

intellectual property:

When investigating the possibility of protecting this design I was advised by everyone I consulted, informal and professional alike, that it would be hugely expensive, way beyond the resources of an individual, and in any case not appropriate for a relatively low volume, niche item like this. Also, because this design is so distinct, immediately recognisable and widely associated with me, there really didn't seem to be any point.

But ethically and morally does that mean that anyone can simply step in and casually copy it for their own benefit?! No, of course it doesn't, but you clearly thought you could, or at least you could 'get away with it' and save some money.

What's appalling is that you are an established and high profile company, but you did it for one reason and one reason alone: to save money, knowing that you were depriving an established British craftsman of valid business. And worst of all - you are effectively replacing high quality hardware with poorly made rubbish and fitting it to extremely expensive, supposedly 'high quality' items.

And although you're not selling these hinges commercially, the existence of these poor quality copies undermines the reputation of the genuine article that I've worked long and hard to develop. I have a commitment to my customers, professional and amateur alike, to supply the finest quality box hardware available. This ensures, in turn, that the products they are offering are of the highest quality. Through and through, not just skin deep.