

# Kitchen Maker

Issue 13

Online



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SHAPING THE FUTURE...  
WITH ROYAL APPROVAL**

# WOODWORKING MACHINERY

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# KITCHEN MANUFACTURER, OMEGA LINKS UP WITH GRASS TO JOINTLY SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HOME LIVING

SHAPING THE FUTURE

UK kitchen manufacturer, Omega PLC and fittings specialist, Grass have agreed a long-term brand partnership.

Urbanisation, housing shortages, changes in purchasing behaviour, the growing importance of online business, price pressure, digital transformation, the Smart home, Batch Size One manufacturing and increasing competitive pressure are among the many challenges currently facing the European kitchen furniture industry.

These factors alone provide reason enough for these two companies to combine their strengths, utilise synergies and work together to tackle these issues head-on.

In addition to joint marketing activities, the development of new sales concepts will be a major focus for the two companies.

Omega and Grass have announced a wide-ranging collaboration. The goal is to strengthen the competitiveness of both companies and, in times of rapid changes in the furniture industry, to combine strengths and jointly master the challenges that lie ahead.

'Albert Einstein once said that sharing knowledge is critical for progress. Forming the right alliances for progressive kitchen furniture concepts is therefore a logical and appropriate step,' says the Grass Group's chief executive officer, Albert Trebo, commenting on the background to the forward-looking partnership.

'Omega's key competence is crafting quality kitchens. Our key competence is developing functional movement systems. Together, we form a unique team of kitchen furniture specialists, who can herald a new era both in terms of manufacturing and marketing,' adds Albert Trebo.

The brand partnership is aimed at enabling both companies to develop new kitchen furniture concepts, to ensure the manufacture of optimally matched kitchen furniture elements and functional components, to create the perfect offer for the relevant target groups and to explore new sales channels – whilst preserving their unique brand attributes.

### Two companies investing in the future

'Growth is only possible if you create the right conditions,' says Albert Trebo.

In this respect, both brand partners are equally well prepared. Over the past seven years, Omega has invested some £25m in the automation and expansion of its manufacturing base in South Yorkshire.

In addition to an in-house paint-spraying facility and a wide range of new automated manufacturing equipment, a new 76,000ft<sup>2</sup> warehouse has been built, enabling capacity to be doubled.

Grass also recently invested around €100m in the future: in mid-2018, the foundation stone was laid for



UK kitchen manufacturer, Omega PLC and Austrian fittings specialist, Grass have agreed a long-term brand partnership.



a new distribution and logistics centre covering 43,000m<sup>2</sup> in Austria.

For the company this represents the biggest investment in its history and marks a clear commitment to its Vorarlberg location, reflecting the fact that the specialist for movement systems is setting its sights on growth.

**The way we live is set to change**

How will we be living in 15 years from now? Futurologists agree on one thing: by 2030, 70 per cent of the world's population will be living in megacities.

Today's metropolises will grow into megacities within a few years. Housing will become a scarce and unaffordable commodity.

It is therefore inevitable that the requirements to be met by architecture and furniture will need to change completely.

Where will we buy furniture in 15 years' time? Will we actually still be buying it, or will it be hired or shared?

Will the furniture showroom in a nearby industrial area be our first port of call, or will we order our kitchens and furniture online? Perhaps it will all be entirely different.

For many years, Grass Global brand manager, Harald Klüh has maintained an ongoing dialogue with trend researchers and other experts worldwide on the topics of the home, work and life in the future. He envisions the following scenario:

'I could imagine home living in the future as being like staying at a hotel. We shall be using fully equipped homes, rather like today's holiday apartments,' says Harald Klüh.

The question that arises with this vision is who will decide which furniture is placed in these "apartments"?

**Who will be the customers of Omega and Grass in the future?**

The two companies intend to explore this and many other questions and look for new solutions.

**Project business as growth driver**

Over the course of the next five years, Europe can already expect to see a growing demand for fully furnished properties.

What has long become the norm in Asia, the Middle East, North America and the UK will also establish itself in Europe as a whole – large residential projects that are handed over to the purchasers, or tenants on a turnkey basis. In contrast with today,

fully equipped homes will be offered in the future.

Kitchens, bathrooms, living rooms and bedrooms will all be fully furnished and fitted and ready to receive the occupants. Even the television set, sound system and coffee machine will be included in the price of the package.

'Housing projects of this kind have their own set of rules and their own particular requirements,' says Harald Klüh.

'Omega is optimally equipped for this business and is the ideal partner for Grass,' he adds.

Omega supplies high-quality British-made cabinetry and ranks amongst the most ambitious kitchen manufacturers in the UK.

Since its foundation in 1992, the company has evolved into a major player in this sector and is regarded as a pioneer in the areas of design, computer-controlled manufacturing and marketing.

Its branded kitchens are sold through specialist retailers throughout the UK. Flat-pack, or pre-assembled – Omega is one of the few furniture manufacturers that offers both options.

This special feature makes the Yorkshire-based kitchen specialist

an expert when it comes to providing advice and support for national and international property clients.

**1+1 = 3 ... the whole is greater than the sum of the two brands**

Harald Klüh regards collaborations as the key to success and sees the new brand alliance as a huge opportunity for both collaboration partners. He recognises that collaboration between brands has established itself as a highly successful business model.

Brands can mutually enervise each other and together grow their business. Brand partnerships of this kind are always of particular interest when two areas of expertise harmonise and form a consistent and complementary combination.



An interesting play of warm and cool tints are employed in this unusual colour combination from Omega PLC.



Grass Group chief executive officer, Albert Trebo strongly believes that the collaboration between Omega PLC and his company, will enable the two companies to master whatever the future may bring.



Grass global brand manager, Harald Klüh believes that movement systems bring furniture to life and that kitchen furniture can only be experienced by opening and closing it.

‘When, for example, Grass movement systems are fitted in a new Omega kitchen, then both brands can profit from each other,’ explains the brand expert.

In addition to the reciprocal transfer of brand attributes, the highlighting of brand-name components raises awareness, enables differentiation and creates additional selling points.

**Omega moved by Grass**

The importance of movement systems in the assessment of kitchens and furniture can be observed very precisely at furniture trade shows.

When consumers step up to an item of furniture on display, their first reaction is always the same: they touch the exhibit and open a drawer, a door, or a flap.

In short, furniture can only be experienced by opening and closing it. Movement systems bring furniture to life.

‘Strictly speaking, what we contribute with our drawer, hinge and flap systems is not only superlative functional technology, but also, and in particular, an emotional experience,’ explains Harald Klüh.

‘In order to ensure that the value of this emotional experience is perceived by the consumer and understood as an added value, it is important to draw attention to the special qualities of our movement systems. This is precisely what we hope to achieve through our brand partnership with Omega,’ says Harald Klüh.

**Anyone who buys Omega should know that Grass movement systems are inside**

Grass supplies to the world’s top-notch furniture manufacturers – be they Italian star designers, luxury craftsmen, fully automated volume manufacturers, or simply the innovative cabinet-maker around the corner.

Fittings from Grass make the difference; they ensure perfect movement and have been proven millions of times over. Worldwide, 30 million households have kitchens featuring Grass fittings.

‘We’re the leading global developer and manufacturer of functional movement systems for exclusive furniture, adds Albert Trebo.

‘We shall be contributing this expertise to the brand partnership with Omega,’ he adds.

The UK kitchen manufacturer has long recognised Grass products as highly reliable, innovative functional components. Omega has been using movement technology from Grass for almost 20 years now.

Leading this long-standing partnership towards a successful future is the goal of the agreed collaboration.

The companies Omega and Grass have decided in favour of a long-term collaboration.

‘Working together will enable us to master whatever the future may bring,’ concludes Albert Trebo.

Omega PLC welcomed Her Royal Highness, the Countess of Wessex to Thorne in Yorkshire earlier this year to open Phase IV of the kitchen manufacturer’s expanding plant, following a multi-million-pound investment in new technology and machinery.

Omega completed an ambitious £20m expansion plan at the end of 2018, taking its single site operation up to a total of 400,000ft<sup>2</sup>. The expansion will increase production to 34,000 kitchens/annum and total production capacity to £125m within 2 years.

‘I’m particularly pleased that so many of our employees could enjoy celebrating this important milestone with us. We have a strong and committed workforce – 98 per cent of which are local to Yorkshire and they remain our greatest asset,’ said Sir Bob Murray CBE during the Countess of Wessex’s tour of the factory and showrooms.

‘Over the past 12 months we have made significant investments in people, plant, processes and leading-edge technology to increase our capacity and capabilities. These investments will ensure we continue to exemplify the very best of British manufacturing and that the Omega name continues to epitomise



Her Royal Highness, the Countess of Wessex visited Omega PLC earlier this year to open the latest phase in the South Yorkshire kitchen manufacturer’s expanding plant, following a multi-million-pound investment in new technology and machinery.



Omega PLC has recently made significant investments in people, plant processes and leading-edge technology to increase capacity and capabilities at the company’s South Yorkshire factory.



Omega PLC gained the royal seal of approval in March 2019 when Her Royal Highness, the Countess of Wessex opened Phase IV of the kitchen manufacturer’s expanding plant.

inspired British design, craftsmanship and quality.

'We have invested £12m in leading edge plant and machinery – including a robotic material cutting and handling system and two automated paint lines to increase capacity and the quality of component parts, as well as two bespoke rigid assembly lines designed for Omega to assist us to further increase our capacity,' explained Sir Bob.

'The capability and flexibility of our new machinery and technology will enable us to continue to innovate with new products, finishes and colours, adding ever greater variety and consumer choice to our market leading retail offer, as well as boosting sales by an anticipated 50 per cent in the contract market in 2019,' added Sir Bob.

After her factory tour, HRH visited Omega's impressive kitchen showrooms where all the latest new products and paint colour options available exclusively to Omega's customers were on display, as well as receiving a demonstration of the latest feature islands, pantry units and corner larders in the manufacturer's top selling ranges.

Omega plc is a brand leader in the design and manufacture of high-quality fitted kitchens and furniture. Its beautifully crafted contemporary and classic kitchens are inspired by the principles of great British craftsmanship and design.

The manufacturer supplies British-made kitchens throughout the UK via a network of specialist retailers, as well as to developers and house builders through Omega Contracts.

Want to find out more?  
Visit [www.omegaplc.co.uk](http://www.omegaplc.co.uk) or [www.grass.at](http://www.grass.at)



Grass manufactures hinges for special applications where individual solutions are required.



Grass produces a wide range of fittings products from flap hinges and mini-hinges to glass door hinges for direct mounting on the cabinet side wall.



Omega PLC chairman, Sir Bob Murray CBE attributes his achievements and success to a firm belief in a strong work ethic aided by drive, determination and a not insignificant amount of good luck!

## MARTIN RE-DEFINES THE PREMIUM COMPACT CLASS OF SLIDING TABLE SAW

ONE of the most popular machines manufactured by the renowned German woodworking machinery manufacturer, Martin is the T75 sliding table saw

In this model Martin claims to have re-defined the premium compact class of sliding table saw, having combined traditional operation with state-of-the-art electronic support.

In the T75 Martin has combined a cutting height of more than 200mm, with a swivelling range of 2 x 46 deg.

The patented three-axis system from Martin ensures maximum comfort and pinpoint accuracy, owing to its complete integration in the controller.

The three-axes – scoring height, scoring position and scoring width – are positioned with electronic monitoring without further intervention.

A quick-clamping holder enables the scoring saw package to be completely removed in next to no time, eg if saw blades of more than 400mm in diameter are required.

This means that waiting times for resetting are a thing of the past and no delicate parking operations are required.

If the scorer is running, the light integrated in the table

insert draws the operator's attention to the operating situation. Martin thereby provides the user with a considerable increase in safety.

Martin invented the mitre cross-cut table more than 50 years ago to enable operators to make precise angle cuts on larger panels. This popular accessory has been steadily improved and optimised over the years.

Whereas a scale was all that was required to set mitre cuts back in the late 1950s, the latest table includes a modern digital angle display and a fine angle adjustment facility.

The fence can be adjusted on both sides to any angle up to 47 deg and the angle is displayed with a resolution of 0.01 deg.

A strong central lock ensures reliable repeatability of the correct angle. It is not without good reason that clients who need to use a sliding table saw opt for the sturdiness, functionality and precision of this impressive range of sliding table saws.

The innovative "Radio Compens" mitre cut system provides fully automatic length compensation for mitre cuts and double mitre cuts by means of a wireless connection between the



Martin's T75 sliding table saw combines traditional operation with state-of-the-art electronic support.

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From now on  
sawing will be fun.

When you want to bequeath a classic to the next generation today. We have built a lot of innovations into this premium machine, so that you have complete freedom. **Explore T75 PreX now.**

**MARTIN**



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www.martin.info

mitre cross-cut table, controller and digital display of the cross-cut fence.

Thanks to this wireless-supported communication of the cross-cut table, controller and stop elements, time-consuming set-up times for mitre cuts are reduced by up to 80 per cent.

The operator simply sets the table to the desired angle and the electronic cutting length displays on the cross-cut fence immediately show the corrected length dimension.

In contrast to other systems on the market, "RadioCompens" compensates for a variety of saw blade thicknesses by itself fully automatically.

As a result, the operator achieves a precision cut with an accuracy of a tenth of a millimeter on the left hand side of the saw blade – irrespective of the type of saw blade being used.

When there is a preference for working with digitally exact dimensions, the digital cross-cut fence is the right option: the inner and outer stop work with

separate measuring devices and can therefore be independently set with an accuracy of a tenth of a millimeter.

Each display can be changed over to display relative dimensions in order to execute incremental cuts quickly. Like the analogue version, the digital version is also available as a flip stop with full-length support.

Lengthy, narrow work pieces are best cut with the appropriate support. The foldable front support table helps to guide the work piece safely on the circular saw fence.

Along with the extensive range of other woodworking machinery manufactured by Martin, the T75 sliding table saw is available for demonstration purposes at any one Martin's UK agents, all of whom are listed on the Martin advertisement which appears on Page 12 of this issue.

Want to find out more?  
Visit [www.omegaplc.co.uk](http://www.omegaplc.co.uk) or [www.martin.info](http://www.martin.info)

## KITCHEN MAKER INVESTS IN NEW MATRIX TABLE

THWAITE HOLME Kitchens & Bedrooms Ltd manufactures bespoke kitchens and bedrooms.

Each fitted kitchen, or bedroom is designed and made in the workshop near Dalston, Carlisle, by a very skilled team with years of experience in cabinetry and bespoke furniture who pride themselves in the quality of their products.

Styles run from classic to contemporary and kitchens are fitted by Thwaite Holme's own team of experienced fitters.

During the summer of 2017, Thwaite Holme invested in a matrix table from Lamont.

'Alan [Lamont] demonstrated a matrix table to us many years ago and it was something we were keen to purchase, but never quite got round to,' says director, Ian Postlethwaite.

'We had a smaller hydraulic table, which we used for many years, but it was too small and we needed a larger one with bigger capacity.

'Alan was the obvious choice. We had seen the product in both trade journals and other workshops and were impressed.

His place is only 20 miles away, so he is handy and local. We went up to see Alan at his premises and discussed our needs.

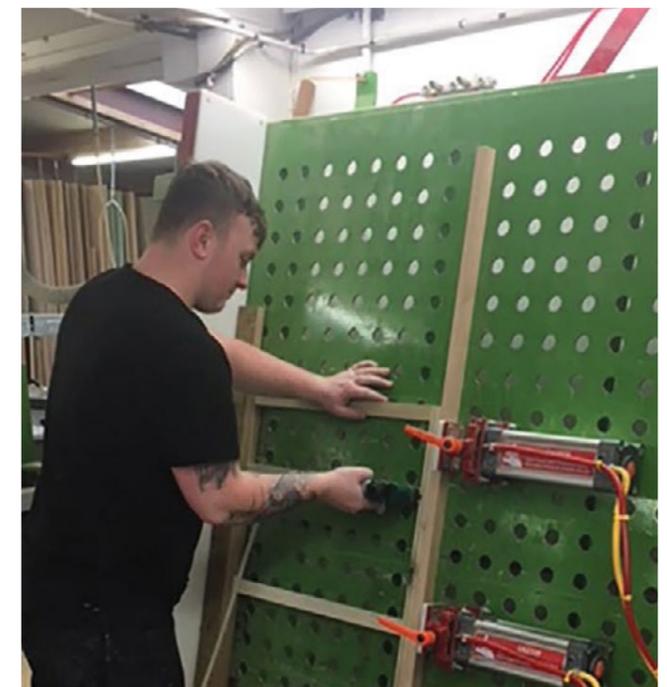
'Alan came back with a design and price and the table was manufactured specifically to our needs,' says Ian.

The design of the table was bespoke: at the same time as purchasing the matrix table, Thwaite Holme invested in an OMEC 750CN dovetailing machine.

The matrix table was constructed with a special section in the bottom left hand corner designed specifically for the assembly of dovetail drawers.

Together, the dovetailing machine and the matrix table opened up a whole new field for Thwaite Holme. The matrix table is also used for the assembly of frames and doors.

Ian describes the advantages brought by the matrix table



as "speed and accuracy of assembly, and bigger capacity. It is vertical rather than horizontal and this is much more convenient and space saving."

When asked if he would recommend Alan and the matrix table, Ian replied:

'Absolutely, 100 per cent I would recommend him. We would tell him the issues we had, and he was very good at coming up with solutions. I was very happy with the whole process,' concludes Ian.

Want to find out more?  
Visit [www.clampingmachines.co.uk](http://www.clampingmachines.co.uk)

VISIT US AT [WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK](http://WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK) - ONLINE MAGAZINE - ISSUE 13

# TAILOR-MADE SOFTWARE AVAILABLE FROM CAD+T

NICK Hudson Fine Furniture has built its reputation on designing and manufacturing high-end, bespoke furniture for celebrities, well-known interior designers and respected architects for over 25 years.

However, faced with increasing demand, stiff competition and a software package that was slow and laborious to use, owner of the Isleworth-based company, Nick Hudson, realized that he had to find the right solution to move his business forward.

'There were serious limitations to the software we were using,' explains Nick.

'We had been using a version of AutoCad for several years, but it restricted us to simple 2D drawings and manual CNC programming. We had to create a DXF image file and relay that information to the CNC,' says Nick.

## Front aspect kitchen design using CAD+T software:

'We were physically programming what drill bits we needed to use, along with the speed, rotation and depth required, as well as instructing the machine on every hole and cut-out that appeared on the design.

'It was extremely laborious, not to mention time consuming. More importantly, it was causing a bottleneck in the office, because of the amount of work we needed to carry out before any material could be cut and assembled.

'We couldn't afford to keep our customers waiting and didn't want to be in a position where we might have to turn down work because of our outdated software. We needed to find a software package that could simplify this process and help the company move forward,' says Nick.

Following a chance meeting at W18 Nick was given a demonstration of CAD+T's highly customisable software packages.

I had spent a good deal of time looking into other software options, but I gained the impression that they were very much cabinet-based and required some programming at the beginning of the process,' says Nick.

## Kitchen plan using CAD+T

'This is fine if you're producing a lot of one particular thing, but our business is based on a bespoke offering that requires flexibility and the freedom to design a whole host of things. CAD+T's approach was different. It was customisable and adaptable. It immediately caught my attention.

'Another big advantage for us was the software's framework. It was based on AutoCad - the same software my team and I were accustomed to using.

'It allowed us to have a firm understanding of the software's basic functions, whilst offering us a whole host of new features that

could benefit the business massively,' explains Nick.

A big draw for Nick was CAD+T's customised CAM interface. It generates CNC codes for one or more three- and five-axis machines easily.

'Previously, we had to make the parts and cuttings lists ourselves on an Excel spreadsheet and manually type in the size, thickness and materials needed for each drawing,' explains Nick.

'It was an extremely drawn-out process and it was easy to miss something,' he adds.

## Kitchen model using CAD+T

If you happened to make a mistake, you'd have to trawl through the whole spreadsheet again to try and find out where you'd gone wrong.

'Worse still, if you decided to add to the design in any way, the whole list would have to be re-worked and a new DXF file would have to be translated back to the CNC,' explains Nick.

This was not only time consuming for the team, but it also meant that the designers needed to have an in-depth understanding of both the product's construction and the machine's engineering.

'With CAD+T's software, every part of the process works together to streamline manufacturing processes, whilst optimising machine running time.

'In many ways, our new software has de-skilled our job,' says Nick.

'Now, our new CAD software works directly with our CNC machine and the machine's existing Masterwood program, so we don't have to spend our time compiling lists and manually programming the machine any more.

'Instead, we draw our designs in 2D and the software automatically creates a 3D drawing and automatically creates the parts and cuttings list ready for production,' says Nick.

## Kitchen drawer design using CAD+T

Nick and his team were also keen to create detailed 3D drawings when pitching ideas to new customers - something the company's old software could not produce.

'When working with a simple wardrobe, or table, it's easy to understand a 2D front, side or

plan view, but when you're creating a made-to-order curved bar or a selection of concave units, it's often challenging to sell the design to the customer with limited graphics,' says Nick.

'With CAD+T, we can generate 3D views from any angle which, as well as giving the customer the ideal vantage point, brings our designs to life.

'It also gives us the opportunity to modify the design where we see fit - something we couldn't often see clearly when working solely in 2D.

'Everything about the software has been designed for convenience. As well as a bigger library, we can build designs significantly faster, thanks to the software's ready-to-use elements and its drag and drop templates.

'This is particularly useful when we're recreating popular items, such as cabinets, as they can be automatically selected, edited and saved for future projects.

'Previously, each cabinet would have to be created manually, but now parametric objects can be manipulated and re-used whenever necessary.

'The introduction of CAD+T's software has impacted massively on our production. Now, a job that would have taken us five days can be completed in three and even our most intricate designs can be created in the exact same way as our more straightforward designs.

## Kitchen project from Nick Hudson Fine Furniture

'This has given us the ability to increase the number of jobs we take on and the level of complexity we are confident we can achieve in a shorter time frame,' says Nick.

'In fact, we've already seen turnover increase this year whilst maintaining the same number of employees,' he adds.



A kitchen project from Nick Hudson Fine Furniture.



Kitchen model using CAD+T software.

It has also future-proofed the furniture-making business.

'Just like our telephones, our CAD software now updates itself automatically so it's always being worked on to maintain its effectiveness. The framework also gives us the flexibility to add to the software package at any time.

'So, if our business model changes, or we want to grow the business in any way, new features and software modules can be added without a brand new software package needing to be bought, installed and learnt all over again.

'On this occasion, we've had to spend time learning the new software and it took some careful planning to integrate the new software without having to halt all production.

'However, we knew that it was important to get the right software in place, if we wanted the business to continue to be a success in the future.

'We had one week of intense training with a CAD+T specialist and no stone was left unturned.

'They also came back to fine-tune everything when our

production was fully up to speed.

#### Kitchen design created using CAD+T

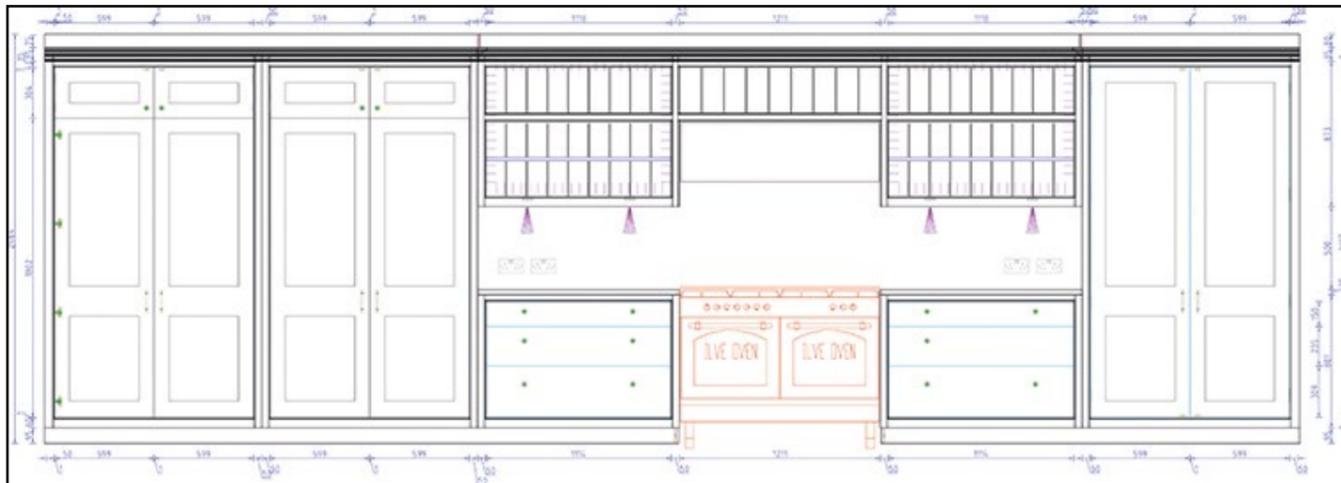
'CAD+T also offers ongoing technical support, which has been a great help to us, as we continue to learn how to take full advantage of the features available to us.

'As our software has been customised just for us, the team at CAD+T has a greater understanding of our products and can even log into our system remotely to direct us if we need it.

'CAD+T has helped us to simplify our processes massively and has allowed us to continue doing our job well.

'Clever features and automation have massively improved efficiency both in the design department and on the factory floor and, as time goes on, I can only see this getting better,' concludes Nick.

Want to find out more?  
Visit [www.cadt-solutions.com](http://www.cadt-solutions.com)



Front aspect kitchen design using CAD+T software.



Kitchen plan using CAD+T software.

# NEW VERSIONS OF TITUS T-TYPE HINGES

WITH a close eye on emerging trends in the international furniture market, cabinet hardware expert, Titus has developed TeraBlack versions of many of its most popular products, including its hugely successful T-type hinges.

The new Tera (Titus Enhanced Resistance Application) versions feature an exceptionally attractive non-reflective dark grey finish, which not only retains its superlative appearance throughout its working life, but also offers enhanced resistance to corrosion.

'At Titus, we put a great deal of effort into monitoring developments in the furniture sector and recently we've seen a growing demand for matte black cabinet hardware,' says general manager at Titus UK, Phil Beddoe.

'We weren't satisfied, however, with the idea of responding by simply offering another colour option.

'Instead we wanted to offer a market leading solution that combined a visually appealing dark matt finish with genuine and valuable product benefits.

'Drawing on our unique expertise in cabinet hardware development and manufacture, that's exactly what we've done with the new TeraBlack versions of our products,' adds Mr Beddoe.

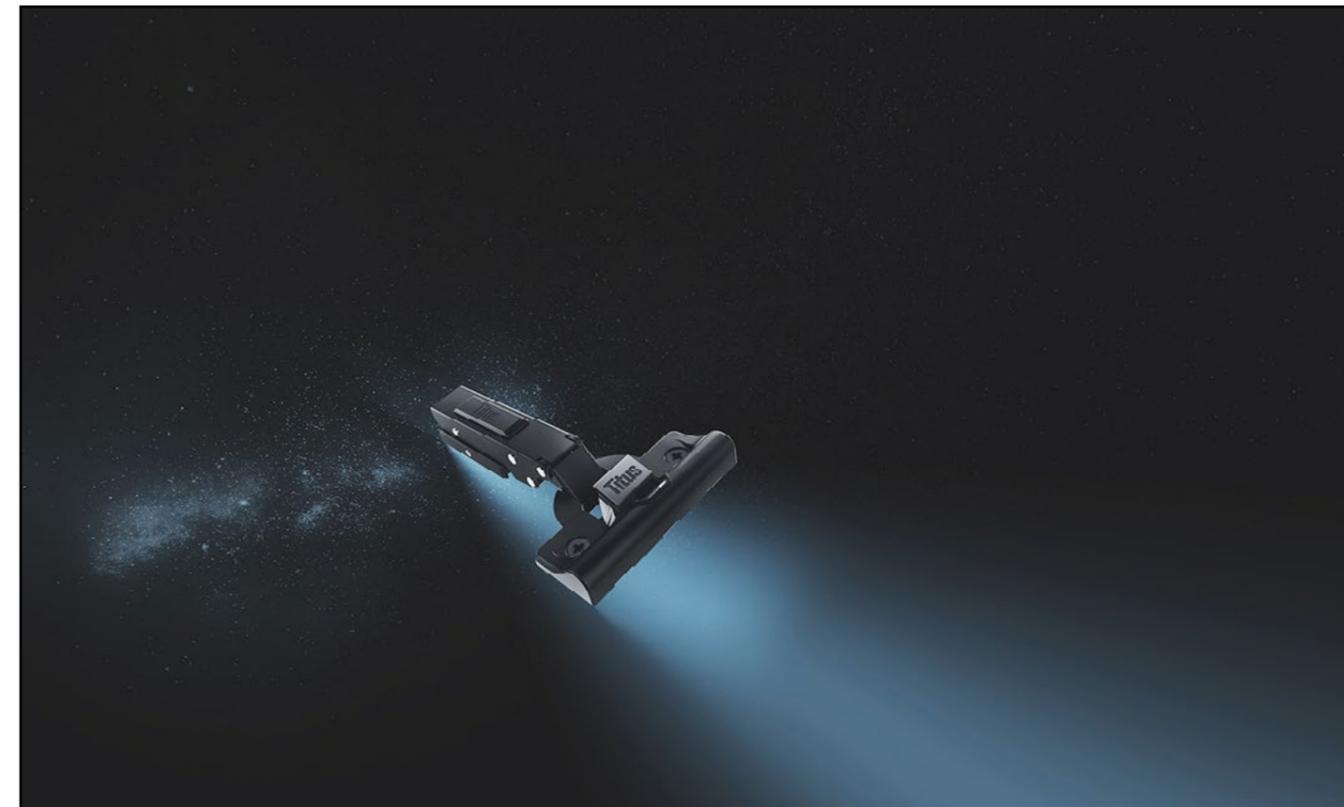
Particularly well suited to applications in high-end premium kitchen furniture, Titus TeraBlack products fully meet the requirements of designers and consumers looking for unobtrusive, yet attractive cabinet hardware.

They have highly uniform surfaces and a velvet feel that complements their quality and enhances consumer appeal. In addition, they are highly resistant to scratching and surface

damage and to the effects of general wear and tear.

The new TeraBlack products are Titus engineered solutions supported by tightly controlled, repeatable, efficient, flexible and scalable manufacturing processes that provide the performance, consistency and quality essential to manufacturers of high-end furniture.

Want to find out more?  
Visit [www.titusplus.com/uk](http://www.titusplus.com/uk)



## BY THE NUMBERS

# 45,000+

ACTIVE USERS WORLDWIDE

According to the latest CMA Benchmark Study, more woodworkers choose our products than any other software system. In fact, it's not even close.

# 35

HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN DEVELOPING SOFTWARE

We've learned a thing or two since we started offering software for woodworkers in 1983.

# 97%

SATISFACTION WITH OUR SUPPORT

Whether via phone, email, support portal, or our online forums, our technicians are here to help.

# 117,950,504

DATA ITEMS TESTED EVERY WEEK

We run our software through test after rigorous test to ensure that we only release the most stable products to our customers.

# 85 / 11

COUNTRIES/LANGUAGES

Our software can be found all over the world and it's available in 11 languages.

“ We may have only a couple of days to do an impossible job, but ALPHACAM makes it possible.

Jason Szukalski  
Director – Anarchy Ltd

“ Without CABINET VISION, we'd probably need three additional members of staff to achieve what we do.

Ruth Lovelock  
Hetherington Newman



# ALPHACAM & CABINET VISION

## THE WORLD'S #1 SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS FOR THE WOODWORKING INDUSTRY

**ALPHACAM & CABINET VISION** offer the complete engineering solution for the woodworking industry. Our strength is in providing innovative solutions that can grow with your company.

**ALPHACAM** provides unparalleled ease of use, process automation, and sophisticated toolpath generation, seamlessly integrating both 2D and multi-axis cutting strategies which can be applied to any type of component.

**CABINET VISION** is capable of custom cabinet and room design, photo realistic rendering, material optimisation, bidding and costing, cutlists and bill of materials. Combined with the powerful Screen to Machine Center, it can automatically create machine ready G-Code for your CNC machinery.

[Alphacam.com](http://Alphacam.com) | [CabinetVision.com](http://CabinetVision.com)



**HEXAGON**  
MANUFACTURING INTELLIGENCE

[HexagonMI.com](http://HexagonMI.com)

# REHAU SEEKING TO OFFER PRODUCT INNOVATION, QUALITY & SERVICE TO ITS CUSTOMERS

REHAU has been a trusted partner in the European furniture industry for over 70 years and is renowned for offering product innovation, quality and service.

Each of Rehaus surface materials is meticulously chosen to give customers an edge: a new angle in design with complementing collections that can truly define a space.

Whether seeking inspiration from the latest interior trends, working on a bespoke project, or eyeing up the right material that will stand the test of time, Rehaus puts value on product quality, composition and style.

## Meet the Rauvisio surface material family

First up is the newest member, Rauvisio fino. It offers excellent value and consistent quality for modern furniture.

Components feature a single-sided, hard-coated polymer surface with matching Rehaus zero joint edge-band for the perfect finish.

### Rauvisio fino

The fino surface is created by using the highest quality PET film. This is laminated in a stringently-controlled environment, on to super-refined MDF using specially formulated PUR glue to ensure an ultra-flat aesthetic quality.

Rauvisio fino also has excellent light-fastness and UV resistance, so there are no colour variations between different light and sun exposures when it is being used for interior applications.

Rauvisio brilliant – the high gloss, seamless surface material with depth

Rauvisio brilliant has been developed for use in vertical front panel applications. The visual depth effect of the high gloss laminate makes it the ideal replacement for high quality painted components.

As a result of new processing technologies, the finished Rauvisio brilliant frontal takes on a visually seamless appearance, giving the entire piece an all-round lustre.

Like all other surface materials from the Rauvisio product range, Rauvisio brilliant can also be processed using conventional woodworking tools, making it ideal for projects of any size.

Looking for a show-stopper? Rauvisio crystal revolutionises the market for glass application.

Custom kitchen door fronts, high end retail display units, or striking wall cladding, this surface material provides the sleek, elegant aesthetic of real glass without any of the disadvantages in handling, transport and processing.

It is 10 times more break-resistant than conventional glass and can be processed using standard woodworking tools, making it ideal for handling on-site for those last minute alterations.

This collection offers the most extensive range to choose from – with 11 on-trend colours, to help create a vision of clean lines and minimalistic style and 12 décors that replicate natural materials, such as stone and wood, or the versatile polymer mirror.

All colours and décors are available in gloss and matt finish with matching edge-bands.

Rauvisio crystal is available as 4mm slim panels for wall cladding, fully pressed boards for individual processing, or

as separate sheet components with perfectly matched balancer and edge-banding for maximum flexibility. Alternatively it can be ordered as complete, cut-to-size cabinet doors finished with premium Rehaus zero joint edge-banding.

This allows it to be available to kitchen furniture companies of any size without the need for investment in machinery.

Polymer surfaces have been part of the extensive Rehaus product portfolio for almost a decade.

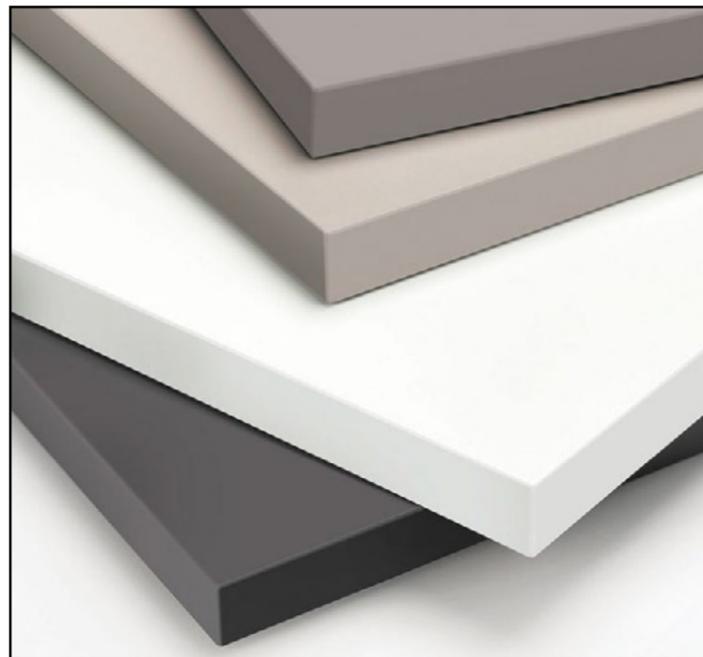
As part of driving innovation and constantly striving to provide added value for fabricators and end consumers alike, this product line is all about attractive collections that can bring your visions to life.

Rehaus's extensive surface material portfolio is now available to KBB manufacturers and designers, with no need to order in industrial volume.

Want to find out more? Visit [www.rehaus.co.uk/surfaces](http://www.rehaus.co.uk/surfaces)



Say "Hello" to Rehaus's new decorative surfacing family.



Rauvisio fino is laminated in a stringently-controlled environment, on to super-refined MDF, using specially formulated PUR glue to ensure an ultra-flat aesthetic quality.

# SPACE-PLUG – THE KITCHEN FITTER'S ULTIMATE FRIEND HITS A GRAND TOTAL OF THREE MILLION UNITS SOLD

SPACE-PLUG products continue to grow in popularity throughout the UK.

They have just launched retail supplies at Howdens - claimed to be the UK's No 1 trade kitchen supplier - and the future is looking very bright for this extremely handy problem solver.

They have now sold some 3.2 million of these innovative fixings and numbers are growing fast, with an amazing 1.2 million sold so far in this year alone.

It was former fitter, Cliff Petit who came up with this simple yet ingenious idea for those suppliers and fitters who are, "fed up faffing around with typical "L" bracket systems".

It seems Space-Plug is definitely the answer to this age-old, awkward and time-consuming problem.

Both Space-Plug XL (for 45mm-80mm gaps) and Space-Plug Regular (for 30mm-50mm) gaps are installed when the units are in place.

Only one fixing is usually required, which can be located and adjusted as required making them fast, simple, accurate, fully adjustable, extremely flexible and infinitely accessible, ensuring the perfect professional fit... every time!

Space-Plug products are accredited by FIRA and have already won a FIRA innovation award.

Cliff and his brother, Nigel form the two-man entrepreneurial team who have everything completely under control, from British manufacture to international distribution.

'We're delighted to add Howdens to our growing list of business partners determined to see the back of the L bracket nonsense and are extremely pleased that the future for Space-Plug is looking more exciting than ever before!' says Cliff.

Want to find out more? Visit [www.space-plug.com](http://www.space-plug.com)

# SPACE PLUG

## The Kitchen Fitters Friend

### Fit Kitchens?

### Fed up faffing with L-Brackets?

## Now there's an answer!





Space-Plug XL  
for 45 - 80mm gaps



Space-Plug Regular  
for 30 - 50mm gaps

**FAST**

**SIMPLE**

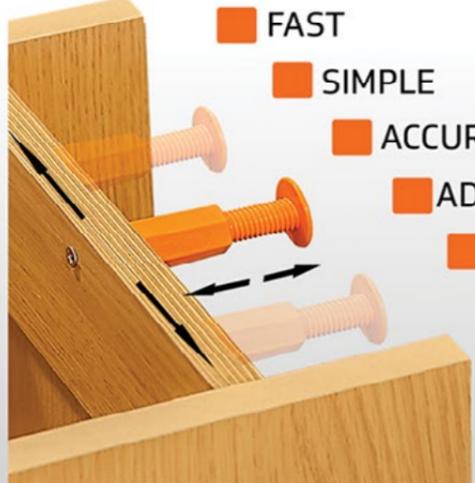
**ACCURATE**

**ADJUSTABLE**

**FLEXIBLE**

**PROFESSIONAL**

**ACCESSIBLE**



# HELPING TO PREVENT FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS WITH MODESTA



*Modesta can advise on how to prevent fire and explosions happened in the modern woodworking factory.*

**WITH the high risk of fire and explosion being an obvious hazard in the woodworking industry, it is not easy to keep up with both the latest legislation and increasing HSE and insurance checks on proper dust extraction equipment.**

Modesta often receives questions on ATEX or EN standards – but what do these regulations mean and why are they necessary?

Imagine that it is the end of the working day in your factory and everyone is about to head home.

Whilst the last door is being sawn, a hot particle is sucked into the dust extractor and reaches the filter installation, where it starts to smoulder. By now, all the staff have actually left and a fire could spread quickly without anyone noticing.

As harrowing as the idea of your filter installation burning down overnight might be, it would be even worse if the fire spread to the factory itself.

There are so many aspects of the production process involving fire and explosion hazards and just as many measures one can take to minimise these risks.

However, it is just as important to have the right fire-regulating measures in case a fire, or an explosion does actually occur.

This is what happens several times a year in woodworking factories across the country – a filter that complies with legislation prevents flames, or an explosion from spreading to the rest of the factory.

Minimising fire and explosion hazards is vitally important in a working environment where all the elements needed for a fire to ignite, or an explosion to occur are naturally present – heat, an inflammable substance (such as sawdust) and oxygen.

A factory also has to comply with European and local legislation.

‘We understand that keeping up with all these different regulations is complicated and it’s not the first priority of a woodworking professional, explains managing director of Modesta Filters, Wyboud Kloppenburg.

‘That’s why we would like to offer our expertise and years of experience in dust extraction to provide a clear overview of the rules, potential hazards and possible solutions,’ he adds.

In order to understand legislation such as the DSEAR, one must first take a look at European regulations. All machinery used in the EU needs to bear the CE mark, which testifies that the machine has been designed in accordance with any equipment-relevant safety guidelines.

ATEX, the name used for European directives covering explosive atmospheres, comes into play in industries where combustible dusts, or fuels are used, or produced during production.

In order to make ATEX easier, several institutes have designed harmonised EN standards, which offer the machine designer and user a more practical way of dealing with the legislation.

A few of these EN standards apply in the woodworking industry, including EN 12779 for the safety of woodworking equipment and dust extraction and EN 16770, which specifically covers extraction units for indoor use.

It should be noted that ATEX focuses mainly on the safety of personnel, limiting the damage and containing the fire, or explosion when it happens, but it does not necessarily consider the prevention of fire and explosion hazards.

According to Modesta, units designed in accordance with EN 12779 are the way to go, if one wants to ensure that the system complies.

In the UK, the requirements specified in ATEX were put into effect through the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR).

‘In a woodworking factory, every part of the production process comes with its own specific fire and explosion hazards,’ says Wyboud.

‘It’s important to be able to identify these and come up with a fitting solution,’ he adds.

To begin with, a woodworking machine can be a fire hazard in itself, if dull tools are used, or if its parts are jammed, or not running smoothly, resulting in sparks.

That is why regular and thorough maintenance is vitally important when minimising fire and explosion hazards.

Even when machines are properly maintained, sparks can also occur, due to small metal pieces and hot particles being sucked into the extraction system.

Sawdust from wood production is extracted into a ducting system before ending up in the filter itself. The sparks can set left-over sawdust on fire in the ducting system.

‘This can be prevented by always ensuring that your filter system has a sufficient extraction capacity for the size of the factory you’re operating, to prevent dust accumulation in the ducting,’ explains Wyboud.

Factory plans and production capacity can change over the years, resulting in a different set-up, or a higher extraction need.

‘When the system isn’t operating within its ideal range, this doesn’t just mean a loss of energy, but it’s also a potential fire hazard,’ explains Wyboud – which is why it is so important to re-assess the capacity of the dust extraction system regularly, especially when changes occur on the factory floor.

A periodic Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) test is mandatory and essential in maintaining a safe working environment.

However, this test assesses the extraction capacity of a system, not the risk of sparks within it. Although not mandatory according to ATEX regulations, a spark detection system, combined with an automatic fire-extinguishing system, will prevent fires in the pipes.

The filter system itself can also pose a danger, as any ignited sparks in the ducting system will be sucked into the filter itself.

According to Modesta, fire valves offer the solution here in that they ensure that the fire is contained in the filter and prevent further damage to the rest of the factory.

‘Fire hazard should be considered at the very beginning when setting up a new factory,’ says Wyboud.

For instance, the positioning of the filter system itself can prevent major damage if a fire, or explosion occurs – installations over 8000m<sup>3</sup>/h should be positioned outside the factory walls and have the right fire-extinguishing connections for the fire brigade.

According to ATEX regulations, the explosion’s pressure wave has to be able to leave the installation safely.

In order to guarantee this, explosion panels must be installed in the filter itself and in the return air ducts going back into the building.

Positioning storage spaces for wood and sawdust is also important – they should be as far away as



*The QEX quality mark guarantees the installation complies with all legislation and (local) requirements.*

possible from the filter installation and factory buildings (preferably in a separate building) to minimise the risk of a transient fire.

Filter systems with a capacity up to 8000m<sup>3</sup>/h can be installed inside the factory, but they should have their own extinguishing system, according to EN 16770. Units for indoor use need to be able to withstand an explosion.

Fire and explosion safety is not just about preventing risks within a specific system.

‘We would like to raise awareness in every aspect of the factory, as we believe the

factory’s safety is more than the sum of its parts,’ says Wyboud.

From woodworking machine positioning to a ducting system, absolutely everything should be considered when setting up a safe and hazard-free factory floor.

Modesta can help manufacturers in taking both fire-prevention and fire-regulation measures, considering their entire set-up critically and advising the steps to take towards a safer working environment.

Lastly, Modesta applies the QEX Quality Mark certification, which simply means that the installations meet all legislation and (local) requirements.

Want to find out more? Visit [www.modestafilts.com](http://www.modestafilts.com)

*The fire originated in the wood storage of this particular doors and windows company. In this case, the safety equipment worked to preserve the filter.*



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Leaders in Dust Control Technology

A Complete Wood Waste Extraction Service to all Timber Industries

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