

# LAMELLO FIXO



## We try out a new fixing from the inventors of the biscuit joiner

Invented by a Swiss cabinet maker in the 1950s (H Steiner, the founder of Lamello), the humble beech biscuit has revolutionized quite a few aspects of furniture making in terms of how we connect components. Lamello have always been inventive in the way they have developed add-ons and fixings for their joiners and now those clever Swiss people have produced another new type of fixing based around, of course, a biscuit. This new one is a self-clamping connector and is called Fixo.

The Fixo comes in two different types and sizes: one for long grain fixing and one for side fixing. Made from glass fiber reinforced plastic, it works using a series of curved, wedged barbs which pull the components together. Intended for both site fixing and in the workshop, it has some intriguing uses.

One of its great advantages is plinth construction and I can see kitchen fitters taking to this and furniture makers for fitted furniture that is difficult to clamp up in situ. I can see some jig making applications here too.

### BISCUIT ESSENTIALS & HOW THEY WORK

The principle of biscuiting is a simple one with a clever twist. A saw blade is plunged into two edges to be jointed, leaving a shallow kerf in each part.

Because the fence of a biscuit joiner indexes on the face of the work, these kerfs are exactly the same distance from their respective faces regardless of any difference in thickness – this makes the tool just as useful for corner joints as for edge-to-edge work. Biscuits can also be set well away from an edge for T-joints for divisions within carcasses and for shelves.

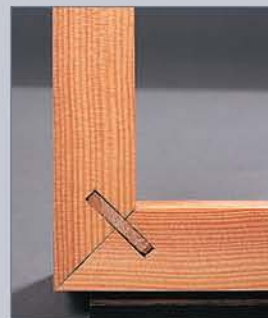
Having cut the slot, an oval biscuit

of compressed beech is placed into the kerf with a small quantity of glue, the other kerf is glued and the two parts brought together – a perfectly flush joint results. Unlike a dowel, a biscuit will move slightly along its slot to allow for alignment, so around ¼" of tolerance is acceptable. This means that a pencil stroke across the offered-up joint is all that is needed for marking out, and the joint can be rubbed slightly to express surplus glue.

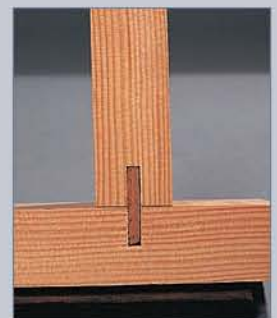
The twist is that the biscuits absorb the glue's moisture and swell, tightening the joint and reducing clamping time.



**Butt corner joints can be achieved in seconds with a biscuit or two...**



**... and miter joints don't take much longer**



**T-joints are good for carcass divisions and shelves**





1 The Fixo is another example of original thinking from Lamello



4 ... or you can butt joint at 90° for frame making or for mitered sections



7 Turn the slotted edges to the outside and repeat the process – note the use of a support board. This is like a large bench hook and acts as a reference surface & holding device



2 The Fixo means a fast fix with no damping which could be very handy in some situations



5 To make the mitered version, butt two pieces together. Set up your biscuit joiner to 45° and cut a slot across both inside edges on the mitered faces using the number 20 setting



8 Now you have a slot on each edge



10 You can use the Fixo for T-joints too



3 The other type of fixing will lock short lengths together on the side and on the top face...



6 The first set of slots



9 Tap in the fixing on one side, turn over and tap in the fixing on the other. These are dry but apply some glue as well and the result is a very strong joint

## THE NUMBERS

LAMELLO FIXO  
 Price: \$45 (PACK OF 80)  
 2 Sizes:  
 E20-L 56 x 11.5 x 4mm  
 E20-H 23 x 28 x 4mm  
 For Lamello products:  
 Contact: Lamello  
 e-mail: [info@lamello.com](mailto:info@lamello.com)  
 Website: [www.lamello.com](http://www.lamello.com)

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