

FESTOOL DF 500 Q vs XL DF 700

DF 500 Q



Festool has 2 portable Mortising Joiners - Domino DF 500 Q & Domino XL DF 700. Deciding between the models can be confusing, but not when you understand the details. The primary difference between them is the size (*depth & width*) of the mortises you will be able to cut. The DF 500 is for projects like picture frames, smaller furniture or cabinets. The DF 700 is for large scale projects like door assembly, large tables or thick outdoor furniture.

Cutter Size

The biggest difference between the Domino models is the available cutter sizes. The cutter sizes are the thickness of the mortise that each machine can make. There are 3 options of mortise width for the DF 500 & 2 for the DF 700. For a typical joint, the mortise should be about 1/3 of the thickness of the material. So, for 3/4" ~ 20 mm material that's generally an 8 mm cutter.

Note: The cutters are not interchangeable between the 2 models. The DF 700 has a deeper plunge than the DF 500, so an 8 mm cutter is noticeably shorter for the DF 500 than the 8 mm cutter for the DF 700.



Floating Tenons

The Festool Domino cuts mortises for a floating tenon joint, a traditional joint that secures 2 pieces of wood together. In this case we'll call that tenon a domino. You can purchase Dominoes in a variety of sizes to fit into the mortise or you can make your own in the shop.

Domino Size

Domino Tenons can be purchased in exact width, thickness & length, making it very fast & efficient to make joints. The domino tenon will exactly match the cutter thickness used to cut the mortise. Dominoes for both the DF 500 & DF 700 are available individually or in assorted Systainer sets.

Domino Tenon Material

Dominoes come in a variety of materials. For work that will be installed or used indoors & not exposed to moisture, the Beech Tenons will be your go to material. For outdoor work, the SIPO tenons are your material of choice. Material options are the same for the DF 500 & DF 700.



DF 500 Q cutter sizes 4, 5, 6, 8 & 10 mm		
DF 500 TENON SIZES		
10 x 50 mm	8 x 40 mm	5 x 30 mm
8 x 50 mm	6 x 40 mm	4 x 20 mm

XL DF 700 cutter sizes 8, 10, 12 & 14 mm

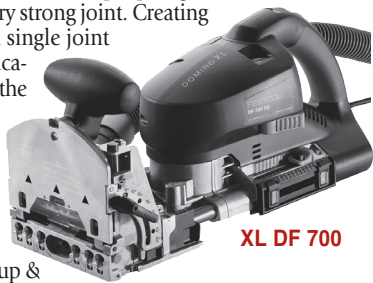
XL DF 700 TENON SIZES			
14 x 140 mm	12 x 140 mm	10 x 100 mm	8 x 100 mm
14 x 100 mm	12 x 100 mm	10 x 80 mm	8 x 80 mm

Depth of Cut

The depth of cut is how far the cutter goes into the wood & hence how far the tenon or domino goes into the mortise. The further the domino goes in, the more glue surface & strength. The DF 700 can plunge much further than the DF 500 & with the use of thicker tenons can provide exceptionally strong joints in large material. Even though both tools can use 8 mm & 10 mm cutters, remember that the DF 700 has a deeper plunge. In thicker material like 8/4 or 12/4, you can also stack the dominos to create a very strong joint. Creating multiple mortises & using multiple floating tenons across a single joint provides a lot of glue surface. So, depending on your application, you can use the DF 500 in thicker materials by stacking the dominoes, but, after a while, Domino stacking does get old!

Weight & Handling

Tool dimensions are similar, (*an 1" longer & about 5" taller*). The lighter DF 500, (*7 lb*), is easier to move around the shop & small enough to hold one-handed while using or adjusting. The DF 700 weighs 11.4 lb - you will feel the extra 4 lb after lots of cuts. While the 700 does require extra effort to setup & maneuver, the tradeoff is better purchase on the material due to its bigger fence & offset handle. The added weight makes it easier to hold steady from power on to plunge in most situations.



Domino Sets vs Machine Only

Purchased as a tool-only, you get either the DF 500 with a 5 mm cutter, or the DF 700 with a 12 mm cutter, *plus* a Plug-It power cord, wrench for changing cutters & Systainer. Sets for both models include an interchangeable Trim Stop & Cross Stop. There is no need to buy 2 sets if purchasing both.

Which one is right for me?

For most users, the DF 500 is the best option. Even if you purchase a 3rd party adapter to make the smaller cutter dia. usable on a DF 700, it's just not worth it unless the majority of your work is large projects.

Sure, if you buy a DF 700 to use on smaller projects your friends will be impressed with the size of your Domino, but you're the one that's going to have to deal with it on a daily basis.

720141	Domino Joiner DF 500 Q	\$1069.00
	<i>(Includes 5 mm cutter & Systainer Case)</i>	
720142	DF 500 Q Set	\$1199.00
	<i>w/ Trim & Cross Stops</i>	
720111	DF 500 Q Cutter & Domino Assort.	\$395.00
	<i>(4, 5, 6, 8 & 10 mm cutters, 1060 Dominoes & Systainer Case)</i>	
720153	Domino Joiner XL DF 700	\$1549.00
	<i>(Includes 12 mm cutter & Systainer Case)</i>	
720152	XL DF 700 Set	\$1685.00
	<i>w/ Trim & Cross Stops</i>	
720154	XL DF 700 Cutter & Domino Assort.	\$395.00
	<i>(8 & 10 mm cutters, 306 Dominoes (8 & 10 mm) & Systainer Case)</i>	
720155	XL DF 700 Cutter & Domino Assort.	\$349.00
	<i>(14 mm cutter, 128 Dominoes (12 & 14 mm) & Systainer Case)</i>	
720109	Trim Stop (DF 500 Q & XL DF 700)	\$87.00
720110	Cross Stop (DF 500 Q & XL DF 700)	\$87.00

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