

# Kitchen Maker

Issue 22

Online



**LIGHT, BRIGHT  
AND WHITE**

# WOODWORKING MACHINERY

## Introducing the **NEW** ATACAM CNC Routers

**ATACAM**

PRICES FROM £38,000

This new range of affordable CNC Routers from ATA Engineering offers the same high quality build that you come to expect from a company that has been supplying CNC's for over 20 years, along with support and technical back up.

**Standard sizes:**  
8 x 4, 10 x 5, 3m x 2m  
(Special sizes available on request)

**Standard Features:**  
HSD HSK Spindles, Rotary ATC, Location Pins, Tool Digitizer.

3 and 4 Axis machines in stock.

*Call us today to arrange a Demonstration!*



## Castle Pocket Routers

from **ATA Engineering**



### New Improved Model TSM22 Pocket Router

Model TSM22, the most popular Pocket Router in the Castle range has been re-designed with a new lift up table top to provide the following features:

- Easier and quicker access when replacing the router cutter, drill and other parts during routine servicing and repair.
- Additional safety feature which automatically disconnects the electrical supply to the Bosch motors.

This long established and widely used model continues to provide the quickest and strongest method for kitchen and bedroom carcass manufacture, retail display stands and other interior fitting applications.

*Call us today to arrange a demonstration.*



**ATA Engineering Processes Ltd**

ATA House, Unit B, Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 7SS  
t: 01442 264411 e: sales@ataeng.com www.ataeng.com

# LIGHT, WHITE AND BRIGHT

LIGHT, BRIGHT AND WHITE

NONE of us can possibly say that 2020 has been a good year. Never in our life-time have we been beset by a global pandemic, which has caused so many deaths and heart-ache for those of us who have lost loved ones.

At times throughout the outgoing year it seemed as though there was little hope for the future, with no cure in sight for Coronavirus with our NHS workers being obliged to work under conditions which were sometimes unsafe, due to the lack of the necessary protective clothing.

On the political front too, who could have predicted the recent events in America, which have been recorded as the American people sought to choose a new president who will step up to the mark and, hopefully, unify the country again.

And what has most of us been forced to do for so many months now? Stay at home. Work from home and not be able to share that home with friends and neighbours.

At times even entering our kitchen to make ourselves a cup of coffee seemed like a sad, lonesome task.

For many of us forced to work from home, our kitchen has been forced to double up as our office space and our kitchen table, or worktop has become our work-station.

Toasters and other kitchen appliances have been cast aside and hidden away in kitchen cabinets to make room for our laptops, cookery books have been usurped by office files and, for days on end, it has seemed that we have spent very little time occupying

any other part of the house. We have come to expect that our office space should typically be light, bright and probably white, but does this monochrome colour work equally well in the kitchen?

The answer is undoubtedly "yes"!

It is for this reason that a recent move to Ireland for one retired couple who have escaped the rat race for the peace and tranquility of County Donegal resulted in their decision making process when it came to replacing an existing and somewhat tired and dated kitchen been influenced by the fact that the exact location of this most northerly part of the Republic of Ireland is not always recognised even by those living and working in the Republic,

In Ireland there are only two locations for the Swedish giant, IKEA – one in Belfast and two outlets in Dublin.

The greater part of County Donegal has borders with Northern Ireland and for anyone living in this most northerly outpost of the Republic, crossing over the border and driving to Belfast involves a much shorter route than making a trip to Dublin.

It therefore seemed quite logical that when planning their new kitchen our couple chose to make the much shorter trip to Belfast to plan their new kitchen, choose which model and colour they wanted and part up with the necessary cash (in sterling of course).

They were also fortunate enough to be able to rely upon the services of a local self-employed carpenter and kitchen fitter, who has fitted kitchens for local people for many years in the person of



VISIT US AT [WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK](http://WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK) - ONLINE MAGAZINE - ISSUE 22





Stephen Byrne, who also undertakes various building work in the locality.

Fitting a modestly priced kitchen in your home and doing so successfully is very much a matter of ensuring that the quality of workmanship by your chosen kitchen fitter is second to none.

In this respect, they had no doubt that they could rely on Stephen's experience and expertise to ensure the very highest standards of excellence when it came to fitting the kitchen of their choice and one which fell into their relatively low budget.

Always make sure that your new kitchen is fitted expertly and you will get away with choosing something from a lower price bracket.

All went well in terms of the planning until they revealed their address – only to be told that they could not place their order with their nearest IKEA store for no other reason than the fact that they were resident in the Irish Republic. Instead, they were told to visit the Dublin store. Should they take the kitchen plans drawn up in Belfast with them?

No!

Exactly the same plans would have to be drawn up by the staff at the Dublin store!

Would the Dublin store then deliver their choice of kitchen – a newly launched model prominently on display in the Dublin showrooms and appropriately in emerald green?

No, there was no stock available for this colourway at ANY IKEA store and, besides, County Donegal was situated in Northern Ireland wasn't it (Wrong!) and, therefore, serviced by the Belfast store.

After finally speaking to a showroom assistant who knew his geography and with the lack of any availability of a green kitchen, there was simple choice to be made...

#### **LIGHT, BRIGHT AND WHITE**

Fashionable colour choices may come and go, but the colour

white never dates and has remained a popular choice throughout the decades.

The remodelling of a kitchen is one of the most common renovation projects. It is also one that can have a significant effect on house resale values.

Since the average homeowner will spend thousands of pounds (or Euro) when undertaking such a project, it's crucial to do it right. So how do you accomplish that?

When spending such a large amount of money, you'll want to create a space you love especially, as is the case for many of us, we are spending more and more of our time working from home.

Likewise, if you are planning on selling a property at some point, you'll also want to secure a return on your investment.

Today's home buyers are turned off by dated kitchens. Instead they are looking for modern additions like granite counters and updated appliances, such as extractors, which are built into the worktop rather than occupying wall space, hot water taps and cooking tables (such as the Next125 models featured on Pages 15-17 of this issue).

According to the National Kitchen and Bathroom Association, white and off-white are the most popular colour schemes for kitchens – appealing to people of all ages.

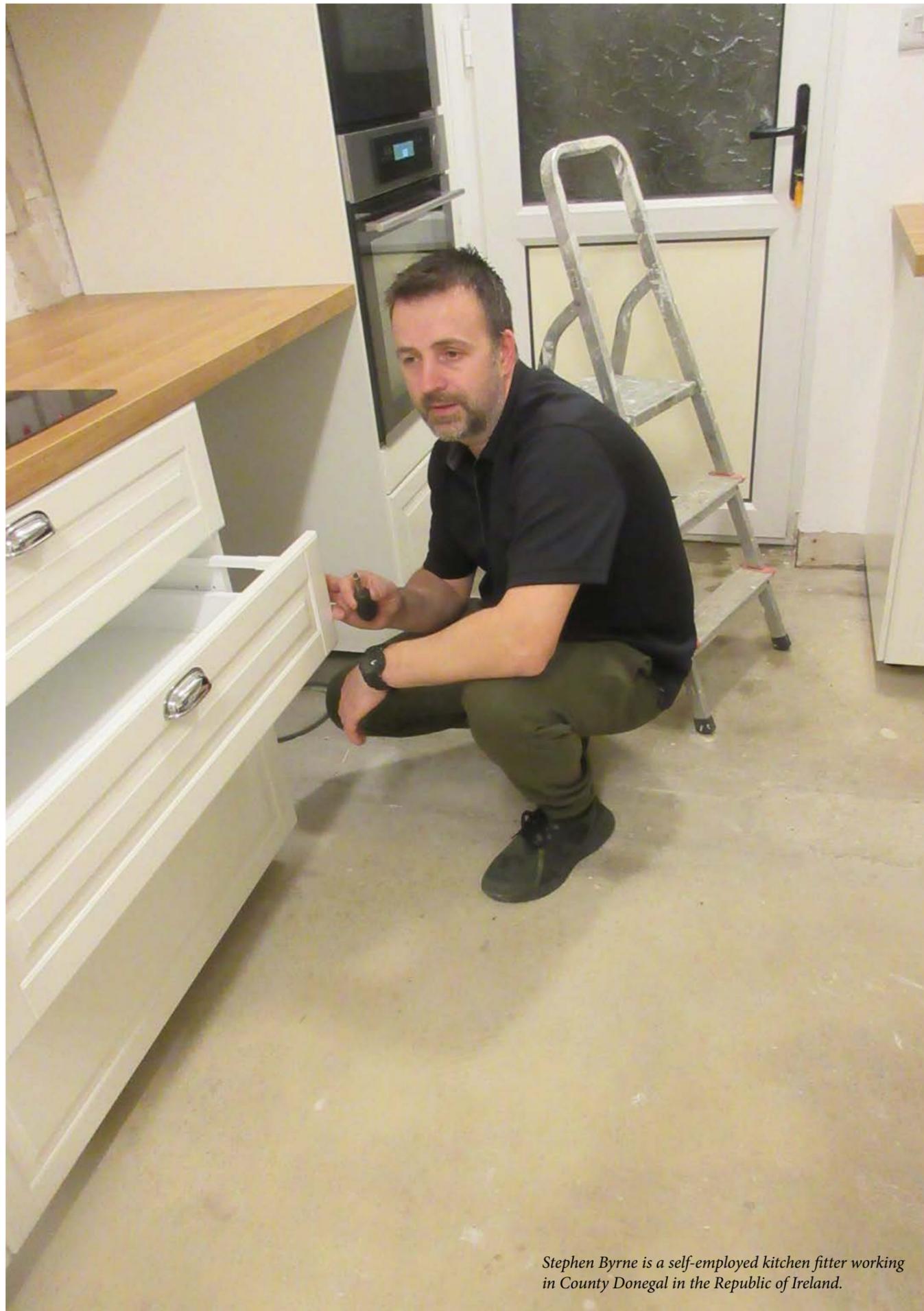
Make your design decisions easier by creating an all-white room that's fresh, bright and aesthetically pleasing.

In addition to a timeless look, white can make a small kitchen feel bigger and brighten a room that is lacking in terms of providing adequate natural light.

Whilst you don't want to offend anyone's taste with your kitchen design, you also don't want a white kitchen to feel bland.

Add depth by using accent colours and insert personal style in changeable features, such as light fixtures and cabinet pulls.





Stephen Byrne is a self-employed kitchen fitter working in County Donegal in the Republic of Ireland.

**White worktops:**

There are a number of different ways to approach the use of white worktops. It might be rather expensive, but white marble is warm, classic and its natural, veiny appearance will add texture and depth.

One disadvantage of marble is that it can be difficult to maintain. You'll need to wipe up spills right away, avoid depositing pots and pans, or abrasive items on the surface and seal it on a regular basis.

White granite is lower maintenance than marble, although it is essential to seal it at least once a year and to wipe up any spills as soon as possible. However, it does offer a classic, timeless look.

Look and, of course, it is very hard wearing.

Engineered white quartz is durable and non-porous - so it's more sanitary, as well as being more stain resistant and less liable to becoming damaged as a result of scratches and/or corrosion.

White concrete can achieve that pure white look. It's also incredibly durable.

White glass can be pricey but, in addition to being sleek and bright, it's also non-porous and, perhaps, the most hygienic option.

If you are on a budget, many of today's laminates mimic more expensive granite and marble and also resist scratching and chipping.

**White kitchen sinks:**

White sinks have long been bathroom mainstays and the same timeless look translates well into the kitchen.

Whether you choose a classic white sink, or you are making a more trendy statement by installing a farmhouse sink, or you go for a more retro look by installing a traditional butler's sink - the choice is yours.

For white sinks, fireclay might be the best option. This material is resistant to scratches, staining, chipping and cleaning up is simple (just use soap and water).

Enamel-coated cast iron is another good option for durable

white sinks, but it tends to be heavier, so make sure your cabinets can stand the weight.

**White kitchen islands:**

The kitchen island often features a sizeable slab of countertop, so this can be used strategically to brighten up the space, or add detail that complements pure white features elsewhere in the room.

Add contrast by choosing a different material than that which you used for the countertops.

It's quite likely that the island will be where a good deal of food preparation and entertaining takes place so, depending on how you plan to use the kitchen island itself, think about the material and how high maintenance it is.

**White kitchen cabinets:**

Kitchen cabinets are a high impact design element, because they're outward facing (unlike flat countertops) and usually the main focus of attention. Invariably, they make up between a third to a half of the budget.

Once again, white is a popular option.

Add a personal touch by choosing cabinet pulls and other hardware that you particularly like. They are easily replaceable and will show up well against crisp, white cabinetry.

**White kitchen appliances:**

Stainless steel has been the presiding choice for new kitchens, often replacing old white appliances that looked dated. Although it is hard to imagine such sharp stainless steel appliances falling out of fashion, they could very well go out of style in the future.

Some kitchen experts predict that the reign of stainless steel is coming to an end. And what will replace it?

In all likelihood re-imagined, updated white appliances.

They are light, bright and white - perhaps just like the rest of your new kitchen!



HOFFMANN

# The Hoffmann Dovetail Key

THE SOLUTION  
FOR PERFECT  
JOINTS IN WOOD.

...BRILLIANTLY SIMPLE  
...SIMPLY BRILLIANT

Woodwork manufacturers  
will tell you, we're found  
in the best joints.

[www.Hoffmann-Schwalbe.DE](http://www.Hoffmann-Schwalbe.DE)  
[www.Hoffmann-uk.com](http://www.Hoffmann-uk.com)

HOFFMANN

Hoffmann Machine Co. Ltd., Unit 8 Borrowdale Bus. Prk  
Whitegate, Morecambe, Lancs LA3 3BS, tel 01524 841 500  
Hoffmann GmbH Germany, 0049 7251 95440



## DOVETAILORS TAILOR-MADE FOR THE BESPOKE KITCHEN

DOVETAILORS began in 2005 as a small bespoke designer and manufacturer with a passion for turning customers' ideas into stunning design.

Through that same commitment and passion, the Leeds-based company has grown into one of the North of England's foremost furniture design houses.

In 2014 the business moved to the historic Sunny Bank Mills in Farsley and in 2019 moved to larger premises in Pudsey, where the master craftsmen are responsible for producing a wide range of bespoke kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and exclusive furniture pieces, as well as the ready to buy range. Dovetailors also manufactures components for other companies.

Dovetailors has invested in a matrix table and Woodwelder from Lamont.

'At the time, we were producing a lot of chair frames for other companies. We were using hand clamping, which was taking a long time, was heavy and hard work, so I investigated the idea of speeding it up with the matrix table and the Woodwelder,' says David Wilson speaking on behalf of the company.

'The Woodwelder allowed us to glue up really thick chunks of oak quickly but, perhaps more importantly, over time we are now starting to make very complicated CNC gluing jigs.

'We can now very precisely clamp components, so we can glue up some strange shapes that would otherwise be difficult to do. Thanks to the Woodwelder, we can do this.

'Before we acquired the matrix table and Woodwelder, we were using polyurethane glue, which was quick, but messy,' says David.

'Polyurethane glue foams up and requires cleaning up afterwards. PVA is difficult because it takes longer, but is a better glue.

'With the Woodwelder I can use PVA and can glue something up in five seconds, which is a great time saver,' adds David.

'We were introduced to Alan Lamont by JMJ Woodworking in Hull. Alan talked to us about pneumatic clamps - a solution which I had not previously considered.

'The fact that Lamont is based in the North, relatively near us, was good. I went up to Scotland to see the matrix table and Woodwelder in operation. I took some oak up with me to see how it worked: I was pleased with the result and went for it.

'We are actually doing less of what I originally bought it for, but are doing more specialist glue-ups in shapes that can be

difficult, for example letterbox shapes. The matrix table holds the workpiece in the right place and then the Woodwelder gets to work. Hand in hand with our CNC, it is a really powerful gluing up solution,' enthuses David.

When asked what advantages the matrix table and Woodwelder had brought him, David replied:

'Speed: it is always speed. We invest in things when we can do the maths and see it will save us a certain amount of time and in such-and-such time we will get our money back. It is also hard work using hand sash clamps!'

When asked if he would recommend the matrix table and Woodwelder, David said: 'Yes, definitely. They are great.

'It has been absolutely great working with Alan. He answered all our questions, was very informative and he knows his product.

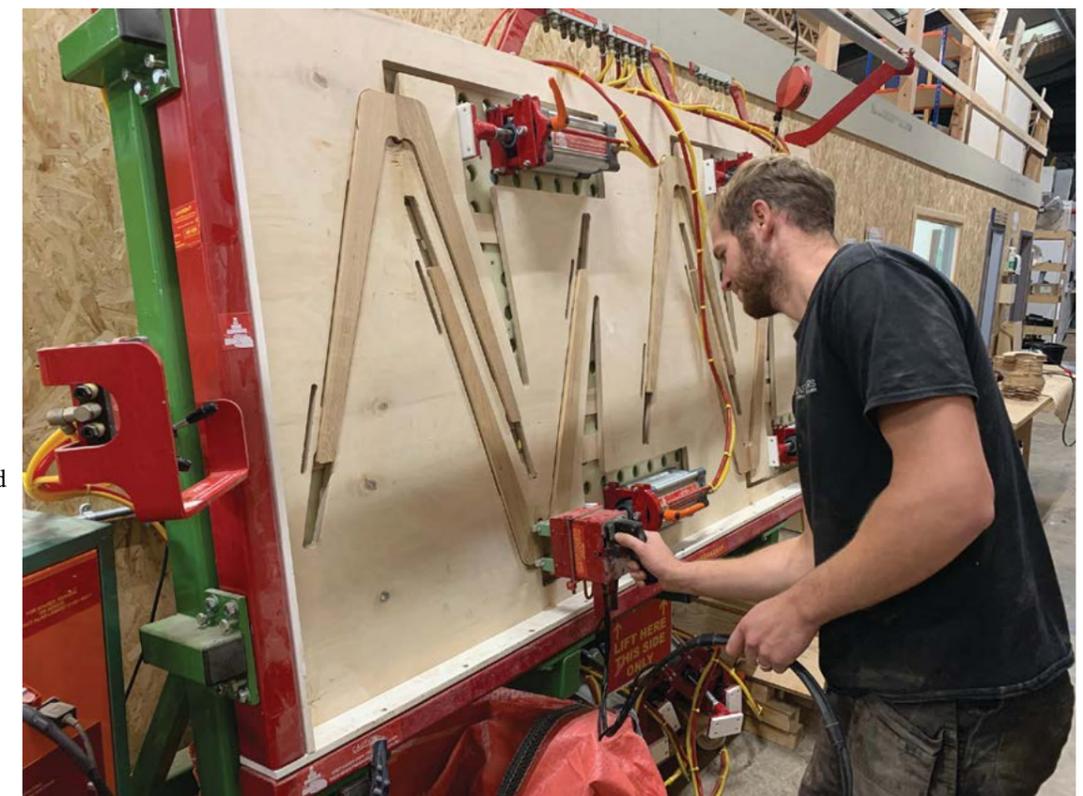
'He is also good at telling you what it can't do and had some question marks about the thickness of the oak that we needed to glue, in particular whether the Woodwelder would penetrate far enough for it to work, but we got round that as we weld on both sides,' explains David.

Talking about doing business during a pandemic, David commented:

'We are okay: bizarrely we are very busy. Things have changed. As we produce more and more specialist components for other companies, we are still doing quite a bit of ecclesiastical work for churches and cathedrals, as well as commercial furniture,' says David.

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 22

# HIRING APPRENTICES TO FILL SKILLS GAP & HELP TO NURTURE THE HERITAGE OF BRITISH CRAFTSMANSHIP

CLIVE Christian Furniture, one of the best-known British luxury kitchen and cabinetry makers has called Bolton its home for over 40 years.

The company has grown to be a global export leader, championing what it means to be a design-led, forward-thinking brand within the luxury goods industry. Founded in 1978, Clive Christian Furniture Co has created luxury kitchens and interiors for over 40 years.

The company invented the statement kitchen, using opulent features, such as chandeliers, marquetry, decorative columns and large islands.

Customers soon wanted the same luxurious style throughout their home, so Clive Christian Furniture now extends into every room of the house.

Clive Christian is globally recognised for its exquisite quality and great British craftsmanship.

All cabinetry is hand made by trained artisans and craftspeople in its workshop in Farnworth, Bolton.

From here it is exported to luxury residences worldwide to furnish the homes of prestigious customers, including Hollywood celebrities and Premiership footballers.

Owner, David Dare purchased Clive Christian Furniture in 2019. He has invested significantly in the business and has ambitious plans for the future growth of this internationally recognised Great British brand.

A new management team has been put into place to drive sales, business and product development.

This has created a number of exciting new opportunities to join the team, which currently numbers around 60 people.

It is represented in nearly 20 locations across the globe, from



Owner and chief executive officer, David Dare purchased Clive Christian Furniture in 2019. He has invested significantly in the business and has ambitious plans for its future growth.



Factory manager, Steve Dale believes that there is a huge number of skilled young people in the local Lancashire area and through the apprentice programme, it is hoped to ensure the longevity of the company.



From Farnworth Clive Christian Furniture exports to luxury residences worldwide to furnish the homes of prestigious customers, including Hollywood celebrities and Premiership footballers. This superb kitchen is just one example of the company's excellent level of craftsmanship.

Vietnam to the USA, in Russia and throughout Europe. With all the company's products proudly being made fully on-site in Bolton.

Throughout its history, Clive Christian Furniture has continually looked to the immediate area when it comes to hiring craftspeople, designers, skilled tradespeople and the wider administrative team.

Owned by local businessman, David Dare, whose family live in the area, it is a point of importance for the brand and something he wishes to see upheld.

'There's a huge number of skilled young people in the local Lancashire area and through the apprentice programme, hiring people into specific roles throughout the manufacturing process, we hope to ensure the longevity of both the company via a local workforce, but also in the continued succession of people working within skill and craft based roles,' says factory manager, Steve Dale.

'In the role, the apprentices will learn from generational craftspeople and become an essential part of the team, learning transferable business and workplace based skills, as well as specific discipline learnings,' adds Mr Dale.

Keen to further re-inforce the truly British and skill-led nature of the Clive Christian product, the group is to launch an ongoing apprenticeship programme for the immediate geographical location to the factory.

In order to kick-start the new initiative, the company is looking to hire four new apprentices to work across product finishing, veneering, assembly and to train in machining.

Currently employing over 60 people from the local area, the successful candidates will join the growing team, learning new skills and becoming an important part of this globally recognised brand.

Each role is varied and will entail learning skills, such as reading technical drawings created by the in-house design team, being trained in the use of woodworking machinery, including table saws, drills, routers and other specialist tools and becoming knowledgeable in stains, lacquers and the treatments and development of raw materials into a finished product.

Recruiting into the veneer team too, the new team member will be able to develop an in-depth knowledge of materials, such as species, types and cuts of different veneers.

They will also learn advanced veneering techniques, such as cross-banding, inlays, marquetry, radial cuts, using hand cut and laser cut veneers and the use of materials, from metals to semi-precious stones and artefacts, such as mother of pearl inlays.

They will learn to identify, select and prepare veneers for tabletops and bespoke product commissions that will go on to be housed in some of the world's finest addresses.

'Clive Christian Furniture is proud of its Lancashire heritage and this in fact informs a huge part of our global positioning and reputation,' says owner

and chief executive officer, David Dare.

'It's important that we continue to nurture a fervent interest and love of traditional skills and crafts and that, via technology and challenging new design concepts, we give modern meaning to this sector working,' continues Mr Dare.

'We have ambitious hopes and plans for the business and we are excited to be growing the team once again through an ongoing apprenticeship programme,' he concludes.

Want to find out more?  
Email the North Lancs Training Group Ltd  
info@nltg.co.uk.



Apprentices at Clive Christian Furniture will learn advanced veneering techniques, such as cross-banding, inlays, marquetry, radial cuts, using hand cut and laser cut veneers and the use of materials, from metals to semi-precious stones and artefacts, such as mother of pearl inlays.



Each of the apprenticeship roles is varied and will entail learning skills, such as reading technical drawings created by the in-house design team, being trained in the use of woodworking machinery and becoming knowledgeable in stains, lacquers and the treatments and development of raw materials into a finished product.

# GIVING APPRENTICES A KICKSTART WHEN IT COMES TO TRAINING

BUSINESSES who think they cannot take advantage of the Government's new £2 billion Kickstart training scheme can still take part through a gateway body, according to the manufacturers' organisation, Make UK.

The Government Kickstart Scheme will provide funding to employers to create job placements for 16-24 year olds.

The scheme will create new six-month placements for young



people who are currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment.

A business can only sign up to the Kickstart scheme if they have a minimum of 30 job placements to offer. However, approved Gateway organisations, such as Make UK, can apply on the behalf of a business, if they require less than 30 placements.

'We know manufacturing and we understand that, right now, it may be difficult for employers to take on an apprentice,' says director of apprentices and technical training at Make UK's Technology Hub in Aston, Birmingham, Stephen Mitchell.

'However, these fully-funded work placements provide manufacturing extra support that they may currently need and a young person a chance to develop skills and experience they need to find work after completing the scheme,' he continues.

'Working with a Gateway organization, such as Make UK has multiple benefits - you don't need to have 30 placements and we can make the process much easier and do much of the groundwork, including supporting you through the selection process, providing training and working with the young person to help them into a job, or apprenticeship after the placement.'

'We understand the requirements of manufacturing and how to get the best out of a young person,' says Mr Mitchell.

The Government will fully fund each "Kickstart" job, paying 100 per cent of the age-relevant National Minimum Wage, National Insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours/week.

Once a job placement is created, it can be taken up by a second person once the first successful applicant has completed their six-month term.

Want to find out more?  
Email [kickstart@makeuk.org](mailto:kickstart@makeuk.org)



# THE NEXT NEW THING IN THE KITCHEN

THE next125 cooking table has become an absolute design classic and provides a minimalist statement in the kitchen.

It now offers a new look and, at the same time, offers the possibility of invisibly integrating cooktop extractors.

The free-standing Next125 skilfully combines individuality, high functionality and precise design.

In order to achieve this special charisma and uncompromising clarity, special attention was paid to the design process.

Despite the puristic appearance, functionality is clearly in the foreground. For this reason, the original look was adapted: it allows modern cooktop extractors from different manufacturers to be integrated flush and to achieve an even more homely effect.

Classic hobs and hob fans can be used in the cubically designed pull-out base unit. The element extends continuously through to under the worktop, thus ensuring that the technical

equipment disappears invisibly inside the cabinet.

The exhaust air from the table fan can be used in the rear base cabinet, either as circulating or exhaust air.

However, nothing has changed in the filigree appearance of the cooking table. Quite the contrary: it has already won numerous design awards, including the Red Dot design award and the German Design Award.

The cooking table is available in different versions and thus offers many options for customisation.

Available in three different widths (180cm, 240cm and 300cm), with a height of 92.5cm and a depth of 100cm, it fits into the most varied of living situations.

The frame of the table can be selected from various wood designs, such as knotty oak, walnut and larch.

### The company

The Schüller Möbelwerk KG based in Herrieden, Franconia,



was founded in 1966 and has developed into a specialist for individually planned kitchens "Made in Germany" over the past 50 years.

At the company site over 1,900 employees produce more than 140,000 kitchens annually, which are sold in Germany and on the international market.

With a turnover of 554 million euros, Schüller is one of the top players in the industry today.

"Typically Schüller" is an extraordinary vertical range of manufacture, partnership-based co-operation with retailers and corporate responsibility.

Since 2003, Markus Schüller, Max Heller and Manfred Niederauer have been running the family business and

represent the second generation who have been actively involved.

#### **The brand**

Next125 is the international Schüller premium brand. Next125 kitchens are characterised by attention to detail.

Based on the Bauhaus values, Next125 combines craftsmanship, technology, design and architecture at the highest level with state-of-the-art industrial production. This creates exceptionally elegant kitchens for quality and design-conscious customers in the medium- and upper market sectors.

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



VISIT US AT [WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK](http://WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK) - ONLINE MAGAZINE - ISSUE 22



VISIT US AT [WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK](http://WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK) - ONLINE MAGAZINE - ISSUE 22

# ALPHACAM AND CABINET VISION PREPARING GRADUATES TO JOIN THE WORKFORCE

EVOLVING technologies make it challenging to train the next generation of manufacturers, but Saint Paul College embraces cutting-edge practices to ensure that its graduates are prepared for working life.

'Our program is strictly a cabinet-making program and we expose our students to the practices of both traditional and modern cabinet-making,' says instructor, Tom Hillstead of Saint Paul College, based in Minnesota, USA.

Mr Hillstead, a graduate of the college's cabinet-making program, worked in the manufacturing industry until he was hired as an instructor at his alma mater in 2002.

As someone for whom a four-year college education centered solely on academics was not a good fit, he is well equipped to understand the desires and talents unique to his students.

'I'm your typical technical college instructor: I went through the program, became involved in the industry and along the way I moved into teaching,' says Tom.

'I liked the idea of working with my hands and being a part of the production process,' adds Tom, who became a lead instructor at the college in 2005.

'I look at myself not as their instructor, but as their on-the-job mentor,' he adds.

Twenty-nine is the average age of students enrolled in the program, which is popular among those who have been in the

workforce and want to make a career change. The program takes one year to complete and while graduates of the program have the option to earn an associate's degree by completing the required additional academic course load, most earn a cabinet-making diploma and set out for the workforce.

'We have people who come into the program who have a little woodworking experience and some who have never touched a tool in their lives,' explains Tom.

'We see many students who already have families and work experience; who have a four-year degree, but want to do something more creative,' says Tom.

In 2009, the college adopted the Alphacam CAM system and the Cabinet Vision design-to-manufacturing solution as teaching tools to prepare students for CNC manufacturing.

'When I was introduced to it, I liked the idea of running parts through machines. I realised even then that you either jump on board, or fall behind,' explains Tom, who was working in the industry in the 1990s, when the use of CAM software and CNC machinery became increasingly prevalent.

'The technology is definitely not eliminating jobs, but it is redefining them and creating them,' says Tom.

Cabinet-making students at Saint Paul College are provided with an educational experience as close as possible to a real-life manufacturing environment. Class sizes are limited to a

maximum of 24 students, which ensures a high level of individual attention.

'What we do in the program are larger production-based projects for non-profit-making organisations, such as Homeward Bound,' Tom explains.

'We partner with other programs and every year we do a kitchen remodel for one of their homes. My students get to use the software and machinery in a production environment,' says Tom.

When they begin their projects, students visit installation sites, where they take measurements and assess potential challenges.

'As far as I am concerned, that's a better way to learn how to do real-world projects and, at the same time, we're teaching them to give something back.

'We're also teaching the kind of skills that will make them more successful in the workforce, such as arriving at work on time, setting goals and being able to meet deadlines,' says Tom.

Field measurement, project design and planning, cut-lists and material management are all part of the real-world learning process. Students receive instruction on traditional construction methods before they move on to CNC production.

'We'll use Cabinet Vision to generate cut-lists, then pull off the door and drawer box cut-lists and have them fabricate those with traditional equipment,' explains Tom.

Once the students have a firm grasp on traditional construction methods, they begin using Cabinet Vision for project design.

'We spend a great deal of time learning how to do the layout and they go into Cabinet Vision to do a lot of editing. As we go through, we learn how to nest parts and send the code to the machine.

'Once they're hired, they should be able to sit behind a computer pretty quickly and be able to do it on their own,' says Tom.

The college utilises Alphacam to cut complex shapes, such as side engravings on doors, or one-of-a-kind parts for reception desks.

'We use Alphacam more for individual and often odd parts and we spend a good deal of time with that,' continues Tom.

Students take pride in completed projects, which enables them to experience the satisfaction of a job well done.

'For me, the best days of the year are when we finish up and install, when we're at the job site and the students are out there taking pictures.

Tom Hillstead notes that jobs for graduates are plentiful, which provides them with the opportunity to pick and choose among preferred specialties, such as commercial, or residential woodwork, as well as whether they'd like to work for 'mom-and-pop' shops, manufacturers on a national scale and everything in between.

'The opportunities out there for students are just fantastic,' he says.

'People know that there are shortages in terms of skilled labour, but don't really understand what these jobs are. Many of these are hi-tech positions. You have to be

pretty good with computers and you have the necessary mathematical skills,' adds Tom.

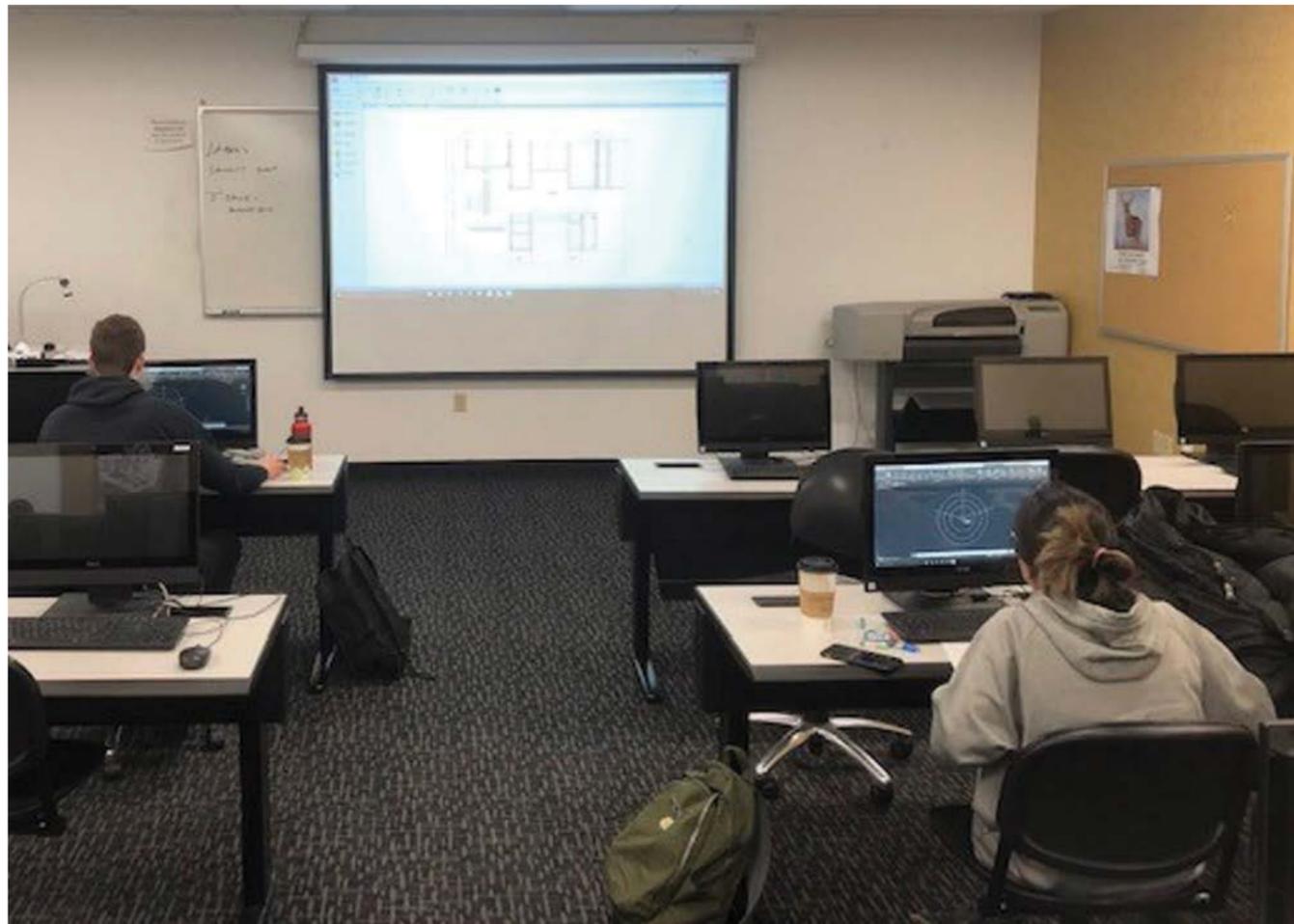
Graduates of Saint Paul College are frequently hired by shops in Minnesota and Wisconsin, which means that the school is a boon to the local economy.

'With many trade jobs, there was a time when you could just hire someone off the street and they could do the job. Nowadays employers are going to technical colleges, because they want people interested in the trade and who have the required skills,' explains Tom.

'Unfortunately, we don't have enough students to cover all of the jobs that are out there. Our students have probably never had the level of choices that they possess right now,' concludes Tom Hillstead.

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

COMPUTER SOFTWARE





# ALPHACAM

Simple yet powerful CAM software for CNC routers

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.

# 37

Years developing software

# 97%

Satisfaction with our support

# 85/11

Countries/Languages

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

| [alphacam.com](http://alphacam.com)

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

Jason Szukalski  
Director  
Anarchy Ltd



# CABINET VISION

The complete solution for the casegoods industry

From cutlists, renderings, shop drawings, bidding and pricing, to CNC output, CABINET VISION makes the easy jobs simple and the complex ones possible.

- Custom cabinet & room designs
- Photo realistic renderings
- Material Optimisation
- Full costing direct from design
- Cutlists & bill of materials

“ We use CABINET VISION every day, and we can't live without it.”

Terry Moore  
Vice President of Design  
Sunrise Wood Designs

| [cabinetvision.com](http://cabinetvision.com)



# FREE SPACE FLAP FITTING LAUNCHED BY HÄFELE



A GLOBAL design award-winning flap fitting has been launched on to the market by Häfele UK.

Häfele UK has launched a pioneering hingeless flap fitting, which promises to set a new standard in furniture design, planning and production.

The Free space flap fitting creates more storage room within cabinetry by eliminating the need for large cover caps. It has an internal installation depth of only 63mm.

Offering a consistent design for all flap-opening doors, it is mounted with ease, using a single pre-mounted conventional screw connection on the side walls, driving manufacturing efficiencies through the speed of installation.

Designed by developers at Häfele's plant in Hungary, Free space secured a special award with the globally-renowned Red Dot Award and was presented as a "world first" when it achieved the Interzum award for "High Product Quality", both in 2019. Since then, Free space has gone on to win the German Design Award and German Innovation Award in 2020.

Free space's pin system requires only one fixing screw to lock the flap in place, while its spring force can be adjusted for a multi-position stop function.

It presents low opening resistance and smooth running properties, with its integrated soft closing mechanism ensuring gentle and quiet closing of the flap.

The opening angle can be set and limited to 90 deg by means of a tool-free, integrated adjustment option, which allows the cabinet to be installed at an elevated height without risk of the door hitting the ceiling.

For standard applications with a handle, the Free space 1.11 offers a load bearing capacity of 1.2 up to 10.7 kg for a cabinet height of 400mm. It is



available in five model versions. The Free space 1.8 push to open has a load bearing capacity of 1.2 up to 8.3 kg for a cabinet height of 400 mm. It is available in the standard colours, white, light grey and anthracite – and in black as a special order product – but can also be matched to any cabinet colour to create a seamless finish.

'Manufacturers are always on the lookout for innovative fixtures and fittings, which give customers more options when it comes to the style and functionality of their spaces; the Free space flap fitting has been created with them in mind,' says category manager at Häfele UK, Justin Crofts.

'It has already inspired hundreds of thousands of designers and manufacturers to think differently about hinge work and has been

recognised by world leading award programmes, which highlighted Free space for its distinctive, but functional properties.

'We are very pleased to now be able to offer it to the UK market and are confident that it will continue to lead the way in flap fittings for a long time to come,' concludes Mr Crofts.

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

FURNITURE  
FITTINGS



# BLUM'S EASYSTICK IMPROVES KITCHEN MANUFACTURER'S PRECISION AND EFFICIENCY

DEVON-based Partridge Kitchens manufactures bespoke hand-made kitchen, bedroom and fitted bathroom furniture. Each project is made to order and tailored to fit each room precisely.

In order to help achieve the high standards necessary for this calibre of work, the company has invested in the requisite technology and systems to ensure accuracy and efficiency throughout the process.

Assessing the company's manufacturing set-up, managing director, Kevin Partridge outlines the company's progress in recent years:

'Following the purchase of a CNC machine a few years ago, and a recent upgrade of our edge-bander, our carcass production increased with added precision – but it became clear that we needed a way to increase the speed and accuracy of our panel drilling.

'We purchased a Blum Minipress back in 2010 to process the fascia's for hinges and drawer runners.

The interchangeable drilling heads represented a huge step up for us from using a customised pillar drill.

The Minipress has been brilliant for undertaking standard, or repeatable units. However, when it came to bespoke pieces, the drilling set-up has to be adjusted manually, which was proving to be inefficient.

'We needed something that would allow us to match the precision of our fascia drilling with the precision of our CNC-manufactured carcasses – without the need for manual adjustments,' continues Kevin Partridge.

'When I was informed by my Blum contact, Ray House, that the company's Easystick upgrade was compatible with our current machine, I wanted to see it in action.

'Fortunately, it was launched at the KBB show in March and, having seen it working, I could see the benefits of this upgrade – so an order was placed through our Blum distributor, Daro,' explains Kevin.

Blum's Easystick is a recently introduced automatic stop system that makes it easy to set up drilling and insertion machines. It optimises the entire assembly process, giving fast and simple machine set-up and perfect results.

Drilling positions are calculated digitally, stops move automatically to the right position and you are shown the correct fixing positions step by step.

'The Easystick installation was to be delayed due to Covid-19, being installed in August 2020.

'Despite having to maintain social distance, the installation process and training was carried out by Blum technicians very efficiently and smoothly,' continues Kevin.

The Easystick has three software programs within it; the first is manual adjustment, the second is for quickly drilling fronts and with the last you can design a whole cabinet in it.

'Obviously, with any new machine there is a learning curve, especially with data input.

'However we have already increased what we use this machine for and it has also allowed us to dispense with all the templates and jigs that we previously had to use,' explains Kevin.

Minipress helps users install Blum fittings quickly and efficiently and Easystick adds a completely new dimension to installation and assembly: drilling positions are calculated digitally and the stops move automatically to the right position. Drilling is precise and there is no need for subsequent adjustments.

'The addition of Blum's Easystick has turned a 10-year old machine into a machine that is future-proof and one which complements the CNC, at a fraction of the price of buying a new machine.

'I would heartily recommend this to anyone who is looking for more precision with frontal drilling,' concludes Kevin.

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



# BLUM'S NEW SOFTWARE PLANNING PLATFORM

BLUM has released a new planning software platform, Cabinet Configurator, which supplements its existing Dynaplan.

With Cabinet Configurator, all cabinets can be designed and configured within a web browser, meaning that the software is always up to date, does not take valuable space on a computer and is always available.

As with all Blum services, this comes completely free of charge when buying Blum products.

The software enables users to configure Blum fittings, using the integrated collision check with just a few clicks and then sends the order directly to the online shops of selected distributors.

The comprehensive planning of kitchen cabinets makes manufacturing quick and simple. Projects can be transferred straight to the most popular CAD software for the design process to continue.

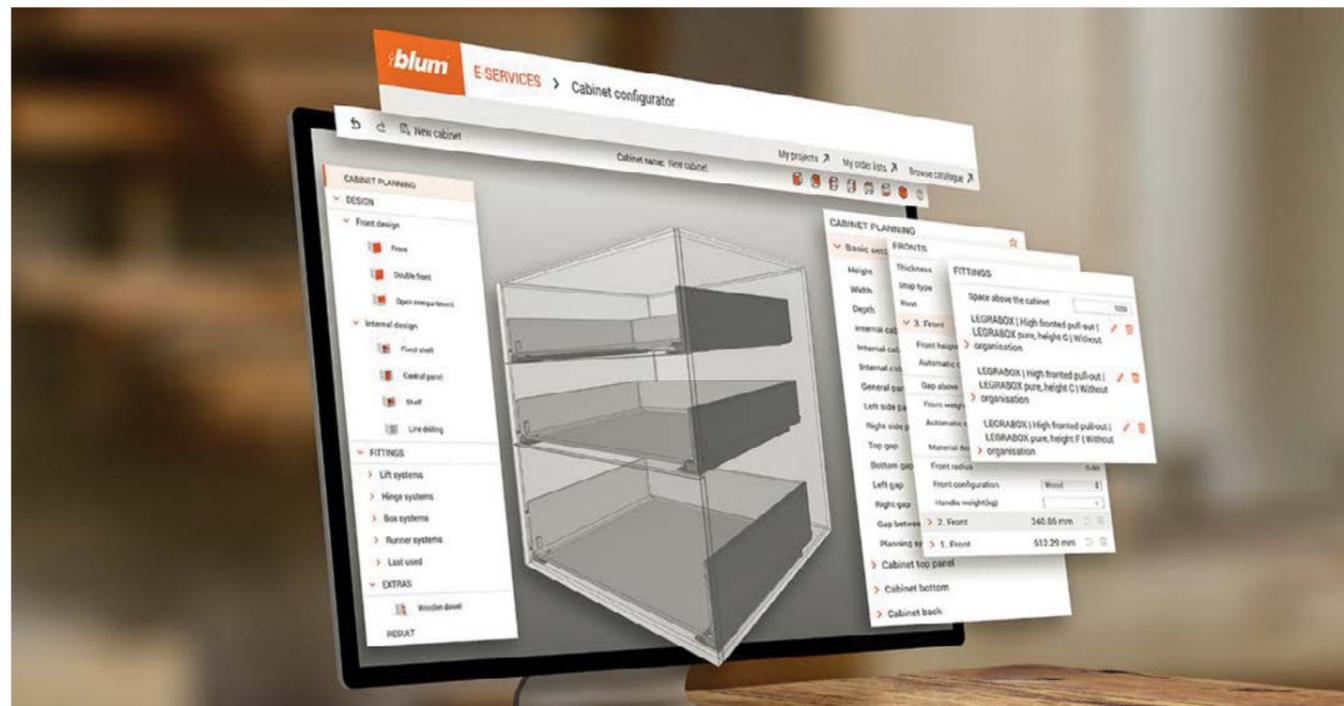
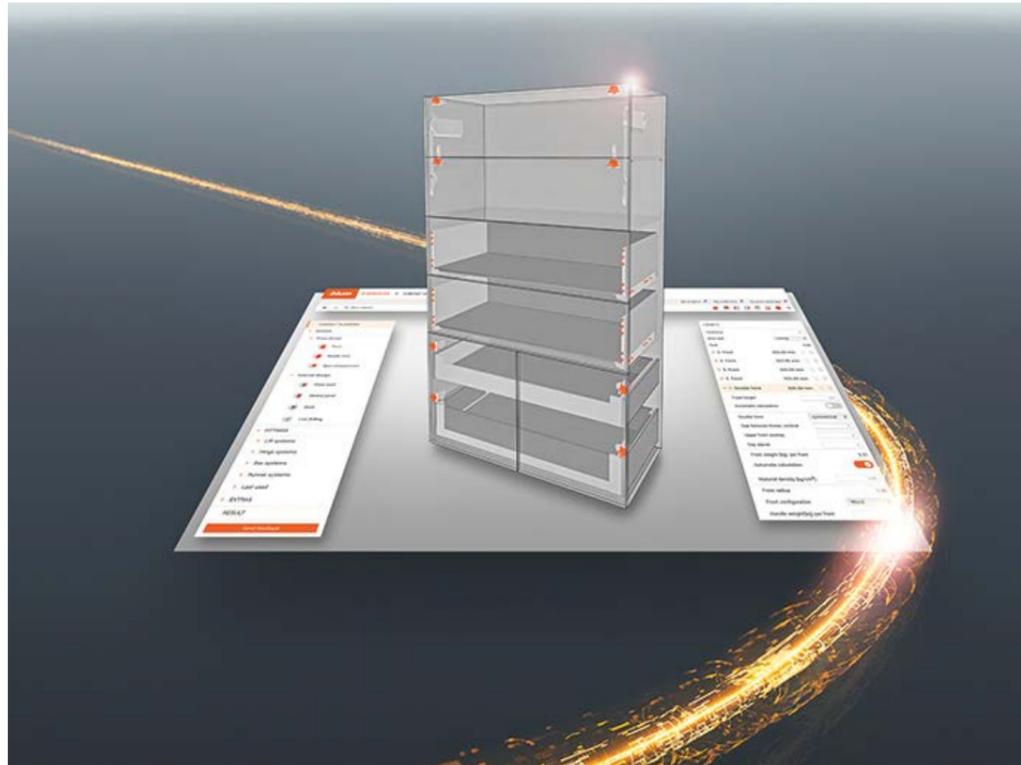
Additionally, frequently used kitchen cabinets can be saved as standard values, further simplifying the process and, of course, making the process even quicker.

Cabinet Configurator also calculates the weight of the fronts, even if different

materials are being used by whoever is responsible for the construction of the kitchen.

Then Blum components, fixed shelves and central panels can be quickly and accurately added, with a parts list created to transfer to selected Blum distributors.

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



# SPACE PLUG

## THE KITCHEN FITTERS FRIEND



Fit Kitchens ... ?  
Fed up faffing with L-brackets?

Now **There's** an Answer!

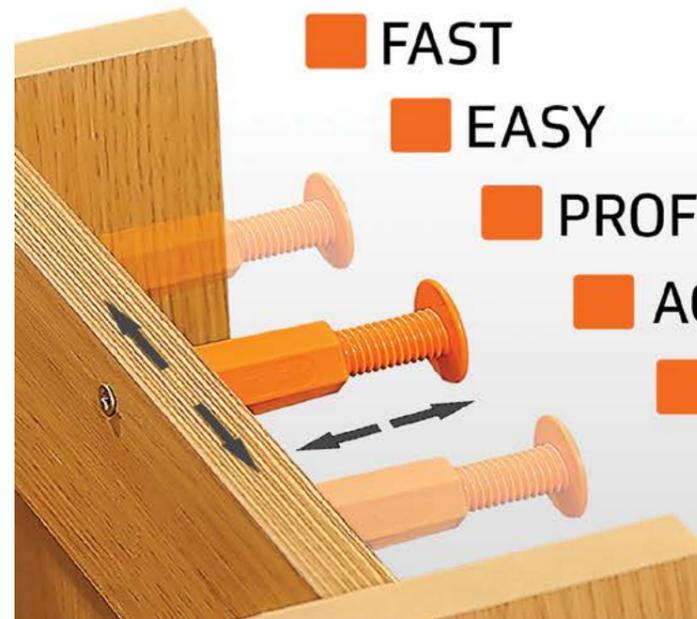
Over  
3.5 Million  
Sold!



Space-Plug XL  
for 45 - 80mm gaps



Space-Plug Regular  
for 30 - 50mm gaps



- FAST
- EASY
- PROFESSIONAL
- ACCURATE
- ADJUSTABLE
- FLEXIBLE
- ACCESSIBLE

Try them...  
**TODAY!**

Visit [www.space-plug.com](http://www.space-plug.com) or Call 07901-553290

# SPACE-PLUG NOW HAS TRICOLOUR OPTION



SPACE-PLUG has now launched five new lines to the company's offering!

"Original Orange" the colour so instantly recognisable as the, "Handy Orange Doofer" remains, but has been joined by two new colours in the range, a "Brilliant White" and "Brilliant Black" for anywhere this diverse product can help!

This provides a fast, simple and professional solution for all kinds of furniture and all kinds of situations, to just about any tradesman.

Cliff Petit, Space-Plug's inventor and former fitter is delighted.

'A great relationship with our new manufacturer, "Masona Plastics", based in Whitesmith East Sussex, means that we can now perform small production runs in just about any colour we choose!' says Cliff.

'Adding both black and white plugs to the range means that Space-Plug's appeal becomes even wider now you can purchase appropriate colours for fixings that might remain slightly visible,' adds Cliff.

Both Space-Plug sizes, Regular for 30-50mm gaps and XL for 45-80mm gaps, are available now on Amazon in various guises to suit all needs.

'We have a mixed size bag of 4+4 in both black and white, as well as bags of 25 available,' says Cliff.

'We're also here and happy to help! Anybody who requires a bespoke volume is very welcome to get in touch with us via [www.space-plug.com](http://www.space-plug.com) and we'll do our utmost to meet their requirements,' says Cliff.

Space-Plug can now help all kinds of trades and tradesmen will adore the simplicity of this diverse adjustable spacer fixing.

However, it's not limited to indoor use. Space-Plug is great for use outdoors too!

'I've been asked so many times for the new colours but, until now, production runs up have been prohibitive.

'I'm delighted that they have now arrived and even more people can benefit from Space-Plug simplicity,' says Cliff.

Users are urged to spread the word about this super handy, independent and British-made product to friends and colleagues. Space-Plug products are available on Amazon today!

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



VISIT US AT [WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK](http://WWW.KITCHEN-MAKER.CO.UK) - ONLINE MAGAZINE - ISSUE 22