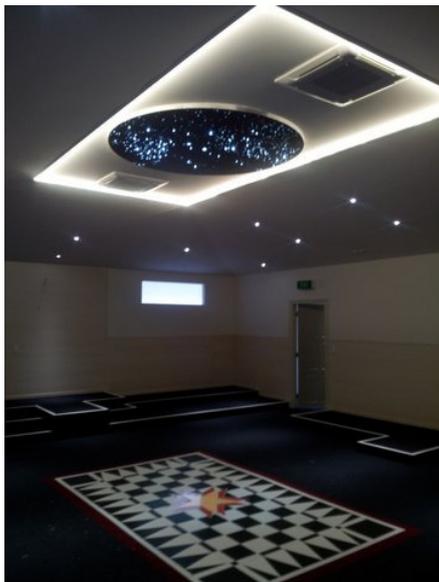




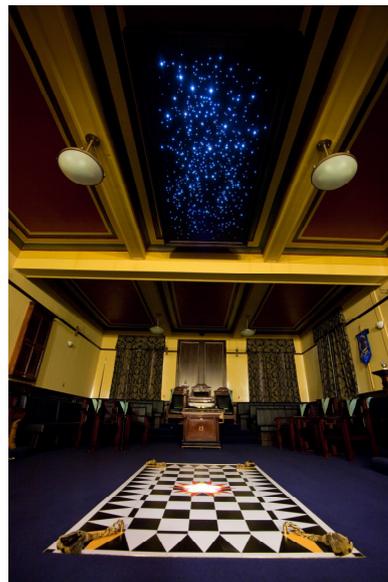
Creating a Lit Star Scene

Lodge rooms are a stage set in which we perform our Freemasons ceremonies. The ambience and character of the lodge room adds greatly to the impression of the ceremony the candidates and members experience.

Furthermore our lodge rooms are described as being from the 'centre of the earth to the heavens'. In support of this and to enhance the ambience several of the newer lodge rooms around the country, using modern lighting technology, have had installed on the ceiling above the pavement, picturesque lit star scenes as windows to the night sky.



Example 1



Example 2

PTO



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



If your lodge is keen on enhancing your lodge room here are the details on how to achieve this:

- Firstly locate a photograph of an appropriate star scene. A good choice is the constellation of Taurus, including the star-cluster known as 'Pleiades' or the Seven Sisters – also known in NZ by the Maori as Matariki. Pleiades is said to represent the seven stars referred to in the First Degree Tracing Board.
- This is then printed as a photograph and laminated onto a pdf sheet or alternatively there are printers who can print directly onto most materials. The star scene in Example 2 is printed directly on an aluminium composite panel.
- Next obtain a loom of optical fibres – a mix of .75mm, 1.5mm and 3mm will provide a good mix. In Example 2 there are 7 of the 3mm fibres to highlight the Pleiades, about 30 of the 1.5mm fibres and 630 of the .75mm fibres.
- The time consuming exercise is drilling the panel and fitting the fibres. Position the fibre loom behind the panel at the location of the light and then progressively stretch the fibres out and push them through the holes – use a glue gun to secure them in place at the rear.
- Once the glue has set use toe-nail cutters to cut off the fibres. The longer strands can be woven back into the loom to create further lit stars – they will be slightly less light density which adds to the effect.
- Install a light source at the end of the fibres. It is also possible to obtain a unit which rotates to make the lights twinkle.
- If this panel is for a new ceiling then the star panel can be constructed as part of the ceiling structure as shown in Example 1
- Alternatively if post-fixing to an existing ceiling then the star panel can be fixed onto a timber frame edged with timber moulding to form a picture window to the night sky / heavens and hung from the ceiling. Ensure the fixings are sized appropriately for the weight of the panel.

The effect created by such panels is very special and worth creating.

