



Semicut 1mtr Brick dome oven  
instructions (Round)  
V01112018

# Oven component checklist

1mtr brick dome oven components checklist	Qty	Check
300 x 300 x 50mm floor tiles	14	
<b>Chamber bricks</b>		
230 x 115 x 75 IFB	11	
631 brick	93	
632 brick	58	
633 brick	1	
230 x 115 x 75/63	21	
<b>Door arch bricks</b>		
230 x 115 x 75 IFB	2	
230 x 115 x 75/63	2	
230 x 115 x 75/51	14	
<b>Flue arch bricks</b>		
230 x 115 x 25mm	2	
230 x 115 x 75mm	2	
230 x 115 x 75/63	4	
230 x 115 x 75/51	8	

Brick trim		
Large stainless steel cap	1	
50mm x 75/51 face	4	
50mm x 75/51 grain	4	
50mm x 75/63 face	2	
50mm x 75/63 grain	2	
230 x 115 x 75/63 F1 ( cut taper left and right )	2	
50mm B1 brick	2	
50mm B2 brick	2	
50mm B3 brick	2	
50mm B4 brick	2	
1000 x 600 x 50mm Calsil board	2	
20kg Airset mortar	3	
20kg Fondu	1	
7.2 x .610 x 25mm blanket	2	
Chamber templates	4	
Door arch templates	2	
Flue arch templates	2	
Timber spacers	12	
Stainless flue with hat 150mm x 900	1	
Thermometer	1	
1/2 bag castable - 10kg	1	
Door ( black standard ) or stainless - temp probe	1	

# Safety & Tools

Please take care as Sydney Fire bricks take no responsibility for and harm to the builder of the oven.

## Extras needed to complete the oven.

- 5 x Bags of yellow brickies sand
- Brick saw with diamond blade or Angle grinder
- 3 x bags of washed Sydney sand or alternative
- Chicken wire – 5 metre roll
- Galvanised tie wire thin gauge
- 4 x rolls of supermarket aluminium foil
- Trowel
- Gloves, respirator and safety glasses
- Wire cutters
- Pencil
- shovel
- Wheel barrow for fondu mix
- Tape measure
- Stanley knife
- Bucket and sponge
- 8 x common house bricks for plug
- 4 x 2mm spacers (eg 3/8 Gal washers, wooden shims)

## Helpful items

Paint Scraper

Paint & Rust Stripper Disc

Rubber mallet

Cement cutting disks

Drill with ceramic bits

Tarp or builders plastic to cover during bad weather

Builders plastic to catch debris

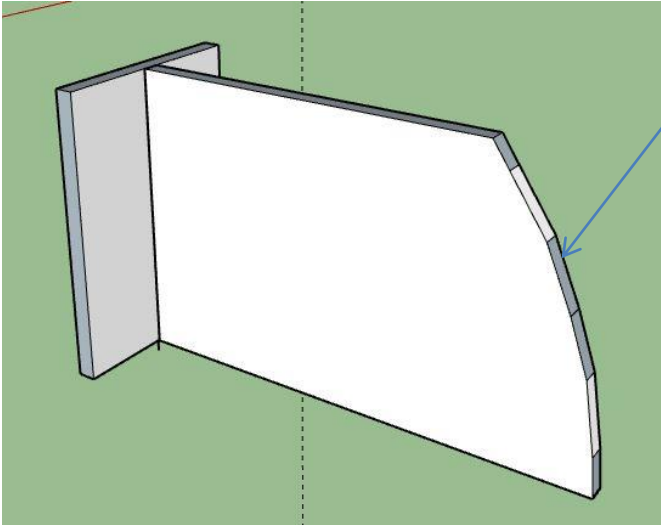
# Tips and tricks

- When using ceramic fibre wear long sleeves and a mask in case of allergies or irritation.
- The render on top of the ceramic fibre blanket should be 20 -30mm or thicker to have sufficient strength. Use wire mesh for reinforcing.
- Floor tiles should be placed inside **loose (no mortar)** so over time with wear and tear, any cracked or broken tiles may be replaced. Ash after a few uses will fill any gaps and act as an expansion joint. If you mortar them in it will break any undertile product upon removal.
- When laying your floor tiles in position grind any high lips down leaving a smooth joint, this will stop the peel catching on any tiles. The tiles can be grinded on one side then flipped over so the grinded side can face down.
- When using cement fondu thicken it to a mortar consistency with washed sydney sand (3 parts sand / 1 part fondu) to fill the gaps in between gaps bigger than 5mm, the fondu will go off very quickly so act fast.
- The Airset mortar provided should be stirred before use and will go off very quickly if the lid is left off. ( this is the White plastic pail )

# Type of bricks in your chamber

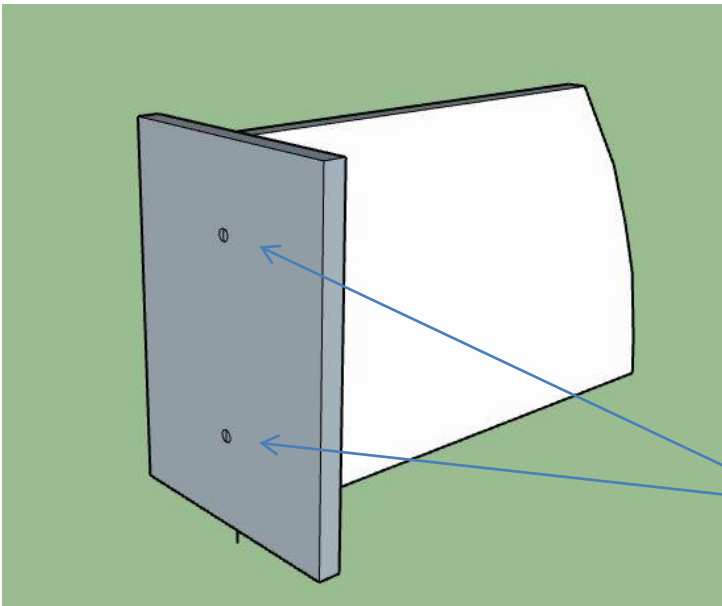
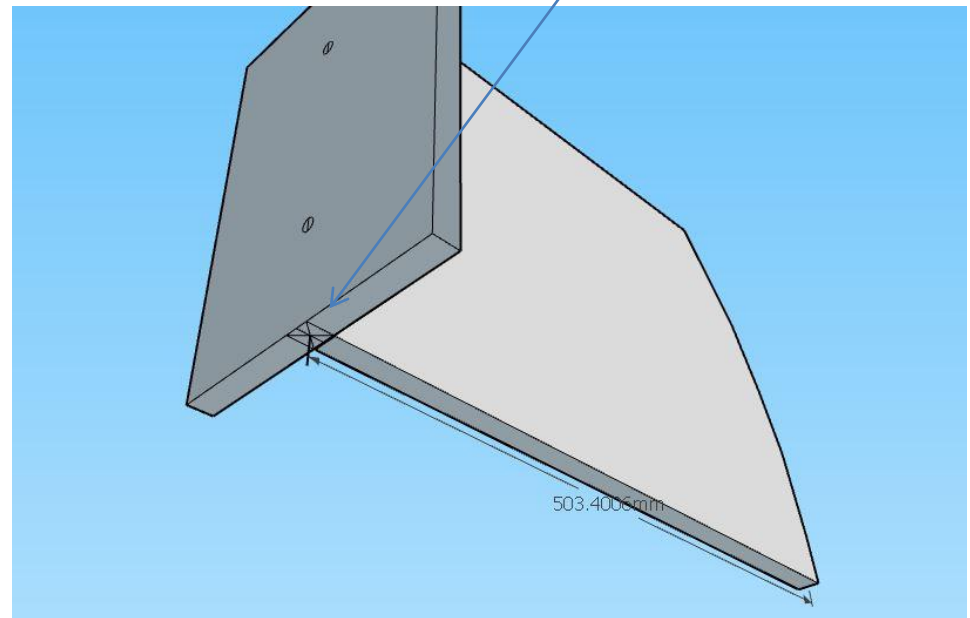


# Chamber template assembly



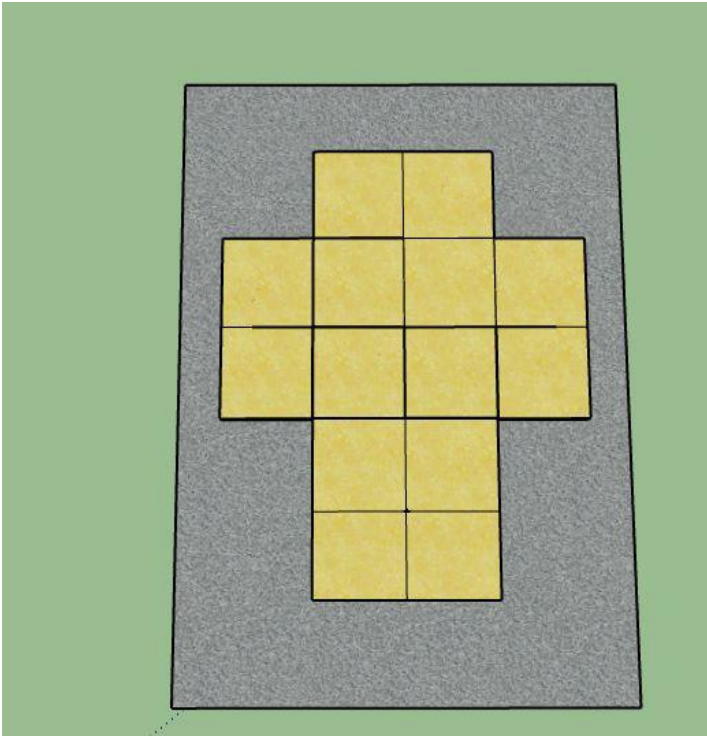
Your chamber template needs to be assembled.  
It consists of 2 pieces and has notches for each brick layer

Find a thin gauge bullet head nail and insert into the centre and bottom of the template to form your pivot point Please note the length

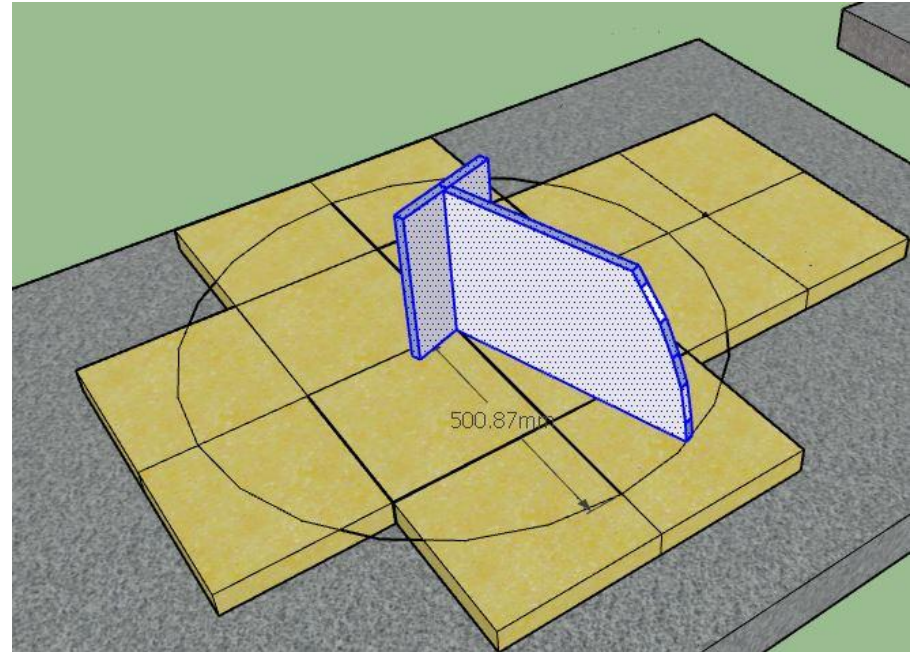


Join the template together with nails or screws from the rear in 2 places

# Precutting floor tiles

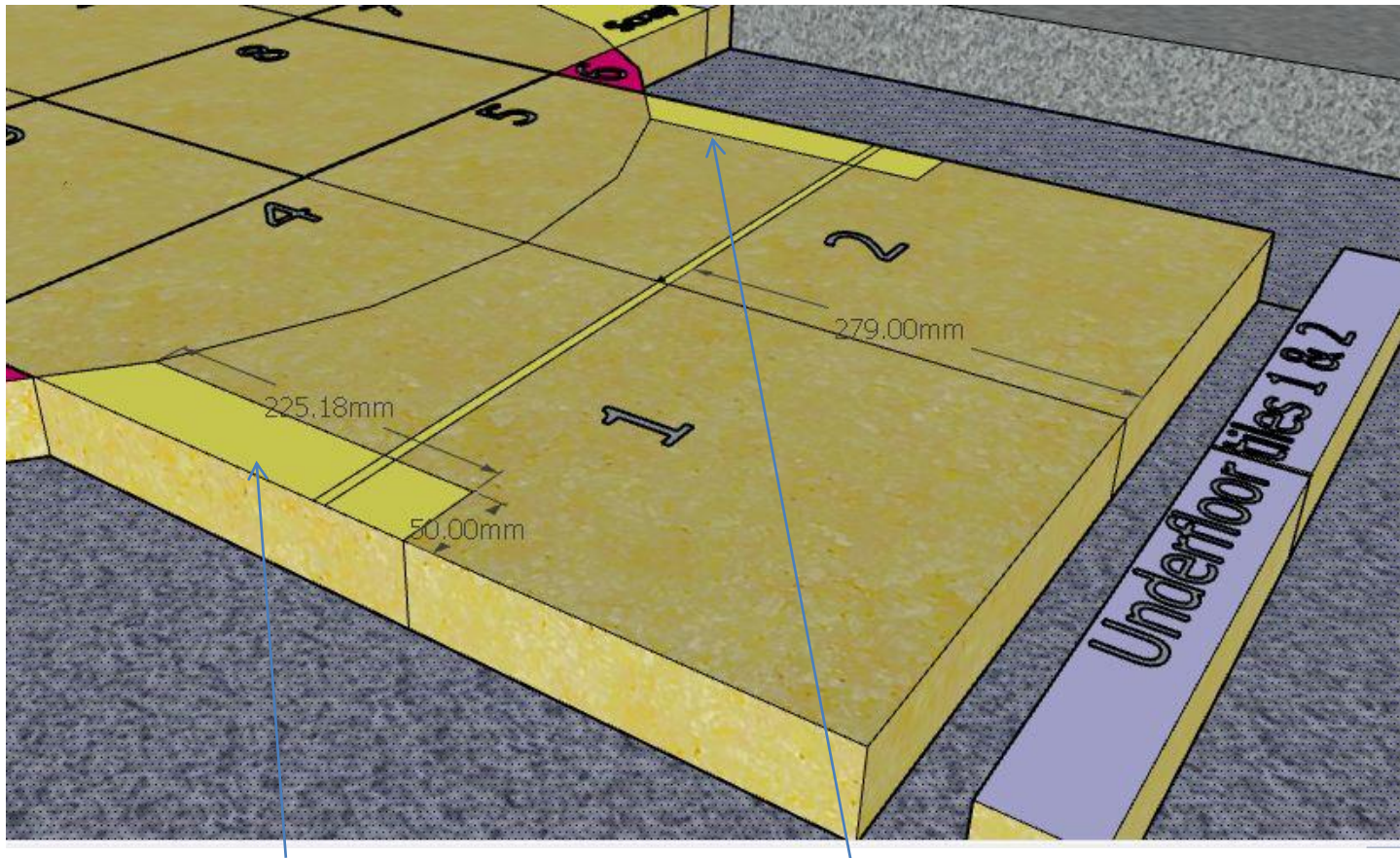


Lay your floor tiles  
on your slab in this  
formation



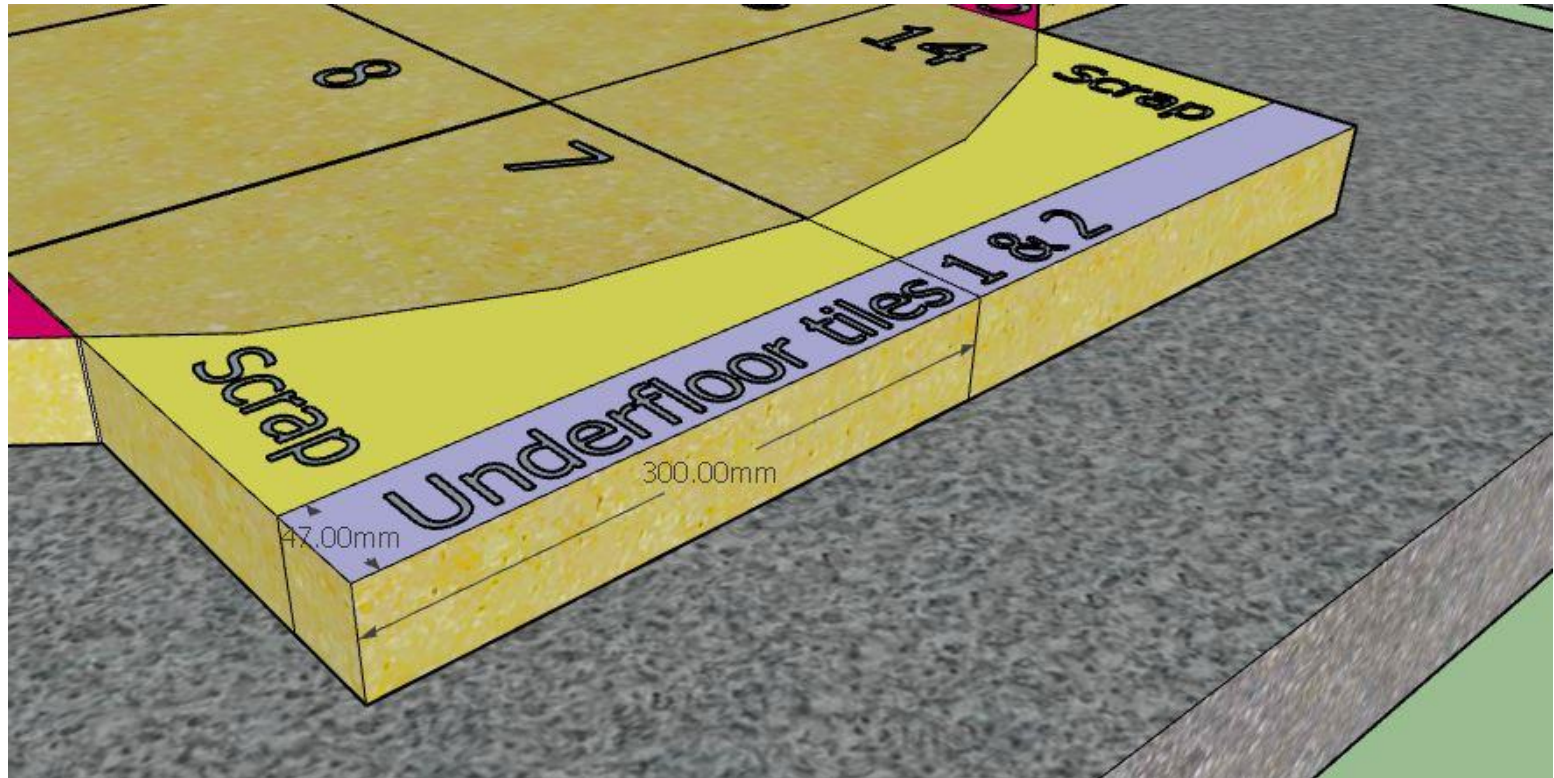
After your template assemble from the centre of your  
oven rotate your tool to draw a 500mm circle

# Pre-cutting Floor tiles

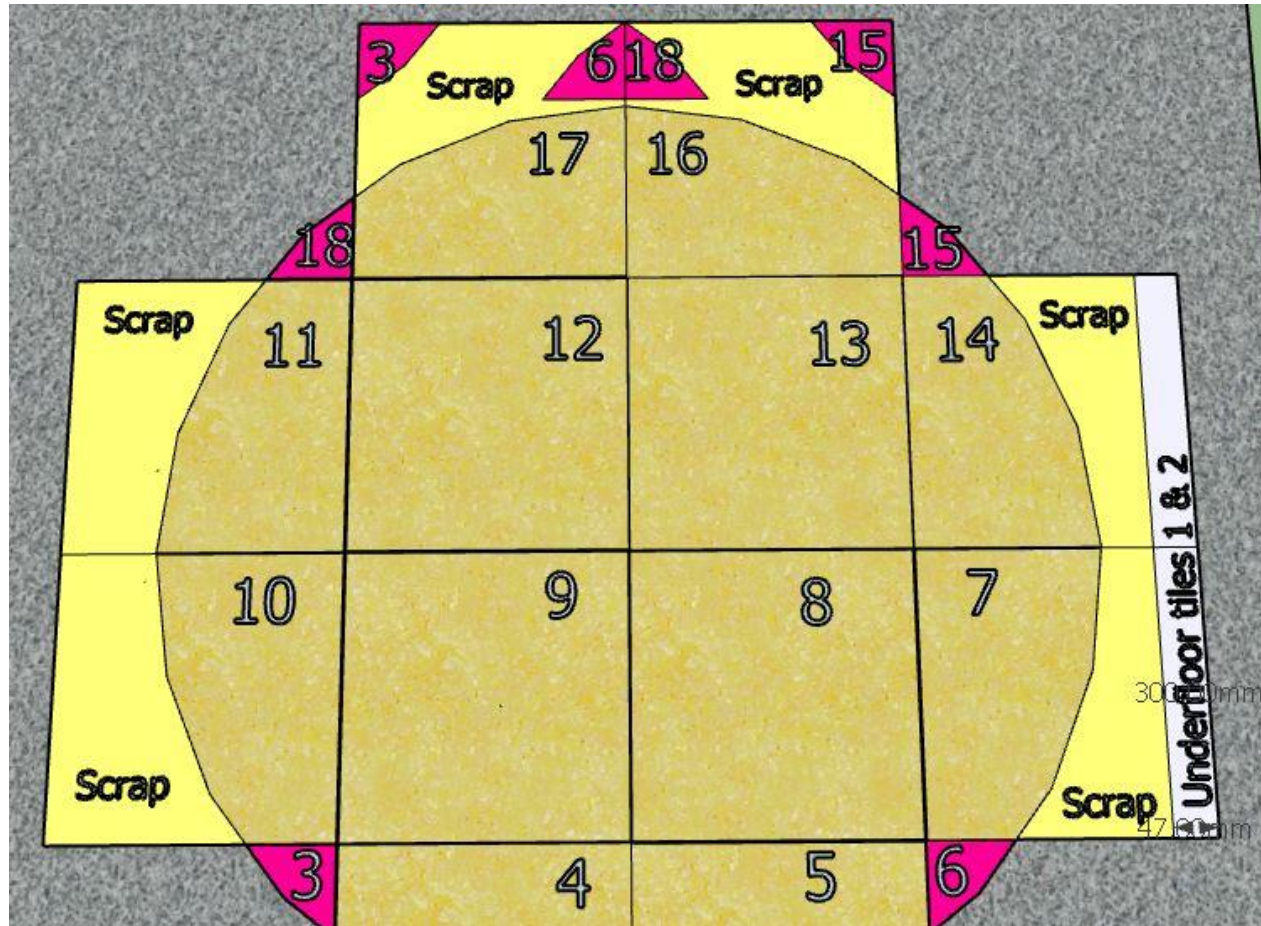


Start to make the following cuts in your bricks

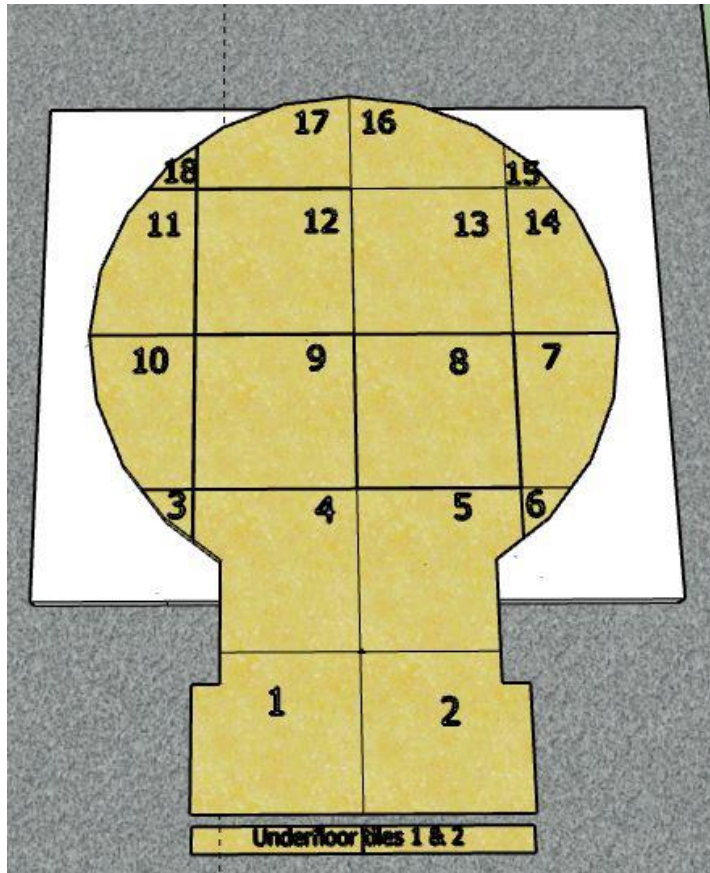
# Pre-cutting Floor tiles



# Pre-cutting floor tiles

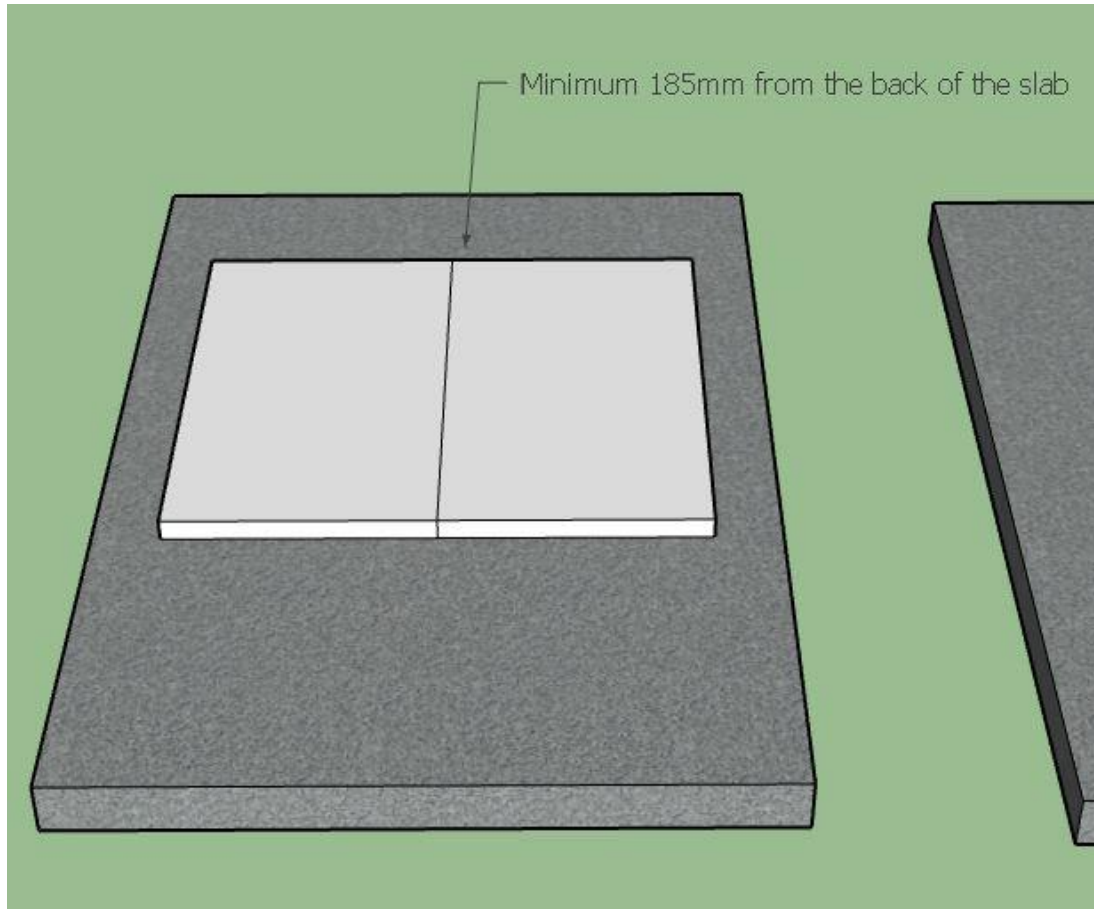


# Precutting floor tiles



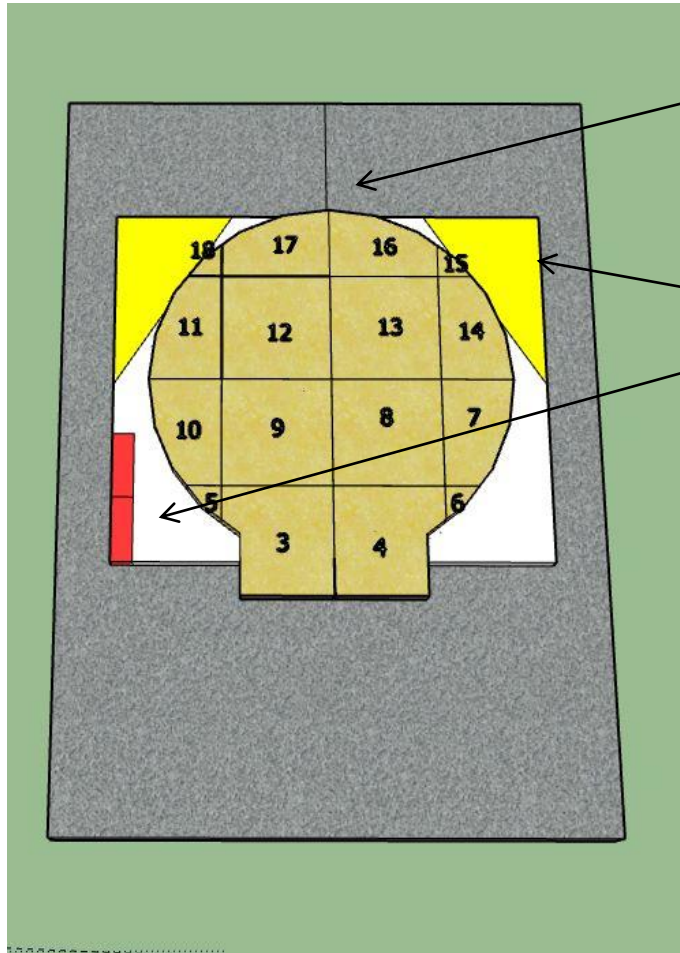
Then this is the end result in which you should have on your slab

# Layout



Lay your calcium silicate board in the center of the slab and 185mm from the rear of the slab

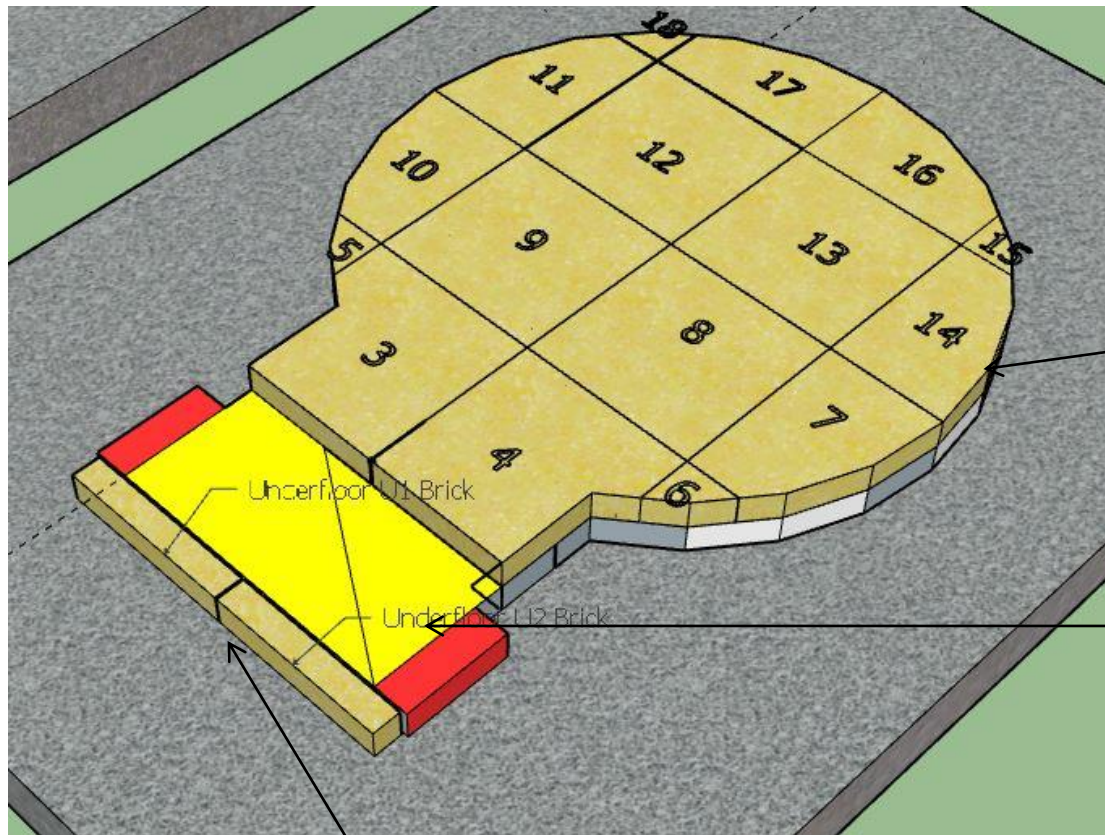
# Laying your floor tiles



Starting from the rear edge of the calcium silicate board and in the middle join lay your tiles in the following pattern loosely

Please note the yellow and red cuts on the calcium silicate boards to be used for the front tiles of the oven. GO ahead and cut the off cuts with a handsaw first and sit them aside

# Front floor preparation



With a handsaw trim around the perimeter of the floor tiles cutting the calcium silicate board flush to the tiles ..

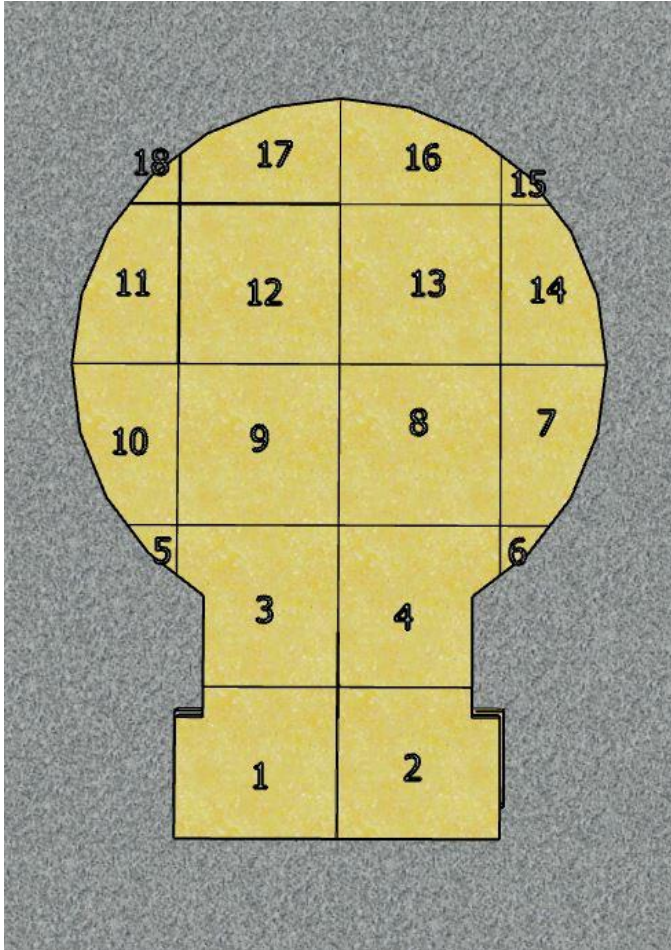
With the cut pieces of board you put aside place them in the following position to support The front floor tiles

Underfloor Tiles 1 and 2

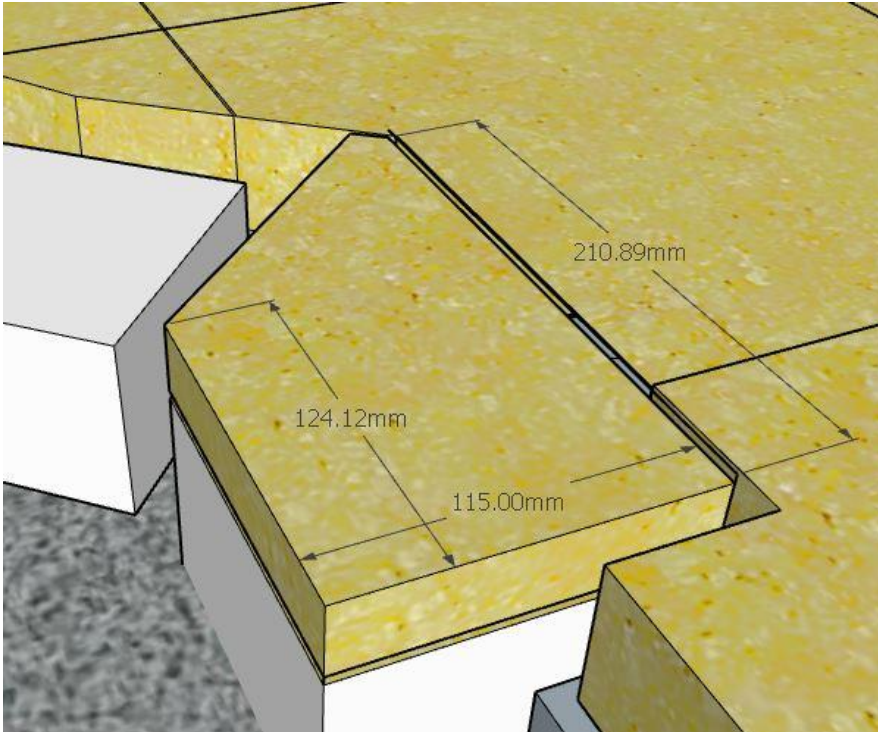
# Finished Oven floor

You have your finished floor tiles and now its time to build the chamber..

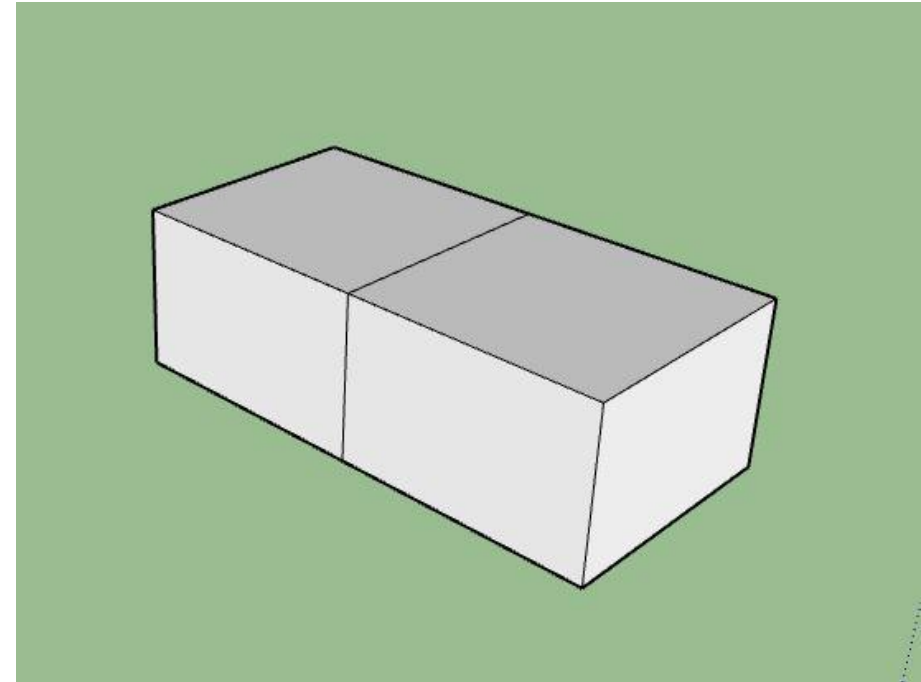
Don't forget to grind and major lips in the floor tiles to save from your pizza peel getting caught and flip them over so the ground edge faces the insulation board



# Door arch brick profile & IFB bricks

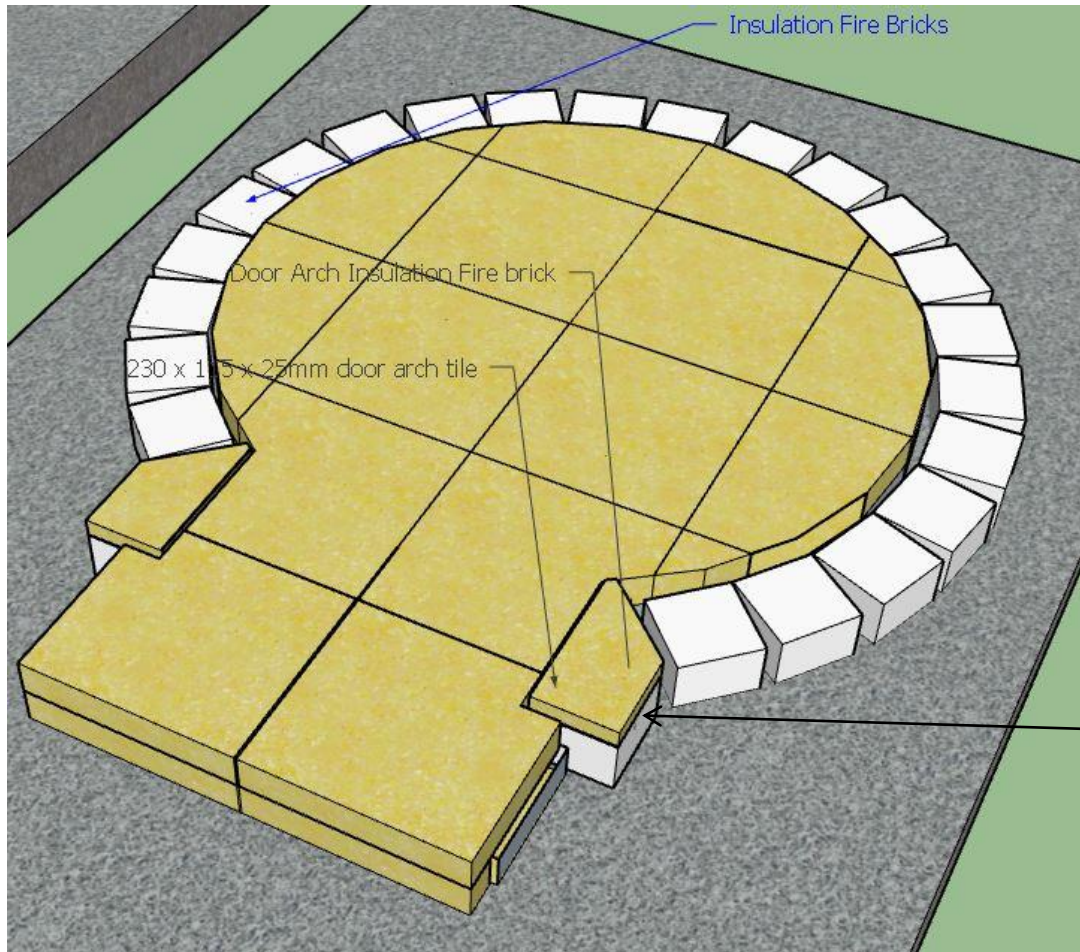


Your door arch bricks are to be cut with a taper in the back to create a join in which the chamber bricks meet perfectly



Your white IFB bricks are to be cut in half for the first course

# White IFB brick & door arch layout

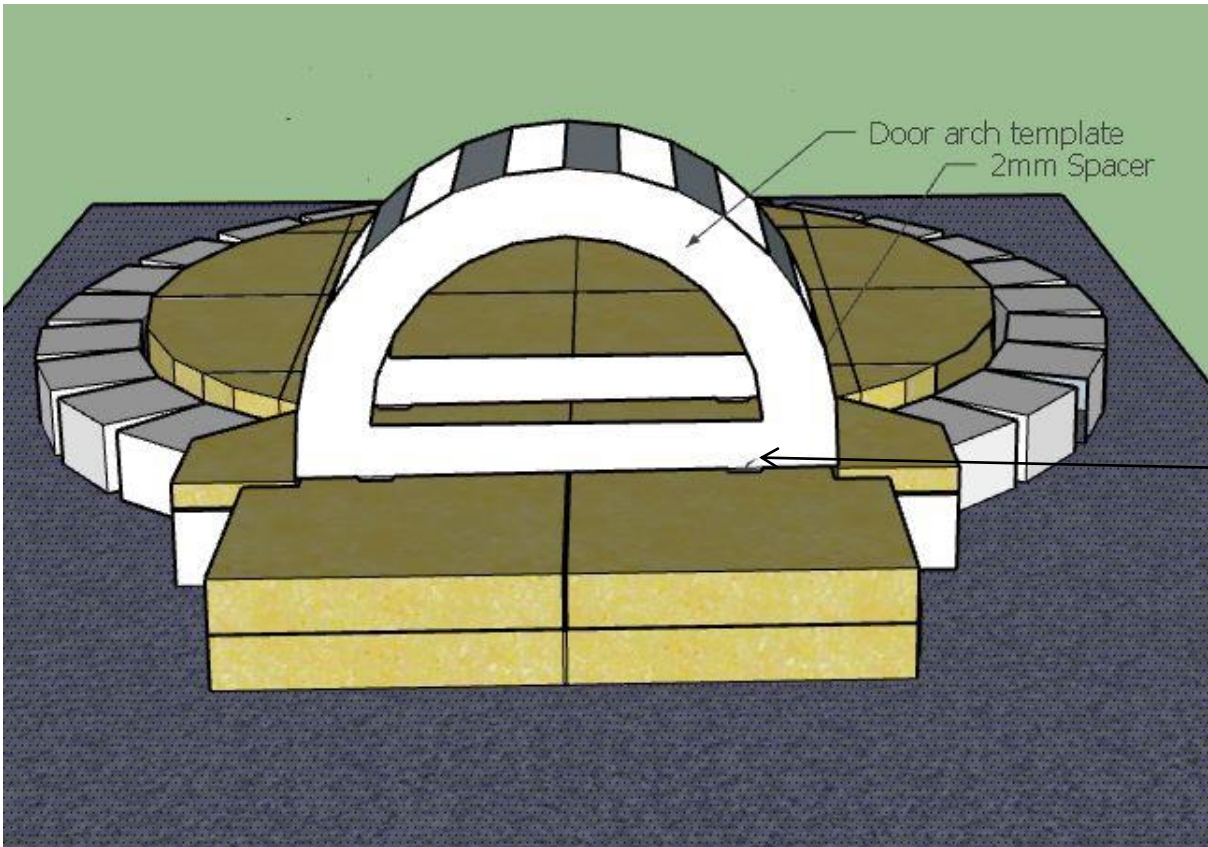


Your first layer of firebrick on the floor for your chamber consists of a White IFB. This is a strong brick that prevents any heat transfer to the slab. It also is waterproof and will never fail over time in any condition. Calcium silicate boards as a structural layer collapse over time.

Layer your bricks around evenly using the airset mortar tapping them down flat ready for the next layer

Also mortar down and position your door arch supporting bricks to build your door arch, these will end up level with your floor

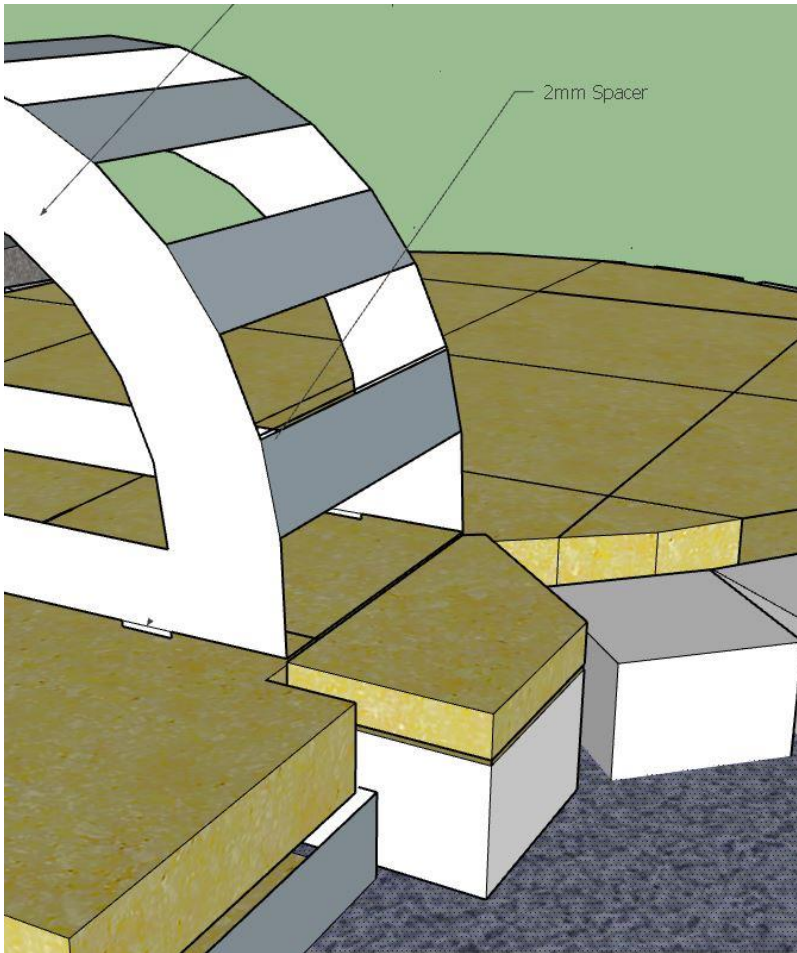
# Door arch template construction



Screw or nail your door arch template ( smaller ) together using timber at approximately 180mm long - only 6 battens needed.

make sure you have placed 4x 2mm spacers under the door arch template so it can be removed to make the template drop instead of pulling it out in which may disrupt the bricks.

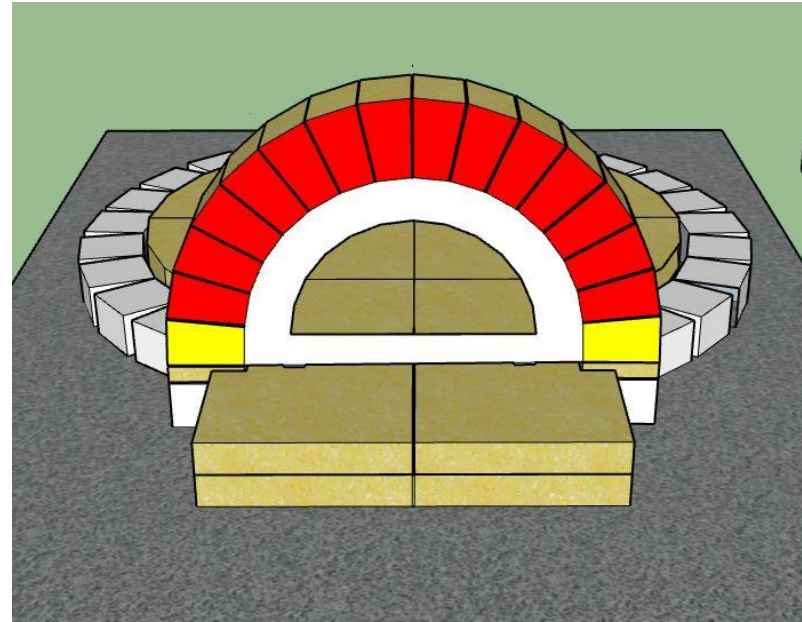
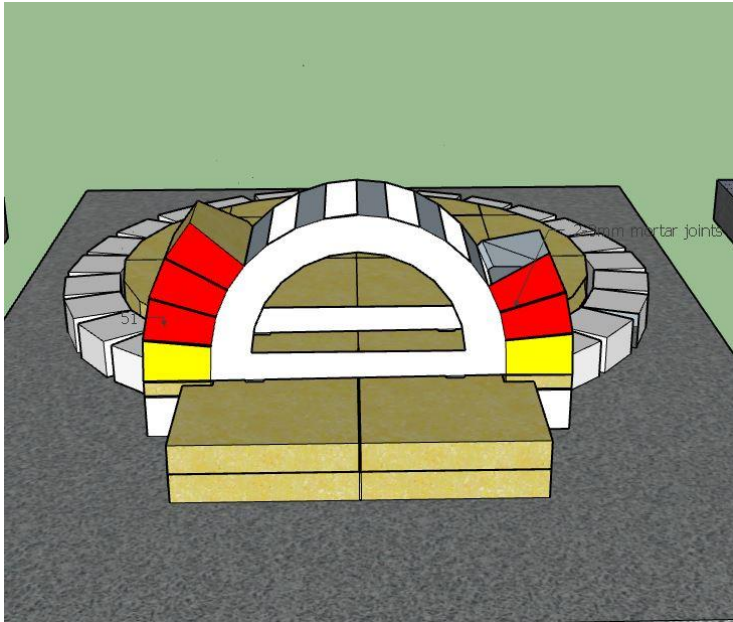
# Building your door arch



To start building your door arch only  
butter the bricks to 2-3 mm between bricks  
and Tap down gently.

This will bring your door arch support bricks level  
With the bottom of the door arch template

# Brick colours and placement



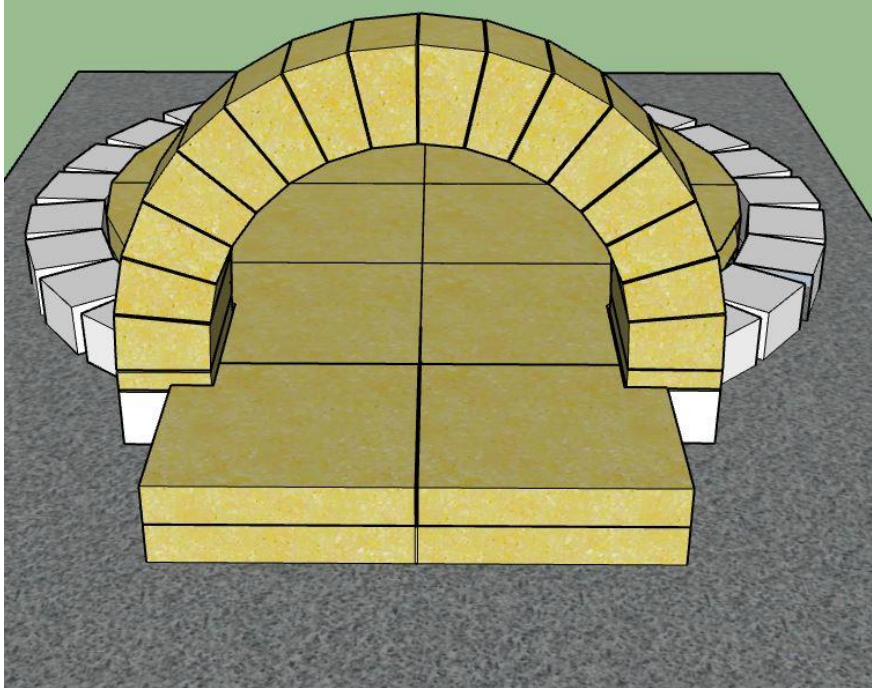
Your Door and flue arch templates have notches on them for each brick to fit perfectly. You will see this if you look closely, for each notch it's the correct brick to suit.

Yellow brick is a 230 x 115 x 75/63 – with taper in back

Red brick is a 230 x 115 x 75/51 – with taper in back

If you have found you have gone over a notch something is incorrect, go back and check your positioning. Remember using the airset mortar only 2-3mm joints

# Door Arch completion



When you have finished the door arch leave the template in for at least an hour before removing it. You can also leave it in while building the chamber if you like.

Remember to knock out the spacers first to let the template drop before removing the template.

Clean any mortar joints as you go with a damp sponge NOT WET.

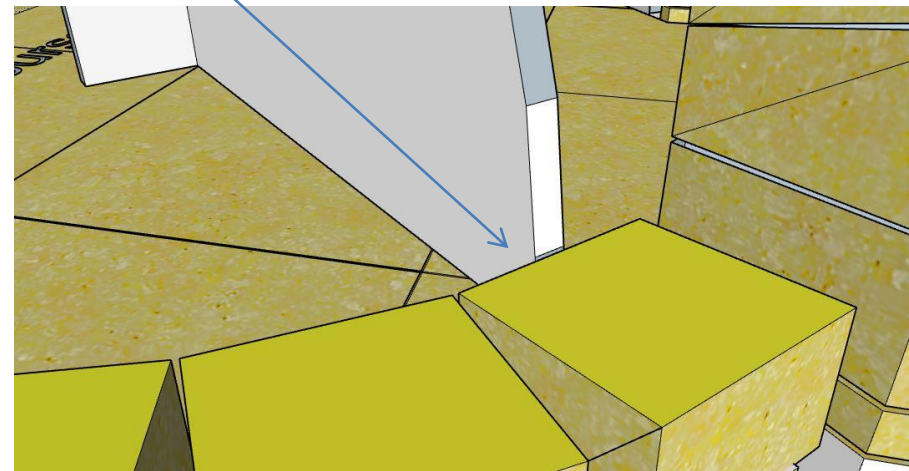
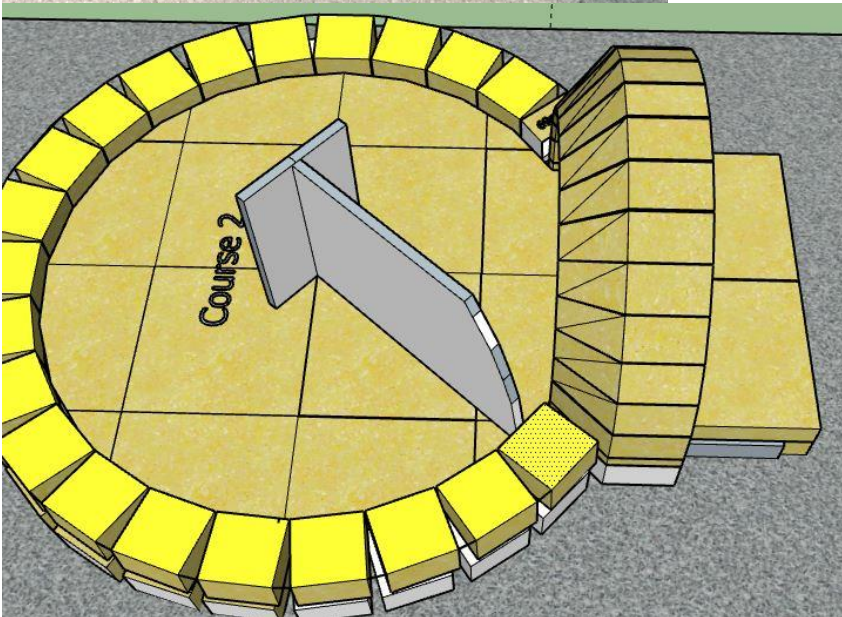
# Chamber template



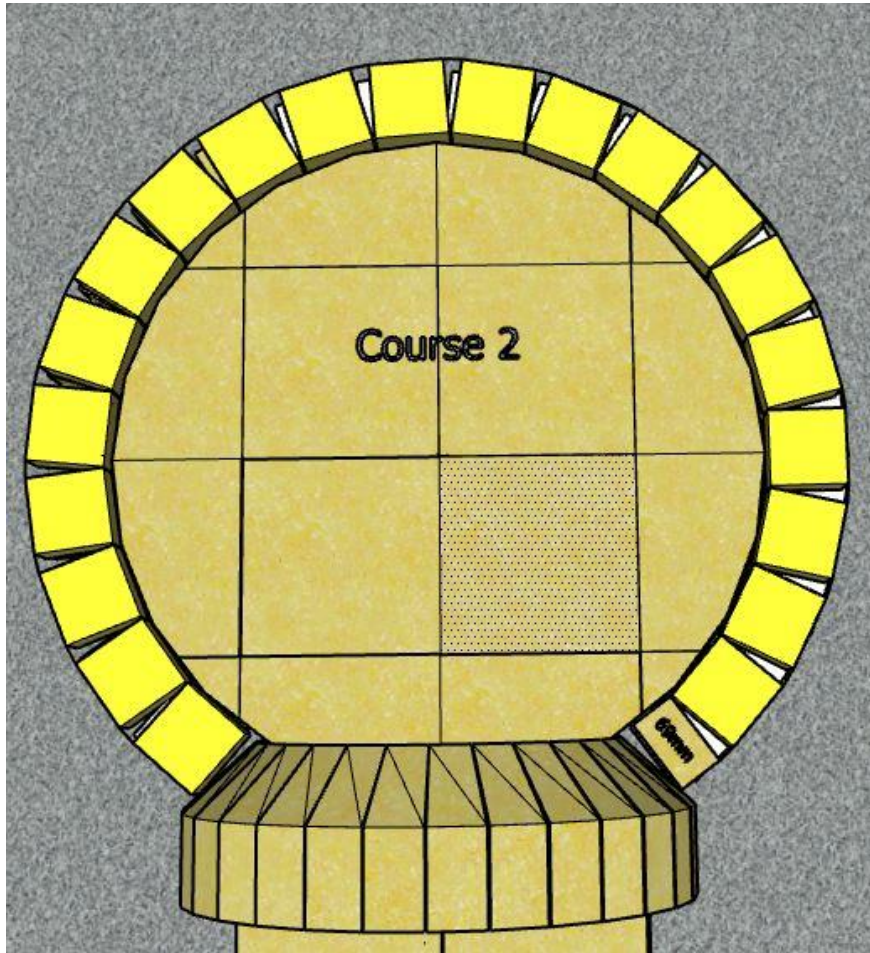
The end result is it should look like this

Insert it into the centre of the floor tile and form a pivot point

Each notch in the template incorporates a layer of bricks The tool rotates so you know your on the right path



# 2nd chamber layer



As listed in the first few pages of the instructions, the bricks to be used in the chamber are listed with the colour

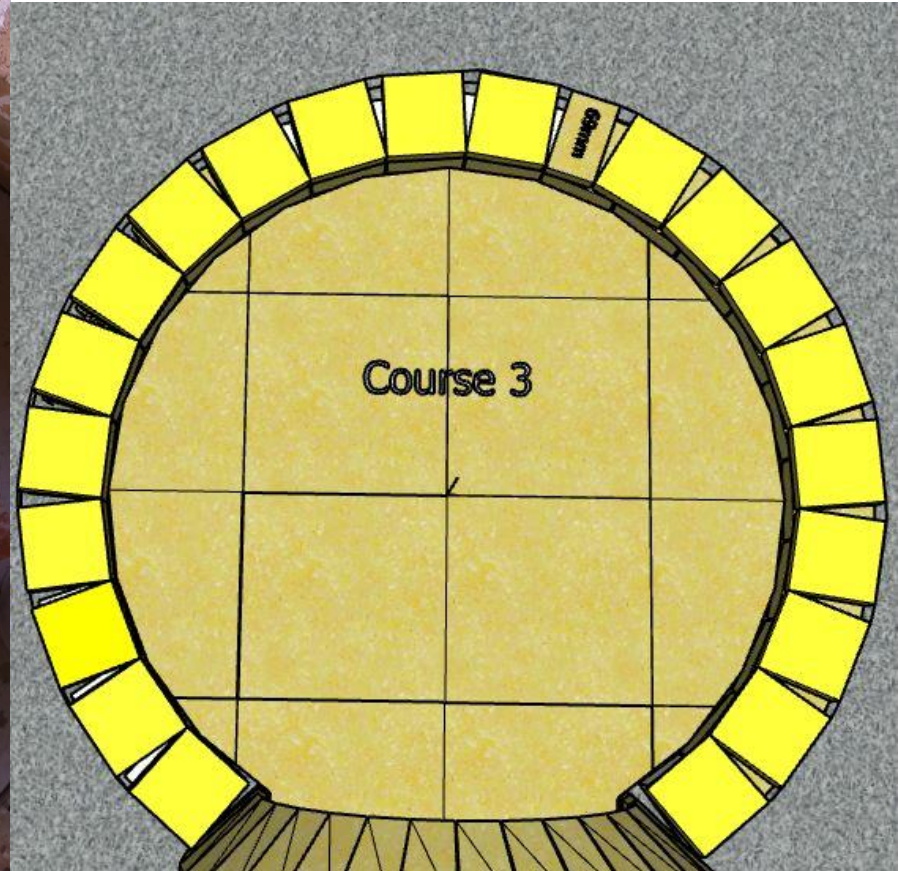
Start your first layer directly on top of the first layer using the 631 bricks mortaring them down in the following pattern.

When using the airset mortar its best to only butter the first 4-5 cms of the inside of the brick as the mortar is only best used up to 5mm .

The cement fondu mix is to be used on the exterior of the chamber bricks to fill in the larger gaps .

**Remember to clean any internal mortar joints as you go with a damp sponge NOT WET. Particularly if you are laying the bricks over a number of days. It will make it easier to clean in later stages**

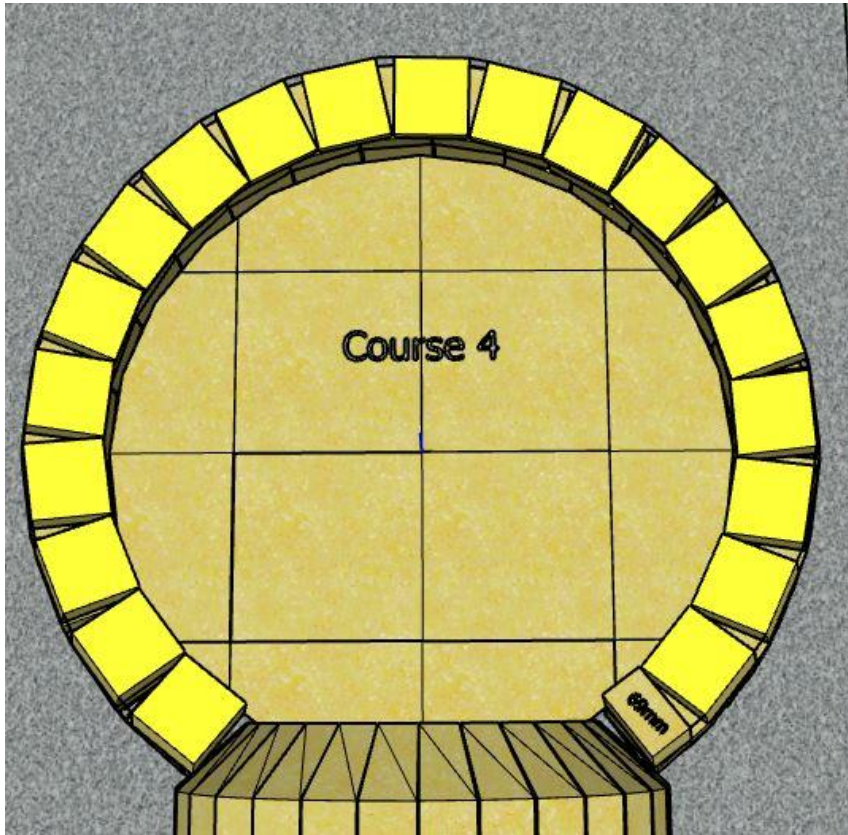
# 3<sup>rd</sup> Chamber layer



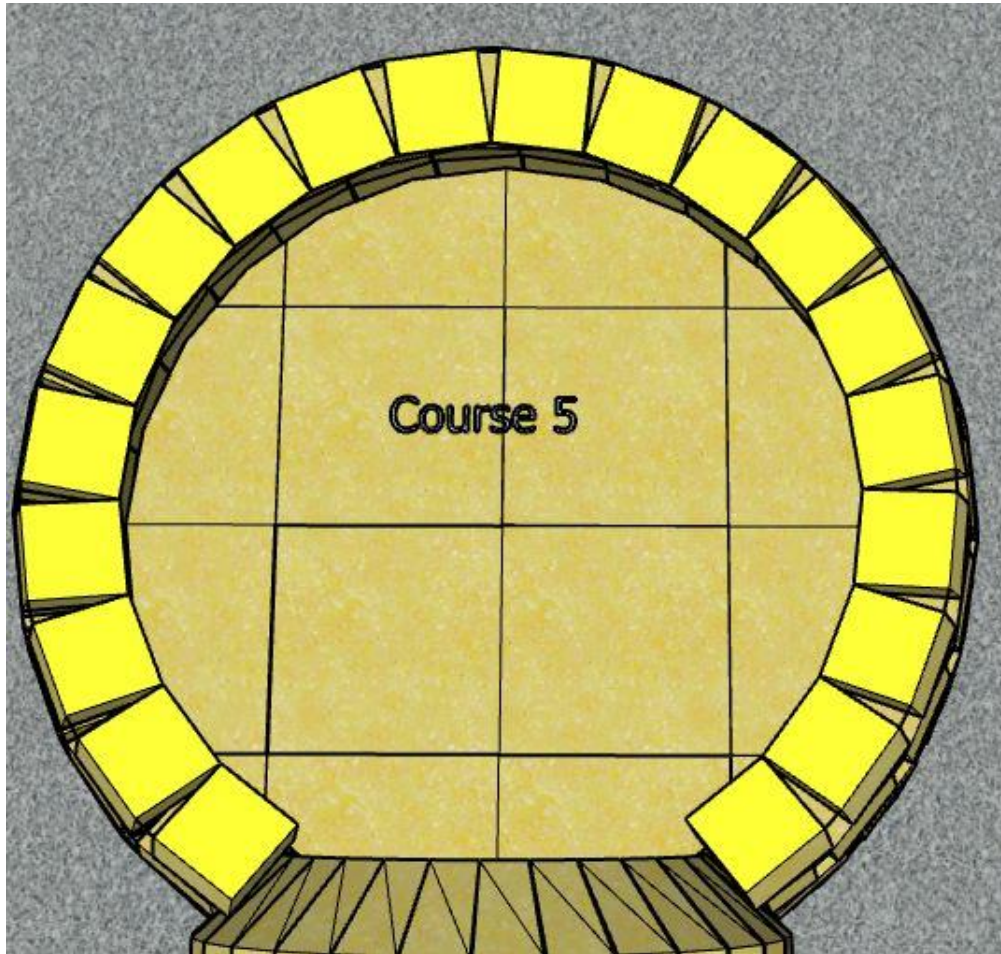
Using the chamber template as a guide from the centre of the oven rotate it around and lay your bricks in the pattern for the second layer Make sure you lean the bricks against the template guide to correctly set the angle

# 4<sup>th</sup> Chamber layer

By now it's a good time to infill the rear of the chamber bricks with fondu – mix your batch and infill the rear of the chamber to strengthen it.

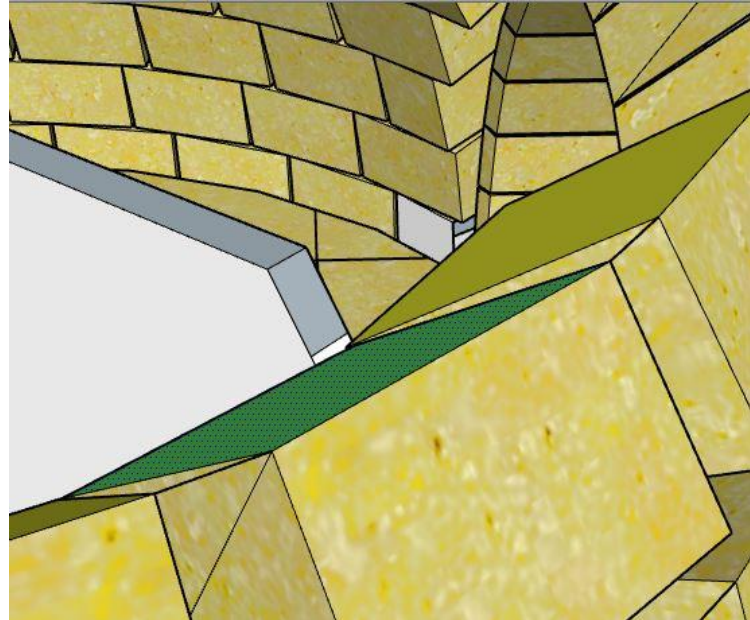
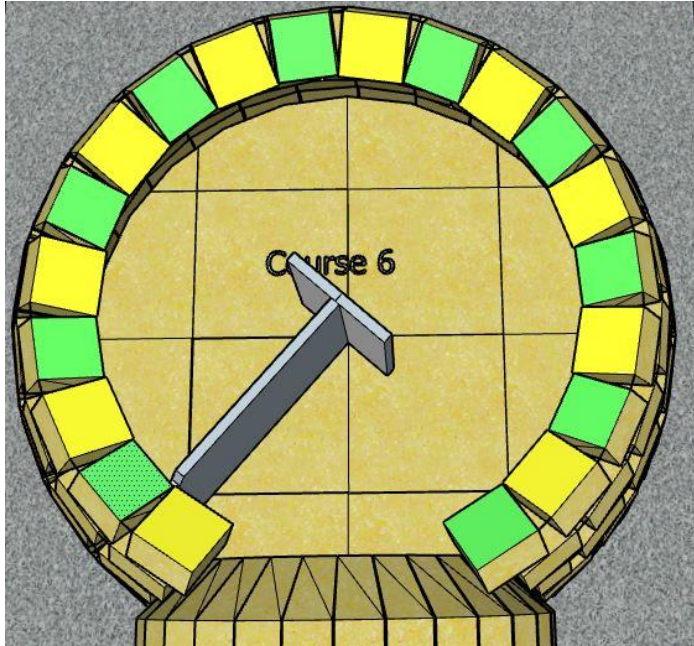


# 5<sup>th</sup> Chamber Layer



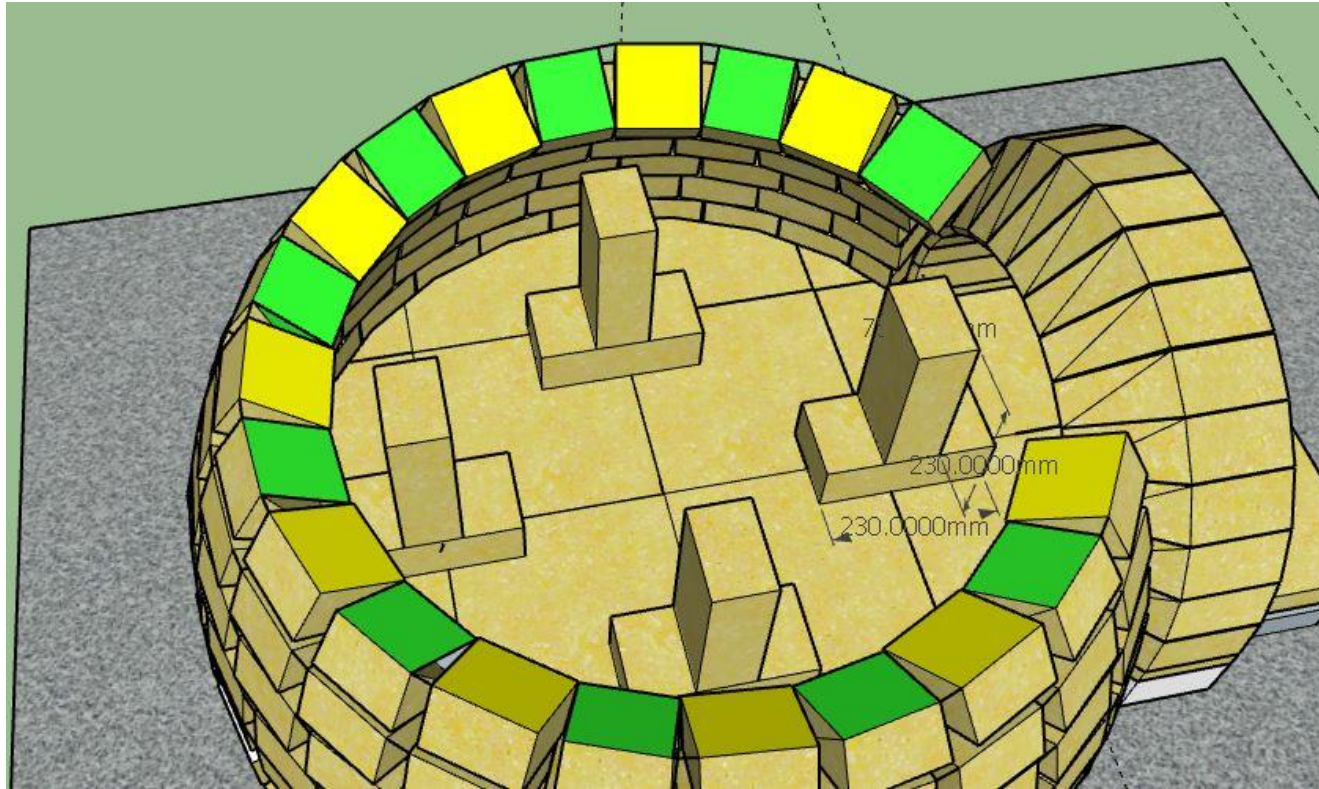
Finish your 5<sup>th</sup>, Remember to follow the notches in the template for each row

# 6<sup>th</sup> layer and PLUG



The 6<sup>th</sup> layer is your final layer before the plug to build the top of the oven.  
Check layer 6 meet the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> last notch in the template

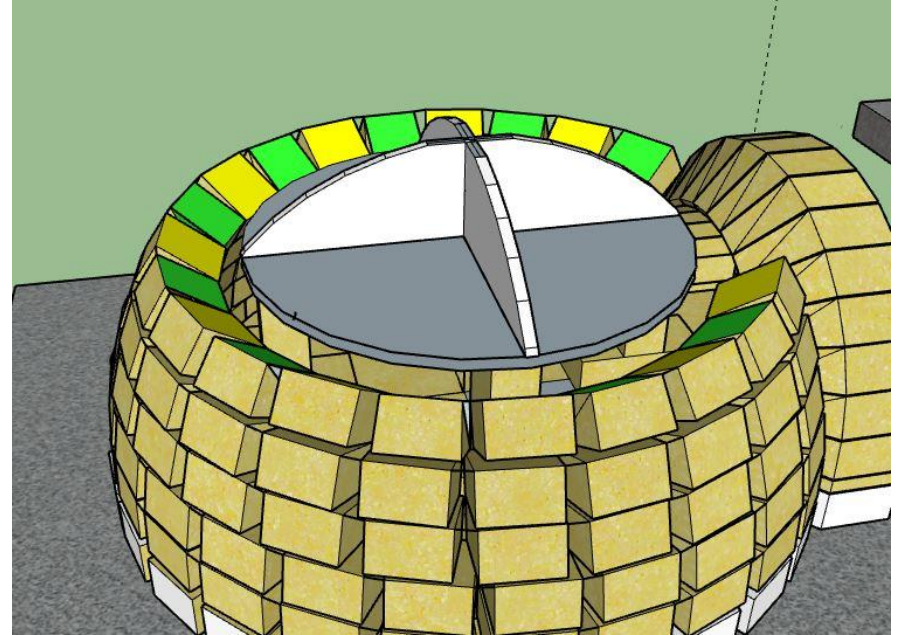
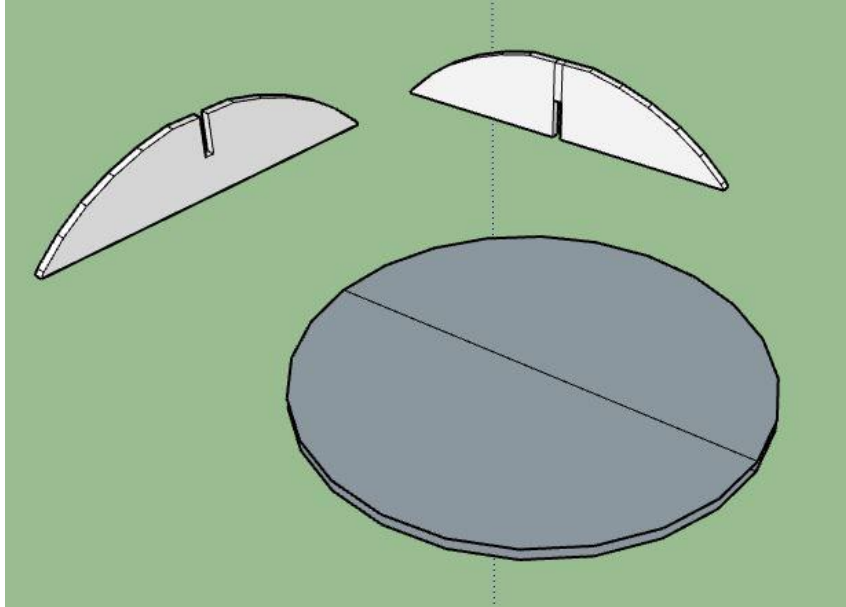
# 6<sup>th</sup> Layer and PLUG



Using 8 common house bricks 230 x 115 x 75mm create 4 positions evenly spaced for the top templates to rest upon.

*Placed a layer of black builders poly plastic covering the bottom of the oven and partially up the sides to catch the sand and debris when you knock out the bricks to make the clean-up easier*

# 6<sup>th</sup> Layer and PLUG

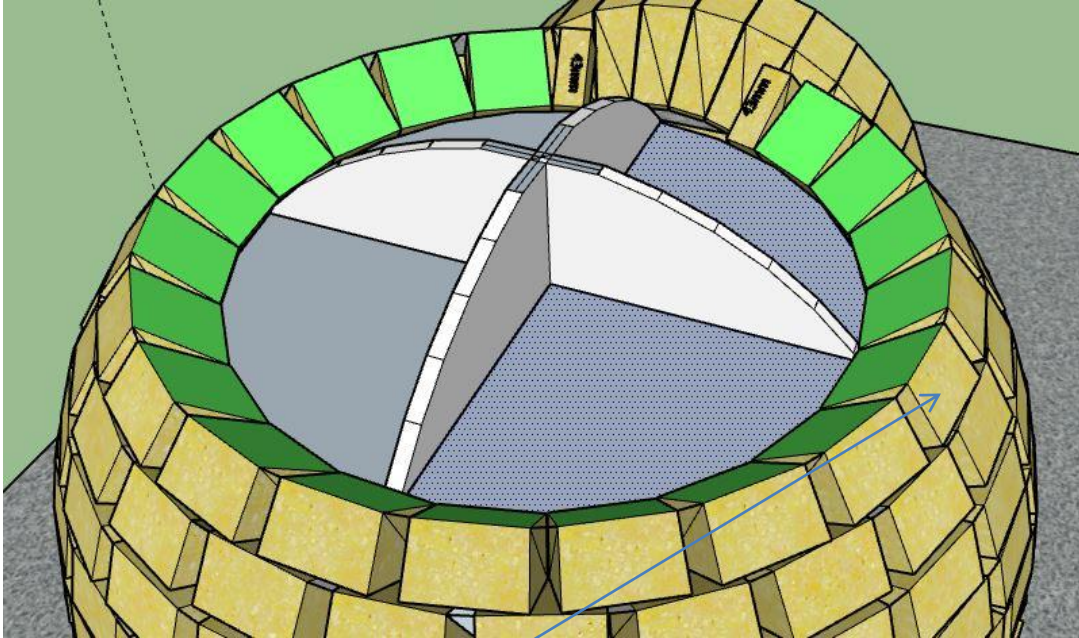


The top chamber templates simply interlock and are to be placed upon the 8 bricks with the centre line running from front to back.

*Rotate the cross piece 45° so it is sat better across the joint in the 2 flat panels*



# 7<sup>th</sup> Layer and PLUG

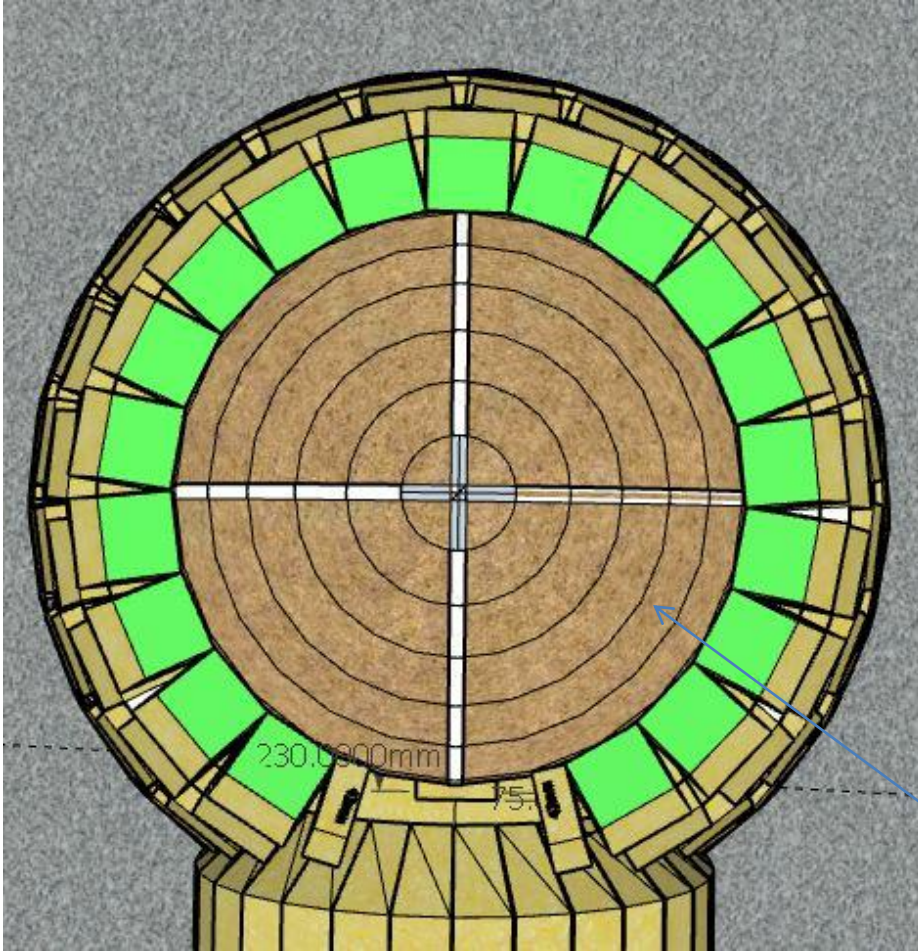


Start your 7<sup>th</sup> course following the course of timber template and meeting the first notch in the top template

Open your brickies sand and pour over the timber template to form the shape over the top of the oven keeping the notches exposed in the template. Place wet newspaper over the brickies sand as a seperator so the sand doesn't stick to the mortared bricks

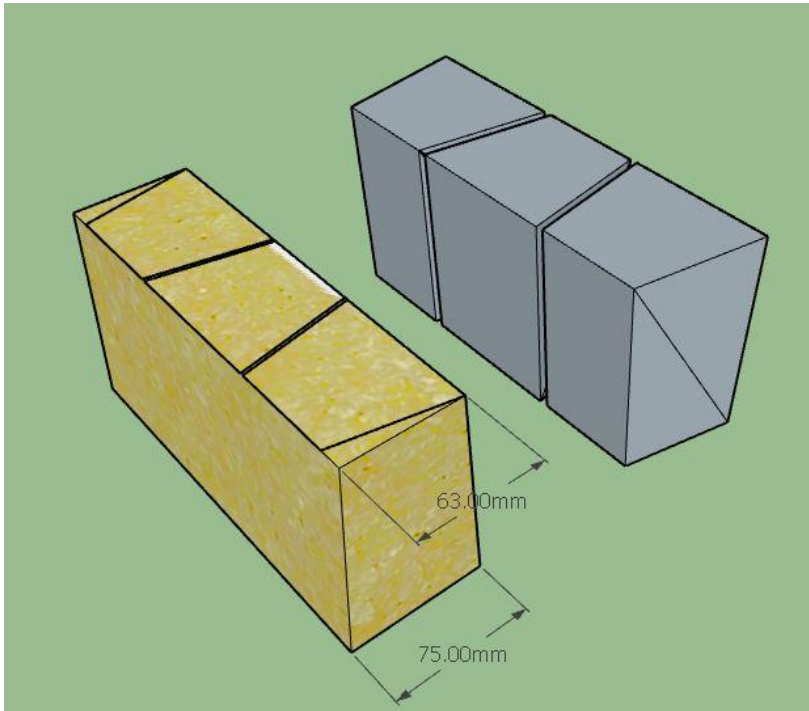
*When putting in the template you can place few layers of newspaper under the plate to then wrap over the top of the sand. When I wet the newspaper it could massage the sand to make A nice dome and it contained the sand nicely*

# 7<sup>th</sup> chamber layer 632 bricks



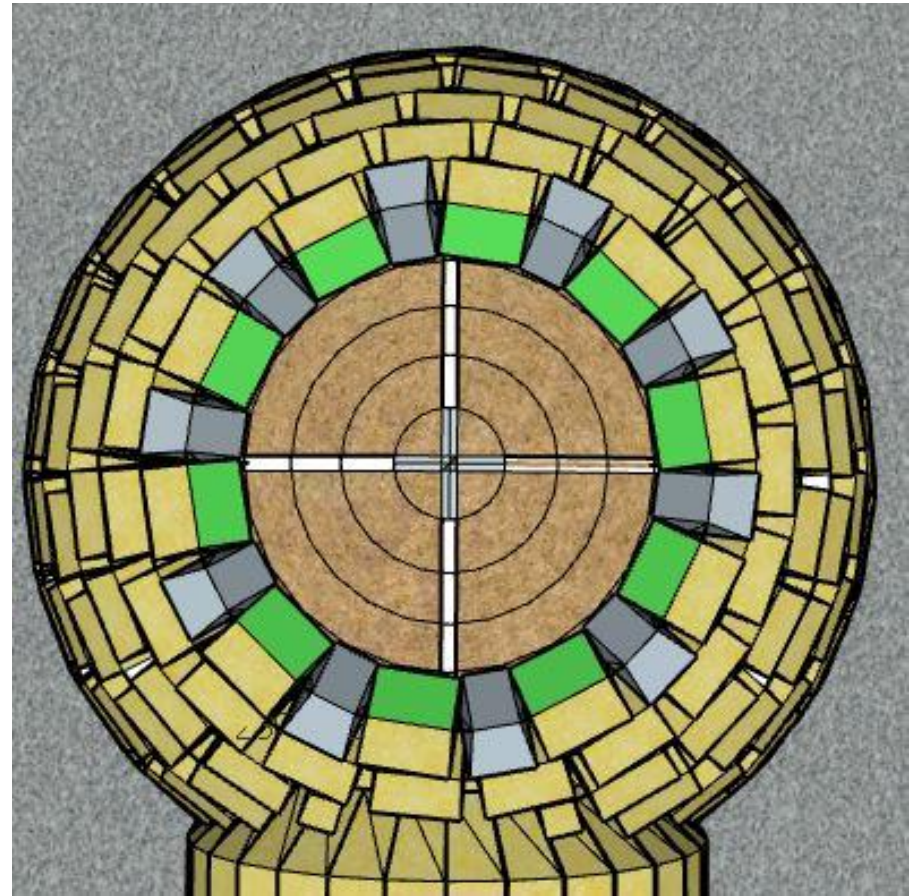
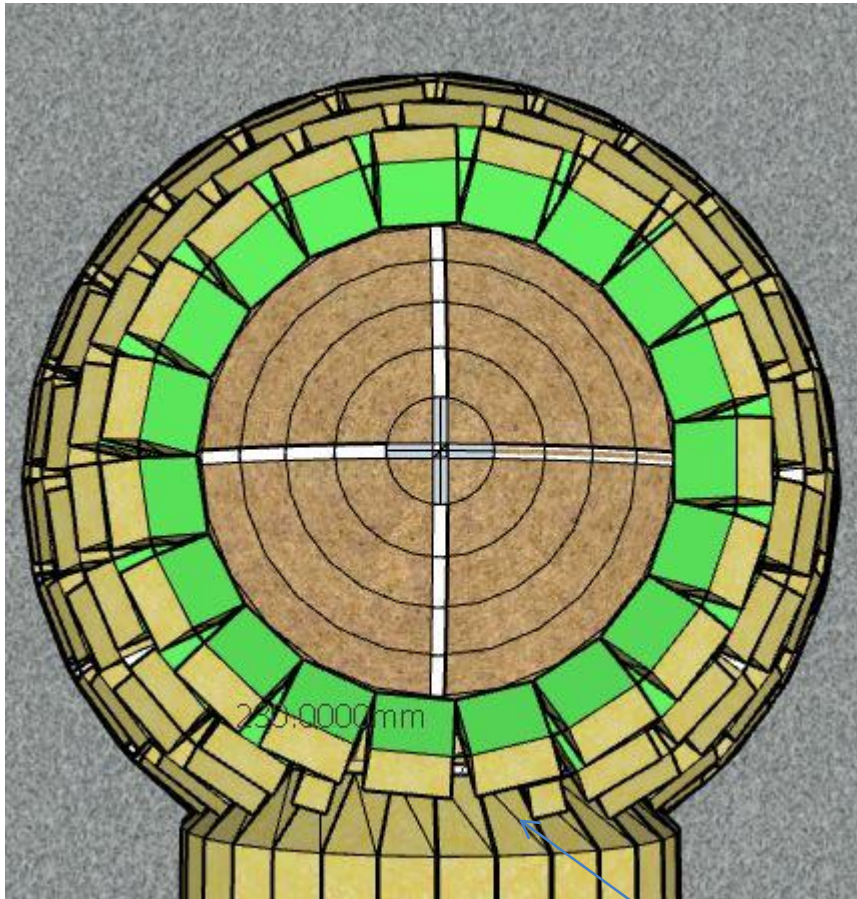
Using the airset mortar keep doing your 4-5mm internal mortar joints and fondu in between to lock the rear in and strengthen it. Follow the notches on the template for each row

# Cutting of 633 bricks



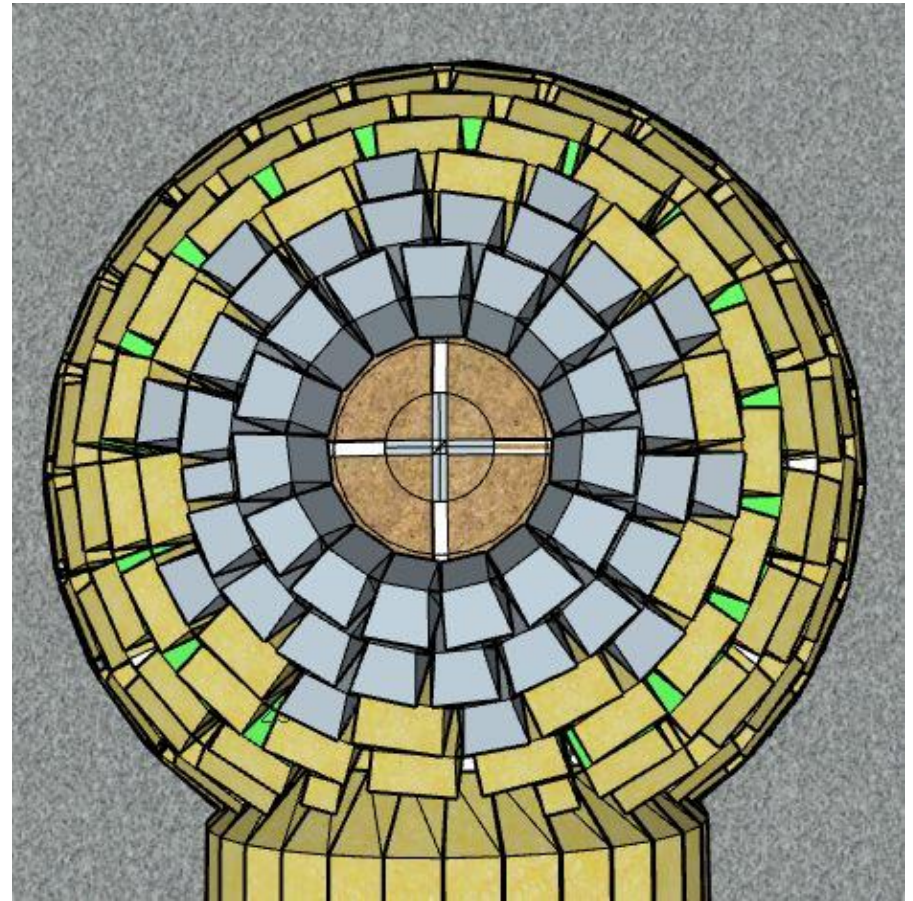
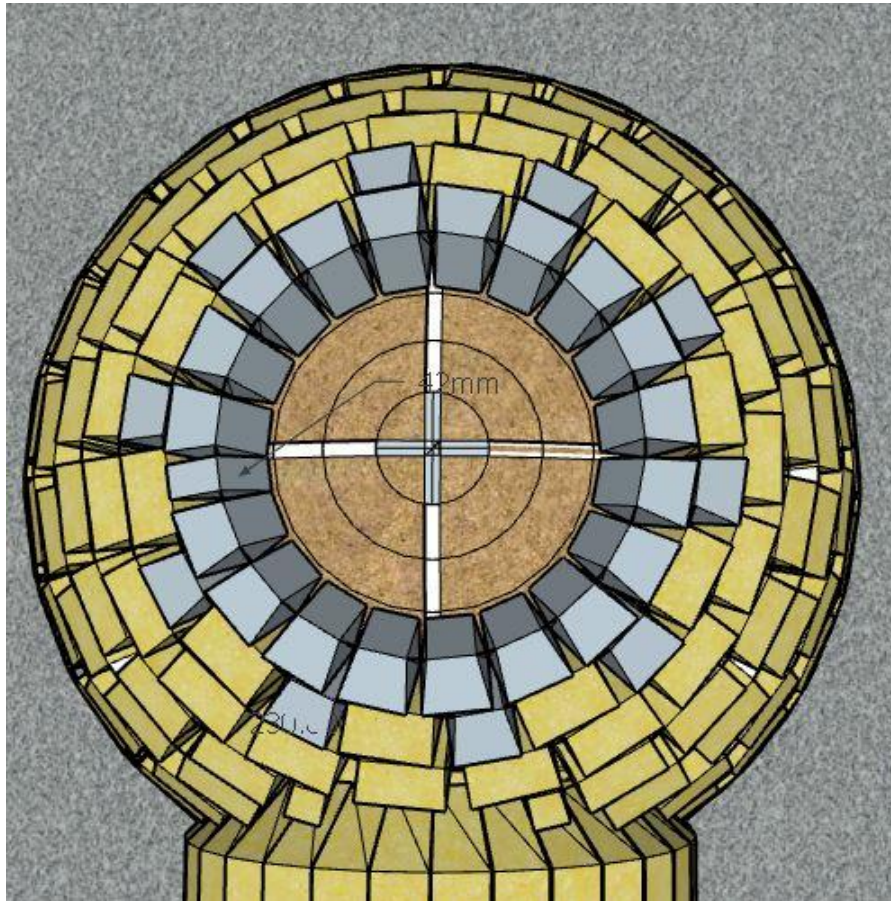
With the 1 x 633 brick provided mark the 63 side of your brick with the equivalent side of your 633 brick the cut ... You will end up with 3 x 633 bricks per 230 x 115 x 75/63 full brick

# 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Chamber layer

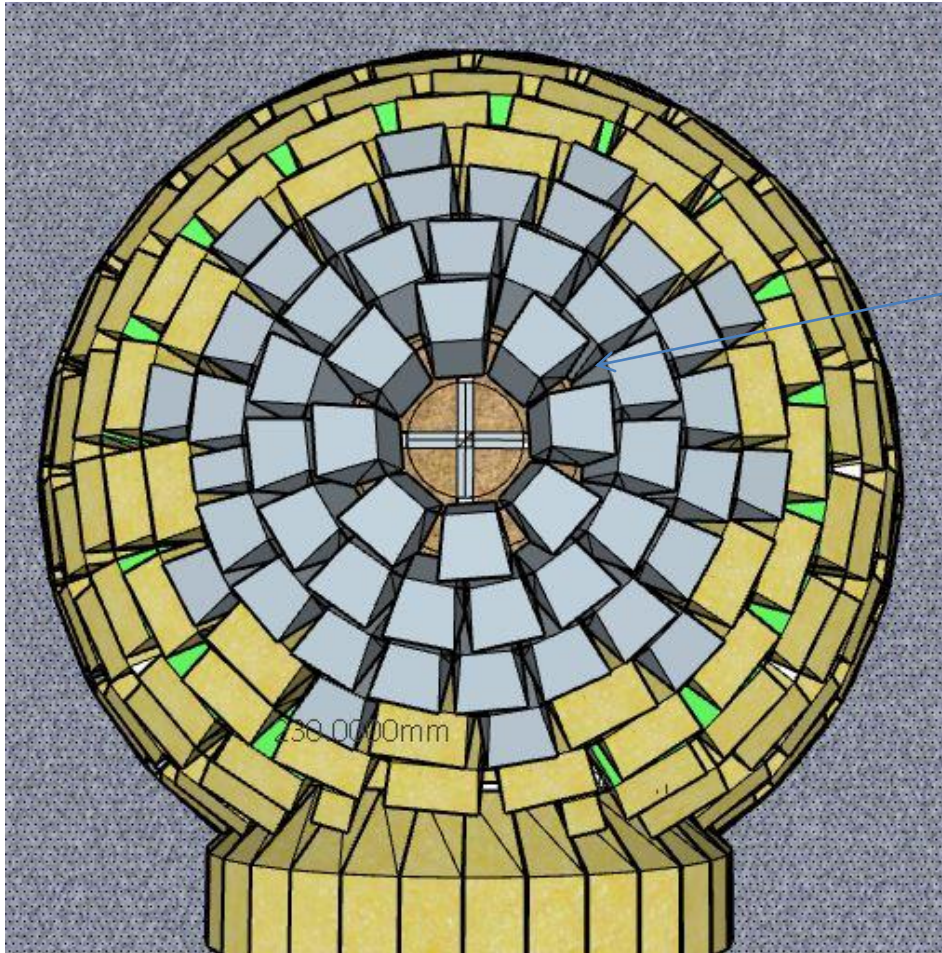


To support layer 8 you can use your fondu mix to prop up the layer above the door arch.

# 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Chamber layer

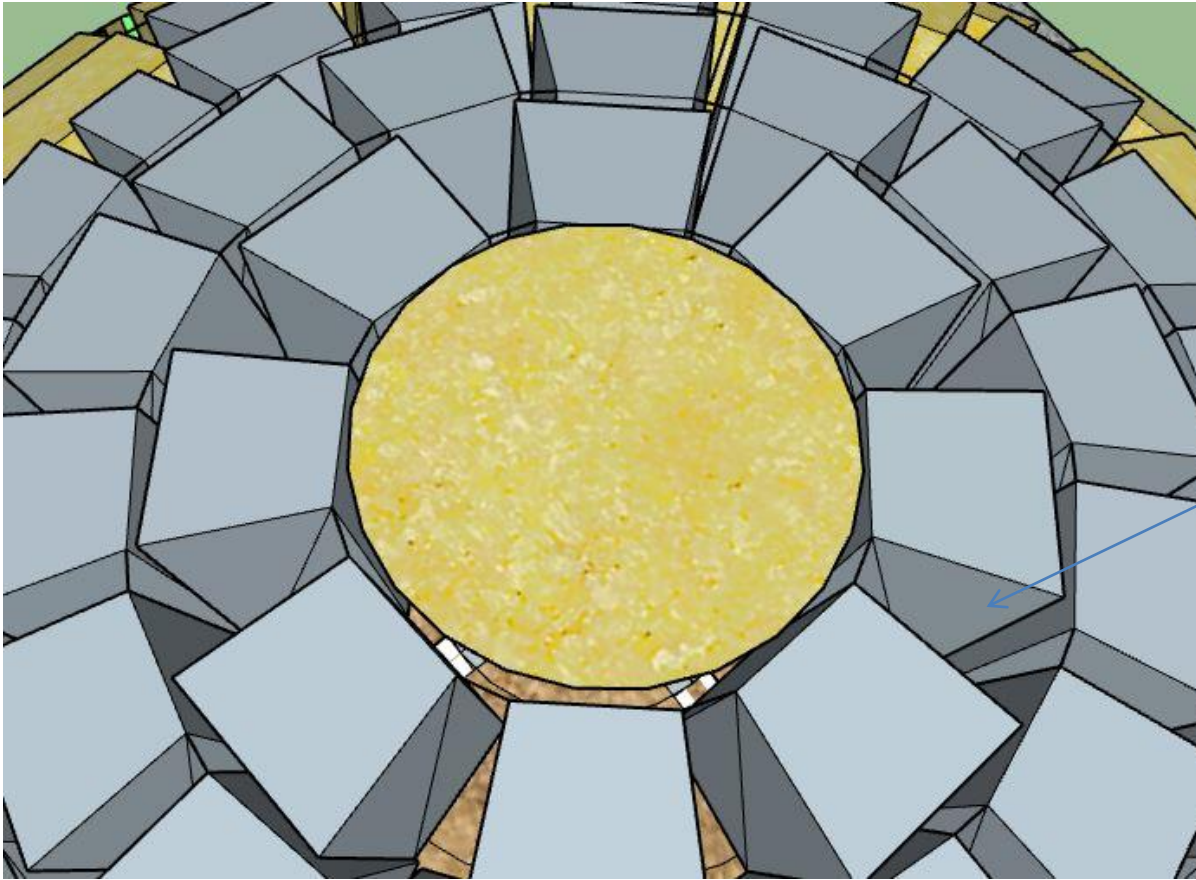


# Final layer



These gaps will be fairly large  
so you can fill with fondue or  
castable

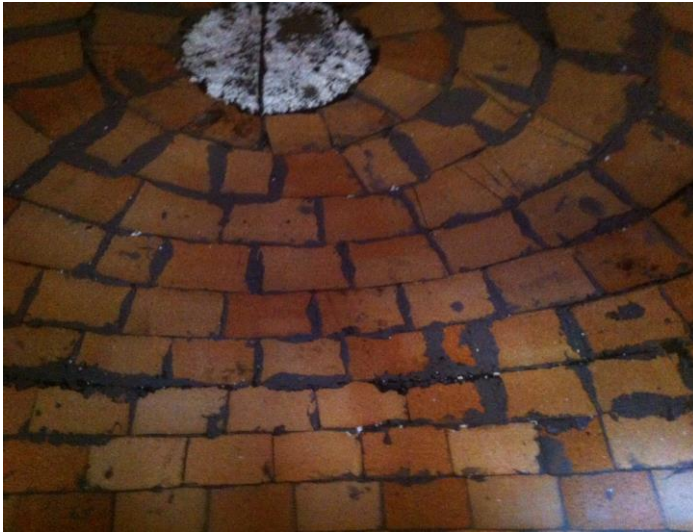
# Final plug keystone in the top



For the keystone mix some CAST 13 in a bucket and pour into the top to lock the entire structure together.

Do not forget the fondu mix in between the joints

# Insider chamber

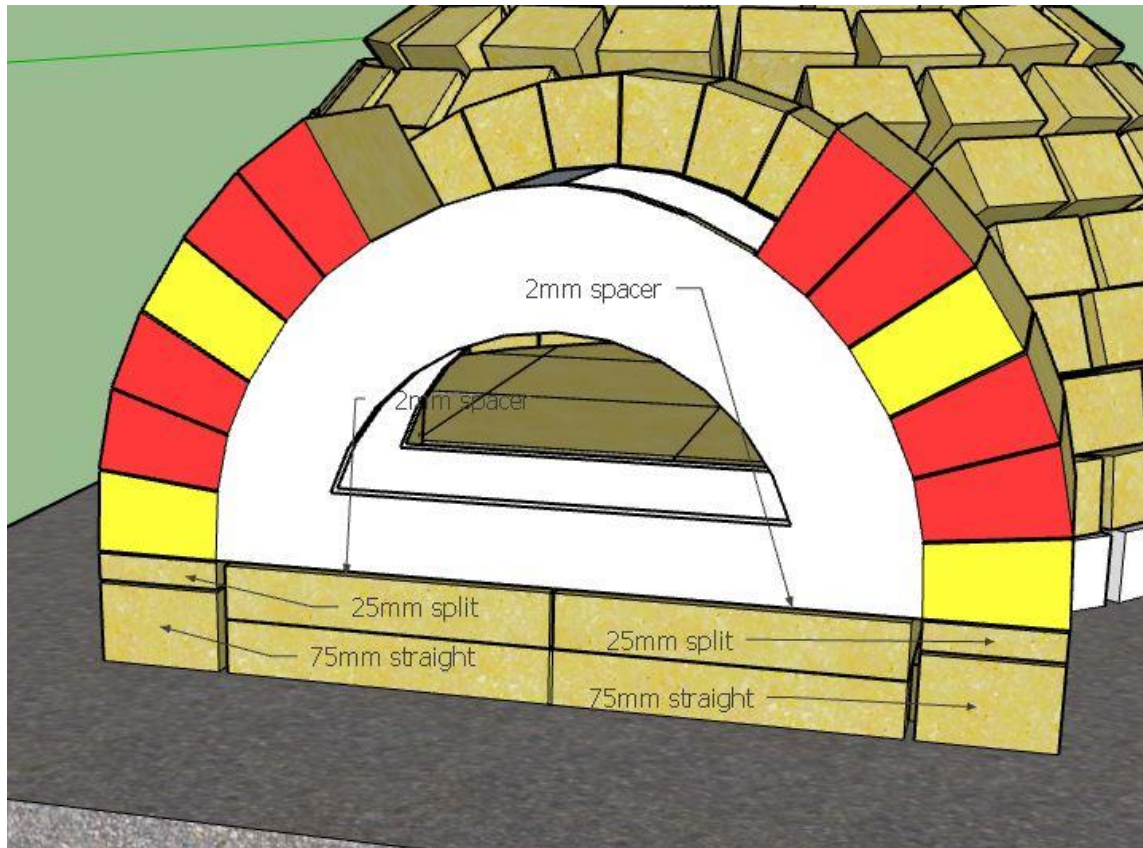


After leaving the sand plug in overnight (even longer for colder conditions) moisture free, Gently knock the bricks out holding the timber template in place. Start with the 2 front and then do the rear. Clean the sand out and any debris and you should be left with the top left picture. You will have to venture inside the oven to clean the internal joints using a DAMP But not wet sponge. Too much water can cause weakness in the mortar.

Do this immediately after removal of the sand plug as the inside mortar will still be soft from the moisture in the wet newspaper and from the castable

PLEASE BE CAREFUL CLEANING OUT THE OVEN !

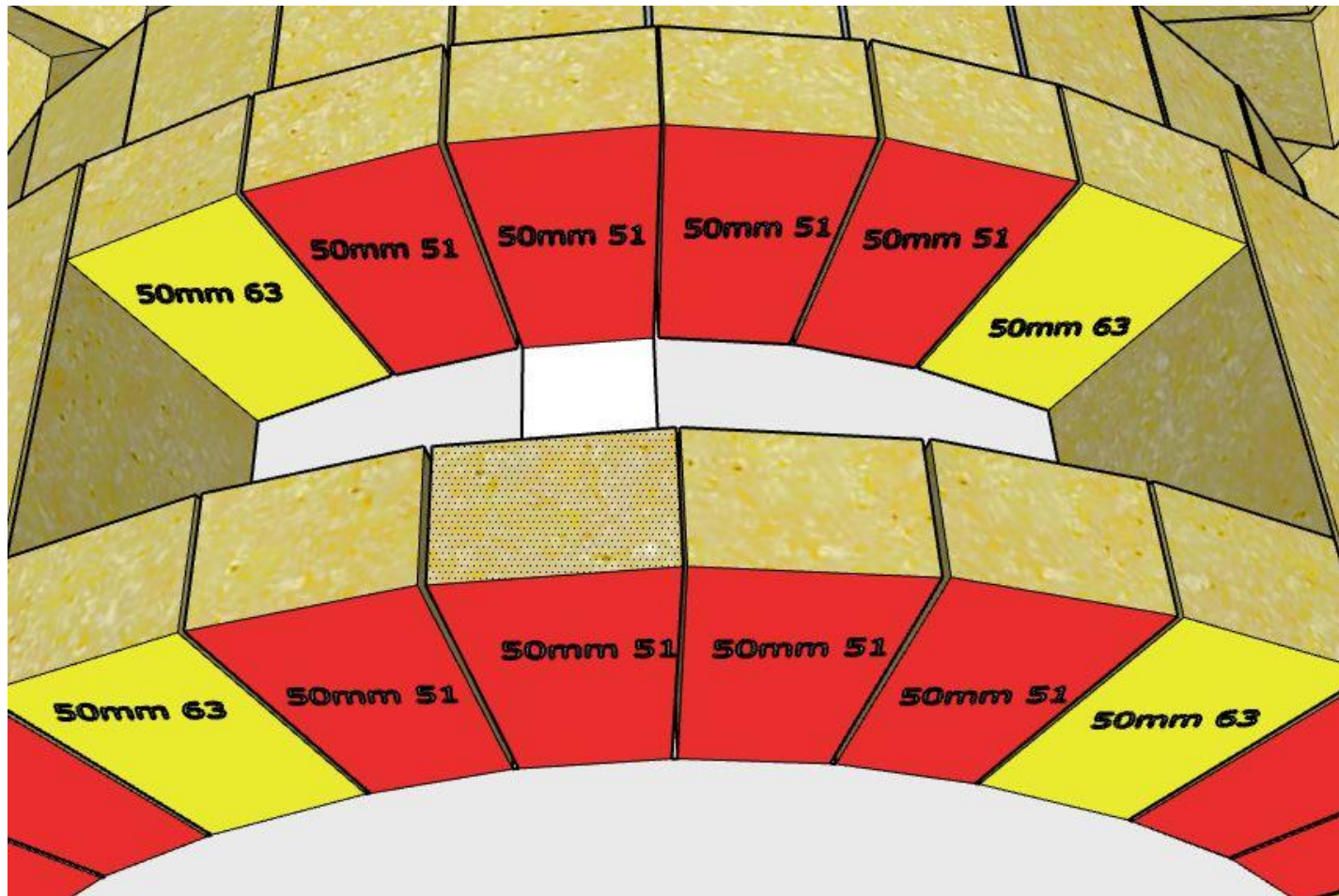
# Building the flue arch



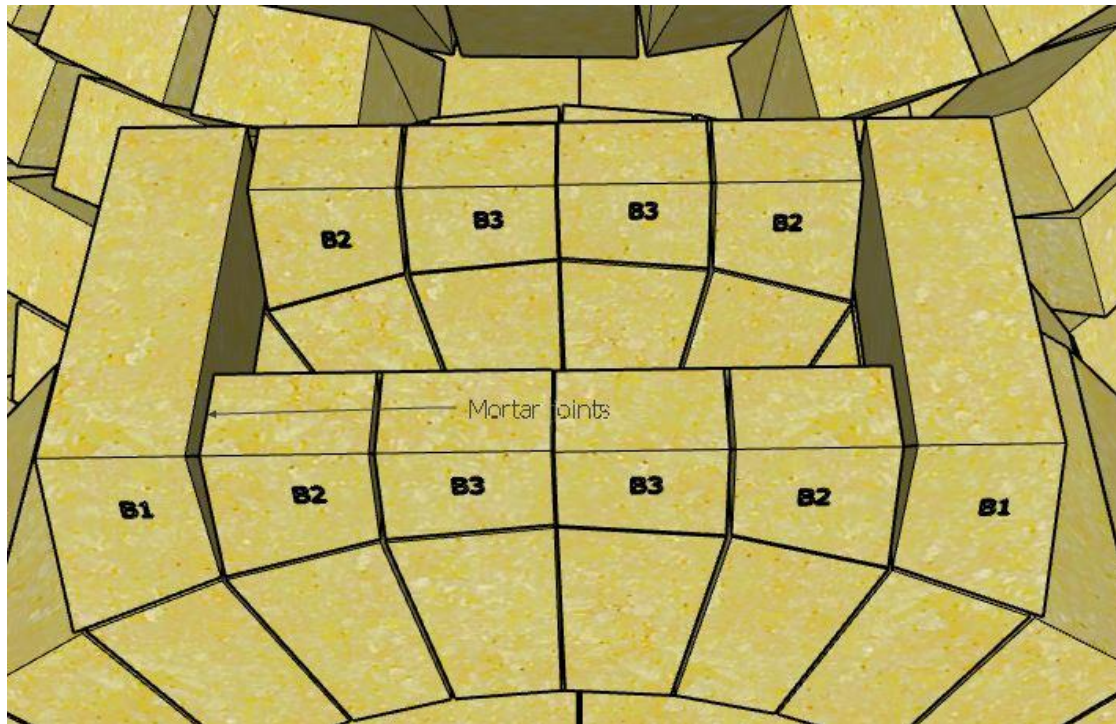
Screw the flue arch template together using 180mm timber battens and build your flue arch.

Remember your 2mm spacers

# Building the top of the flue arch

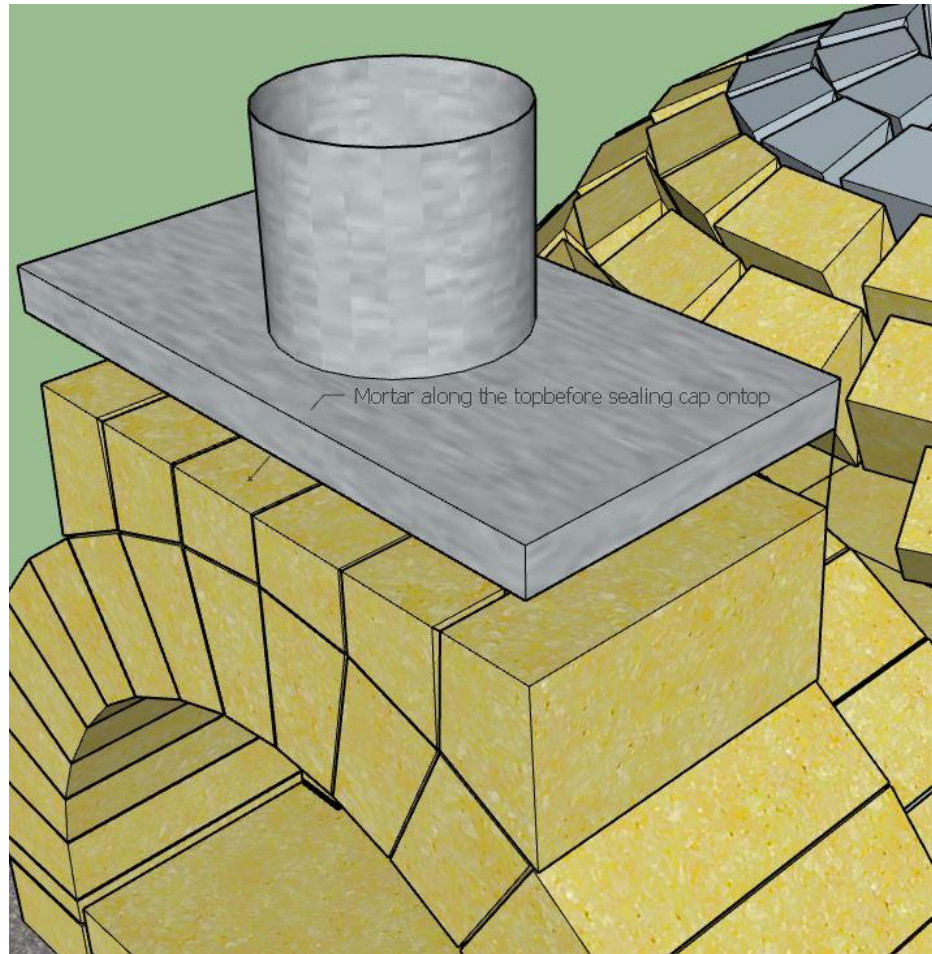


# Brick trim and exhaust



*You can dry fit these first with the flue cap on top. Then Set the B1 bricks in place with the flue cap on top used the airset mortar, then using a flat edge set the b2s and b3s to get a nice finish.*

# Mortar flue exhaust cap



Use the airset mortar  
to hold the flue in place

# Weatherproofing

- Before you attempt to insulate the oven wrap the ovens chamber in Aluminium foil like a hot potato. You can do 1 layer or 5 layers the more the better. This stops the water from getting into the chamber.



# Insulation and chicken wire



Ceramic insulation blanket can be irritable  
And a dust mask and gloves must be worn  
when handling this product....

Roll the ceramic blanket around the oven's base  
and trim it so it hugs the chamber – cut pieces to  
infill the areas of the chamber that you can see.  
You should now not be able to see any of the  
chamber.

2<sup>nd</sup> layer – roll it the opposite direction over the  
top of the oven overlapping the joins and  
continue to do this until a complete second layer  
has been done.

Tuck the edges in around the flue arch

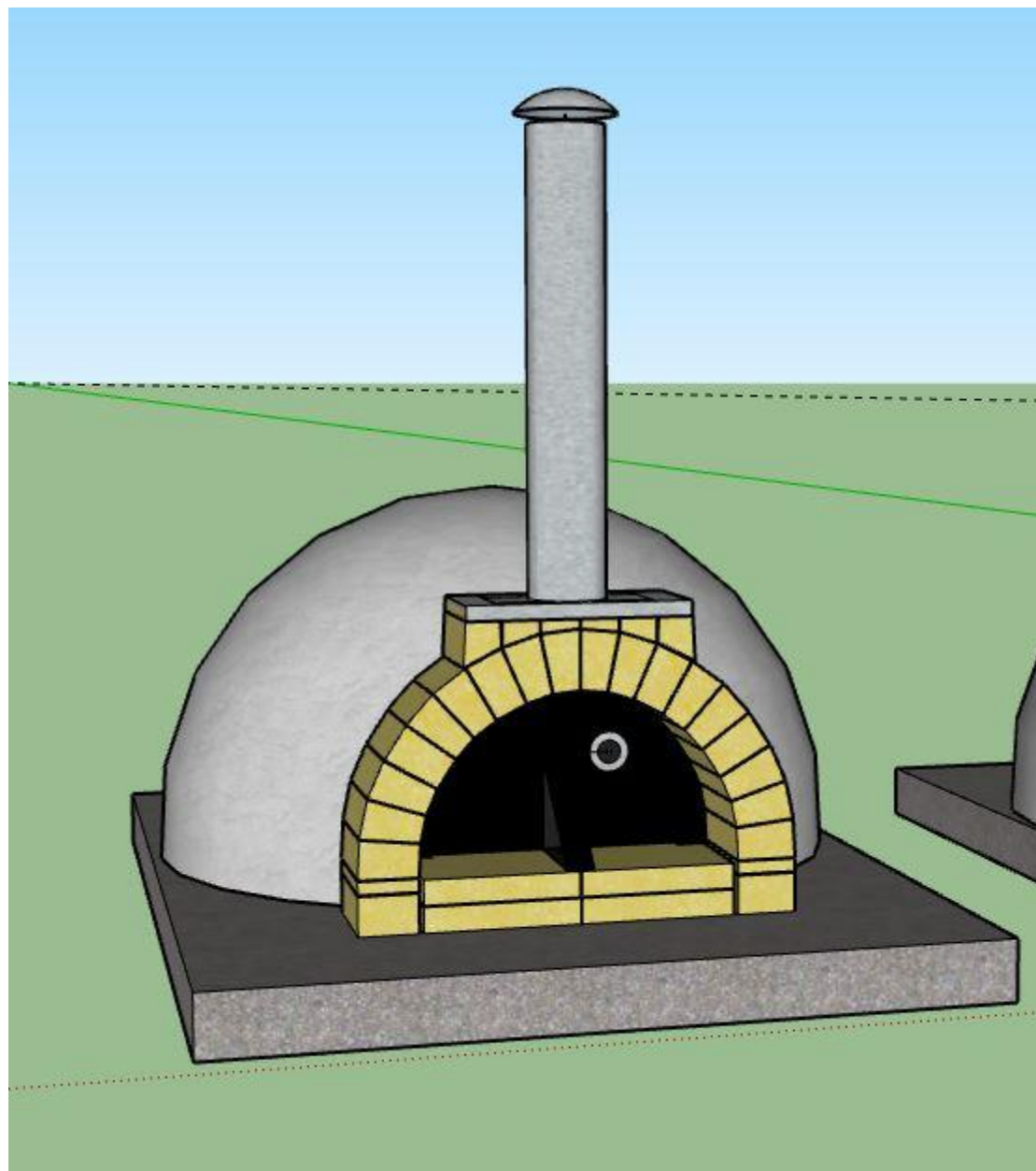


Roll your chicken wire around the base of the  
oven. Punch in a concrete nail if needed and  
secure it to the nail. Then use another concrete  
nail behind the other side of the flue arch to pull  
the wire tight. Then cut the wire to hug the  
chamber and secure it down.

# Render your oven

- **RENDER MIX = 8 Bags of 20kg BORAL SAND CEMENT + 10 handfuls of Boral builders clay**
- **When using the sand cement, mix 4 -5 - 20kg bags first with 6 handfuls of builders clay together and render the oven. Then with the final layer 3-4 - 20kg bags sand cement & 4 handfuls of builders clay. – If you don't find the BORAL brand of clay and cement its ok.**
- Once this is done mix your render ( above) and form over the top to create a rough layer covering the chicken wire , If you see the chicken wire its not a worry, the first coat is the rough coat. Wait till the render is touch dry say 1hr. Then mix another lot of render to do the final coat. Make sure this coat covers the entire oven and no chicken wire must be seen. After you have finished the final coat wait till its touch dry and in a circular fashion use a damp sponge to give you a fine
- Moisture is the ovens biggest enemy over time !!
- When the render has dried, usually 24hrs later the curing process must begin straight away. During the curing process no moisture must get into the oven otherwise you are reversing the curing. ( curing instructions below). When the curing process is finished you must seal the rendered dome to prevent any moisture getting back in.. Bondcrete can be used aswell. This mixes with water and seals the oven. This is available from any local hardware store.





# Moisture and curing

- Curing your oven.
- Recommended curing is good quality BBQ heat beads available at supermarkets and hardware stores. Heat them up on a gas bbq or fireplace until they are white around the edges. Place them in a metal pan and put in the centre of the oven keeping the oven at roughly 100 – 150 degrees- no higher. You can close the door entirely or keep the door ajar a few centimetres to let the air in to keep the heat beads going. The heat will dissipate quicker than usual as you're heating up a cold structure. PLEASE BE PATIENT as its protecting your oven for life. The heat beads are to stay in the oven for a **minimum** 24 – 48hrs (the longer the better) replacing the heat beads with new ones that are hot to keep the heat at 100 – 150 degrees. This pushes any moisture out of the oven and dries it for LIFE to prevent any issues. After the 48hr process then you can start to light a small fire in the metal pan keeping the flame very minimal. Push that into the centre of the oven. Slowly build the temperature up and add more timber until your fire is large.
- You will notice the ovens chamber changing colour and getting very hot. That's a good sign, its pushing and moisture out!! The back of the door will sweat as well. When the oven has changed to its dry colour and the door has stopped sweating your good to go.
- 
- Make sure after rendering and curing you keep the ovens rendered chamber out of the rain or from any moisture. If moisture gets in the oven before sealing you need to start the curing process again. The ovens chamber and render must be completely dry before sealing. Once this is done your ready to cook!

# Moisture and curing



## Sealing your oven

Your oven is now completely dry and you must seal it to prevent any moisture getting back in. We recommend products.

Bondall or Boncrete liquid sealer

Remember to follow the sealant manufacturer's instruction on the tin and recoat after 12 months or so.

REMEMBER ONCE YOU HAVE CURED THE OVEN IT MUST STAY DRY INSIDE OR THIS CAN CAUSE THE OVEN NOT TO HEAT UP TO TEMPERATURE AND CRACKING

# Firing and maintenance

- **First firing**
- Upon your first firing please remember your heating up a structure this takes time. Light a small fire on the floor cooking tiles just inside the door archway at 6 o'clock so its receiving sufficient oxygen to become larger. After you have a large fire inside the door arch or middle of the oven then move the fire to either 3 o'clock or 9 o'clock inside the oven up against the chamber wall. The flame needs to travel the entire length of the chamber to heat the other side of the oven. Your chamber will turn black on the inside. This is because the carbon from the timber is burning off and the oven is NOT hot enough. When you have a large fire inside the oven for a long period of time you will notice the chamber in areas start to turn white. This means the oven is heating up. Once the oven turns 75% white or 100 % white your oven is hot enough to cook pizza !
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- To maintain this heat you will have to keep stoking the fire with timber to keep the temperature up.
- Please note the door on the oven is not to be used at any stage upon the firing up and cooking. It is only meant to be used to keep the heat in overnight or between use.
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- After you have used the oven and it is hot you can leave the fire in the oven and close the door. The oven will eventually cool down within 24 – 48hrs. To clean the floor of the oven simply scrape the floor to remove any food and scrape with a wire brush. Once the oven has cooled down you can take the Ash out and gently wipe the floor clean with wet, hot cloth.
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- **Maintenance of your oven.**
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- If you notice small hairline cracks in the oven, not to worry it does happen. There are many reasons for this.
- Every 6 months add a sealer to the ovens chamber to help protect it from any moisture re-entering the oven.
- If your stainless steel front starts to lose a little paint, just spray some touch up paint on it to keep it looking great.