

MISTRAL INSTALLATION ADVICE

(5) JOINTING

General Advice

Safety

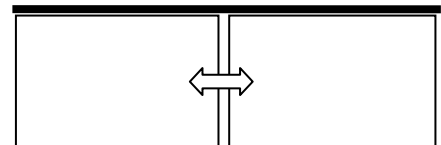
- Use appropriate safety equipment while performing any jointing tasks.
- Always use effective extraction to remove debris from the working environment.
- Ensure that the working environment is well ventilated.
- Ensure suitable protection for all cupboard interiors and floors.

Joint Layouts

Our worktops are supplied square edged instead of being profiled, which removes the requirement for cutting mason's mitre joints. All you will need to do is trim the jointing faces as appropriate and continue the process as set out in the sections below. The following joint layouts are those which you may encounter, the use of which will be determined by the project configuration:

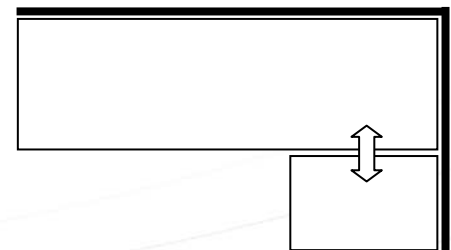
Straight Joint

This joint layout is used to extend straight worktop runs. The trims required are to both the short faces.



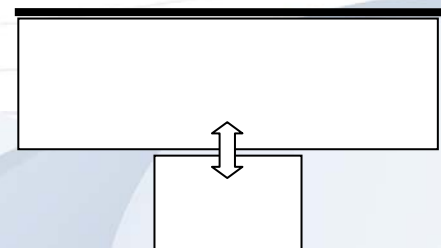
Corner Joint

This joint, as the name suggests, is employed when two worktops meet at a corner. The trims required are to the long face of the worktop that runs all the way into the corner and the short face of the worktop that butts up to it.



Peninsula Joint

This particular layout is typically used where a worktop extends out from a perimeter worktop run. The trims required are to the short face of the worktop piece being used as the peninsula and the long face of the worktop that it butts up to.



Joint Preparation

Trim the Jointing Faces

- Set your guide or track to ensure the accuracy of the trim.
- A trim of 1mm is ideal, the less the router has to remove the better the finish.
- Trim the face with your router, keeping a constant and even pace.
- Visually inspect the face to check if it is smooth, and if it is not, repeat the trimming process.

'Dry Fit' the Worktops

- Pull the worktops together to check that they fit well with no gaps or chips in the top and front edges.
- To check the quality of the fit, wipe across the surfaces of the worktops with a denatured alcohol wipe to remove any debris.
- If there are any gaps or chips in the top and front edges at this stage, repeat the trimming process.

Key the Jointing Faces

- To aid the jointing process it is best to key the joint faces prior to jointing.
- Use a block of wood to hold on the top surface to protect the top edge as you sand.
- Key the face using a sanding block with 120 grit sandpaper.

Ensure to protect the jointing faces and edges between preparation and jointing.

Having a sharp top edge and smooth jointing faces is the key to a thoroughly inconspicuous joint.

Jointing Procedure

Prior to jointing ensure that you have prepared the adhesive cartridge as prescribed in our 'Adhesive Set-up' instructions.

Applying the Adhesive

- Wipe the jointing faces with denatured alcohol to remove any debris that may contaminate the adhesive during the jointing process. Allow the area to air dry.
- Express a small amount of adhesive to ensure it is sufficiently viscous and thoroughly mixed.
- Apply the adhesive to each face in turn running a bead along the width of the joint and high on the face to avoid underside run-off.

- Use a plastic spatula to spread the adhesive evenly across the whole of the jointing face.
- Pull the worktops together to leave approximately a 3mm gap and then run a further bead of adhesive across the top of this gap, as well as any visible ends.
- When the adhesive has sunk into the gap the joint is ready to be pulled together.

Pulling the Joint Together

- Pull the worktops together and secure using your chosen seaming method.
- We would recommend Karonia's Seaming Tool Suction Clamps as they are the easiest way of both pulling together, and levelling the joint.
- Ensure that you clean the suction cups and the surface onto which they are to be placed with denatured alcohol and allow to air dry before fixing them to the surface.
- Alternatively, you may use wood blocks hot melted onto the surface pulled together with sash cramps.
- Do not apply excess force on the seaming tool when pulling the joint together.
- At this point also make sure that the ends have been pulled together level.
- When jointing shorter pieces ensure that the worktops remain in the horizontal plane as they have a tendency to 'jack-knife'. This can be prevented with a loose fitting speed cramp.
- When the joint is being pulled together a small bead of excess adhesive will be expelled along the length of the joint. This shows that there is adequate adhesive in the joint all the way along.
- The Karonia Seaming Tool can then be used to help level the joint with its threaded vertical clamps.
- The joint must then be left to cure for approximately 40 minutes.

Joint Smoothing

Once the joint has cured, the seaming tools can be removed. There will be a line of excess adhesive left on the surface which needs to be removed so that the jointed seam is level with the worktop surface.

Remember to apply the joint smoothing process to the ends of the joint as appropriate and underneath any visible edges.

Router Skim

A router can be used to remove a substantial amount of this excess glue.

- Place a standard worktop jig over the seam and clamp it into place.
- If the joint is in situ, use two strips of MDF spaced 30mm apart over the joint instead of the worktop jig.
- Select and attach a 30mm guide bush to the router base.
- Adjust the router's plunge depth to ensure that it does not go below the level of the worktop.
- Run the router across the top of the seam, skimming the excess adhesive off as you pass.
- Increase the plunge depth further and repeat the router pass until the majority of the adhesive is removed, always ensuring that you do not go below the level of the worktop.
- If the router skim technique has been performed, there will be no need to use the duck tape and 240 grit sandpaper, so in this instance begin sanding at the 320 grit level as described below.

Sanding the Joint

A sander can be used to remove the excess glue on the joint seam and then smooth the jointing area back level with the rest of the surface.

- Position a strip of duck tape on each side of the joint to make sure that only the excess adhesive comes into contact with the rough sandpaper.
- Use 240 grit sandpaper and run the sander up and down the joint seam, sanding the excess adhesive away.
- Keep the sander level at all times and apply an even pressure
- Once you have sanded away the majority of the excess adhesive, remove the duck tape and thoroughly wipe the area with a cloth to remove any debris.
- Continue the sanding with 320 grit sandpaper alternating between a north – south and then an east – west sanding pattern, working one and a half sanding pad widths either side of the joint.
- Remember to continually wipe away residual dust from the surface and the sanding pad itself to prevent uneven sanding results.
- Feather out your sanding area with each sanding level to avoid 'dishing' of the joint.
- The smoothing process moves from this stage into the finishing procedures, the levels of which are dependent on the desired end finish.