

Wilson Industrial Electric: at Home in Elberton Granite Country



Wilson Industrial Electric Incorporated, Elberton, Georgia was founded by Ray Wilson in 1982. Since then, Wilson's original saw design, as well as the many polishing solutions offered over the last 35 years, has continued to evolve.

The company, now owned and operated by son and president

Peter J. Marcucci
Photos Courtesy
Wilson Industrial Electric

Matt Wilson, and daughter and CFO Melissa Black, continues to stay focused and solution driven. Ray Wilson (now 67 years young) remains active in all aspects of the company. With over 18 models of machines to choose from, Wilson Industrial Electric continues to be

a one-stop solution for large and small stone producers.

In his younger days, Ray Wilson worked for a motor company and then got talked into working on a few stone processing machines in Elberton. This additionally involved working on the controls. Inevitably, it wasn't long before someone talked him into building his first saw. Being both mechanically inclined and resourceful,

the saw was built with parts from a salvage yard, explains Matt Wilson. "It is not a pretty machine, but to this day continues to saw like crazy. When we were little, we had a barn out behind the house, and that's where we worked on panels and rewound motors. Dad pretty much started the company from a dirt floor with basically nothing, and brought us to where we are now. So it's kind of a rags-to-riches story. I followed in those footsteps, as big as they still are to fill. Melissa has done the same thing."

"Yes, we grew up in the business from the beginning," explained

Melissa Black. "We worked with him at home, rode with him, and worked on the weekends learning the ropes. I've been building control panels and doing things for him since I was seven years old. Matt and I are both hands-on, and do a lot in the business without a lot of free time to do other things that we would love and enjoy doing. We all wear a lot of hats, but I mostly take care of marketing, sales, and writing our manuals. It's still a family-run business, and that's something that we pride ourselves on. Dad calls himself semi-retired, but we haven't seen it yet."

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Weeping Water Stoneworks

Tom Stander Builds a Firm Foundation Working in the "Limestone Capital of the USA"

The quarry town of Weeping Water lies close to the Missouri River in southeastern Nebraska, and it's a town with two well-kept secrets: a special "living rock" limestone and the mason-turned-sculptor who loves it.

Tom Stander runs the one-man show that is Weeping Water Stone Works, and he's taken up the cause of this often-discarded stone that he calls Weeping Water Wall Stone. Gold in color, the stone comes in ledges that local quarries strip away to get at deeper, whiter layers of stone. Stander said the gold stone was used locally as a building stone, but it stopped being used in the 1920s or 1930s. It forms much of the historic infrastructure of Weeping Water itself, including the Weeping Water Academy, the

Shannon Carey

Weeping Water Congregational Church, and even parts of the Fort Crook House in Omaha.

"It would be nice if I could get it to be used more in veneers and decorative work, mosaic, flagstone walks," said Stander. "It should be utilized. It's very durable, it's hard, and it's got a good burnish. It's been exposed to the elements for 147 years, and it has very little weathering or deterioration."

One interesting facet of the Weeping Water Stone is its tendency to "bleed." Over the natural course of the stone, iron oxide will surface and bring a rusty color with it. While some people think of that as a detriment, it's something that Stander treasures.

"I think it's just a natural process like a wrinkle on a person's face," he said.

Stander started off as a mason and has done both commercial and industrial masonry. Back in the late 90s, he donated a carved stone to the Limestone Days auction in Weeping Water. It said "Weeping Water, Nebraska, Home Of The Rock." He mentioned to someone on the Weeping Water School Foundation that he was interested in attending a stone carving school in Vermont.

Soon, the foundation awarded Stander a full scholarship to attend Vermont's Carving Studio.

"I was overwhelmed by people's ability to work marble," Stander said. "I came back with as many techniques as I could remember and started doing little projects."

Weeping Water City Council hired him to design and build a welcome sign for the city, which he did out of Weeping Water stone.

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Innovative Brace Setter Solves a Time Consuming Task

August and Matthew Iocco of Pittsburgh-based Fabricators for Fabricators, LLC have solved a time-consuming and potentially costly problem with a tool developed specifically for stone countertop installation.

The Brace Setter works seamlessly with the I-Brace floating countertop support system to set a perfect groove every time,

Shannon Carey

Photos Courtesy
Fabricators for Fabricators

eliminating the need for hammers, chisels and power saws with multiple cuts.

The Ioccos are a father-and-son team with a construction background. The pair got into granite fabrication when the industry was still fairly new.

"The granite countertop industry is still a fairly new industry, whereas wood-working has been around since the beginning of time. We saw the need for new concepts, new tooling, new ways of doing things that weren't there," said August.

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Matthew Iocco came up with the Brace Setter idea while looking for a better, faster way to install I-Brace countertop supports.

Innovative Brace Setter Solves a Time-Consuming Task



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They started developing specialized tools just for stone fabricators, but they keep their own fabrication business going, too. This helps the Ioccos stay in touch with the industry.

A Good Idea

Matthew said that bracing floating countertops with the I-Brace system is important for safety and peace of mind.

“In our occupation, customers want cantilevered overhangs with seating underneath,” he said. “They don’t want to have their knees hitting corbels for supporting the stone. Corbels can be very decorative but very impractical for knee clearance, and this is where the I-Brace system excels.

say it is OK to overhang the stone up to so many inches without support, and for some stone this may be acceptable, but for some of the stone that I have had the first-hand opportunity of cutting – stone that has fissures and cracks filled with resin and held together with fiberglass mesh – these kinds of stone create a very dangerous situation, especially when I think of a homeowner standing on the edge of the cantilevered countertop to change a light bulb. Granite countertop

them the Brace Setter, and it does the job for them.

“In our industry, a mistake is a very costly because a slab of granite can be quite expensive. I’ve felt the pain of breakage, like many a fabricator. That kind of mistake is devastating because you put a lot of work into it. After you go through all of this, all of a sudden you break a top and you have to do it all over again. Not only have you lost the top, you’ve lost all the fabrication and installation time.”



The Ioccos have designed an adjustable-depth model to cut 3/16, 1/4, and 3/8-inch deep slots for I-Braces.

“We see different types of situations out there like pony walls or half walls and breakfast bars. If a customer wants to place a 20-inch stone on that kind of wall, a six-inch shelf just doesn’t work. That’s when this kind of bracing works well.

“There are organizations and quarries out there that

owners might say they would never do such a thing, but they do.”

August continued, “The Brace Setter is measurement friendly. There is no thinking involved. Everything is pre-set within the unit itself. Say you have a crew that’s not as skilled as you would like them to be. You hand

Two Systems That Work Great Together

According to August, he and Matthew knew they would “have a winner” on their hands if they designed the Brace Setter to be compatible with the I-Brace system available at Braxton-Bragg.

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No More Twist and Shout!

NOW WITH RECHARGEABLE BATTERY

SR2 Retro Fit Rechargeable Cup

SEE THE VIDEO
WWW.BRAXTON-BRAGG.COM

Announcing the Stone Pro SR2 Vacuum Support Rail System

Have you ever done the fabricator’s “twist and shout?”

Imagine you’re carrying a sink section of countertop and suddenly you *twist* the slab a little too much, hear a crack and *shout* in frustration. That’s what the twist and shout is all about.

Fortunately, it doesn’t have to be this way thanks to this brand new system.

It is simply awesome! It adds rigidity to sink cutouts so you can avoid the dreaded “twist and shout.”

No one in the stone industry has anything like this that can vacuum to stone that has a textured surface. It also works great on polished stone surfaces as well.



Item #	Description	OUR Price
2743	Stone Pro SR2 Combo Pack Vacuum Support Rails With Rechargeable Cups, Includes: (1) 3-1/2 Ft Rail, (1) 7 Ft Rail, (1) Charger (4) Suction Cups, including one rechargeable master cup	\$597.95

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At Last! Sink Wheels that Maintain a True Shape!

Braxton-Bragg is proud to offer our customers these exceptional center water feed sink wheels. They are made for us by a well known ISO9001 certified manufacturer and are of the highest quality.

These Sink Wheels are designed to be used on CNC machines.

Fabricators Tip:

Item #55146 - #55149: 1/2" Brazed Sink Wheels are ideal for use with Quartz, and have been designed for inside zero radius sinks.

Items #10431 - #10433: 1" Brazed Sink Wheels are good tools to use for inside sink cutouts, corners and for tiny radiuses.

Items #10434 - #10436: 2" Brazed Sink Wheels are typically used for smoothing out the seams before joining two stone slabs together.

- Tough, reliable and long lasting
- Use on all types of stone
- Vacuum brazed bond
- 1/2 gas thread fits CNC or radial arm machines
- Will maintain true shape
- Center water feed

Item #	Description	MSRP	OUR Price
55146	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 1/2" x 2", 50 Grit	\$115.95	\$71.95
55147	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 1/2" x 2", 100 Grit	\$94.95	\$64.95
55148	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 1/2" x 2", 200 Grit	\$94.95	\$64.95
55149	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 1/2" x 2", 400 Grit	\$61.95	\$53.95
10431	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 1" x 2", 50 Grit	\$134.95	\$89.95
10432	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 1" x 2", 100 Grit	\$134.95	\$89.95
10433	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 1" x 2", 200 Grit	\$134.95	\$89.95
10434	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 2" x 2", 50 Grit	\$149.95	\$99.95
10435	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 2" x 2", 100 Grit	\$149.95	\$99.95
10436	Scorpion™ Brazed Sink Wheel, 2" x 2", 200 Grit	\$149.95	\$99.95



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Brace Setter Solves a Time-Consuming Task

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"Braxton-Bragg with Rich Hassert at the helm was the first supplier to have a commercially-made brace system (the I-Brace) readily available for the fabricator," said August. "Before, we had seen a similar concept, but you would have to go to the steel fabrication shop, tell them the size needed, and wait forever to get it. Braxton-Bragg has various I-Brace sizes in stock, making it very convenient for us.

"It's just a phone call, and one day later we have the braces without having to tell the customer to wait."

The Brace Setter attaches easily to a 5/8 x 11 angle grinder with a recommended power rating of eight amps or greater. It has two cutting blades, each one with 18 teeth, totaling 36 long-lasting tungsten carbide teeth. Fabricators for Fabricators has a three-blade adjustable model coming soon that will cut from zero to 3/8 of an inch deep.

"You can cut a groove through a 2 x 4 in seconds," Matthew said. "Before, it would take a long time cutting the slots, especially if you ran into a knot hole or two. With 36 tungsten carbide teeth, you can cut through hardwood, softwood, laminates and composites with ease – and even the occasional nail or staple."

August added, "We don't recommend you cut nails with the tool, but if there's one hiding inside the wood, it will handle it; just use common sense and steer clear of these hazards.

"Before, when we would use power saws with multiple cuts or hammer and chisels, there was always a high or low spot. With the brace setter it cuts a perfect, precision groove every time, allowing the brace to lay perfectly flat in the pocket."

"The time that it saves is incredible," Matthew said.

The installer simply

Operation is simple, as shown below: adjusting the depth of the Brace Setter to the thickness of the I-Brace for setting up a perfect cut.



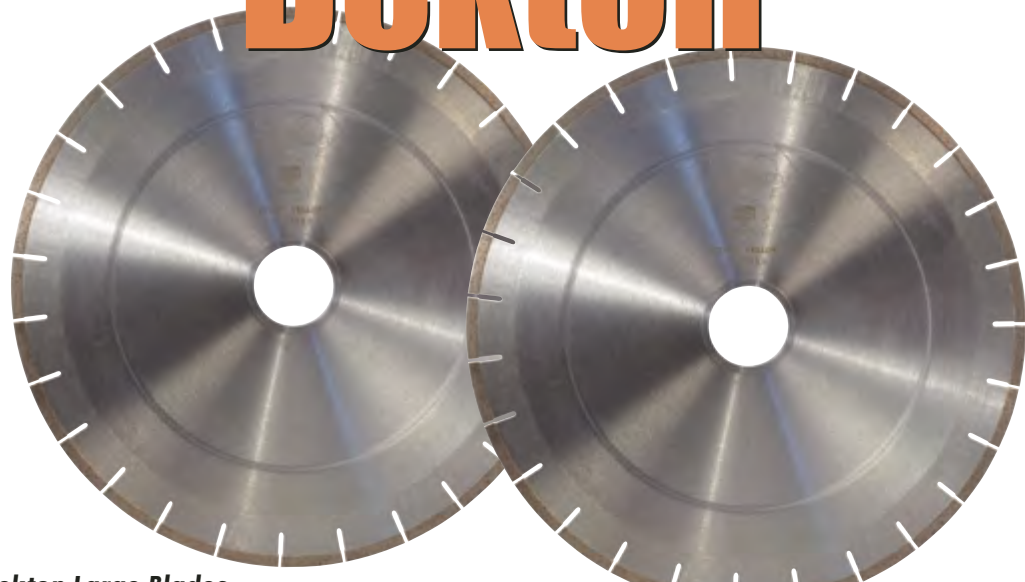
The Brace Setter cuts effortlessly through knot holes and even nails, which are commonly encountered when renovating kitchens where framing is already in place.

temporarily attaches a brace to use as a guide, then cuts along the right side of the brace for best accuracy. Since the I-Brace is 2.5 inches wide and comes in

thicknesses of 3/16 and 1/4 inches, the Iccos designed the Brace Setter to cut a groove 2-9/16 inches wide, by the appropriate depth.

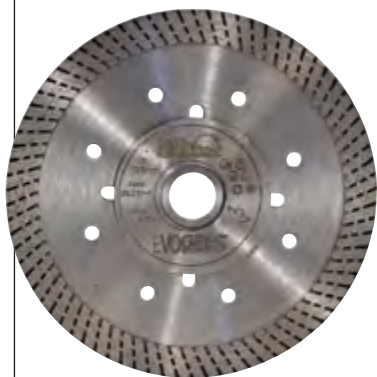
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Braxton-Bragg Now Carries ItalDiamant Dekton



Dekton Large Blades

Item #	Description	Price
55802	ItalDiamant Dekton Core Bit, 1-3/8" (35mm)	\$105.95
55803	ItalDiamant Dekton Blade, 5", 20mm, 3,000 RPM	\$68.95
55804	ItalDiamant Dekton CNC Core Bit, 1/2 Gas, 1-3/8" (35mm) 1,900 RPM Max, Feed Rate: 1" to 1-1/2" per minute	\$105.95
55805	ItalDiamant Dekton Finger Bit, 1-3/8" (35mm), 4,100 RPM Max, Feed Rate: 9" to 10" per minute	\$145.95
55906	ItalDiamant Dekton Blade, 14", 10mm (H), 50/60mm 1,900-2,500 RPM Max	\$213.95
55907	ItalDiamant Dekton Blade, 16", 10mm (H), 50/60mm 1,700-2,300 RPM Max	\$259.95
55909	ItalDiamant Dekton Blade, 18", 10mm (H), 50/60mm Bushing 1,400-2,000 RPM Max	\$368.95



Dekton 5" Blade



Dekton Core Bit

Dekton CNC Core Bit

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Getting to Know Your White Stones

Karin Kirk

Geologist

White kitchens and bathrooms are perpetually popular. White countertops brighten your workspace, add cheer to a room, and cooperate with any color palette or design style. No wonder white stones are constantly in demand.

Geologically speaking, pure white rocks are rare. While there are many white minerals, such as quartz, feldspar, and calcite, they don't always assemble themselves into a perfectly white rock. That said, there are plenty of mostly white or nearly white stones that offer possibilities for bringing texture and geologic interest to your white countertop.



Yule marble, quarried in Colorado, was used in the Jefferson Memorial.

Marble

A timeless white marble is what many of us envision when we imagine a serene white kitchen or bath. Beautiful marbles have been in use for centuries, and with good reason. They are gorgeous and they never go out of style.

White marbles are usually swirled with darker colors. These veins are remnants of thin layers of clay within the original limestone, which have been transformed into flowing patterns as the rock was heated and compressed.

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Innovative Brace Setter Solves a Time-Consuming Task



August Iocco testing the Brace Setter with multiple cuts at the test center.

fraction of the time it took before. And August said that's important. With a kitchen remodel, so many professionals are involved, from plumbers to electricians to plasterers, that the countertop installer is often the last one in.

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"We tested many concepts, from power planers to enlarged router bits, and then had a blade designed to cut the right groove," said August. "It took two years. The blade design was tricky because you could use an aggressive blade that would cut faster, but it would splinter the material, so we used a combination of tungsten carbide teeth that would last long, but cut smooth."

"The customer doesn't want their kitchen torn up for any length of time," said August. "At first, they're enjoying going out to eat, but after the first week it gets old. They want their kitchen back, and speed is of the essence. Getting in and out quickly and without incident leaves a good impression. That's where a tool like the Brace Setter comes in handy."

Professional Results Leave Lasting Impressions

With the Brace Setter, a countertop fabricator can be in and out of a customer's kitchen in a

The Brace Setter is only available through Braxton-Bragg. To see the Brace Setter in action, visit www.braxton-bragg.com/Bracesetter, or search YouTube.com for "Brace Setter."