

# Panel System Assembly Procedure

Assembling the Panel System is generally a two person job but experienced installers can do it alone.

Install the sealing tape as you install the panels. It is much easier to seal each seam as you build the cover. You *can* install the patio cover in the rain. The tape will stick just fine to wet polycarbonate as long as the temperature is above 45 degrees. Any water trapped between the flanges will evaporate in a few days.

Use a wet hand towel to clean your hands every 10 minutes or so as are you are peeling the masking off the flanges and putting up the panels. This will keep finger prints between the flanges to a minimum. Peel the masking off the bottom of the panels before you put them up but leave some of the masking on the top surface until you get each panel mounted. The masking will protect the panels during assembly. Be sure to peel back the masking from the flanges before fastening the panels to the trellis or to each other. You don't want to trap masking under the fasteners.

It's best to have two drills available for the next procedure so you don't have to keep changing drill bits.

Start with the leftmost panel and work your way to the right. Fasten down the flanges of the left panel using the procedure outlined below. Attach the next panel using the 1/2" truss screws and flange nuts. Now fasten down the exposed flange of the second panel to the trellis. Tape the seam and proceed to the next panel.

Use stainless self tapping screws and bonded neoprene washers to hold the panels to the trellis crossmembers. Drill a hole through the horizontal panel flange large enough to easily accomodate the screw. It is important to have a large enough hole for the screw because if the hole is too small the panel will incur spider cracks. Drill pilot holes into the wood for the screws using a an appropriately sized smaller bit.

Tighten the screws holding the panels together before you tape the corresponding seam. Tighten them moderately tight - don't overtighten.

Don't stretch the tape too much when you are taping. It should be applied to the seams in a nearly relaxed state.

Peel off the masking from the top of each panel after you have mounted and taped it.