Important Hints

Thermocouple Placement

To avoid scorching or overheating when using your LMI bending machine, please review the following recommendations

Every temperature controller (TC) and thermocouple (TCTC) we sell is tested before shipment and the heating blankets are remarkably consistent and reliable. In our experience issues are more likely a result of improper setup and/or user error than a defective product.

• You should become acquainted with your bender using practice sides.

• It is very important that you do not take too long to bend your sides. It should only take you around 10 minutes for the entire bending operation. Longer will dry the sides too much and cause scorching and cracking.

• Your wood should be wrapped in either foil or baking/parchment paper.

• The thermocouple must be placed between the wood and the blanket for accurate temperature regulation.

• The thermocouple must sit snugly within the bending ‘sandwich’. It should take a firm tug to remove. If placed loosely, the temperature controller cannot control the blanket temperature and scorching/burning will result.

• If you are using a single blanket as in the old Fox style benders (the new LMI bender incorporates two blankets), we would recommend placing the blanket below the wood in the slat stack (SLAT / BLANKET / THERMOCOUPLLE / WOOD / SLAT) as it is easier to limit blanket contact on the upper and lower bouts while bending the waist.

• The mass of the press screw and waist caul draw heat away from the “stack” which can make you think your stack is cooler than it is on average. For this reason you need to place the full blanket thermocouple (FBT) a minimum of 3” away from the waist caul to minimize this effect.