



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 V4™ 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.

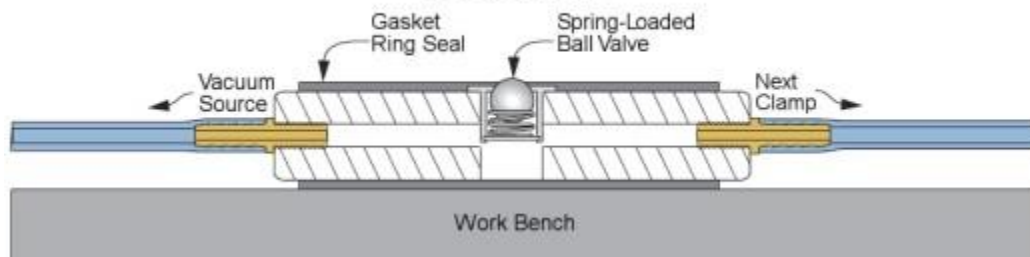
Parts

- (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 (not shown below)



Warning: Brass products may contain chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

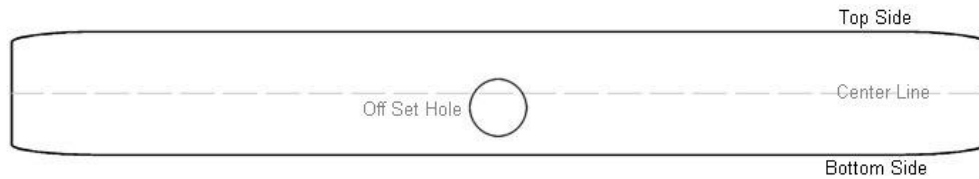
Section View



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. Attach one brass barbed fitting to each side of the HDPE squares. The holes are tapped for the thread on the barbed fitting. Thread sealing tape should not be used. Avoid cross-threading the fittings. Tighten each fitting with a wrench.

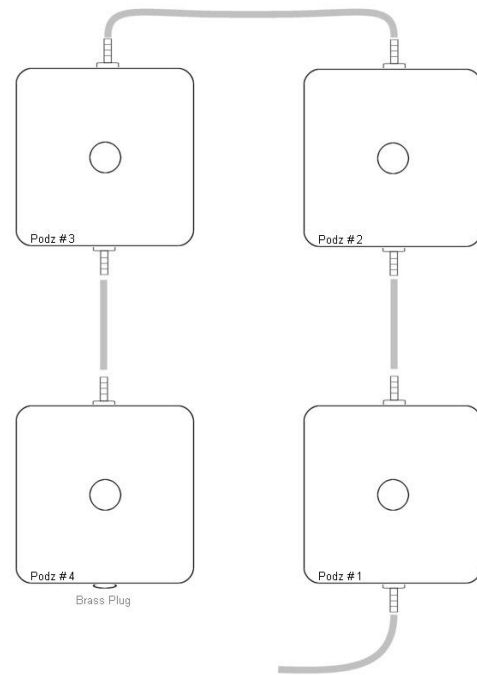
4. Podz # 4

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. Thread sealing tape should not be used. Be careful to avoid cross-threading the fitting. 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.

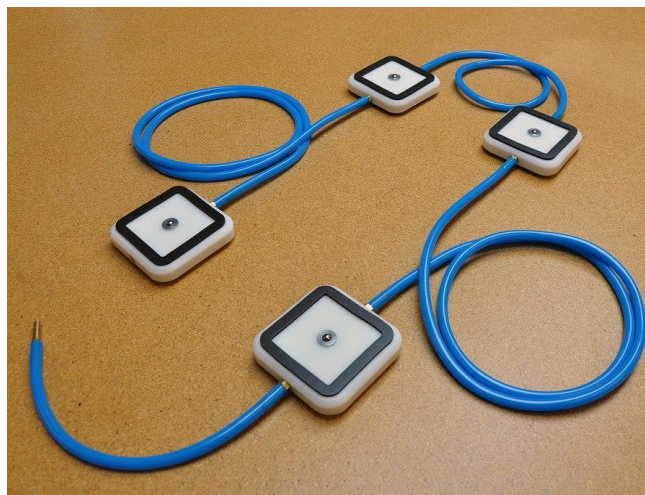


Excel 1™ and Excel 5™ vacuum press owners will need the companion foot pedal switch and the tube adaptor fitting. Insert the tube adaptor fitting into the one-foot piece of vacuum tube from the starter Podz jig. To use your Excel vacuum press with the Podz jigs, attach the lock-on connector from your Excel system to the tube adaptor fitting. Then turn the vacuum valve to the 4 o'clock position. This will vent a slight amount of air to back into the vacuum system which will allow the project to release from the Podz when the system is turned off.



Use the electric foot pedal to start and stop the vacuum system. Adjust the vacuum valve handle toward the vertical position as needed to increase flow of air into the system. More flow reduces maximum clamping force but shortens the release time for the clamped project when the foot pedal is used to turn the vacuum system off.

Project V4™ and EVS™ vacuum press users will need our vacuum clamp add-on jig (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 Podz™ Kit Assembly

Podz™ 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 which will reduce the clamping pressure. Alternatively, you can place packing tape on the clamped side of the work piece. This will create a non-porous surface that will work better with vacuum.
- Unused Podz will leak a small amount of vacuum through the ball valve. To get maximum clamping force on small projects, remove any unused Podz jigs from the vacuum line. Use all four jigs if you can fit them under your project.
- Users who frequently remove the tubing from the Podz jigs may find it best to cut off the first one or two barbs on each brass barbed fitting. Doing so will make removal of the tubing much easier.
- The Podz system is adjustable. You can cut the tubing to any size needed for the scope of your projects. Consider the options! Additional vacuum tube is available.