

QUIKBRACE™

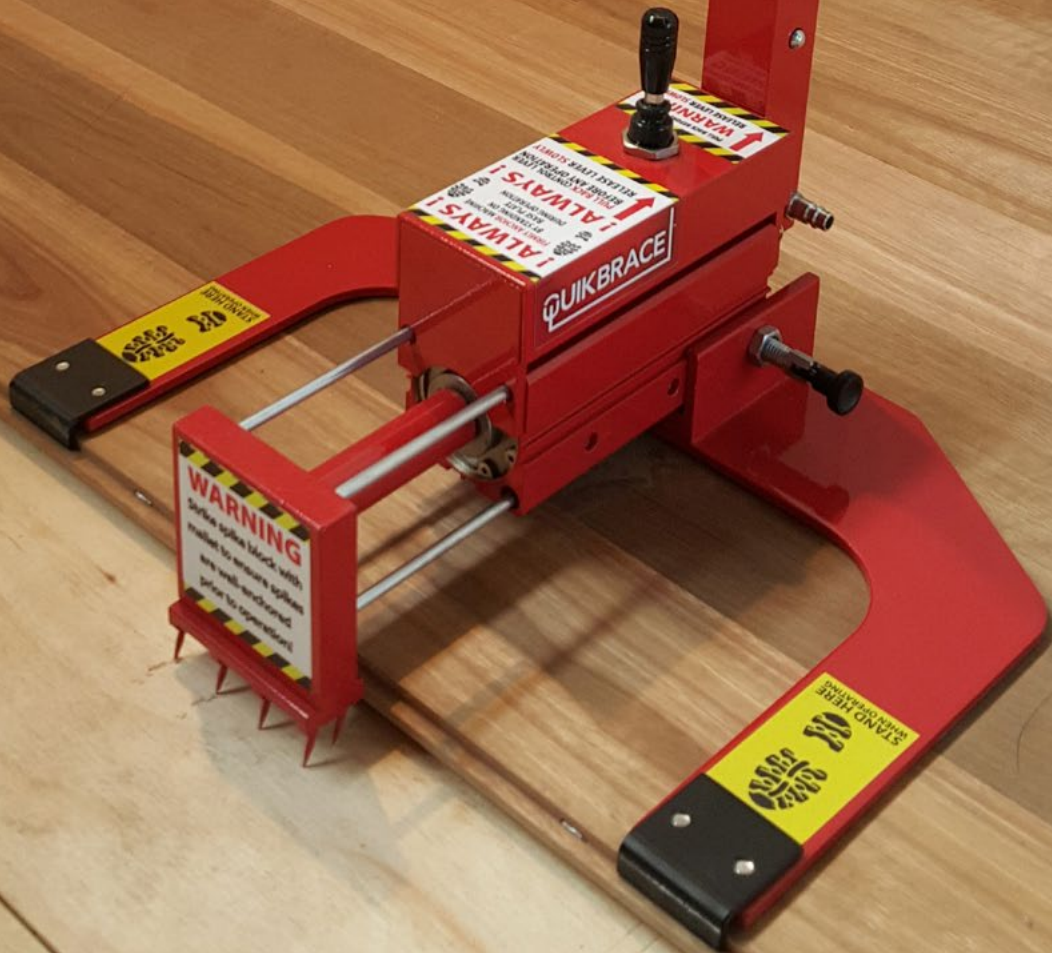
**ADVANCED
FLOORING
TECHNOLOGY**



The Brace will be your extra pair of hands

NB002 Pneumatic Floor Laying Clamp

SAFETY AND OPERATIONS MANUAL



Better Timber Flooring
A U S T R A L I A

Thank you for investing in this powerful air tool.

Please refer to page 5 for important operational and safety instructions. PLEASE READ THESE. It will make your operation of this tool safer, more efficient and profitable.

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See all our instructional videos on Youtube



Our Youtube channel has many other tips and tricks for using QuikBrace

Introduction

! QuikBrace recommend the methods listed in this booklet for laying floors, but top nailing or secret nailing every board and finishing can still be employed if necessary or if this is your preferred method. The quality of the final result always depends on the skill and care of the workman.

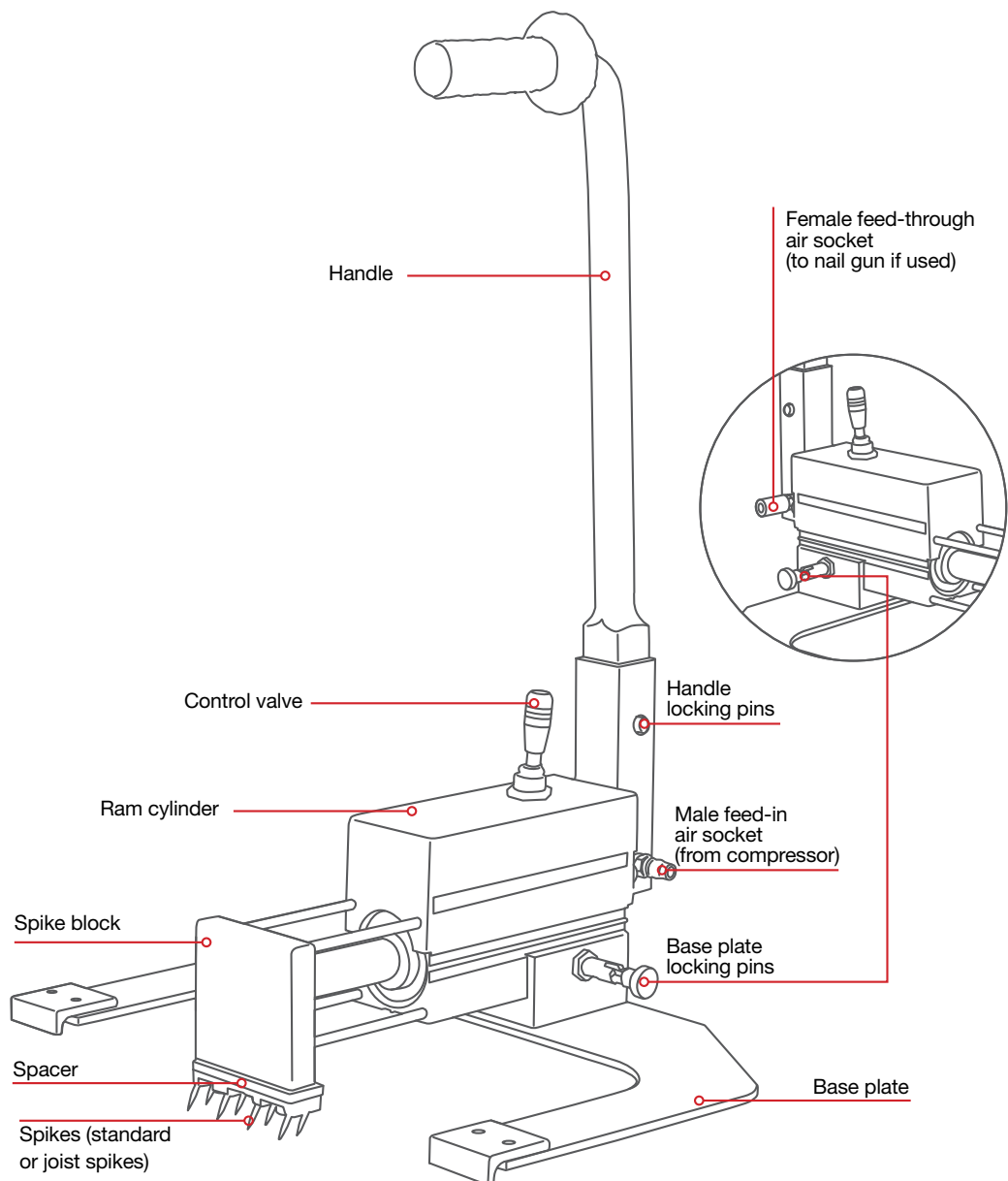
The Quikbrace is an advanced flooring tool to replace the old flooring clamps and hammer and chisel techniques. The QuikBrace is used for pulling floorboards tightly together to minimise gaps, even if the boards are bowed.

It was designed by, and for, timber floorers.

The QuikBrace can be used over almost any type of subflooring, including plywood, chipboard, battens, joists, concrete or tiles.

This booklet includes the information you need to keep your machine in fine working order and get you laying floors faster and more efficiently.

QuikBrace component parts

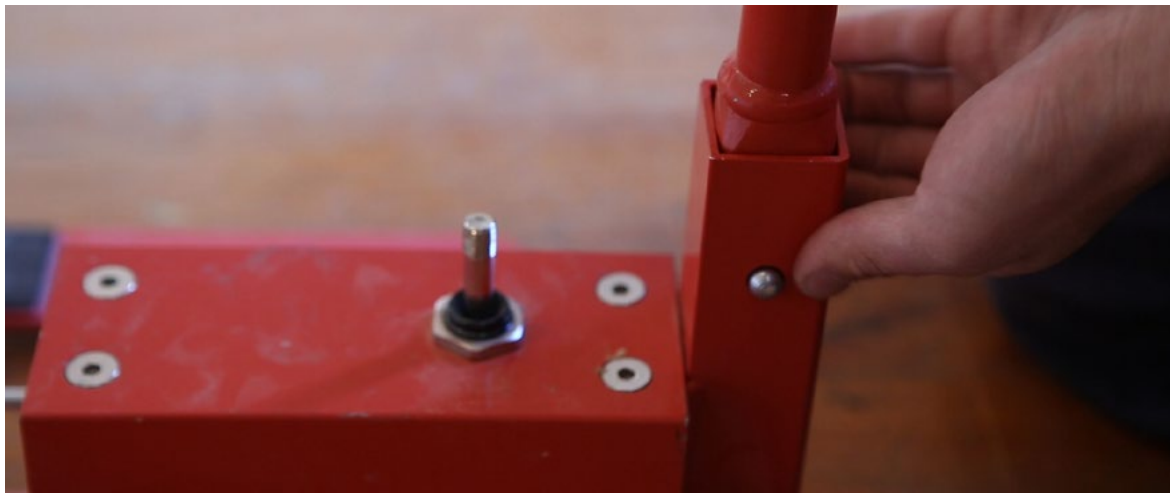


Unpacking the QuikBrace



Your new QuikBrace comes in a custom-designed case designed to safely hold all components while preventing sharp edges and spikes rubbing and damaging other parts of the machine.

The joist spikes and other small parts are stored underneath the U-shaped base plate.



Attaching the handle

The QuikBrace consists of just four parts - the handle, ram cylinder, base plate and spike block. Instructions for fitting the base plate and spike block will vary according to the job to be done, and are described in the following pages.

- Fit the handle by slotting the handle base into the receiving sleeve at the back of the ram cylinder body. Push in the spring-loaded lock tabs with your fingers to let the handle slide down into the sleeve and engage with the locating holes.
- To remove, push the tabs in with your fingers and slide the handle out. The machine is easiest to pick up and move around when the handle is directly over the top of the ram cylinder.

Basic site safety measures

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Correct PPE must be worn by all personnel in the vicinity.

PPE includes:

- Safety Glasses
- Steel Cap boots
- Ear Muffs

Machine safety

The Quikbrace is a very powerful tool. It should not be operated by anyone who does not understand and follow these instructions.

When assembling the machine be aware of the spike block as it is sharp and can cause injury.



! Safety Note - When the QuikBrace is connected and under pressure the ram will shoot out very quickly. ALWAYS pull the control valve lever on top of the machine back to release air pressure in the cylinder before any operation.



! Safety Note - Standing on the machine will help keep it from lifting off the boards being laid. You MUST ALWAYS maintain downward pressure by standing on the base plate when the QuikBrace is in operation. If you do not the machine may spring out with force and speed which may result in serious injury and damage.

When you have the machine setup ready for use before any pressure is put on the machine make sure that you are positioned correctly on the machine. There are labels on the base plate showing where to stand.



Instructions

The following instructions are a guide only. Further training and courses can be provided for installation techniques, sanding and finishing, and our recommended flooring tools and products. Contact Repel Pty Ltd at info@repel.com.au for further details.

QuikBrace recommends the following construction methods, but the quality of the final result always depends on the skill and care of the workman.

Laying over chipboard, plywood and timber subfloors

! Top nailing or secret nailing every board and finishing can still be employed if necessary or if this is your preferred method.

Safety Note - When the QuikBrace is connected and under pressure the ram will shoot out very quickly. **ALWAYS** pull the control valve lever on top of the machine back to release air pressure in the cylinder before any operation.



! NEVER exceed the QuikBrace maximum pressure of 160 psi or you will risk serious injury or damage to the work site and the machine, and void your warranty.



Watch the “laying over chipboard, ply and timber subfloor” video on Youtube.



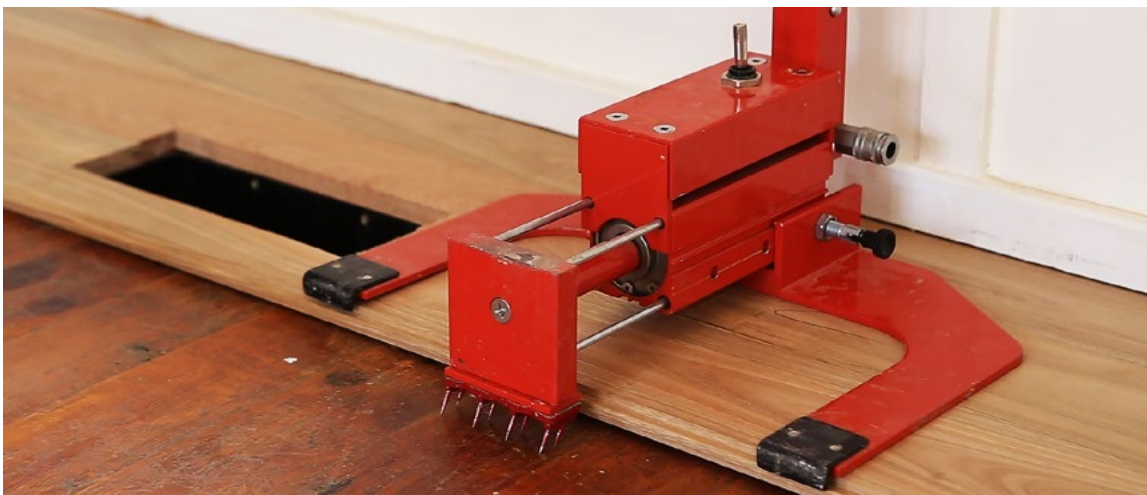
This is the recommended method of laying onto plywood, chipboard and timber subfloors.

It allows you to rely on glues and adhesives to hold the boards. There is no need to top nail or nail off every board. You can nail only where needed. This puts the floor under less strain and alleviates floorboard “pitching” from excessive nailing or secret nailing. It greatly reduces floors squeaking, and it also reduces the need to over-sand to achieve a flat finish, thus leaving the wear layer virtually intact.

Setting up the QuikBrace



- When setting up the Quikbrace for laying over timber subfloors, attach the standard spike block with the spikes angled out from the machine. If the flooring being laid is thicker than 14mm the spacer will be required.
- Use the joist spike block for a better anchorage when laying over joists or battens. You can also use the joist spike block when installing over chipboard for an effective anchor.
- Attach the base plate to the cylinder of the machine by sliding it on. The locating pins lock in to the third position at the rear of the machine with the board grabbers at the front end of the machine.



- If you have a nail gun, attach it now via a short (1-1.5m) hose to the female air coupling on the QuikBrace.
- When the machine is completely set up attach the air compressor to the machine at the male air coupling. The optimum operating pressure for the QuikBrace is 100-120 psi.

The QuikBrace cylinder is pressurized immediately on connection with the compressor. **ALWAYS** pull the control valve lever on top of the machine back to release air pressure in the cylinder before any operation. There is a label describing this on top of the machine.

Suggested set out for starting and glueing

It's important to lay out the the floorboards before you begin to fix them in place. This means you can plan the position of the cuts over the floor for the best look. This approach will also reveal if the room is square and will allow you to make adjustments and re-alignments before the floorboards are installed.

After measuring and assessing the best pattern of boards for your floor, dry cut in or mark out the area of the first to 3 to 4 rows of boards in order to accurately glue up in preparation for laying. Don't

glue up too large a work area at once. Only glue up as much work area that you can cover and fix before the glue dries or goes off.



Starting to lay

- Position the first rows, tongue pointed out from the wall, until you have at least 400mm coverage or to cover the glue 3 to 4 rows deep.
- When these rows are in place put spacers or wedges behind them to space them off the wall. Adjust these wedges or packers to best suit the rooms assessment as described above.

If the butt joints are square and tight over the first 3 or 4 rows you can be sure the boards have been laid perfectly straight. The layout of the boards can also be centred up and down the room before nailing off.

- Place the QuikBrace on top of the boards that are to be installed. Position the base plate over the board you are clamping so that the board grabbers are just over the edge. The board grabbers will locate above the board tongue.
- Position your feet on the base plate of the machine where the labels indicate.
- Anchor the spikes into the subfloor by hitting the top of the spike block. Use a rubber mallet flooring hammer to avoid damage to the block and machine. Use the control valve lever to apply a small amount of pressure to assist setting the spikes to grip more.
- Anchor the spikes further with the mallet to ensure the spikes are well set.
- Once the spike block has gripped firmly, use the control valve to apply the necessary pressure to push the boards together. When the boards are pushed tight together, nail them to the subfloor.

Sometimes further action is required to close stubborn gaps and tightly push boards together. Tapping the board grabbers on the base plate, and the edge and the top of the floorboards will momentarily loosen jams and gaps between them. The air pressure in the QuikBrace will instantly tighten and close up these gaps.

- Once the board has been nailed off, it is safe to release the pressure of the machine by pulling the control valve lever back.
- Remove the machine and repeat the process.



! Safety Note - Standing on the machine will help keep it from lifting off the boards being laid. You MUST ALWAYS maintain downward pressure by standing on the base plate when the QuikBrace is in operation. If you do not the machine may spring out with force and speed which may result in serious injury and damage.

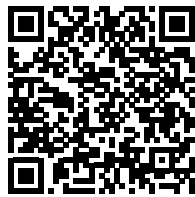
Laying over joists and battens

! Top nailing or secret nailing every board and finishing can still be employed if necessary or if this is your preferred method.



Safety Note - When the QuikBrace is connected and under pressure the ram will shoot out very quickly. **ALWAYS** pull the control valve lever on top of the machine back to release air pressure in the cylinder before any operation.

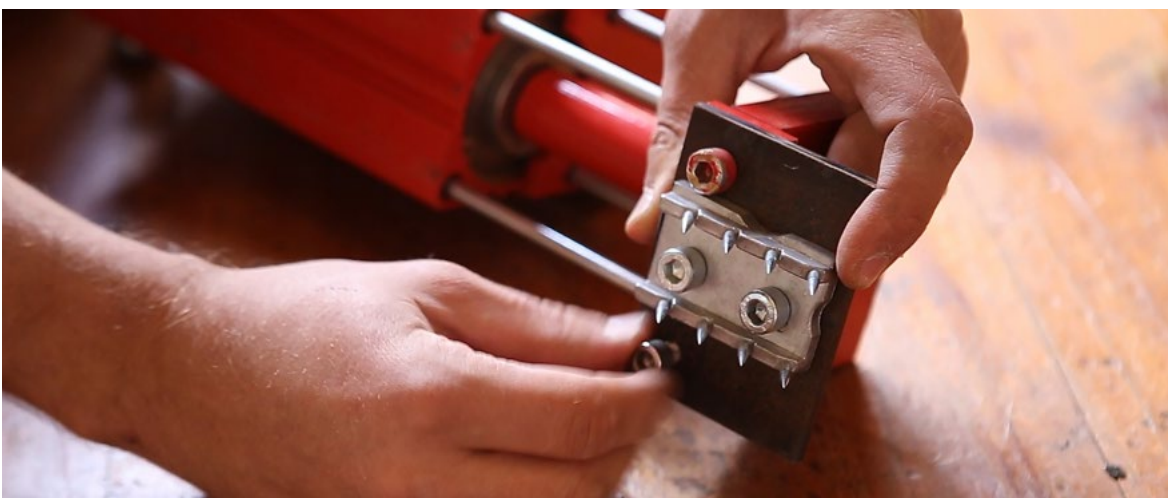
! **NEVER** exceed the QuikBrace maximum pressure of 160 psi or you will risk serious injury or damage to the work site and the machine, and void your warranty.



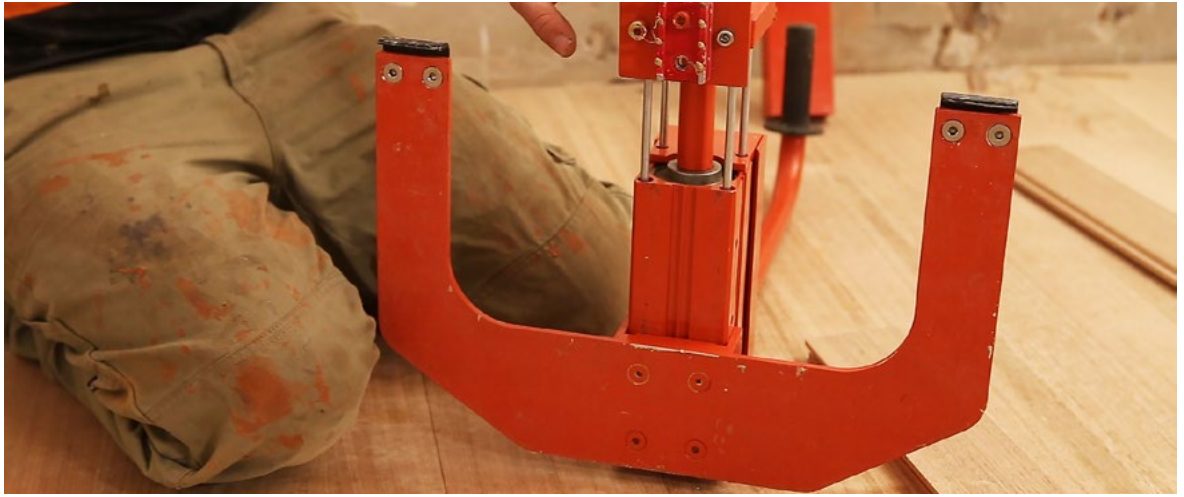
Watch the joists and battens video on Youtube.



Setting up the QuikBrace



- To set up the Quikbrace for laying over timber joists or battens attach the joist spike block with the spikes angled out from the machine. If the flooring being laid is thicker than 14mm the spacer will be required.



- Attach the base plate to the cylinder of the machine by sliding it on. The locating pins lock in to the third position at the rear of the machine with the board grabbers at the front end of the machine.
- If you have a nail gun, attach it now via a short (1-1.5m) hose to the female air coupling on the QuikBrace.
- When the machine is completely set up attach the air compressor to the machine at the male air coupling. The optimum operating pressure for the QuikBrace is 100-120 psi.

The QuikBrace cylinder is pressurized immediately on connection with the compressor. **ALWAYS** pull the control valve lever on top of the machine back to release air pressure in the cylinder before any operation. Follow the label on top of the machine.

Set out for laying and glueing

It's important to lay out the the floorboards before you begin to fix them in place. This means you can plan the position of the cuts over the floor for the best look. This approach will also reveal if the room is square and will allow you to make adjustments and re-alignments before the floorboards are installed.

After measuring and assessing the best pattern of boards for your floor, dry cut in or mark out the area of the first to 3 to 4 rows of boards in order to accurately glue up in preparation for laying. Don't glue up too large a work area at once. Only glue up as much work area that you can cover and fix before the glue dries or goes off.



Starting to lay



- Position the first rows, tongue pointed out from the wall, until you have at least 400mm coverage or to cover the glue 3 to 4 rows deep.
- When these rows are in place put spacers or wedges behind them to space them off the wall. Adjust these wedges or packers to best suit the rooms assessment as described above.

If the butt joints are square and tight over the first 3 or 4 rows you can be sure the boards have been laid perfectly straight. The layout of the boards can also be centred up and down the room before nailing off.

- Place the QuikBrace on top of the boards that are to be installed. Position the base plate over the board you are clamping so that the board grabbers are just over the edge. The board grabbers will locate above the board tongue.
- Position your feet on the base plate of the machine where the labels indicate.
- Anchor the spikes into the joist or batten by hitting the top of the spike block. Use a rubber mallet flooring hammer to avoid damage to the block and machine. Use the control valve lever to apply a small amount of pressure to assist setting the spikes to grip more.
- Then, anchor the spikes further with the mallet to ensure the spikes are well set.
- Once the spike block has gripped firmly, use the control valve to apply the necessary pressure to push the boards together. When the boards are pushed tight together, nail them to the joist or batten.

Sometimes further action is required to close stubborn gaps and more tightly push boards together. Tapping the board grabbers and the edge and the top of the floorboards will momentarily loosen jams and gaps between them. The air pressure in the QuikBrace will instantly tighten and close up these gaps.

- Once the board has been nailed off, it is safe to release the pressure of the machine by pulling the control valve lever back.
- Remove the machine and repeat the process.

Methods of use for joists and battens



An alternative set-up for laying over joists or battens is to slide the base plate facing away from the cylinder. This will enable you to fix and nail into the same joist that is being used as an anchor.

Position the board grabbers onto the top of the tongue and place the joist spike on the centre of the joists or battens.

! Safety Note - Standing on the machine will help keep it from lifting off the boards being laid. You MUST ALWAYS maintain downward pressure by standing on the base plate when the QuikBrace is in operation. If you do not the machine may spring out with force and speed which may result in serious injury and damage.

Laying over concrete or tiles

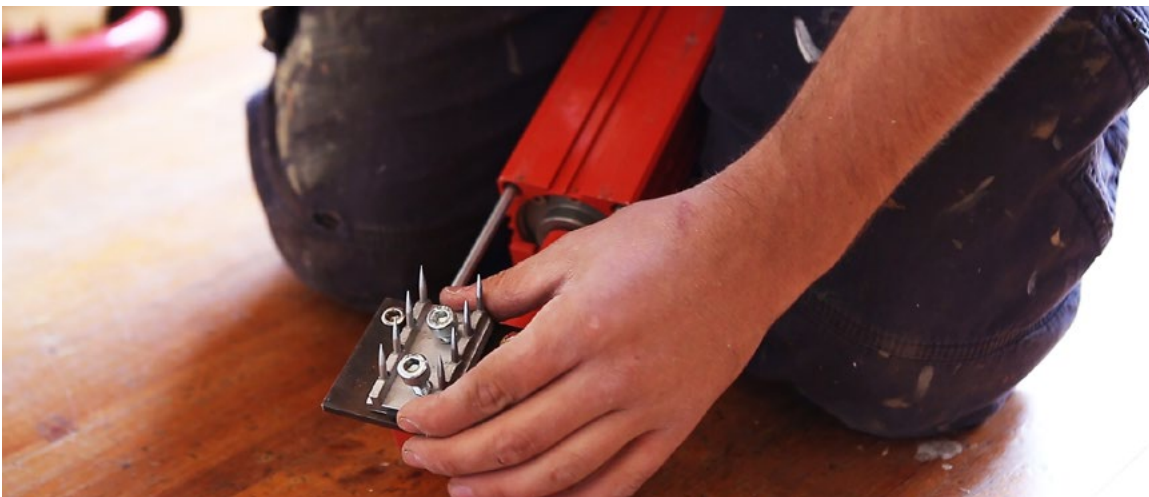
- ! **Safety Note** - When the QuikBrace is connected and under pressure the ram will shoot out very quickly. **ALWAYS** pull the control valve lever on top of the machine back to release air pressure in the cylinder before any operation.
- ! **NEVER** exceed the QuikBrace maximum pressure of 160 psi or you will risk serious injury or damage to the work site and the machine, and void your warranty.
- ! **NOTE** Only use over tiles that have had an adhesion test for stability.



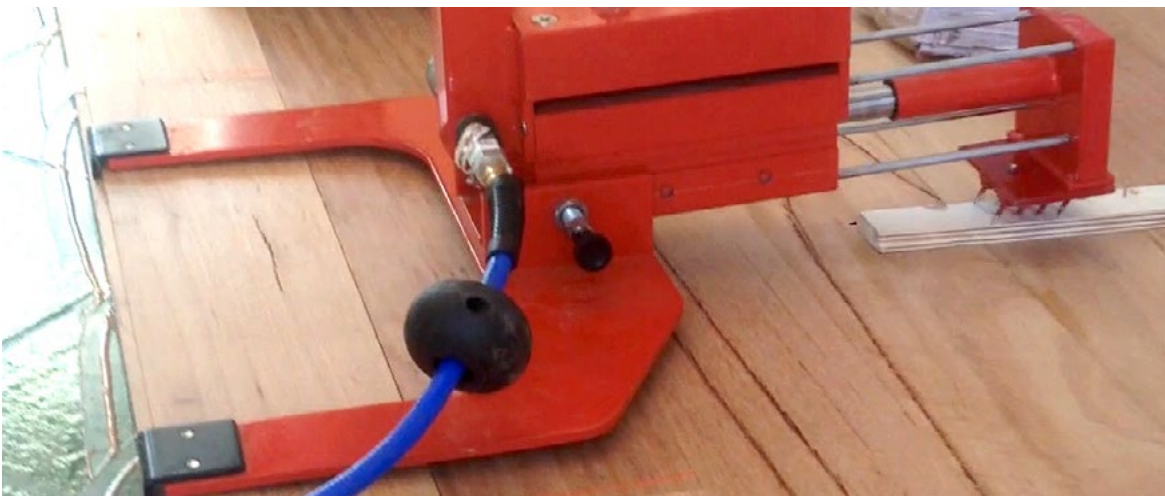
Watch the concrete and tiles video on Youtube.



Setting up the QuikBrace



- Attach the standard spike block, with the spikes angled in towards the machine, when setting up the Quikbrace for laying over concrete or tiles.

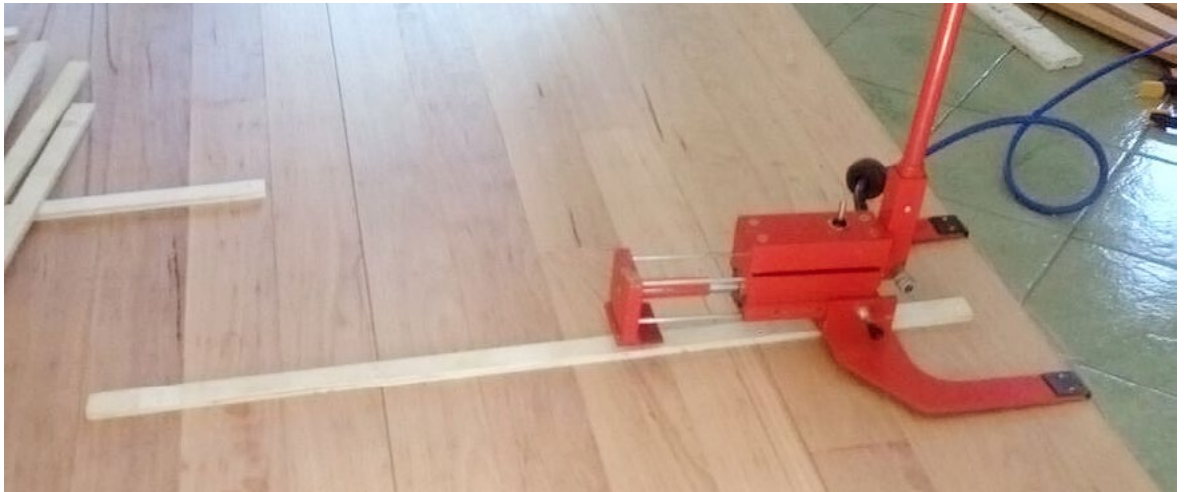


- Attach the base plate to the cylinder of the machine by sliding it on. The locating pins lock in to the third position at the rear of the machine with the board grabbers to the rear of the machine.
- When the machine is completely set up attach the air compressor to the machine at the male air coupling. The optimum operating pressure for the QuikBrace is 100-120 psi.

The QuikBrace cylinder is pressurized immediately on connection with the compressor. ALWAYS pull the control valve lever on top of the machine back to release air pressure in the cylinder before any operation. Follow the label on top of the machine.

The laying process

- Position the first rows, tongue pointed out from the wall, until you have at least 650mm coverage. When these rows are in place, put spacers behind the rows that have just been placed to space it off the wall.
- Nail a cleat, a strip of timber to hold boards together, to the start board against the wall. The cleat should be thin enough and strong enough to hold clamped boards together when they are secured. Suitable cleats could be 12mm ply strips 80mm wide and at least 650mm long.



- Place The QuikBrace on top of the cleat. Position the base plate over the board you are clamping so that the board grabbers are just over the edge. The board grabbers will be positioned above the tongue.
- Position your feet on the base plate just behind the black feet. There are stickers on the base plate indicating where you should be.
- Sink the spikes into the cleat by hitting the top of the spike block with a rubber mallet.
- Use the control valve lever to apply a small amount of pressure. This will help the spikes to grip more. Then, sink the spikes further by hitting the spike block again. This ensures the spikes are well set.
- Once the spike block has gripped firmly, apply the necessary pressure through the control valve to pull the boards together.
- When the boards are pulled tightly together nail the cleat behind the machine to hold them.
- Once the cleat has been nailed over the top of the floor it is safe to release the pressure of the machine by pushing the control valve lever forwards. Remove the Quikbrace, position the next set of boards and repeat the process.



! Safety Note - Standing on the machine will help keep it from lifting off the boards being laid. You MUST ALWAYS maintain downward pressure by standing on the base plate when the QuikBrace is in operation. If you do not the machine may spring out with force and speed which may result in serious injury and damage.

Using the wall foot

- ! **Safety Note** - To prevent damage to plasterboard/dry wall or other sheeting we recommend you place a longer floorboard between the wall and the wall foot to ensure that the pressure applied is spread over a larger area.
- ! Releasing air pressure by first pulling back the control valve lever is critical in this application.



Learn about using the wall foot on Youtube.

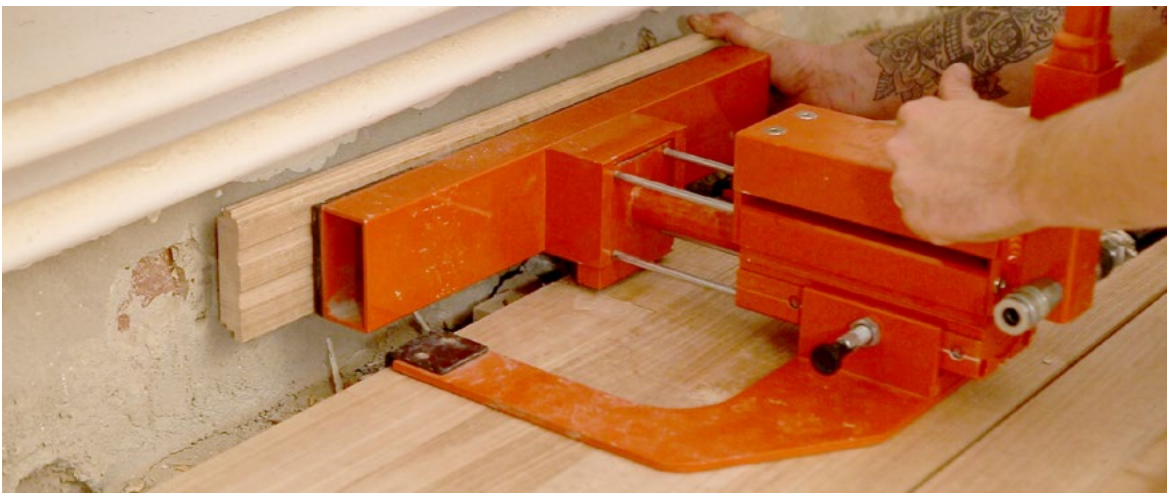


Setup



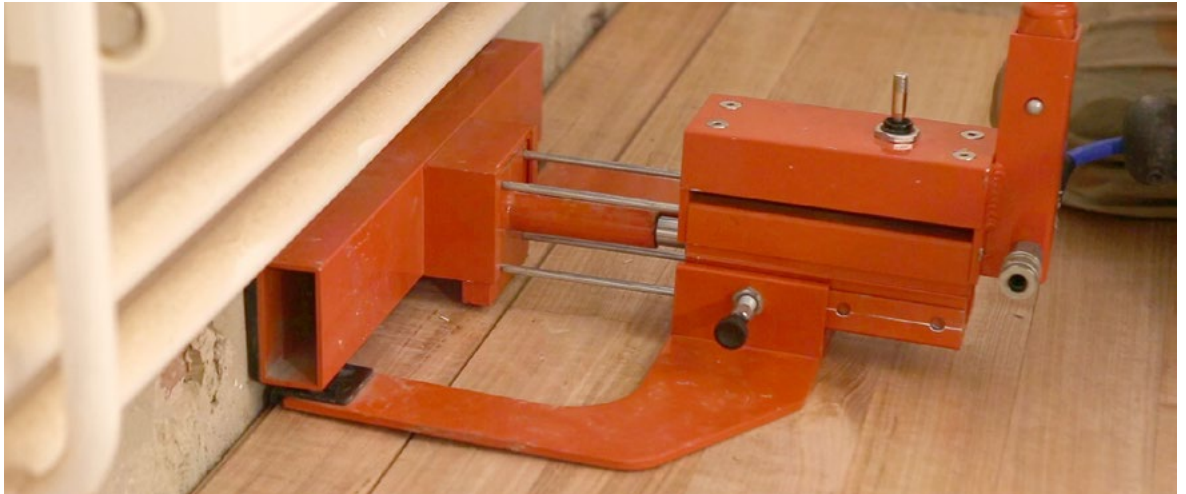
When setting up the Quikbrace for the final few rows you will need to detach the spikes and attach the wall foot by sliding it over the spike block.

When attaching the base plate to the cylinder of the machine slide it to a position where the wall foot will reach the wall with the black feet at the front end of the machine. Depending on how far out from the wall you are, this might be either the first or second position back from the ram head.



Clamping the last boards

! Releasing air pressure by first pulling back the control valve lever is critical in this application.



- Place the QuikBrace on top of the boards that are to be installed. Position the base plate over the board you are clamping so that the board grabbers are just over the edge. The board grabbers will be positioned above the tongue.
- Position your feet on the base plate just behind the black feet. There are stickers on the base plate indicating where you should be.
- Use the control valve lever to apply a small amount of pressure and ease the wall foot gently but firmly against the wall. To prevent damage to plasterboard or other sheeting we recommend you place a longer floorboard between the wall and the wall foot to ensure that the pressure applied is spread over a larger area.
- When the wall foot is firmly against the wall, apply the necessary pressure through the control valve to push the boards together. When the boards are pushed tight together, nail or wedge the boards.
- Once the board has been nailed or wedged over the top of the subfloor it is safe to release the pressure of the machine by pulling the lever back.
- Remove the Quikbrace, position the next set of boards and repeat the process.

Maintenance

Air fittings

An airtight fit for any replacement or added air fittings on the machine is essential. Use plumbing tape around the thread of the fitting before you screw it onto the QuikBrace. Fittings need to be airtight when they are screwed in.

Consumables

The spikes on the QuikBrace spike block are consumable items.

These will be available to purchase at select stores and online.

To replace the spike you will need a hammer and a small punch.

- Line the punch up with the spikes on the back of the spike block and hammer it out.
- Position new spike in the holes where the spikes have been removed and tap down until level.



Better Timber Flooring share a combined 50+ years' experience in the flooring industry. Now, we can train you in the use of our very successful simple step-by-step process of laying timber flooring, incorporating new and innovative tools like our QuikBrace pneumatic floor clamp.

Better Timber Flooring's series of training courses are designed for tradespeople who professionally install timber floors, even if you only lay a few floors per year. They cover all aspects of our timber flooring methods.

Available training courses



Laying floors over timber, plywood and constructor floor subfloors



Laying floors over joists and battens



Laying direct stick flooring



Laying floors using prefinished boards



Using Acoustaply acoustic insulating panels

Courses can be arranged for up to 15 students at a time, throughout Australia.

Contact Better Timber Flooring:

Ph: 02 6284 4567

E: philgaunt@gmail.com

or go to bettertimberflooring.com.au

for your custom quote.

Warranty



Your QuikBrace is warranted against manufacturing faults and defects for 3 years from date of purchase. This warranty covers the ram cylinder, body casing, handle, base plate and wall foot of the machine.

Spike blocks are consumables, and are warranted only for one month from date of purchase, and only against manufacturing faults or defects.

This warranty does not cover damage arising from misuse or failure to operate the machine as outlined in these instructions, nor does it cover damage caused by use or misuse of this machine.

QuikBrace is not liable for faulty workmanship on the part of the operator.

**3 YEAR
WARRANTY**

NB002 Pneumatic Floor Laying Clamp

Designed in Australia, built in China
Patents granted.

Repel Pty Ltd.

www.quikbrace.com

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Fast to learn, easy to use. Visit our YouTube channel for extensive video tutorials, tips and techniques on using QuikBrace to make your flooring work faster and easier.

See the videos on Youtube at <http://goo.gl/vBm788>

◀ Use the QR Code link to take you straight there.