



the
TOOL
I can't do
WITHOUT

The Domino effect

Tom Cooper of TC Timberworks says use of the Domino jointer makes furniture affordable for his clients

I wouldn't really say that there's any tool in my workshop that I can't do without. If I don't have a particular tool or proper piece of kit to do a job then I will often make a tool like a scratch stock, adapt an old tool or construct a jig to use on the planer/thicknesser, tablesaw or for use with a router.

As most makers will probably tell you there is more than one way to skin a cat – apologies to my two fluffy cats if they happen to be reading this – and some methods may prove time consuming, require a high level of skill and maybe a high level of brain power, but will still achieve the same results.

I tend to find the tools that I use the most in the workshop are those that are the most cost effective.

It's always nice to build furniture using traditional joints with traditional hand tools, keeping alive the traditional techniques. However, they can prove to be time consuming, therefore making a piece of furniture a lot more expensive.

Versatile machine

Unless you have a highly regarded reputation as a furniture designer/

maker with a discerning and wealthy clientele, it's very hard to charge the prices that reflect the time involved with employing traditional techniques. Therefore the tool I find to be the most cost effective, and in terms of my profit margins probably the tool I couldn't do without, is the Domino jointer by Festool.

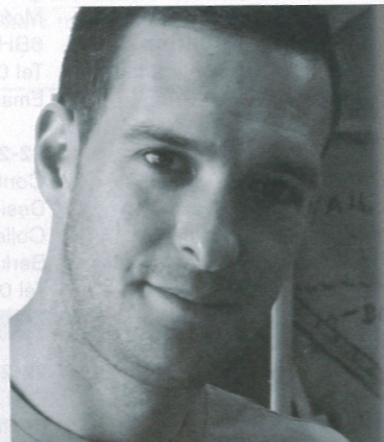
This piece of kit is incredibly versatile, quick and easy to use, and the results are apparently just as strong if not stronger than a traditional mortice & tenon.

I bought it when I needed to do a set of eight dining chairs, which required some awkward angled joints on some curved components.

I calculated it saved me around 40 hours of work, which equates to somewhere in the region of £800, so effectively the Domino jointer paid for itself with just this one project.

No one would ever know if traditional or modern woodworking techniques were used and the same result was achieved in half the time. I'm sure Thomas Chippendale would have embraced the use of such tools if he was around today.

I have used the Domino jointer



Tom Cooper reckons this jointer paid for itself on its first outing

many times since, and it is especially useful for cutting slotted screw holes in cabinet tops when allowance for timber movement is required.

I still use many hand tools, but I feel they have a time and a place in this world of economic competition, and if a power tool can do the same job in less time, then for up-and-coming furniture makers they are tools that they can't live without in order to make a decent living. F&C