

Hidden Decking Fastening Systems 101

There are over a dozen companies making close to thirty plus different hidden decking fastening devices. Survey what's out there and how they work.

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Types of Hidden Fastening Systems

Screw and Plug System

FastenMaster Cortex www.fastenmaster.com
Decking Specific. Screws and plugs

Toe Screw System

Kreg Deck Jig www.kregtool.com
Concealed Fastening System



Biscuit – Clip for grooved or biscuit slotted decking

Mantis www.shadoetrack.com <http://www.suredrive.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=157>
3 Sizes for different groove sizes and groove elevations.

Domino Deck Connector

http://festoolownersgroup.com/CoppermineMain/albums/userpics/Domino_Deck_Connector.jpg

Integrated set of clips includes starter, butt joints and termination.

TigerClaw: www.tigerclawproducts.com TC-G Grooved Board Fastener

EB-TY www.ebty.com Lots of models for different materials, slots, decking spacing

Deck Clip www.deckclip.com Small tricky to use. Outside edge tilts down and hard to engage next board.

LumberLoc www.lumberloc.com <http://www.suredrive.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=152> Targets exotic wood.

Invisi-Fast Biscuit www.invisifast.com Similar to EB TY

DeckEase <http://deckease.com/> Unique T shaped. Screws to side of joist and T engages slots.

Ipe Clip www.IpeClip.com 3 models Ipe clip, Ipe clip Extreme and Ipe clip Extreme KD

Pin type Clip

TigerClaw: www.tigerclawproducts.com

TC-1S Steel - Softwoods TC-2S Stainless - Softwoods

TC-3S Stainless – Medium density composite / plastics and medium density hardwoods

TC-4S Stainless – High density hardwoods ProClip Stainless – Cellular PVC

Need to develop knack for driving in next board.

Invisagrip www.invisagrip.com German system similar to TigerClaw uses special clamp tool.

Dec-Klip www.dec-clip.com Clunky, not easy to use

Deck Tie www.strongtie.com DBT1Z Deck-Ties Need to toenail / screw decking to joist then attach tie to incoming board with screw or nail about 1/2 in along side joists then slide in place. Clip catches underside of previous deck board.

Screw or Nail on Clip

Fastenmaster IQ www.fastenmaster.com

Hidden Link www.shadoetrack.com <http://www.suredrive.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=154>
Screws to edge of decking and down to joist. Second set screwed to engaging edge of decking just to side of joist. Bottom leg goes under previous decking board.

Invisi-Fast www.invisifast.com Screws from side and beneath. Need to reach under each deck board to drive screw at back edge. Lot of head-down on-your-knees work.

Aphano Fasteners www.aphanofasteners.com Short pieces of angle mounted to underside of each board then to joist.

Hetra Works <http://www.hetraworks.com>

Rail / Track

ShadoeTrack www.shadoetrack.com <http://www.suredrive.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=137>

DeckMaster www.deckmaster.com grabber

Specialty Fastening Tools

TEBO www.spotnails.com Mechanical tool nestles into joist/decking and drives 3 prong SS fastener.

Hid Fast www.hid-fast.com Pneumatic tool works like hardwood floor nailer. Special SS nails.

Eliminator <http://www.allnails.net/docs/MANTIS3PAGE.pdf>
Pneumatic tool for Mantis clip system. May work with other brands like DeckEase. Non-specific nose – drives nailscrew into any hole.

Tiger Claw Gun http://www.deckfastener.com/news_room_press_info.asp?NID=63
TC-G, TC-150, Concealoc. Tool by PneuTools. Fasteners by UFO NailScrew
Only works on clips that engage the nose piece.

Decking specific systems

Equator/Latitudes Decking (same as LumberLoc)

Fastenator Correct Deck (specially shaped to engage groove profile)

Sabre Cross Timbers (stainless clip with pins to engage decking)

Concealoc TimberTech (by TigerClaw. Sim to TC-G)

Phantom II Fiberon / FiberComposites (Sim to Mantis.)

Hideaway Trex (by TigerClaw Sim to TC-G)

Crown Clips Monarch decking (by Mantis)

EG 1-2-3 Tamko Evergrain (by TigerClaw screw on clip)

Deck Pilot – jig to guide toe screws into cellular PVC decking. Primarily for Fiberon but works on others.