Artemis Installations guidelines

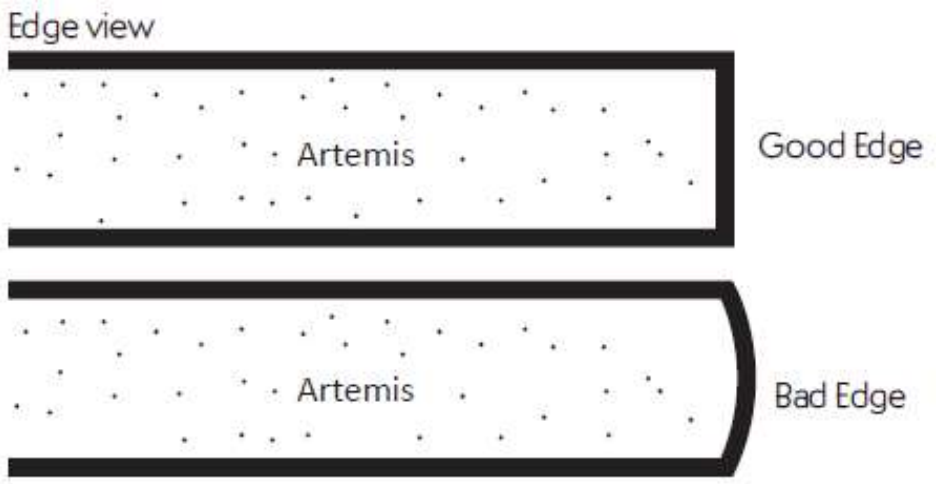
Jointing

When fitting Artemis to kitchen cabinets cut blocks of MDF approximately 50x18x18mm, apply silicon to top and side of blocks and adhere to side of the cabinet and the underside of the Artemis. Should the surface ever need to be removed in the future simply remove the blocks.

Artemis work surfaces are supplied square edged, removing the need for a butt & scribe joint. You can save a lot of time on site using a butt joint.

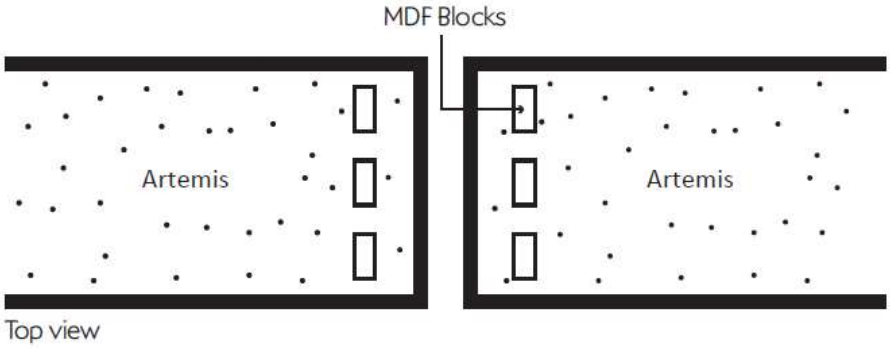
Inconspicuous method of jointing

The edges of the material which are intended to be joined together are square with no rounding of the edge. Wherever possible, we recommend the use of clear plastic lamellos / biscuits in a joint as this helps with the levelling of the two surfaces.



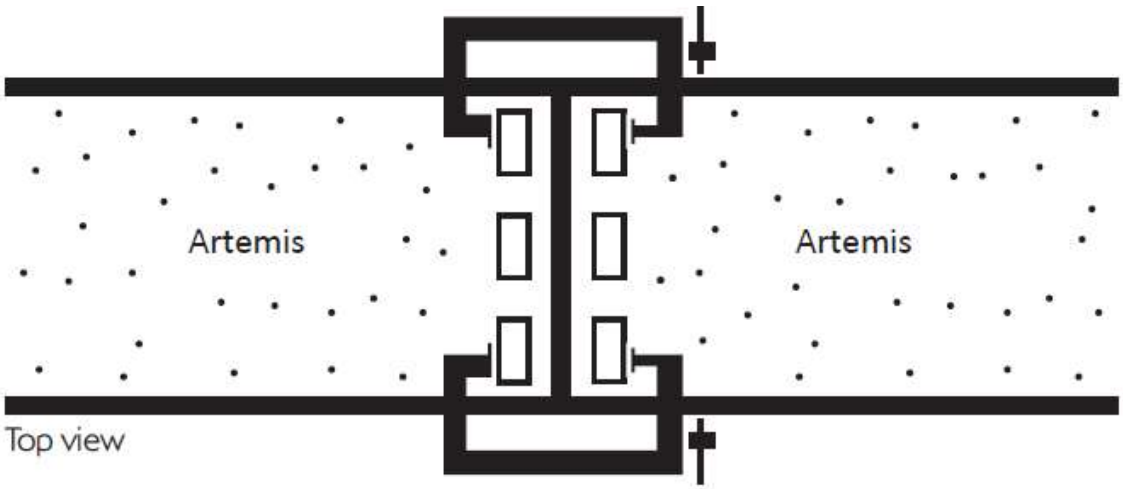
Prior to the joining of the 2 pieces of material, a trial 'dry fit' should be performed, the material should be moved together till both pieces are touching. The proposed joint should then be inspected for any gaps or excessive variation in levels. If any issues are detected they should be rectified at this point with the 'dry fit' process being repeated until you are satisfied with the quality of the 'dry fit'. A solid surface joint should not need to be forced together; both sides should sit neatly against each other with no gaps whatsoever.

The 2 pieces should be separated, thoroughly cleaned with denatured alcohol and a lint free cloth from the Artemis installation kit. All marks such as pencil lines, grease or other contaminants must be cleaned from the dry joint, if any of these are left, the adhesive will pick these up and it will show on the finished joint surface. Using anything other than a lint free cloth may also result in the dye from the cloth being transferred to the joint. Glue 3 MDF blocks on each side of the joint using your hot melt glue gun, see diagram (If you have solid surface seaming tools then you do not need to glue the MDF blocks to the surface).



The blocks will be used to pull the joint together so must be opposite and parallel to each other. Leave the blocks to adhere fully before proceeding to the next step. You will now need to apply the 2 part solid surface adhesive. The ambient temperature in which you are making the joint affects the drying time: the colder the temperature the longer it will take to cure and the higher the temperature the quicker it will cure. Insert the adhesive cartridge into the adhesive gun and attached the mixer nozzle. Squeeze the adhesive right to the end of the nozzle, then squeeze a nozzle length out of the mixer onto a piece of scrap material so you are 100% certain the adhesive is fully mixed. Working quickly, but not rushing, apply adhesive to both faces of the joint that will contact each other.

Apply enough adhesive so that it will squeeze out the joint but not so much that it will make removal difficult. When finished, set your adhesive gun down on a piece of scrap material so any drips from the nozzle will be caught. Place your clamps on the blocks as shown in the diagram.

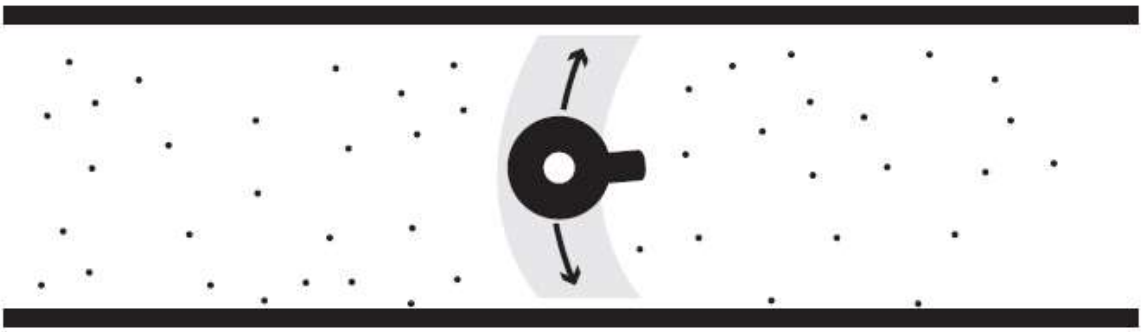


Gently and evenly increase the pressure so that the joint comes together and the excess adhesive squeezes out of the top, front and rear edges. If you are using solid surface clamps attach these to the joint now and bring the 2 pieces of material together. Take a sharp chisel and remove the excess adhesive from the front edge only. Take care not to damage the surface. Leave the joint to set, once the adhesive that has squeezed out of the joint has dried and is hard, remove the clamps and MDF blocks or solid surface seaming tool. Now take your random orbital sander with a 150 grit abrasive disc and begin to sand the hardened adhesive. Once the hardened adhesive is level with the surface of the Artemis: cease sanding. The joint will need 'finishing' along with the rest of the work surface, please see the later section 'Surface finishing' for more details.

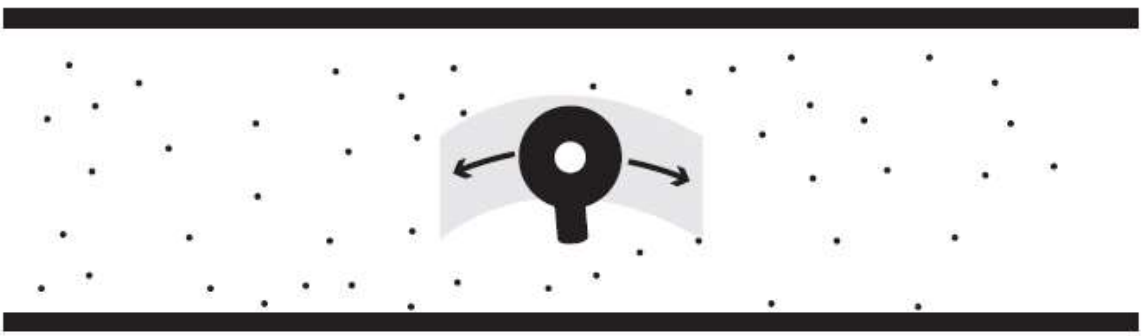
Surface Finishing

Once the Artemis is in situ with all the above processes complete, the surface must be sanded all over to create an even, consistent finish. Artemis is supplied with a 600 grit decorative surface, but we recommend that all Artemis surfaces installed into high traffic working areas should be re - sanded and finished to no more than 500 grit (for example most family domestic kitchens), and sanded to no more than 800 grit in all other rooms and applications. Higher levels of finish than these will result in a work surface that requires intensive maintenance.

Begin the finishing process by sanding all joints, unfinished edges and exposed cut outs and any other areas that have been worked on by you. Start with a 150 grit abrasive disc on your random orbital sander and 'feather' the area into the factory finish. Sand in long flowing movements in a North/South and then East/West pattern.



Top view



Top view

Never sand in short sharp movements or allow the sander to sit in one spot for any amount of time. Always keep the sander moving. Do not apply excessive pressure, it is extremely difficult to ensure consistent heavy pressure.

Instead, allow the weight of the sander tool to apply the pressure. Once you have sanded all of the areas listed above, change the abrasive disc to a 240 grit, wipe the sanded area with a microfiber cloth to remove any grit or debris and then repeat the process. Always wipe the sanded area between sanding grits. Once complete, change the abrasive disc to a 320 grit and move onto the next part of the finishing.

Wipe the entire Artemis surface with a microfiber cloth to ensure all grit and debris is removed. Sand the entire surface with your random orbital sander with a 500 grit abrasive disc. Sand the surface in long flowing movements as noted above. Once the entire surface has been sanded with a 500 grit to an even, consistent finish, replace the 500 grit abrasive disc with the 500 grit Scotch-Brite polishing pad from the Artemis installation kit (If you are finishing your Artemis surface to a higher level than 500 grit please sand the entire surface with 600 grit then 800 grit abrasive discs using the principles described above, before finishing with a Scotch-Brite polishing pad).

If you are installing a stainless steel sink or hob, ensure you carry out the sanding and finishing processes noted above, before you fit the sink or hob.

For those areas that you have not worked on, simply sand the entire surface with your random orbital sander with a 500 grit abrasive disc, in the same flowing manner as noted before. If you are finishing your Artemis to a higher level than 500 grit, sand the entire surface with 600 grit then 800 grit abrasive discs using the principles described above, before finishing with a Scotch-Brite polishing pad).

With a damp microfiber cloth wipe the entire surface, be sure to remove all dust and debris and allow to dry naturally. You can now apply a solid surface polish of your choice (we recommend Eagle solid surface polish) and buff to a sheen using a microfiber cloth. Remember: polish is an applied finish, this means it sits on top of the solid surface and will need topping up as it will naturally degrade over time. It is also crucial to note that polish is not a cleaning product but a finishing product.

Installation of upstands and splash backs

Artemis upstands and splash backs can be finished in the same way as work surfaces, however these should be finished before the installation as it is very difficult to consistently finish a vertical surface. Please ensure when finishing upstands and splash backs that they are adequately supported (for example, on builder's trestles and a baseboard) and prevented from bowing.

Artemis upstands and splash backs should not be installed by fixing them to the work surface with solid surface adhesive, they will expand and contract differently (due to their 12mm thickness) compared with the work surface. Bonding them with solid surface adhesive could result in the joints between the upstand or splash back and work surface fracturing, which would take considerable time to rectify. Instead apply dabs of silicone every 100mm to the vertical surface to which the upstand or splash back is to be fitted against. Press the upstand or splash back firmly against the wall to ensure a secure bond. You can use masking tape to hold the upstand or splash back in place whilst the silicone sets. A continuous bead of silicone is required at the junction of the work surface and upstand or splash back to ensure a waterproof seal.

Maintenance

We have produced a leaflet entitled 'How to care for your solid surfaces' and also a solid surface care and maintenance kit. This contains detailed instructions on how to care for your Artemis solid surface work surfaces along with all the materials and tools required. We recommend this is left with the occupant of the property. It is also a good policy to inform the occupant that solid surfaces do require re-finishing periodically: dependent on the level of use. Any offcuts of Artemis should be placed under the cabinet, should any repairs ever need to be undertaken that require colour matched material.