



Board Building



Select a suitable board position taking into account the slope of the ground, the angle of the sun, shade provided by trees, space to place captured pieces, good viewing for spectators and a generally good ornamental view when the set is not being used.



Mark out your area roughly 4 x 4 metres with a straight line using string and pegs.



Now you need to remove any grass or organic materials that could rot over time and could cause the slabs to subside over time.



Dig out the entire board area to a depth of around 12 centimetres or more if needed.



Having exposed a good sub-base now you need to get it level. Using a long plank and spirit level get the base as level as possible.



Make a dry riversand (coarse) and cement mix roughly four parts sand to one part cement.



Mix it thoroughly, can be done in a wheelbarrow or other suitable place.



Start spreading around evenly over the prepared base.



Now compacting the sub-base with sand/cement sealing layer is recommended. This can be done with a tamper (as in the picture) or better is a compactor.





Sub-base preparation is very important for the final result. You don't want grass or weeds to be able to grow between the slabs and you want the slabs to remain in place with use. If there is a chance that vehicle will drive onto the slabs extra care needs to be taken to make sure the slabs are well set and the sub-base is well compacted.



Now start mixing a larger quantity of dry sand and cement mix for the base.





Start spreading around evenly over the prepared sub-base.



Spread using a flat piece of wood and use a level to make sure flat, level and smooth.





So now the base is ready for the slabs.



Do your line with level and string then start laying your slabs with a 10 mm gap in between each slab for the grouting.



Tap each square down with a rubber mallet. If you can't buy black paving slabs then you can paint them with roofing paint after laying. We recommend leaving the other squares grey, white gets very dirty very quickly. If you buy a colour set you can also paint the squares to match your set.



Start down one side then along the other side L shape, then going across, remembering that White is Right, depending on where you want people to watch, for our board we wanted spectators to look from where the flower bed is so not looking at the player's backs. Tap each square down so level.



Then you carry on row by row, moving your level (string) as you go.



When finished laying the slabs you then need to water the board.



Then with a rubber mallet, again, tap the slabs so they are all at the same level with the even 10 mm spacing for the grout.



Make a nice edge using cement or you can use tiles. This to support the edges of the slabs so that they can't move out of place.



Leave overnight and the next day you then spread a dry cement mix over the board making sure that all the gaps are full of the mixture.



Using a brush will ensure that all the gaps are full.



Water again. It is very important to keep the cement wet to prevent cracking at least for a couple of days.



When the slabs have settled (typically the next morning) you can use a stiff brush or broom to brush off the excess cement/sand.



Then all that is left is to enjoy your board.

