



Podz[®] are simple vacuum jigs designed to affordably clamp projects to your bench top. Using the power of your vacuum press and clamping system, the Podz 26-piece kit allows you to configure the clamping jigs any way you choose to clamp projects as small as 4" x 4" and as large as 5' x 4'. Purchase additional Podz kits and you can expand the project size to panels of any size!

Requirements

To use the Podz[®] jigs, you will need a vacuum press and a foot-operated vacuum clamping unit.

Project V2[®] or EVS[®] vacuum press users will need our vacuum clamping assembly (sold separately). There is a barbed union fitting with your Podz kit. Insert this fitting into the end of the one-foot piece of vacuum tube. This is the connection point to the vacuum tube from the vacuum clamping assembly.

If you own an Excel 1[®] or Excel 5[®] vacuum press system, you will only need an electric foot-pedal switch to control the vacuum pump system.

Parts

- (4) Podz[®] Pre-Drilled Jigs - 4" x 4" HDPE
- (4) Mach Valves
- (1) Brass Plug - 1/8" NPT
- (12') Blue Vacuum Tube
- (7) Brass Barb Fittings - 1/8" NPT x 1/4" Barb
- (8) Removable Podz Gaskets
- (1) Attachment Fitting

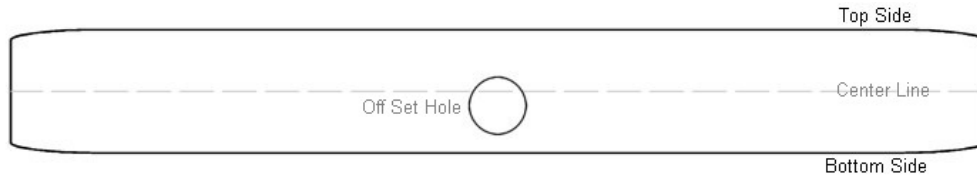


(this page is intentionally blank)

Assembly Instructions

Your Podz jigs are very easy to assemble. The first step is critical but be sure to follow all of the directions carefully.

1. Notice that the pre-drilled holes on the sides of the Podz jigs are off-center. Set each Podz jig on your work bench so that the hole is positioned closer to the work bench.



2. Insert one Mach valve into the center hole on the top side of each Podz jig. Use firm pressure to fully seat the valve onto the HDPE.

3. Podz # 1 through # 3
The first three Podz are assembled in the same manner. Carefully attach one brass barbed fitting to each side of the HDPE squares. The holes are pre-tapped for the threaded side of the barbed fitting. Be sure that you do not cross the threads as you insert the fittings. Tighten each fitting by hand. Then apply 1 additional turn with a wrench.

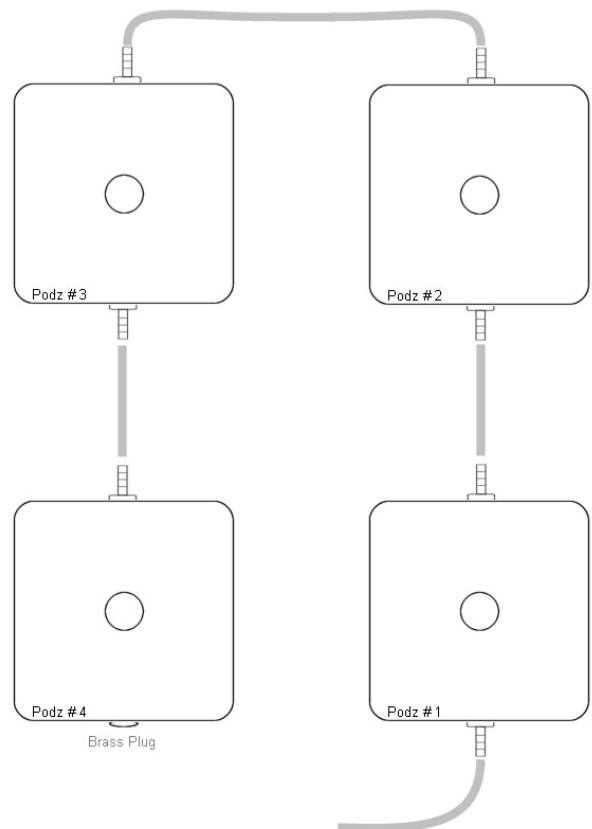
4. Podz # 4
Insert a barbed fitting into one side of the final Podz jig. Tighten it as you did in step three. Now insert the brass plug fitting into the opposite side of this Podz jig. Use your fingers to get the fitting started. Be careful that you do not cross the threads. Use a flat head screw driver to fully insert the plug fitting.

5. This kit includes 8 self-adhesive Podz gaskets. Carefully remove the gasket from the backing pad. The center square of gasket material on each pad is not used. Carefully apply one gasket to each side of all four HDPE jigs.

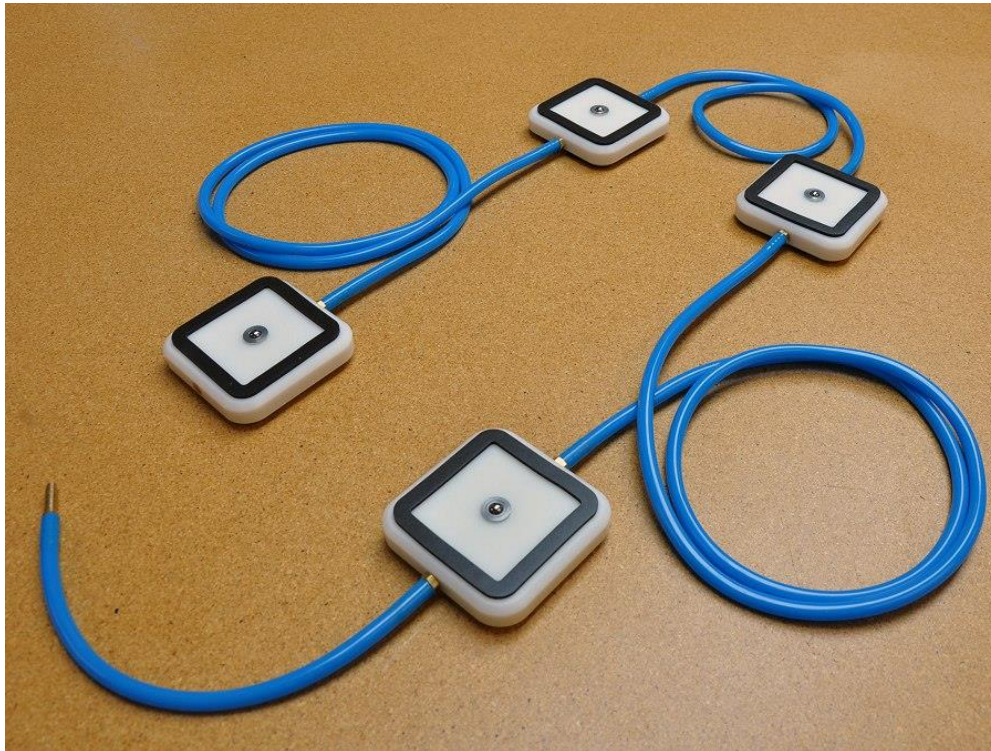
6. The blue vacuum tube connects each Podz jig to another. Cut a one-foot piece of vacuum tube from the roll and attach it to the barb fitting on one of the Podz from step three. Do not apply this tube to Podz # 4.

7. Cut the remaining tubing to any size needed for the scope of your projects. I recommend using a 4-3-4 tube layout. This means four feet of tube from Podz jig # 1 to Podz jig # 2, three feet of vacuum tube from Podz jig # 2 to Podz jig # 3, and four feet of vacuum tube from Podz jig# 3 to Podz jig# 4. Attach the tubing to the jigs by fully sliding the tube onto the barbed fittings. When finished, you should have a single line of Podz jigs.

8. Excel 1i or Excel 5i vacuum press owners will need the companion foot pedal switch and the tube adaptor fitting (as shown on the right). Insert the tube adaptor fitting included with the kit into the one-foot piece of vacuum tube from the starter Podz jig. To use your vacuum press with the Podz jigs, attach the lock-on connector from your Excel system to the tube adaptor fitting. Then turn the valve handle to the vertical position on the Excel system. Use the electric foot pedal to start and stop the vacuum pump. The bleeder fitting will allow your project piece to release from the Podz jigs when the foot pedal deactivates the pump.



9. Project V2i or EVSi vacuum press users will need our vacuum clamping assembly (sold separately). There is a barbed union fitting with your Podz kit. Insert this fitting into the end of the one-foot piece of vacuum tube. This is the connection point to the vacuum tube from the vacuum clamping assembly.



Final Podzi Kit Assembly

Podzi Notes

- Once the project piece is clamped to your work bench, be sure to check the vacuum level. An inadequate vacuum level is unsafe and may allow the work piece to release from the vacuum clamping jigs.
- Podz clamping jigs work best on non-porous surfaces. This includes your bench top. If you have a porous wood bench top, the vacuum pressure will be diminished. In this case, I recommend applying several coats of oil based polyurethane to seal the pores and allow maximum vacuum clamping pressure.
- Porous woods such as oak and walnut will allow vacuum pressure to escape from the system. You can choose to allow this air to leak out and clamping pressure will be decreased. Alternatively, you can place contact paper on the clamp side of the work piece. This will create a non-porous surface that can be clamped with vacuum.
- The Podz system is adjustable. You can cut the tubing to any size needed for the scope of your projects. Consider the options! We have additional tube available.

What can you do with your Podz? Send us pictures and we'll send you a coupon for 30% off additional Podz vacuum gaskets.

