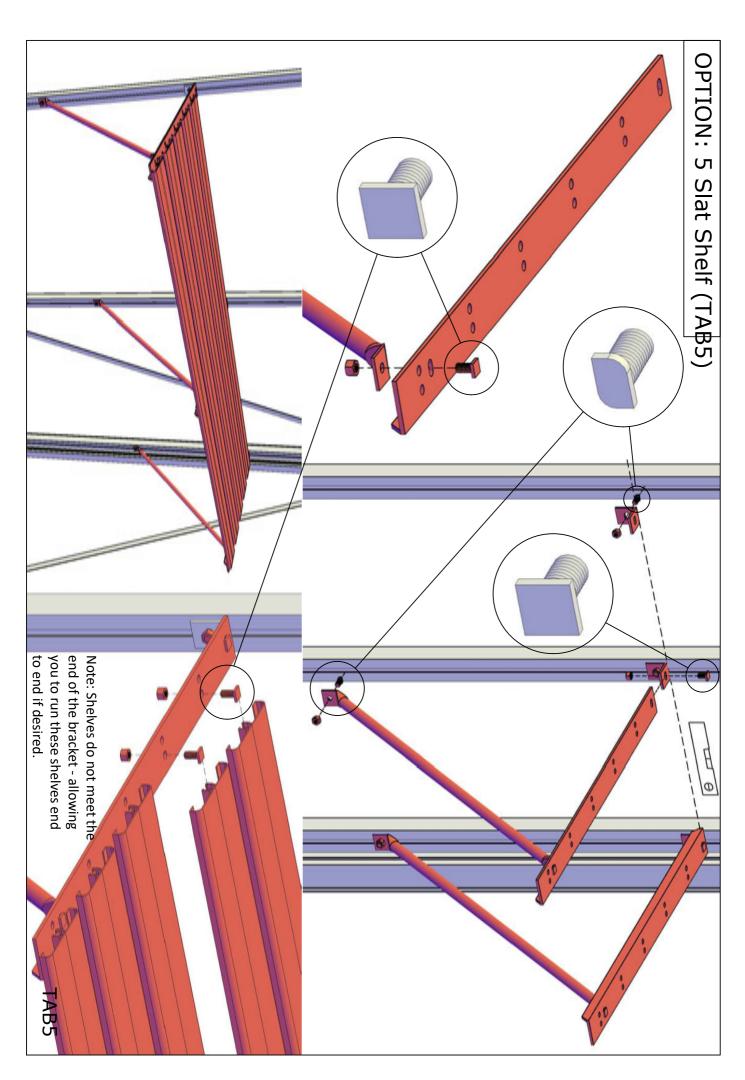


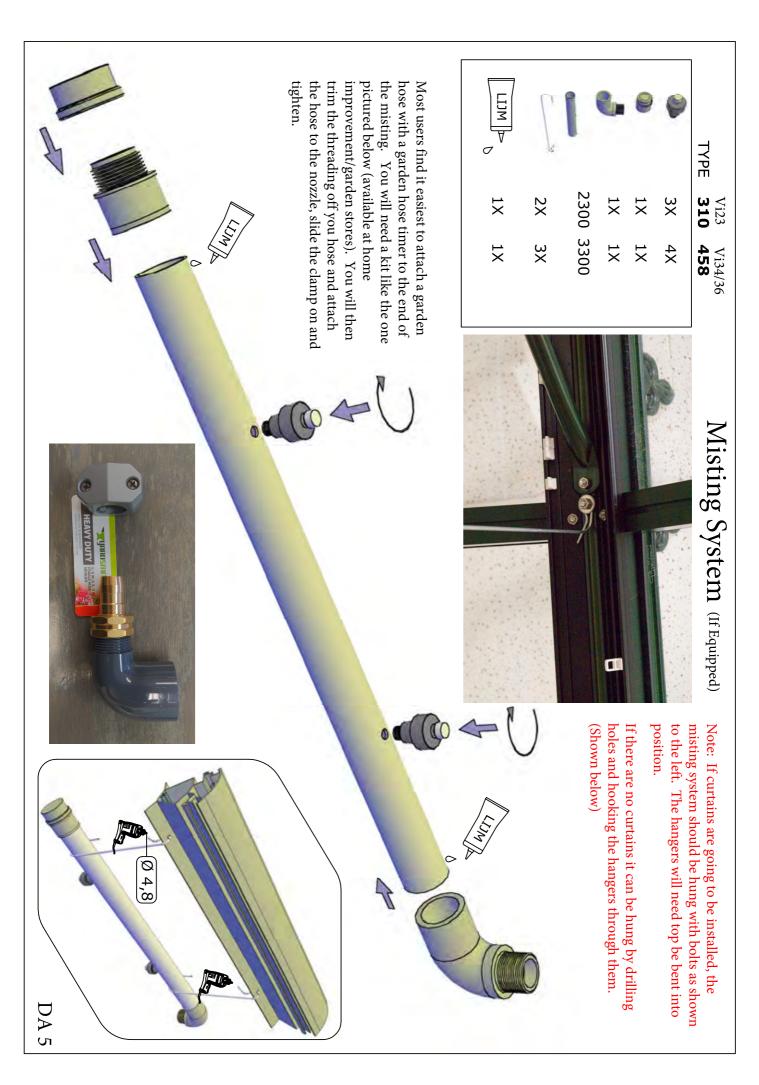














## Customer Service or Assembly Questions?

Give us a call
Toll free: 1-877-760-8500
customerservice@exaco.com
Exaco Trading
www.EXACO.com

Please watch our animated assembly video on our Exaco Trading Co
YouTube Channel.
Find the link at www.exaco.com

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