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Felder Testimonial April 2019

Several years ago I moved from a workshop of 200 square meters to one of 78 square meters. My machines then were cast iron monsters. These were feasible in that place as a furniture maker and a timber merchant; I had the space, employees, and the ability to prepare materials for timber customers up to 600mm wide.

Moving, downsizing and now an independent furniture maker, the most logical choice for machinery was a combination machine; the 'island' of saw, shaper/router, jointer, thicknesser and mortiser machines best suited to limited space and solo operation.

I looked at most of the many of the 'combos' available in Australia and settled on a Felder CF731. I am well pleased! Even though, for me, it was a little like climbing down from a Unimog and stepping into a Porsche.

I am most impressed with the accuracy of this machine. I have worked it hard and cared for it well. Previous settings are accurately reapplied. I have had to learn how to drive it, how to think far ahead in sequencing operations for efficiency, especially when making one-off pieces of furniture. This is part of the nature of combination machines, and Felder's designers and engineers have made changing from one operation to another simple and easy.

Once when cleaning off with compressed air (not recommended!) I blew a speck of dust into the intricate electronics. Felder's excellent service team was here in a flash to solve the problem.

I am also an instructor of furniture design and making here in Australia and in New Zealand and the USA. Many of my students are purchasing Felder equipment when setting up their workshops for long term service. The three machine shops of the school in the USA have Felder panel saws in operation and these have well withstood the rigors of school. Two of these shops have Felder slot-mortisers and one a Felder shaper (spindle-moulder).

I wholeheartedly recommend Felder woodworking machinery to anyone looking for the machine to do the job accurately, robustly and efficiently.

David Upfill-Brown April 2019