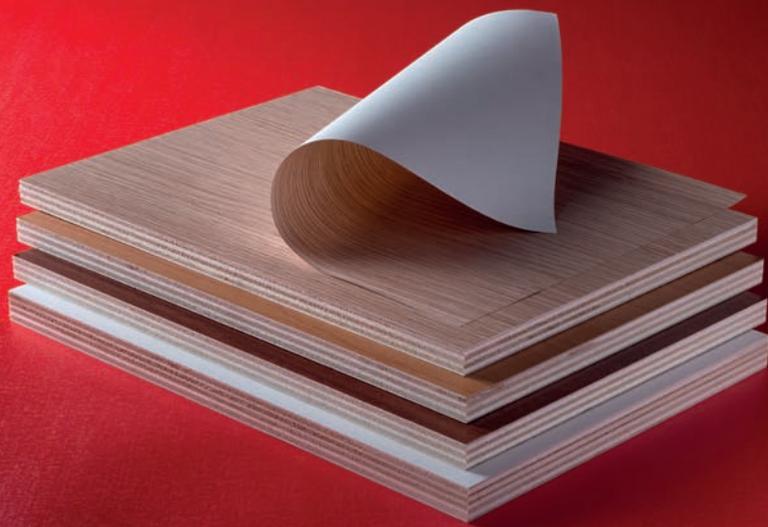


# A classic never ages



Alongside the composite materials and ultralight solutions put in place lately, Filippi 1971 maintains its core business in the interior furnishing sector with the production of laminated plywood panels, in a range that can now count also laminated sandwich panels.

Words Andrea Cattaneo

In recent months, the activity of Filippi 1971 has been in the spotlight of all professionals for their proposals in the field of new technologies applied to the camper and caravan sector. Filippi 1971 succeeded in what many considered an impossible feat: to bring composite materials, in particular carbon fiber, to the RV sector. All this, however, must not make us forget that in fifty years of activity Filippi 1971 has perfected the technique of laminating wood-based panels, which still constitutes their core business.

*"The investments made in recent years have been significant,"* explains Ivo Bolis, Export Sales Manager of Filippi 1971, *"the number of employees has more than doubled and our range of action has widened significantly, both in terms of markets and products. A development phase of the company is still underway, but our initial commitment in the sector of laminated wood panels remains firm. In the RV sector, which represents 70% of our turnover, we are partners of many manufacturers with the supply of laminated panels."*

The lamination of wood-based panels is now a widely consolidated process: a special decorative surface is applied onto the panels which, once CNC-ed, will become the various parts of wardrobes, hanging lockers, doors and other elements that

make up the RV furnishings. The plywood panels may be in – preferably Italian – popular plywood, Ilomba, E-wood, Lauan, Meranti or any other kind of lightweight and durable wood source, with thicknesses ranging from 1.8 to 30 mm. Various types of decorative films are used, such as finish papers, PVCs, PPs, CPLs and Alkorcells, applied to the panels by pressing and gluing through a calender ennobling system. The standard height of the panels is 130 cm, but the company is equipped with another calender for the production of larger sizes up to 200 cm in width.

## **E-wood and E05 gluing**

*"We are attentive to the new technological and product solutions that are put onto the market,"* says Francesca Filippi, Export Sales & Marketing Manager of Filippi 1971, *"for example, among the wooden kinds of panels in addition to the traditional poplar plywood, we do also offer the E-wood, an*

*engineered poplar veneer surface which is somehow considered to be an alternative to the African wood-veneer Ilomba. While both E-wood and Ilomba are meant to mask and avoid the so-called cathedral-effect of the poplar surface, Ilomba still seems to offer more surface resistance than the E-wood thanks to its specific hardness. Dealing with most of the larger OEMs in Europe, what we consider crucially important for us is to collect all the information about the customers' requirements*





## Joinery & bar code

Three years ago, Filippi 1971 opened their own joinery, switching from being just a laminating panels company to a wider role of many OEMs' partner in the manufacturing of furniture kits. Filippi 1971 can deliver complete furniture sets, even the more complex of 500 components, including flat and curved pieces. One key aspect is the bar code: Filippi 1971 label any single furniture component integrating all the customer's codes, so that the operator on the assembly line can efficiently get all the needed information by simply scanning the single piece.

It is not uncommon that OEMs outsource complex furniture pieces from Filippi 1971, such as curved pieces with particularly narrow radius, doors manufactured with non-standard technologies including the post-forming, special edgebanding, etc. And last, but not least, Filippi 1971's joinery is equipped to work on composite materials as well.



Nesting CNC



Laminating calender

*in order to offer them the solution which best matches their needs both from an efficiency and quality point of view. As per the recently introduced gluing of panels according to the German E05 regulation, we are already equipped to supply complying panels on large volumes without any problems."*

Filippi 1971 also manufactures boards laminated with HPL, the single press having a size of 2,00x4,80 metres. There is also

an internal production of laminates with fully customizable digital printing, which allows great flexibility with the choice of the design and 3D texture. HPL is the kind of surface which is normally used for the kitchen and table tops, but, thanks to its durability, it is often selected by manufacturers for other furnishing elements, such as the doors, to obtain a higher impact and scratch resistance than panels laminated with decorative papers.

Among the new core materials that Filippi 1971 can offer there are sandwich panels, for table tops or other applications, including structural ones, that have a customizable density, with an internal core in expanded polystyrene or expanded polyurethane.

## Company Profile

Founded almost 50 years ago and active in the furniture industry ever since, FILIPPI 1971 firmly fits into the recreational vehicle world in 2000, starting to supply laminated lightweight panels to motorhome and caravan manufacturers around the world. In 2013, the partnership with the entrepreneur Giorgio Levoni opens to a new phase of consolidation and expansion that sees, among other initiatives, the launch of a new production line using the digital printing for the customization of the panel surface. At the end of 2016, the relentless activity of FILIPPI 1971 R&D delivers VittEr®, the new generation compact laminate which is highly customizable in the design and texture, is scratch-, fire-, and water-resistant and 100% formaldehyde-free. At the beginning of 2017 a new building is set up exclusively for the manufacturing of complete furniture kits; the cabinet making has then been completed with the production of curved doors and any kind of special components, taking the range of action even broader than ever. The RV industry is the core business for FILIPPI 1971 but its activity is extended also to alternative niche markets which always push them to innovate, thanks also to the "FILIPPI Lab" R&D department recently enlarged and equipped with an autoclave featured in the composite products area. Today FILIPPI 1971 delivers to more than 20 countries worldwide.

FILIPPI 1971 SRL • [contact@filippi1971.com](mailto:contact@filippi1971.com)



## Lightweight materials

Filippi 1971 can offer different solutions to make lightweight furniture components. Francesca Filippi asserts that, according to a market research that has been done, the doors manufactured by Filippi 1971 are the lightest on the market, with some weight difference – on a same model – that can stretch up to 500 gr per door. There is then the ultralight division that has already introduced ultralight composite components made in VittEr@Lite, such as benches and doors as well.