Del Ponti markets plastic, long-lipped brackets

Del Ponti, a Belgian parts manufacturer from Hechtel-Eksel in Limburg, is expanding its range of long-lipped brackets this autumn. In addition to the existing straight brackets, there are now also end and corner brackets.

"*The straight, long-lipped plastic bracket[1] that we launched earlier has been a great success,*" says co-owner Luc Witters. "*It's strong, lightweight and attractively priced compared to metal brackets on the market. It's already in high demand. That's why we're now completing the series.*"

1) See box on the next page

Luc Witters and his business partner Geert Camps

FIBREGLASS

The new brackets are made from polyamide, to which fibreglass has been added. *"That's a technology derived from the aviation industry,"* says Witters. *"The fibreglass component makes the brackets as hard as nails. Literally, ha ha, because they're just as strong as the metal brackets on the market. Even stronger, perhaps. The glass fibre in the mixture also makes the brackets extremely light. That's highly practical, no more heavy boxes for you to lift. At the same time, the polyamide in the mixture keeps the material flexible and wear-resistant. You can secure the bracket to the post anywhere you like with a self-tapping screw – and you can transport them loose in a bag or crate, without worrying about the coating getting damaged."*

360 DEGREES

The new corner brackets in the series are special. Unlike the metal brackets on the market, they don't have a large outer corner and a small inner corner, but consist of two identical parts. These are designed in such a way that not only can you make 90-degree angles with them, but any other angle as well. To enable this, the ring around the post forms only half of the height. You can put one bracket upside down on top of the other so that together the two of them form a single corner bracket. By then turning the two brackets, you can create any angle you like. In addition to the corner bracket, there is now also a new end bracket. Furthermore, the existing straight bracket has been modified slightly, so that it now clamps the wire panels even better.

COLOURS

All the bracket variants are stocked in black and green, but Witters encourages customers to enquire about special small runs in other colours. *"Many people think you have to order tens of thousands of brackets, because otherwise a bracket in a special colour will be unaffordable,"* he says. *"But we've invested heavily in efficiency in the last two years and we can now make colour changes fairly easily. If you need two or three hundred brackets in yellow, blue or red for a project, we can definitely make them. They will, of course, be slightly more expensive than the black or green ones, but certainly not prohibitively so. Incidentally, the same goes for all plastic caps and brackets in the range, not just the long-lipped brackets."* The new corner and end brackets have been available to order since October. ■

Long-lipped bracket

Long-lipped brackets are a typically Dutch product and get their name from the extended lip. They were invented in the 1990s for securely fixing twin-wire panels – at the time a new phenomenon in the Netherlands – to round, 60 mil diameter posts. The idea being that every fencing installer could be expected to keep those posts in stock for mesh fencing. The bracket enabled fencing installers to easily expand their range to include mesh panels, without having to add extra posts to the range in addition to the panels. The long lip encircles two vertical wires of the twin-wire panel thus preventing it from moving between the posts. Unlike the majority of other post types, when using the long-lip bracket, the mesh panels are not mounted in front of the posts but between them. Up until now, the brackets had been stamped out of a steel strip. As soon as the bracket for round posts gained in popularity, variants for 60 by 40 rectangular posts and square 60 by 60 posts also arrived so you could use them for installing a fence that looks the same as a double bar fence with round posts.