

JANUARY 2021 furniture | JOURNAL

DESIGN & DÉCORS EDITION

ON THE COVER:

**Futurist Harald Klüh from
Grass looks beyond 2021**

Fabulous décors

Getting a handle on handles

High-speed Henkel: 80m/min

**Up close: Biesse's new
Rover A Edge**

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On the Cover

Futurist Harald Klüh from Grass looks beyond 2021.

Story: pages 4-8

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Harald Klüh



Novo Pro Scala Customised

What does the future hold?

In an exclusive interview, Harald Klüh, Global Brand Manager at Grass, shares his vision of the future and the changes we all face.

The past few months must have prompted all of us to wonder what the future has in store at one time or another. How long will it be before we can get back to normal? What will normal be like? What will the long-term effects of the pandemic be on people's mindset? Will our market change?

Futurists like Harald Klüh, the effervescent Global Brand Manager at Austrian movement specialist Grass, look far into the future, assimilating emerging trends and translating them into meaningful direction that can be shared with Grass customers and the customers of their customers. When Harald

speaks, audiences listen wide-eyed, open-mouthed and spellbound. His vision penetrates decades into the future and his far-reaching prophecies are punctuated with corroborating facts gleaned from every industry in every corner of the globe. His commitment is absolute: this will happen. *This is what the future will look like.*

Thinking beyond the immediate problems that affect us all, has the Covid crisis changed how the future will look? "Yes and no," says Harald. "Yes, the pandemic has changed a lot; and no, it will have no influence on the big trends. The pandemic has been like a rocket blast for the trends that were present before the pandemic. It simply made things go faster and it has affected us on both a social level and on a business level.

"In the furniture business, our clients say they have had the best year ever, despite the global pandemic. Some manufacturers have seen a 60% increase in business in the last half

year. Much more than before, people have realised the home is something they should take care of and staying at home has given the home a new value, so the last few months have seen large numbers of people upgrading their homes."

A couple of years ago, I was fortunate to have been at one of Harald's presentations in which he predicted people would move out of the countryside and into cities, following jobs and taking services with them, expanding the populations of cities into megacities. If Covid 19 isn't an isolated incident (as some have suggested), isn't it more likely that city life will lose its appeal as more people seek the comparative safety of open space in the countryside?

"I stick to the forecast that people will move to the big cities," confirms Harald, confidently. "There are many reasons for that. You could ask why people would want to pay so much for living in a big city when they can



Novo Pro Scala: "We offer one platform and there is a huge variety of possibilities from it. Which area it goes into, or whether it goes into a stately home or a small apartment doesn't matter. The product serves all purposes."

Opposite page

Top and bottom left: Novo Pro Scala CrystalPlus.

Bottom right: Novo Pro Scala.

move to the country, especially when the development of working-from-home means it doesn't matter where they work. But if you look at the environment, the infrastructure, will people want to live where it takes two or three hours to get to the nearest hospital or doctor, or where there are no cinemas and shops around? It doesn't make sense for a doctor, or a supermarket, or even a gas station to be there because they can't earn money. I don't see anything that turns this around. We need the airports, the big hubs where you can go to different places, the train stations. If you look at the development in railways, they only invest in connections between the big cities. For sure everybody will move into the cities and they will become megacities."

One of the key features in Harald's city of the future is smaller houses, more apartments and smaller rooms and we've certainly seen moves among many hardware specialists to cater for this. But during lockdown, some of the people worst affected by depression and

despair have been those who lived in small apartments, especially apartments in high rise blocks where there was little or no outdoor space. Are smaller living spaces really the future?

"This pandemic was a surprise," he says. "It came without any forecast so the concepts of how we dealt with it were created in a short time and they were not really good. Governments put everything under one lockdown rule because it was the easiest thing to do. If scientists work on possible scenarios for future pandemics, they will change the concept. It is not a question of having the right apartment, it's having the right concept that works in such circumstances."

"Small homes really are the only solution for big city living. We need to be more efficient with everything we do. When I go for a walk, sometimes I pass big houses in which old couples live. Why are they paying so much and why have they paid throughout their lifetimes to have 300 square metres they will never use? The next generation is dealing with it differently. They don't need the status of a

big house, or a big villa, or a big car. They have more of a focus on achieving a balanced life. They have started to ask what use all this technological progress is if it doesn't improve our quality of life. Actually, it has had the exact opposite effect. Shouldn't technological progress lead to us working less and having more free time?"

One might be led to wonder, if smaller living spaces are the future, doesn't that mean less furniture will be sold and the market will shrink?

"It's the other way around," says Harald. "In Germany, we have seen an increase of 30% in single households, so there are more households in need of furniture. They may be smaller but they are still in need of a kitchen, a bedroom, a bathroom, everything. But the market will change. I see the development of part-time homes. There are already new offers in the cities for employees of larger companies who may need to stay three or four months. They are already in Hamburg. They are midway between a rental apartment and a hotel. Inside there is everything, even



cutlery and pots. You pay for that while you are using it, then you leave. You don't need to move your furniture and your things.

"The forecast is that the next generation will have to move 11 times in their lifetime. It was four times in my generation. Isn't that a heavy weight if you have to tow a lot of furniture with you? Isn't it a better option to find everything you need already there, wherever you go? That's my long-term expectation, combined with the small apartment idea. Many big companies are now offering small apartments to their employees and their apprentices, just like universities build student accommodation.

"The pandemic started a transformation in the furniture business. Big changes are on the way. Big companies that sell appliances in Scandinavia have already started to offer furniture, because Ikea has started to offer appliances as well. New markets, new opportunities are opening up.

"There has been a massive development in project business. There are big projects coming up in Asia, the Middle East, London –

everywhere – and a lot of furniture is being bought by one person or one company instead of it being sold to end users. That's been a big change and we see it across the world. Even Amazon has started a furniture business and they will get a big slice of the market because it's easy to buy from them and you can trust the quality.

"The question is what will happen to the specialist hand-producers? I am sure they will still be in demand for their hand-crafted work but the number of clients they will share will always be very small. In former times, volume manufacture was for small apartments and hand-made furniture was for wealthy people. This will change. We can see that even the volume manufacturers have their premium luxury lines where they provide an offer that is also fit for the homes of millionaires.

"Did you know, there are 72 billionaires living in London? You can imagine how many millionaires are living there. Furniture manufacturers will need to make sure they have something for all of the target groups. It

can be economical, with a basic function, but you can increase the value so it becomes interesting for millionaires' homes very easily.

"At Grass, we have developed products that can be adapted to work in all areas. Some products are kitchen products but there is a melt from the kitchen into the lounge, the bedroom and the home office. Our clients are able to deal with that by using one system that can be used in all these areas. We offer one platform and there is a huge variety of possibilities from it. Which area it goes into, or whether it goes into a stately home or a small apartment doesn't matter. The product serves all purposes."

With so many changes predicted, I ask Harald how the furniture of the future might differ from what we have now. His vision came as quite a surprise:

"About three years ago, I found a concept called Ori Studio Suite, a dynamic and responsive robotic furniture system. The suite increases storage and space by replacing unresponsive static furniture with furniture that adapts to your needs. It amazed me



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because with something like this we can make things more efficient – the concept of changeable, mobile furniture that can be a wall or it can be moved to become something else is the future. In the future, we will see more highly efficient furniture concepts like this that merge interior design, architectural structure and furniture. Ikea definitely sees it as an interesting direction. They bought a share of the company.”

Working from home is something governments across Europe have encouraged recently to limit the spread of the virus. I’m curious to know how Harald sees the future for home-working and what Grass has to offer that would help furniture manufacturers cater for this sector of the market.

“Home-working will be the future and it is already here,” he says. “That’s what I meant by a rocket for trends from the pandemic. Before the pandemic, company owners didn’t trust people to work at home. With the pandemic, they had no choice but to try it. They realised it works. I had a lot of discussions about that. If people work in their most comfortable surroundings, they become more productive and more efficient.

“In a recent study, it was proved that people are more efficient if they work only 20 hours per week. The study was an experiment with three companies. They gave their people the same wage as they earned normally, decreased the working week to 20 hours and took on new employees to act as a buffer. They found out that by allowing people more free quality time, they worked much better, quicker and more efficiently.

“That makes me wonder whether this is the perfect concept for the future. We need to adopt a new mindset. What is the use of technological developments if we still have to work eight hours every day and five or six days every week? It makes no sense to invest so much in aeroplanes, internet, fast cars and everything if they don’t provide a positive effect on our lives. Only if there is a positive effect on our quality time will we see an advantage for mankind.

“The pandemic has been a small wave from a much bigger tsunami that we will have to deal with as a society. There are so many scary things coming to us that we will need to deal with – things like artificial intelligence, how the internet will impact on our lives in

the coming decades, how climate change will affect our way of living, *how the cyborgs we have seen in science fiction movies will develop...*

These are the first steps into a crazy future. Can you imagine chips that can be implanted in the brain to enable better concentration? The expectation at some universities is that we will be able to buy our degree without learning and slot it into our heads as easily as we transfer data from a USB.

“There are so many things that the next generation needs to be able to deal with. We need to prepare ourselves and our planet so our children and grandchildren can live there with all the changes that will come. All the small changes we see now are just the beginning and people will come out of the pandemic with more openness to change. The future is happening already. We just need to embrace it.”

To find out how movement systems from Grass can support you as you adapt to a future that’s already becoming a reality, call 0121 500 5824, email info-uk@grass.eu or visit www.grass.at/uk.html?L=1 For readers using the free Furniture Journal App, simply touch the blue text for a direct link.



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Debunking the Myths

You don't have to be a member of the Furniture Makers' Company to be eligible for a Personal Support Grant. If you are in need of help, here's what you need to know.



Jonny Westbrooke

Christmas has just been and gone. The most wonderful time of the year...

A period where traditionally we get swept up by consumerism and the frivolity of the season and usually spend a bit more than anticipated on having fun and treating our families.

The festive season just passed has been a somewhat different affair to what we traditionally experience and many will have felt the financial pinch, even more so than normal.

In the hopes of spreading some seasonal cheer among some of those who have been financially disadvantaged by Covid-19, the industry charity The Furniture Makers' Company awarded a surprise £100 Christmas gift to hundreds of people from the trade who had been affected by the pandemic and applied for one of its Personal Support Grants in 2020.

The charity continues to award Personal Support Grants and is encouraging others who have been made redundant or who are

struggling financially and work in the trade to get in touch. However, maybe you have heard a rumour that you believe disqualifies you from being able to receive a grant from the charity.

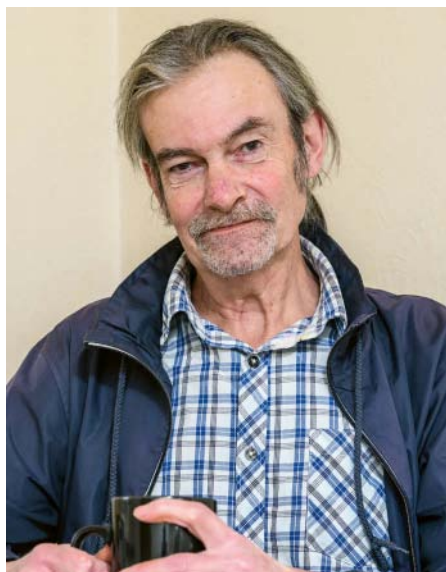
Jonny Westbrooke, CEO at The Furniture Makers' Company, debunks some common myths and recurring misconceptions that the charity has heard from people.

Myth: Only members can apply for support

Fact: This could not be further from the truth. The Furniture Makers' Company is the City of London livery company and charity for the furnishing industry. People in the trade can join the livery company as a member but the charity exists to support anyone who works or has ever worked in the UK furnishing industry, member or not.

Myth: The charity only helps furniture makers

Fact: Not at all. We do support furniture makers, of course, but we can help anyone working in the furnishing industry. Whether you're an installer in the kitchen, bedroom, bathroom sector; a seamstress at a bed



manufacturer; a salesperson at a retailer; an administrator at a fabric supplier; or a designer at a contract furniture dealer – and anything in between – we can be there for you.

Myth: Support is only available for retirees or those out of work

Fact: This is not true. We help colleagues in all stages of their career. We find that the people with the most pressing needs are often those of working age, needing help to keep a roof over the heads of themselves and their families, when difficult times overtake them, such as accidents, ill health or a relationship breakdown. Working-age people with little or no savings who are paying high rents or have expensive mortgages are extremely vulnerable to any loss of income due to adverse life events for themselves or family members.

Myth: The application process is long and invasive

Fact: This is false. In response to the Covid-19 crisis, we have pared back the application form to make it as quick and simple as possible so that we can process them with

haste and get money into the applicant's account within a few days. All the information that we ask for is necessary to perform due diligence to ensure that our funds go towards those who need it. If you have any questions about the application form, our welfare officer will be happy to talk them through with you.

Myth: You can't apply if you have savings

Fact: This isn't true as long as you don't have savings in excess of £16,000. In line with the state benefits system and many other grant-giving charities, we will accept applications from people in the trade with savings under £16,000 as long as they meet our other criteria. However, if you have recently been made redundant and you have been given a redundancy settlement of more than £16,000, we would still encourage you to get in touch to see how we can help.

Myth: We'll inform your work if you apply

Fact: No, our service is entirely confidential and we will never approach your employer unless you ask us to contact them to confirm your employment. We do ask for evidence

that you have worked in the furnishings industry, but you can supply evidence such as pay slips, a P60 or a redundancy letter if you've been made redundant. Nobody has to know about your application to us if you don't want them to, however we would encourage you to recommend us to friends and colleagues at your existing or former place of work, as they may be unaware of how we can help them. This will be entirely your decision, though, and we will never force you to do anything you're not comfortable with doing.

More information about The Furniture Makers' Company's Personal Support Grants is available here: bit.ly/COVID19FMCsupport

If your company is interested in finding out more about the support the charity can provide your employees, please contact Sue Dean: 020 7562 8528 or email welfareofficer@furnituremakers.org.uk If you are reading this article on an electronic device, touch the blue text or the picture marked with a link sign to read the guide to applying for a Personal Support Grant.

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Saviola – now in the UK

Fabulous designs, realistic textures, with commercial price points... Saviola is now in stock in the UK.

It's so realistic you can almost feel the cool surface of the marble, catch splinters from the woodgrain and wipe the dust from the concrete.

That's what makes Saviola different.

It's just one reason out of many why Panelco, Timbmet and Deralam have signed up as official distributors for these incredible décors – but if you're thinking such amazing surfaces are out of reach for your market sector, read on. You could be pleasantly surprised.

"Creating a differential is not easy," says Barry Berman, Saviola's representative in the UK. "Saviola's décors are the work of designer Daniele Merla and he has his finger on the pulse in many markets, especially Europe. Saviola has invested massively in original design

– they have their own studio, Trendcor – as well as in the machinery and the press plates to produce amazing print quality and textures that are ahead of the game.

"If you look closely at the Blunt texture [the background image on this page], it's hard to believe but it comes straight of the press in a one-layer paper – gloss and matt surface as well as texture. That means it can be very commercially-priced. Blunt is one of our newest textures. It's a synthetic material but it has an absolutely natural look and feel with little imperfections in the texture that mirror real life. That's where Saviola is really scoring."

The full UK collection of 26 décors is available from Panelco and Timbmet with matching edgebanding and there is a smaller



A59 Onyx Nero with Blunt texture



T08 Marmo Patagonia with Blunt texture



DU6 Tigerwood Nero



P61 Aurino with Chalet texture

selected range available from Deralam, also available with matching edgebanding. Saviola décors are laminated to large boards – 2.8m x 2.12m in 18mm – but if you need different thicknesses, these are available subject to production volumes.

Saviola décors are produced with different price points: the single-layer paper décors are the entry level, though there is nothing 'entry level' about them except the price; the middle range décors are produced on a thicker two-layer paper that allows for much deeper embossing and it includes décors such as the Tigerwood and Aurino designs featured; then comes the top-of-the-range collection that takes the two-layer papers to the next stage with embossing in register. Chalet Oak is one

of several EiR woodgrains, yet Vanguard, a décor first seen at Sicam a couple of years ago, looks and feels like a real veneer but it's only a single-layer paper embossed in register.

What may also surprise you is that Saviola is a leading transformer of woodwaste, recovery and reuse is in their DNA. No virgin trees are used to produce the particle board. So if you're wanting to add ecological credentials to your products, using Saviola décors will help you do that too.

For more information email Barry Berman at bb@bbgm.me.uk or visit www.saviola.com/en/decors/ To learn more about Saviola's production, touch the background image to watch a video presentation on YouTube.



Chalet Oak shown on the Daval stand at kbb



Trendencies by Impress

Décor specialist Impress encapsulates trends from around the globe into its Trendencies.

The trend scouts and design experts of the décor specialist Impress are constantly tracking down the latest trends from around the globe. With its latest décor designs, Impress has encapsulated the current trends from around the globe under the label 'Trendencies' – a collection that is as relevant for tomorrow as it is for today.

'Trendencies' is the result of continuous work and numerous workshops and discussions that draw influence from technological, economic and social factors in a constantly changing world and the result shows just how diverse and varied the current trend statements are. Décors, colours, materials and home accessories give a room a unique atmosphere in line with the respective trend theme. Impress décors enable you to create very different emotional moods from the statements they make.

The challenge today is to create designs that are innovative and come with an Eco

Twist: Urbanisation and holistic living space planning combined with sustainability, renaturation and the promotion of a healthy society are at the forefront of modern living. Through innovative and the cooperative interaction of digital technology, biotechnology and the search for new energy sources, we create the basis for an environment worth living in. Thanks to intelligent networking and multifunctional facilities, liveable places can be created even in the smallest of spaces. The longing to live in harmony with nature inevitably brings with it the trend towards simplicity and naturalness.

The oak décor Mauvella Oak and the new limestone décor Montevideo embody the Eco Twist trend exactly. Mauvella Oak is cool and modern on the one hand but radiates natural simplicity and calm on the other. Nevertheless, it is very diverse and expressive in its details. The well-balanced planking with beautifully cut flowers combine with a few finely drawn branches and a rich



Bayonne Oak



Uranus

Bathroom in Evora and Panaro



Kitchen in Mauvella Oak and Montevideo



play of colours with soft grey gradients, epitomising modern naturalness. Montevideo, on the other hand, is versatile and noble: small fossilised shells are included against a homogeneous background and uniformly fine structure in a stone that appears calm and natural. Its colour palette ranges from black and grey to light beige tones and it combines particularly well with soft natural colours and woods such as natural oak.

In Elegance of Power the lure of the dark side is omnipresent. We are fascinated by the magic of the night and the theatrical interaction of light and shadow. We love playing with fire and the taking of risks as we enjoy sensual seduction and the elegance of exclusive and powerful materials. They are the reflection of our self-confidence as they give us strength and confidence in ourselves.

With its steel surface, dark colour and machining marks, the décor Uranus radiates both strength and elegance. It matches the

dark and black furniture trend in a very special way. The rustic design of Bayonne Oak complements the modern elegant and powerful look with saw marks and water stains, balancing it perfectly.

The third collection in 'Trendencies' is Self Curation: *In a world characterised by increasing mechanisation, constant change and permanent accessibility, the need to harmonise work and private life is growing. Even though today we are more aware than ever of the advantages and opportunities of digitization, health, the environment and freedom have taken on a whole new significance in our lives. We would like more time to look into and after ourselves. Emotionality and physical wellbeing belong inseparably together and are becoming more and more important. We choose the things that surround us with much more care and pay more attention to them.*

This contemporary, modern trend statement is also reflected in the rediscovery

of native woods and the creation of designs with a return to original aesthetics. The Panaro décor is fresh and natural in appearance and offers a harmoniously balanced picture. As no growth marks interfere with the fine grain of the cherry wood, the effect in a room setting is one of natural tranquillity. The Evora décor, a natural and elegant marble with fine crystalline structure and delicately drawn dark veins also has a soft and calming effect, displaying a surface that is rich and varied in detail.

For more information on any aspect of 'Trendencies', or the individual décors mentioned, contact Impress on 0049 6021 4060 or visit www.impress.biz/en/

To watch a video presentation on the inspiration behind 'Trendencies' (presented by Sascha Kostros, Head of Décor Management at Impress), download the free Furniture Journal app and touch the image marked with a link sign.



Surfaces that protect

Antimicrobial products are growing in popularity with uses that extend beyond medical applications and into the home.

Never has the need been greater for surfaces that protect than it is now. With health high on everyone's agenda, antimicrobial products that have been around for a couple of decades and in widespread use in hospitals, medical practices, schools and public buildings have suddenly taken on a new importance in the home – and few companies have quite the facility to supply them as the Elland-based trade laminator, Decorative Panels Lamination.

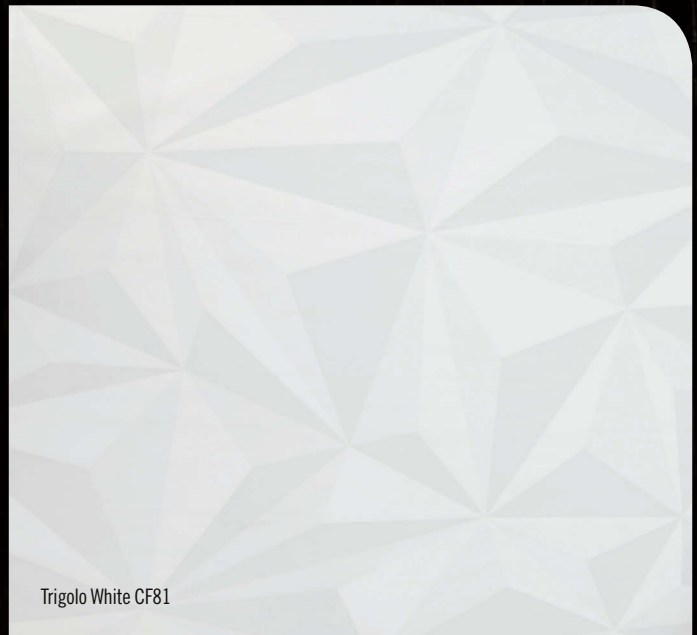
Decorative Panels Lamination produces over 300,000 square metres of laminated board products every week and for almost a decade, it has offered an extensive range of surfaces designs incorporating Biomaster antimicrobial protection technology laminated to a wide range of substrates.

Partnering with Addmaster (UK) Ltd, who, with their Biomaster product range, pioneered the use of antimicrobial additives, Decorative Panels can provide you with products that have been laminated with surfaces that inhibit the growth of bacteria, fungi and moulds by up to 99.99%.

When bacteria come into contact with the Biomaster protected surface, the silver-ion technology within the surface prevents them from growing and multiplying like they would on an untreated surface, so they die. Both the sheet materials and the edgebandings applied to them offer the highest possible product protection, have been independently tested to ISO 22196 and may be used in medical, food and water-sensitive applications. They can also be recycled without any complications.



Trigolo Black CF80



Trigolo White CF81



Oxide Concrete CF83



Anthracite CU05 with Trigolo Black CF80

With all areas of everyday life now demanding increased levels of hygiene, by utilising Biomaster antimicrobial finishes Decorative Panels is able to provide the ultimate in protection – and it's claimed never to degrade. Biomaster is incredibly durable, long lasting and highly active. When added, it is dispersed throughout the entire item and becomes an integral part of the product.

Biomaster-finished products might inhibit microbes but they certainly don't inhibit design – in fact, Decorative Panels Lamination is constantly developing its range to ensure the collection reflects the latest trends within the market. On-going design innovation and trend analysis has resulted in a collection of designs that will inspire and enable you to meet the challenges of an ever-changing market place.

Digital technology used in the creation of the artwork and the engraving of the printing cylinders combined with developments in lacquering technology have contributed to both the visual appeal of designs and the tactile quality of the surface. The surface resistance of paper foils has also increased with the majority now being able to meet the FIRA 6250 and BS6222 severe use categories for kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms – all applications except worktops.

Some of the latest designs added to the dp-decor range are Oxide Concrete CF83, Anthracite CU05, Trigolo Black CF80, Trigolo White CF81, Greta 3D CF82 and Inter Black Oak CO51, all pictured. They are both realistic in print quality and inspirational in design. An extensive range of stock finishes is available, along with design exclusivity if you

need something unique to satisfy a discerning brief – and of course, using paper foil as a surface material means it can be profile wrapped as well as flat laminated to provide fully matching parts. It's the ideal solution for framed doors, corner posts, pelmets and any matching moulding requirements.

Products are available from Decorative Panels Lamination in any quantity from single sheets up to full loads with no bulk quantity commitment. Choose the décor – the range is huge – specify the substrate, the widths and thicknesses you need and Decorative Panels will laminate it for you. Together with Biomaster, DP Lamination is ready to clean up the market place.

Call Decorative Panels Lamination on 01484 658341, visit their website www.decorativepanels.co.uk

SERVICE, DIVERSITY AND SPEED



SO MUCH MORE THAN EDGINGS

Apart from Europe's largest range of edgings, we supply a continuously growing range of products for the carpentry and furniture industry. From fittings and handles to lighting solutions, fastening systems and innovative designer surfaces: as the experts in edging, we always have the answer for your project.



Premier Matt with PST

Renolit's Premier Matt surface is a smooth, robust yet elegant product with some rather special properties resulting from PST – Physical Surface Treatment – and for 2021, it's available in 14 up-to-date, must-have colours.

The innovative surfacing technology creates a superior matt appearance with an extremely functional and tough finish that is warm and even to touch – just what's needed to protect and keep kitchen, living room, bedroom or bathroom furniture looking smart for longer.

Produced in Cramlington (Northumberland) following significant investment at Renolit's North East England site, Premier Matt benefits from many distinguishing properties including anti-fingerprint, scratch and stain resistance, easy cleaning, and thermal healing. It presents a sleek surface with low light reflectance.

The anti-fingerprint treatment means greasy or sticky finger marks no longer spoil the appearance of the kitchen and buff off easily with a soft dry cloth to leave a spotless finish,

while the in-built scratch and stain resistance reduce the visibility of micro scratches and prevent even spills of coloured food from discolouring the surface. Premier Matt has been tested according to European standards against a long list of typical foods and liquids.

Cooking splashes and spills are simply wiped away with a cloth and a mild detergent and even dried-on spills are easy to remove. Slight scuffs and scratches magically disappear with the application of gentle heat.

Renolit Premier Matt is supplied with protection film as standard and is available in 14 commercially popular contemporary colours with further introductions planned during 2021. A complementary range of 2D films suitable for profile lamination and component wrapping is available on an MTO basis.

To request a brochure containing further detailed technical information and an A6 sample swatch of the colours offered please contact Renolit Cramlington Ltd on 01670 718222 or email marketing.rcl@renolit.com

Exceptional qualities from the 14 colours in Renolit's Premier Matt collection.





Get Pfleiderer - fast

Pfleiderer just made it easier to access their complete decorative panel offer from stock.

The name Pfleiderer may be a little difficult to say (pronounced Fly-der-er), but the company is much easier to work with. Pfleiderer is a leading European wood-based panel manufacturer and now they have just made it easier for you access their product ranges – right here in the UK! Pfleiderer is the provider of a complete range of wood-based panel products with a solution for every decorative surface and construction project you may be working on. Extensive décor ranges, product certification, 24hr sample service and material available from stock in the UK - these are just some of the features that make Pfleiderer a perfect partner to the timber trade, furniture manufacturers, fabricators, designers and architects. With Pfleiderer, the design possibilities are endless!

Pfleiderer has consolidated its brands of Duropal and Thermopal under the Pfleiderer umbrella brand, operating from nine state-of-the-art production facilities as well as a dedicated sales office in the UK and a network of distribution partners across the UK and Ireland. Whether it is a simple sample request, or something more technical or inspirational you need, the UK team is always close by to assist.

The DST Décor Collection UK & Ireland 2020-2023 offers Surface design (Décor) and advanced textures (Structure) in a myriad of panel substrates (Technology) to suit every project design and technical requirement. Every decor permutation is available ex stock in MFC and matching HPL via Pfleiderer's national distribution network. To support the distribution networks, Pfleiderer also stocks this full collection in 18mm MFC. This can be accessed easily and on quick lead times via Pfleiderer's UK Landed Stock facility, held at Immingham Docks, in partnership with DFDS logistics.

What does this mean to you?

Put simply, you have quick access to the 75 designs in 18mm MFC, in addition to

full environmental certification and specialist specification support. If you have a particular colour, material or surface texture in mind, or you would like information on how to get hold of these innovative products and finishes, just get in touch with the Pfleiderer UK Specification team.

Not only is the extensive DST Décor Collection available from stock in Immingham, but you also have access to PrimeBoard – Pfleiderer's flagship decorative panel product - setting the standard for high gloss and super matt finishes. Utilising a state-of-the-art patented 48hr production process it ensures the most durable, perfectly smooth surface finish and gives unparalleled reflective levels for the gloss and an unprecedented tactility without fingerprints for the extreme matt board. Both of these premium variants are available from UK Landed Stock in a select range as either an 18mm MDF or with P2 core to order.

For more information on Pfleiderer's UK stock ranges call 01625 660410, or visit www.pfleiderer.co.uk



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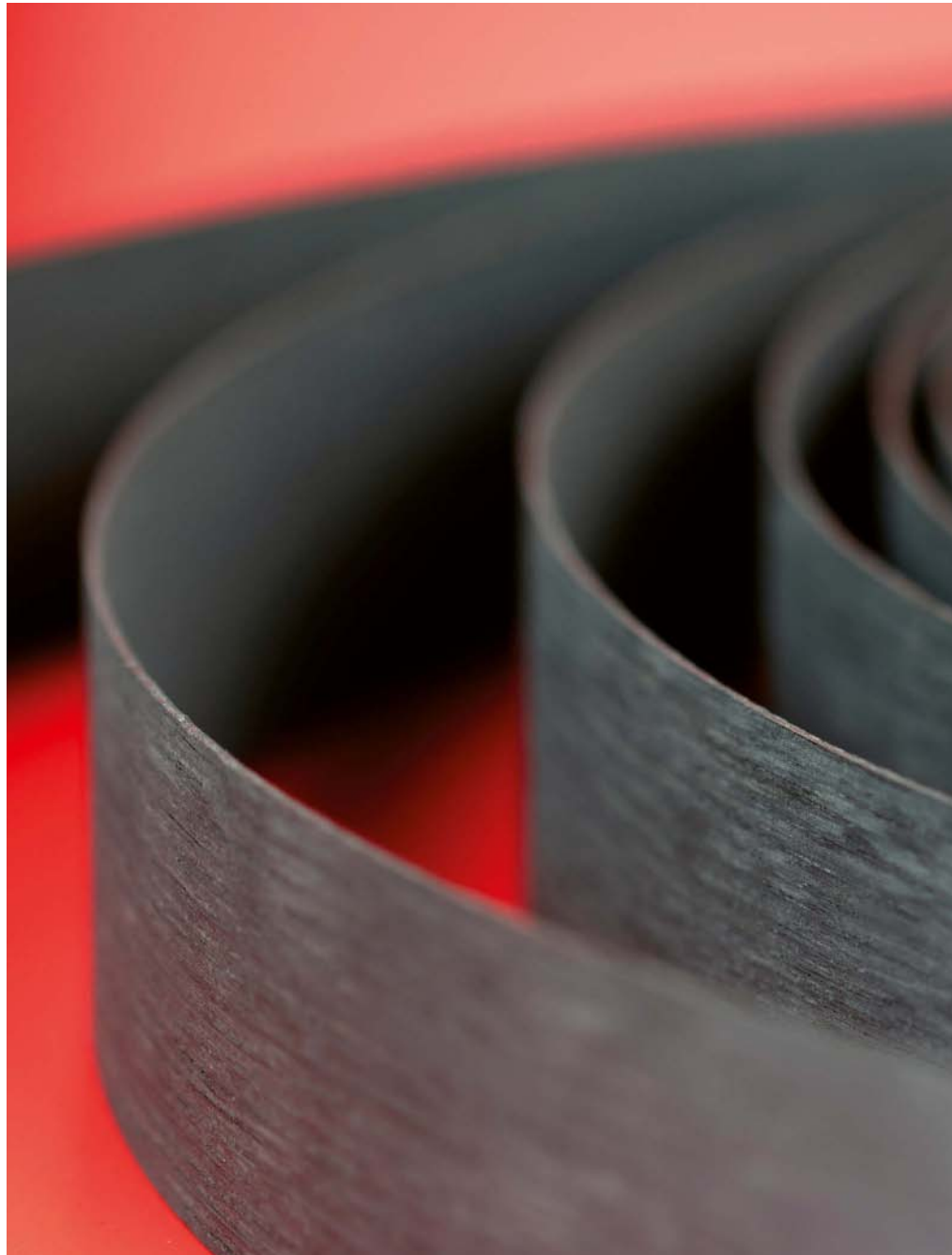
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Dark Elegance



There's something rather appealing about the look of a dark real wood veneer that Ostermann's edgeband collection has captured with elegance.

Regardless of whether the home is a place of retreat or a combination of living and working areas, with so many people working from home, a cosy atmosphere has never been more important than it is today. Wood, veneer and the wood look hold the key to cosiness – and when combined with on-trend black, there is little to beat real veneer; black oak edgings for elegance and warmth.

Black furniture elements are in high demand. They are increasingly used as a modern contrast to natural wood décors, resulting in an extraordinary look that

incorporates elegance and snugness. The new, black-dyed oak veneer edging from Ostermann reflects that trend perfectly. It captivates with its grained wood surface in jet black and acts as a mediator between real wood and black furniture elements. The new edgings add a dark accent to panel with an oak veneer, resulting in individual furniture with a particularly sophisticated look.

Ostermann's experts in edging offer a wide selection of veneer edgings for high quality furniture and the latest addition to the range is a black-dyed wood-look variant. The new *Black-coloured Oak Wood veneer sanded*

edgeband offers you a wide range of design options for individual interiors with a feel-good factor. It is available in widths of 24, 33 or 43 mm and in thicknesses of 1mm and 2mm. The finish is natural and homogeneously coloured through the thickness of the veneer. The base layers are made of veneers.

Attractive, warm, natural, sustainable, you'll find more information on *Black-coloured Oak Wood veneer sanded* edgebands from Ostermann at www.ostermann.eu under the search item "Highlights | 2020". Readers with the free Furniture Journal app can touch the image for an immediate link.



Top performers from Latham

Demand for laminates, CGL and MFC from James Latham has increased massively through the pandemic.



There has been a major shift in the materials sector as specifiers select new products to reflect the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

According to James Latham, there was a noticeable difference in sales and enquiries for certain product lines last year; the most significant of which was a 249% increase in sales of thermoplastic laminates. The leading product for this was Kydex, with Latham supplying more than 28,700 square metres of sheeting into the construction, furniture and interiors sectors. It is frequently specified for projects where hygiene and durability are essential.

Although the gains were smaller, a similar trend was experienced in Compact Grade Laminates (18%), commonly used in areas that require robust, moisture resistant protection. Melamine Faced Chipboard (MFC) also saw a 23% rise in demand. The latter included a number of products with antibacterial and antimicrobial properties, from brands including Egger, Abet, Kronospan and Xylocleaf.

While it seems natural to expect this from products related to health and hygiene, with acrylic sneeze guards and protective

screens also in demand, there has been an upturn in a wider range of lines too.

Stuart Devoil, Group Marketing Manager at Latham, said: "We had a big upturn in orders right at the start of the pandemic as we supplied materials to help with the development of the NHS Nightingale hospitals. This included temporary flooring and materials for furniture, signage and medical units.

"After this, enquiries moved towards products that could help make spaces Covid-secure, with retail, hospitality and office sectors all adapting their interiors to support social distancing measures."

At the start of 2021, Latham is drawing attention to some of these high-performing products from the year as part of its update to the 'You Think You Know Latham's' campaign. It includes an animated character, d.zen, formed of the 12 products selected, and a competition to win a £1,000 or a £500 voucher to spend on Latham's products by March 2021.

Visit bit.ly/LathamsPrizeDraw-FJ to find out more or if you are reading this with the free Furniture Journal app, touch the image with a link sign for an immediate link.



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A Handle

A touch of class, a key design feature, functionality – the right choice of handle can add them all.

What are the key ingredients that go into the design of stylish fitted furniture? Leaving aside the clever design of swish internal features, touch-to-open-and-close cupboard doors, mood-setting lighting and the functionality of appliances and brassware, the materials used for the fascias and surfaces and the design of door and drawer fronts will always catch the eye. But with mainstream manufacturers spearheading a trend towards handle-less slab doors for ease and speed of manufacture and décor producers providing surfaces that

exude character and 'feel appeal' as the antidote to a decade or more of high gloss, are the days of the humble handle numbered?

Not if you talk to handle manufacturers.

The design of handles might have changed over the years but their effect and their function remain the same: the handle defines, accentuates, even provides that essential touch of style in much the same way as a particularly striking piece of jewellery levitates a portrait and creates the wow factor. And, of course, it has an inescapable practical value – even in the days of the 'handle-less' door.



on Style

According to Häfele, designs of cabinet door handles and knobs are like fashion: cyclical, revolving and currently we're living through a 1980s renaissance.

As one of the UK's leading manufacturers and distributors of cabinet door handles, Häfele draws on expertise from its branches around the world – new product development experts in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and the USA – to drive the design of its handle range, analysing different global trends which they predict will go on to be successful in the UK.

There is currently a growing demand for wooden door knobs. But while that might give you flashbacks of the pale, silk-finished oak handles that are associated with drab kitchen décor from 40 years ago, Häfele is giving this trend a new lease of life. Darker, more rustic woods in a variety of finishes, teamed with twisted, knurled, textured surfaces are making their way into kitchens in the UK following big success in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

Häfele is using handles to draw attention to the key touchpoints and accents in our homes. Where once, wooden handles and

knobs might've blended in, barely noticed, today they provide focus and a point of difference for those who want a kitchen that's not the same as every other on the street.

Handles in general have become more than just a functional aspect of a kitchen, bedroom or bathroom. Today, they are central to design schemes, often the first element a consumer selects. The rest of a kitchen's design follows on from there.

Additionally, there has been an increase in small-scale renovations that are driven by a handle-upgrade. Those who can't afford a full



kitchen refit are looking at the elements they can retrofit to revive a tired design scheme. Handles – particularly those that can be matched to taps and lighting pendants – are the starting point.

Alongside wooden handles and knobs, black and brass versions in both matt and satin finishes are popular among homeowners using handles to create greater definition. Complementary to plainer, more understated cabinetry, these darker designs help it to stand out and are a top choice for those bold enough to choose cupboard doors in loud colours, such as racing green, petrol blue or black.

For those looking to handles to add a touch of luxury to their homes, products in champagne and rose gold hues work across a variety of settings. In bathrooms and bedrooms, where stainless steel handles and

knobs have dominated for some time, these softer shades are being introduced to provide extra warmth and to create a feel of opulence.

For those with a keen eye for safety around a home, handles can be used to create environments that are suitable for every resident – for example, soft-touch handles created using Zamak, which is coated with a rubberised covering to soften edges, are perfectly suited to children's bedrooms and play spaces, and are growing in popularity.

While Häfele continues to develop its handle range, there is a movement in the industry that is taking a different direction.

Handle-less kitchens are surging in popularity in line with minimalist design schemes, where less is more and functionality becomes covert. Seamless surfaces – such as splashbacks and worktops – are matched with equally harmonious cabinetry. Häfele is

facilitating this with its Gola System profiles, a curved, horizontal fixing that sits perfectly between the worktop and fascia to offer a handle-less experience. For those who still want their 'invisible' look to stand out, LED lighting strips can be added to the profiles as an additional decorative feature.

Although Häfele predicts further growth and innovation in the handle-less market, it is confident that handles will never go out of style with consumers – even if we do jump back several decades for the next form of inspiration.

For more information on Häfele's handle offer, call 0800 171 2909 or visit www.hafele.co.uk/en/ If you have downloaded the free Furniture Journal app, touching the image marked with a link sign will link you through your smartphone or tablet to Häfele's handle page.



Left: Evocative of the delicate needlework of a bride's Trousseau, Halcyon (left), an unusual doorknob by Haute Deco, is fresh, sophisticated and opulent. It's also available in gold and in nickel. The trilogy of Trousseau handles (right) in bronze, gold and nickel is a tribute to the intricate needlework of generations past – a wardrobe knob with a fresh take on lacework. Call 0207 736 7171 or visit hautedeco.com

Right: Stirling - elegance epitomised by Crofts & Assinder. Influenced by the patterning of stalactite formations, the Stirling emanates regality with a hint of sumptuous luxury. Subtle yet undeniably ostentatious, this refined collection will add a touch of class to any interior. Call 0121 622 1074 or visit www.crofts.co.uk



Left: Gaumont in Satin Antique and Satin Lacquered is a step back in time to the deco design era from Armac Martin. This collection of cabinet hardware features a slight stepped edge and the four-piece collection includes two sizes of pull handle, a t-bar and knob. Undeniably stylish, this collection is sure to add sophistication wherever you use it. Call 0121 359 2111 or visit www.armacmartin.co.uk



Right: Taking inspiration from American and Canadian hunting knives, often referred to as "Old Hickory", designer Christina Roberts chose to use Turnstyle Designs unique Amalfine™ process to create Hickory, a simple wood and brass combinations handle with a timeless wood grain finish. The Hickory design is available as door levers or cabinet D-handles in over 48 combinations of Amalfine™ and brass finishes. There is also a Sand finish. Call 01271 325325 or visit www.turnstyledesigns.com



Handle with Care



The Manor by
Furnipart Collection



The Manor Habit

Furnipart's latest collections take you from classic to industrial looks – and there's even a handle-less design.



Habit

How long do you think it takes to design a new handle? A couple of weeks? A month maybe? According to the Danish handle expert Furnipart, the design process for a handle like those in the newly-released Manor by Furnipart Collection actually takes six months.

Of course, that includes a large number of processes to ensure the end product meets the company's stringent quality requirements. Every single one of Furnipart's handles undergoes a large number of tests – tests that go way beyond the mandatory 48-hour salt spray/salt solution test that Furnipart's experts see only as a supplement – and they are all carried out in production and in Furnipart's laboratory in Denmark.

The new Manor by Furnipart collection, which consists of two handles and two knobs in Zamac, is available in both black and antique brass, allowing you to transform the expression the collection conveys from

something clean and industrial to a more classic and rustic look simply by changing the colourway.

Another recent introduction is Habit, a handle for the handle-less kitchen. Handle-less doors and handle-less drawers often leave behind a rather impersonal impression, not to mention the frequently unforeseen challenges of greasy fingermarks. The design of Habit solves a practical problem while enabling you to add a design feature to your handle-less doors and handle-less drawers. Habit is 50mm long, 3.5mm high and 30mm wide – and like the new Manor by Furnipart Collection, it is made from Zamac. Colours include brushed brass, the inox look, brushed anthracite and matt black.

For more information on the Manor by Furnipart Collection and Habit, call LDL on 01225 438188 or visit www.ldlonline.co.uk. Readers with the free Furniture Journal app will be able to link to both collections by touching the images marked with link signs.



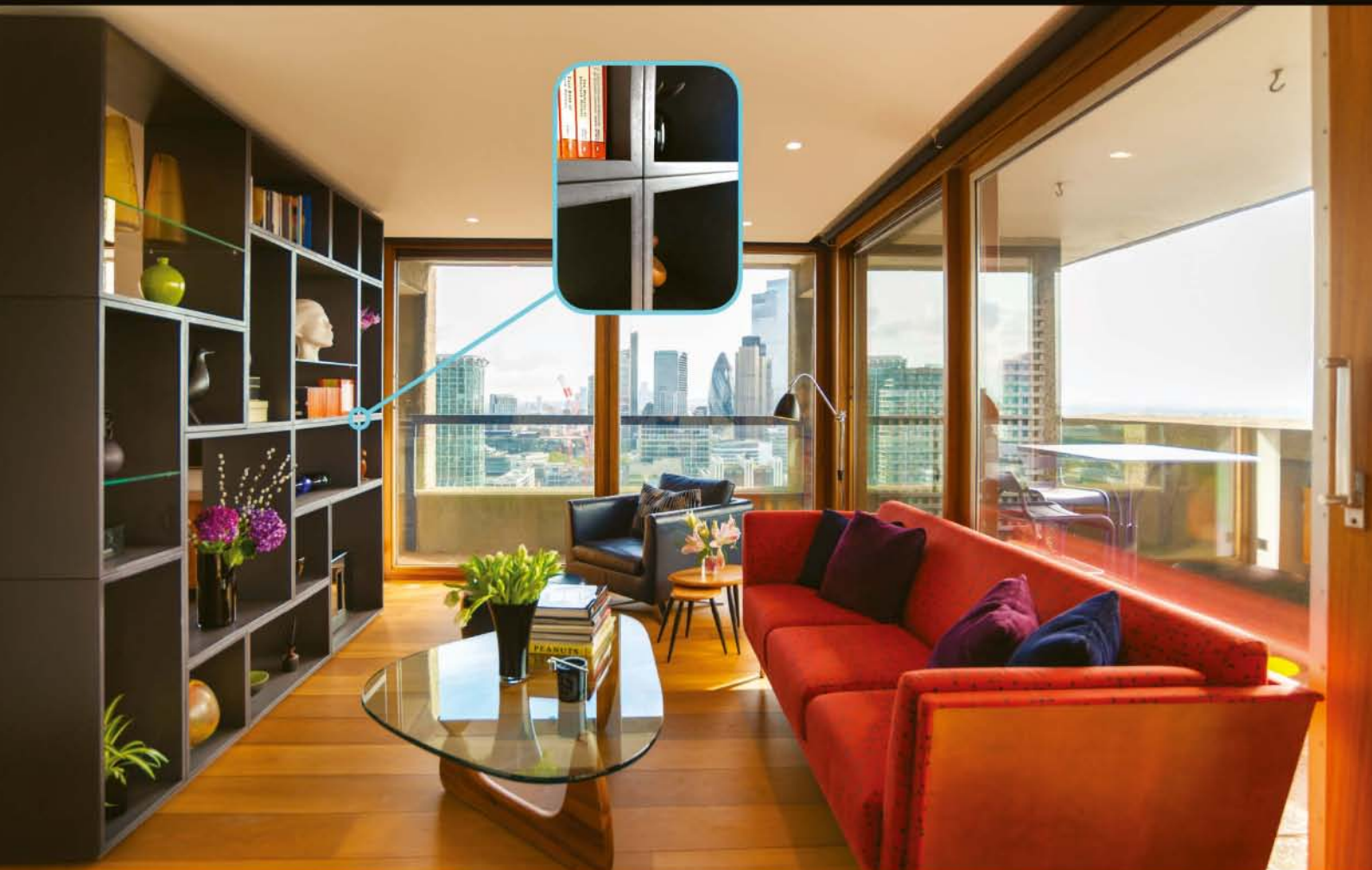
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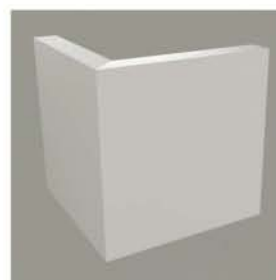
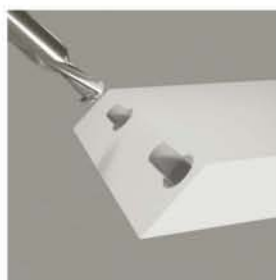
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Dancing into the limelight

Easy to use, the new Peanut Mini Jig gives you immediate access to low cost, high strength, invisible self-clamping Peanut®2 dowel connectors from IF.

The new Peanut Mini Jig from Intelligent Fixings has made it possible for all levels of woodworker to use its innovative Peanut® Connecting System. Following a recent, very positive review on social media by a well-respected influencer, the original Peanut® Jig for hand-held routers gained enormous attention and proved extremely popular. Now the much anticipated and often requested smaller version – the Peanut® Mini Jig – has arrived on the public stage!

The Peanut® Mini Jig is a fast and simple solution for woodworkers who wish to

take advantage of the Peanut®2 Connecting System. Peanut®2 connectors are a low cost, high strength, invisible, self-clamping dowel connector.

The Mini Jig's compact size and ease of use makes it perfect for projects of all sizes either on-site or in the workshop. There is no requirement for a special bench, just a ½" router with a standard 30mm guide bush, along with good quality clamps.

Made from high-pressure laminate consisting primarily of a body, fence and stainless steel gravity stopping studs, the Mini Jig is simple to use. Two M6 bolts

attach the fence, which can be fitted in three positions – 90° joints for 16-25mm thickness panels, 90° joints for 25mm-40mm thickness panels and 45° joints for 18mm-30mm thickness panels. It takes minutes to master the jig and there is a simple-to-follow illustrated set-up guide included with every set as well as very clear instructional videos on the Intelligent Fixings YouTube channel.

For more information about both jigs, along with the full Peanut® Connecting System range of products, take a look at the IF website www.intelligentfixings.com



The Eco Advantage

Climate change, planet preservation, and consumer demand, along with the shift from a linear economy model to a circular one, is compelling the adhesive industry to respond by developing products and processes that require a smaller ecological footprint. There is now a good understanding that sustainability is not just the right thing to do but can also be a key business driver and a source of competitive advantage.

H.B. Fuller's commitment to sustainability drives the manufacturer to look for ways to minimize the company's environmental footprint through sustainable business practices, and to enable its customers to improve their products and processes through adhesive solutions that help to achieve their sustainability goals. As a true industry partner, H.B. Fuller has developed a series of new, more environmentally friendly adhesive solutions for the woodworking industry, now

available from ACE Adhesives, H.B. Fuller's UK distributor based in the West Midlands.

Powering sustainable adhesives for woodworking businesses

H.B. Fuller's innovative sustainable technologies for the woodworking industry include Rakoll® 4933, a formaldehyde-free, water-based adhesive for panel and door lamination, their new low monomer reactive polyurethane range Rakoll® 5010 and Rakoll® 5016, respectively rollercoater and sprayable

flat lamination adhesive, and also the recently launched Rakoll® 4020, low monomer high strength edgebanding adhesive. Additionally, the new polyolefin flat lamination and profile wrapping adhesive Rakoll® 5437 also contributes to a sustainability journey by being applied at much lower coating weights. In fact, all this expertise encompasses the potential for manufacturers to gain competitive advantage by obtaining low hazard certification for their finished products.

**Increased use of 'green labels' messaging**

We are already seeing this approach in some woodworking markets. For example, the double-digit growth in the design flooring industry is largely due to increased capacity in the green products market. The well-known players are already using 'green labels' messaging to differentiate themselves in large tender offers. To obtain these 'green labels', manufacturers need to ensure that their working materials, including high-performance adhesives, are all 'label-free', meaning free of hazardous chemicals they would otherwise have to declare on their labels.

It's expected that the fast-growing wooden furniture industry will soon follow suit, with

brands seeking competitive edge through highly durable furniture that has been made with 'label-free' materials.

Growth in wooden furniture market

As one of the leading adhesive distributors to the woodworking industry, ACE Adhesives strives to be a true partner to their customers, responding with innovative, sustainable solutions that help maximize business optimization.

The team of experts at ACE adhesives are ready to tell you more about H.B. Fuller's products and developments, helping you choose a high-performance solution that can increase efficiencies, improve production output and offer enhanced sustainability. This represents a unique opportunity to connect

locally with the next generation of woodworking adhesive expertise first-hand and receive technical advice on choosing the right product for your specific applications.

Together, H.B. Fuller and its distributor ACE Adhesives, are expanding their contribution to sustainable development in close collaboration with customers and partners along the entire value chain.

Look forward to a green future with H.B. Fuller and ACE Adhesives at your side. To find out more, call Ace Adhesives on 01922 459393. If you are reading this article with the free Furniture Journal app, touch www.aceadhesives.co.uk to link immediately with Ace Adhesives' website or sales@aceadhesives.co.uk to email them.



High Speed

Henkel and Kenyon Group team up to bring you technical support for a PUR that will take your breath away – for the right reasons.

You're probably well-versed in the benefits of PUR adhesive already but did you know that the German company, Henkel – a market leader in adhesives with 140 years of manufacturing experience, 52,000 employees, 185 manufacturing facilities and 23 R&D sites worldwide – has a high-speed PUR formulation that will enable you to process at up to 80 metres/minute?

Presented for the first time at Ligna 2019 and now available through Kenyon Group, Henkel's *Premium Partner* in the UK, Technomelt PUR 270/5 delivers all the benefits you'd expect of a PUR adhesive at ultra high speed and without stringing or smearing, providing very clean results that are

perfect for downstream processes. And it's now available in a MicroEmission formulation: Technomelt PUR 270/5 ME.

Of course, to make the most of the exceptional processing speed offered by Technomelt PUR 270/5 ME, the type of edging material you choose (veneer, melamine, polyester, HPL, PVC, ABS or PP), the characteristics of the edging material, how it is primed, how thick it is... these factors are especially important and it's here that Kenyon Group's manufacturing experience really comes into play.

Kenyon Group has been supplying adhesives since 1979 and the experience of its technical sales staff spans all aspects of manufacturing and assembly in the furniture

Below: James Hamilton – 20 years in adhesive technologies and applications – call: 07807 107309. “This partnership means a lot to Kenyon Group. Being a Premium Partner is an honour that reflects our commitment to providing quality products for woodworking, furniture, caravan, insulation, mattress, window and door manufacturers.”

Below centre: Chris Brown – 15 years in manufacturing and adhesives – call: 07494 895482.

Below right: Darren Ogden – 10 years technical adhesive sales to assembly markets – call: 07989 337891.



and Healthy

manufacturing and related markets. The expertise and knowledge of its resident specialists has been gained over many years, enabling ‘Team Kenyon’ to deliver whatever technical support and product training you need – even for high performance products like Technomelt PUR 270/5 ME.

“The Henkel-Kenyon partnership delivers the complete package – quality products, excellent service, technical support and product training,” says Mike Bridges, Henkel UK and Ireland Sales Manager. “Kenyon’s have grown into our UK’s number one supply route for these markets and we are proud to work with a company who delivers on their word.” With such a high opinion of its distributor, it’s no surprise that Kenyon Group

was welcomed into the Henkel family and has been promoted rapidly to the coveted status of a Henkel *Premium Partner* for furniture and building component adhesives.

Backed by Henkel’s Technical Centre in Bopfingen, Germany, Kenyon Group is able to access a full range of application equipment from edgebanding to 3D thermoform pressing, enabling you to trial and test products in a production environment and find answers to gluing problems under the watchful eye of adhesive application specialists like Walter Heldt and his team. With such support at its disposal, Kenyon Group can respond to market challenges with confidence and deliver the best Henkel product for the application. And by the time this article is published, that

will include products from Henkel’s Aquence brand as well as Technomelt products – and the latest MicroEmission PUR, Technomelt PUR 270/5 ME.

If you’re looking for an adhesive that delivers high final bond strength, high heat resistance and clean working at high speed on your straight edge or softforming line, and you want the health benefits of a MicroEmission product for your employees, talk to Kenyon Group about Technomelt PUR 270/5 ME.

Call 0161 627 1001 for more information or to discuss suitability for your application. Kenyon Group can also be contacted by email at salesteam@kenyon-group.co.uk and their website, www.kenyon-group.co.uk, contains further details.



Hints & Tips Webinars

CAD+T is offering additional online training webinars to provide you with the tools you need to grow and strengthen your business.

In the last year, we've all had to change the way we live, work and run our businesses. For bespoke software developer, CAD+T, this has created new opportunities to guide, support and train their customers via tailored online training sessions and brand-new webinars set to launch this January.

"Last year put cloud-based software solutions on the map and has seen demand for our highly customisable CAD/CAM software increase by 50%," says Martina Schwarz, International Sales and Marketing Manager at CAD+T. "This surge has seen demand for our online training services grow exponentially as the industry adapts its processes and users look at new ways to enhance their skill-set and develop a greater understanding of the software. This, plus the fantastic response we had from our free-to-join webinars, streamed during the spring lockdown, has led us to expand our online offering and introduce new webinars into our regular maintenance programme."

The new webinar series, which will run alongside CAD+T's one-to-one and group training sessions, will cover a wide range of topics including planning and design, CAM-interface, ERP, CON and data-setup. "Whilst

our existing online training sessions are very much designed to help our customers learn the functionalities of the software we create and are tailored to suit individual production processes and challenges they may face, our webinars are geared towards sharing clever hints and tips, time-saving hacks and useful problem-solving techniques," says Martina. "Starting in January, each webinar, which can be purchased as part of a package, will offer solutions that will optimise the way CAD+T's software is used. It's a real value-added service and one we're sure will gain a lot of interest in the coming months."

Martina adds, "Direct training will always have an important role to play in our industry but finding new ways to help our customers grow and develop their skills during this time is equally as important to us. By offering additional online training, we're committed to investing in our customers and giving them the tools they need to grow and strengthen their businesses."

A full events timetable is available on CAD+T's website as well as a link to register your interest. Sessions will also be available to watch online for seven days after their initial screening. For more information, visit www.cadt-solutions.com/en/events/



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The items were cut to tolerances of ± 0.3 mm on a CMS Ares and Fanuc Robodrill.

Return of the Vikings

Bystrup Maskinsnedkeri used Alphacam software to manufacture authentic reproductions of Viking furniture and carvings on a five-axis CMS Ares and a Fanuc Robodrill.

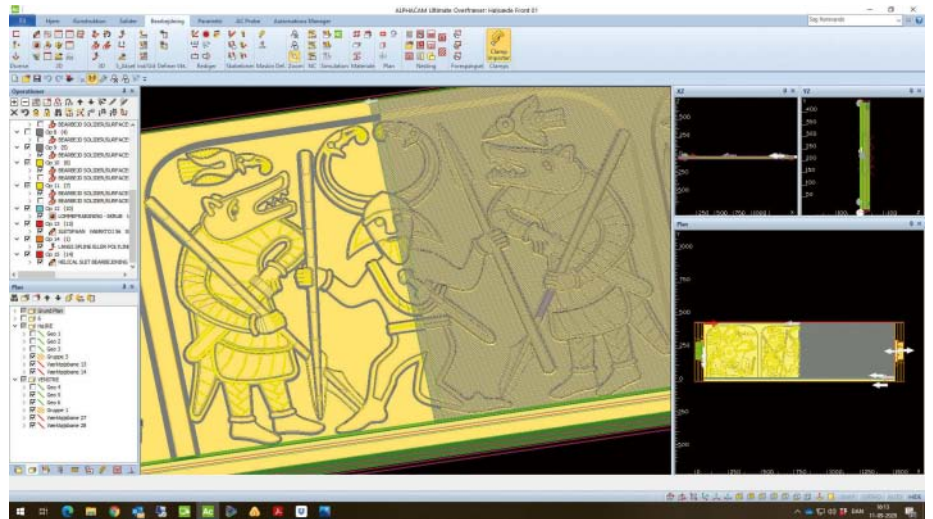
Alphacam software has played a major role in a unique museum project showing how Danish Kings lived around 1,300 years ago.

The Royal Hall – part of the Sagnlandet Lejre, or Lejre, Land of Legends archaeological centre – needed around 25 pillars, doors, tables and benches that had to be faithful representations of how furniture looked at that time. Woodworking subcontractor Bystrup Maskinsnedkeri was tasked with manufacturing the furniture and worked closely with Alphacam's reseller in Denmark,

Østjydsk CAD-CAM, to ensure the finished products were totally authentic.

Lars Holten, Director and CEO of Sagnlandet Lejre, says: "We aim to give our visitors an understanding of past life and architecture based on well-researched archaeological, iconographical and written sources, so it was very important that our reconstruction of architecture and ornamentation was made accurately, with respect to the originals."

He says Bystrup Maskinsnedkeri's innovative use of Alphacam made those aims



achievable through cost-effective, advanced woodcarving carried out on modern machinery that was subsequently hand finished by woodcarver Sanne Marie Seipelt. The items were cut to tolerances of ± 0.3 mm on a CMS Ares and **Fanuc Robodrill** using surface machining and full five-axis simultaneous strategies and toolpaths programmed and verified with Alphacam Ultimate.

As well as the range of furniture and ornaments in the Royal Hall, which were cut with Alphacam toolpaths, the software was also used to program the carving of highly

intricate designs into four sacred high-seat pillars which support the roof. The pillars are each eight-metres tall and decorated with complex motifs from Nordic mythology, showing the Nordic Gods Thor, Odin, Frej, and Freya.

The decorations were created by the museum, based on original designs found in graves and excavations in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Bystrup Maskinsnedkeri received them as STEP files, which were imported into Alphacam. The designs sank into the wood to a depth of 25mm, and were machined with

small ball nose cutters to achieve the necessary detail.

The Royal Hall, which was officially opened by Sagnlandet Lejre's patron, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, recently won the prestigious *Carpenter Award 2020* from the Copenhagen Carpenters Guild.

For more information on Alphacam visit www.hexagonmi.com or follow @HexagonAB, or to watch a video presentation of the CMS Ares, download the free Furniture Journal app edition and touch the image of the five-axis head.

Quality on the Corners



If you want matching quality on your curves and straight edges, that's what Biesse's Rover A Edge is designed to give you.

Are you in the market for a machining centre that will perform all your routing, drilling, grooving, horizontal boring and edgebanding in one pass? Do you need a machine that will give you the same edge quality on curves that you're currently getting out of your straight-line edgebander? If the answer is yes to both questions, then you really need to take a closer look at the brand new Biesse Rover A Edge.

If you are making components that involve curves, or a combination of curves and straight edges – like contemporary office desks, for example – there's a pretty good chance you're running the straight edges on a straight-line edgebander and edging the curves by hand, or on a semi-automatic machine. Manually applying edges to curves generally means hand-

finishing to get rid of chatter marks after the application and trimming of the edge and there's a lot of reliance on the skill of the operator to get a really good join on the corners where straight edges meet curved edges, or the two ends join on the circumference of a circular component. A highly skilled operator could take half an hour or more to make a curved component from start to finish and even with a semi-automatic machine, hand-finishing is required and there's no guarantee of consistency between batches.

That's where Biesse's Rover A Edge really scores.

The Rover A Edge performs all the processes in one pass, cutting the component out of a 3m panel, cleaning it and applying the tapes to both straight and curved edges, so the metre-diameter circular table top that might be taking you half an hour or more to produce can be fully finished in under five minutes. With no manual work involved, the finish will be as good at the end of an eight-hour shift as it was at the beginning – and the really clever bit is the Rover A Edge will apply edges using EVA,

PUR, or even laser edgebands using Biesse's unique Rayforce infra-red system.

Once the machine rules have been set up, starting the machine is a simple matter of pointing at the edges you want to apply tape to on the screen image, making sure the machine knows which tape is loaded and pressing the start button. The Rover A Edge will cut the panel and an air jet will clean the panel, adding a pause so the operator can remove any offcuts, if required. Pushing start a second time moves the spindle out of the way so the gluing unit can engage and apply the edge. A sensor feels the overlap and it makes a cut to join the edge perfectly before the trimming aggregate on the head trims and edge scrapes for a perfect finish.

The Rover A Edge is equipped with a feed system that enables two coils of edging material to be kept on board with automatic switching between them. However, it can be equipped with four off-the-machine coils as well, which the Rover A Edge would find and load automatically after unloading the two main coils. In the same way the machine knows

The Rover A Edge 

where the tools are it also knows where the tapes are. All you have to do is stand back in amazement.

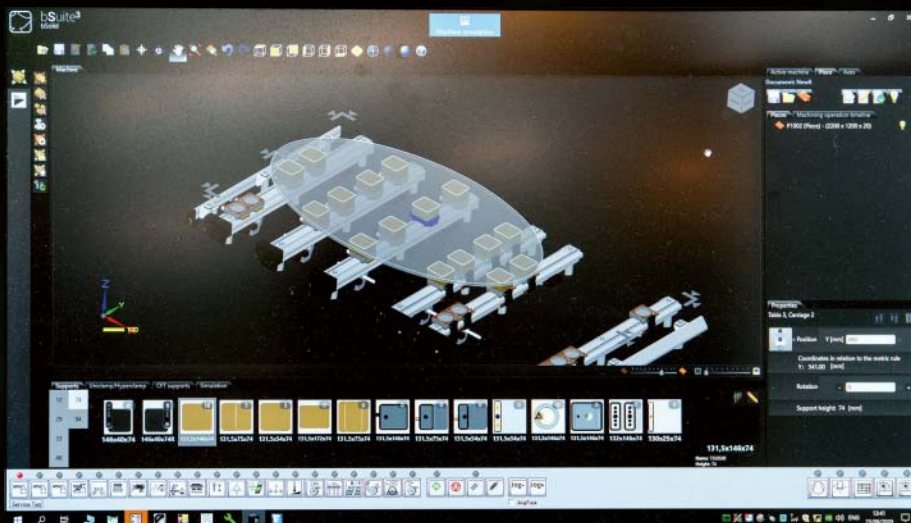
As you might expect, there are some very clever features on the Rover A Edge that will save you time and help you maintain the same quality of edge consistently.

"We sell the machine on the quality of the panels it produces," says Paul Willsher, Biesse UK's CNC Brand Sales Manager. "There is no operator intervention for cleaning and trimming and what you get is A1 quality all day long with repeatability. Some machines require the edge to be applied then the operator trims, scrapes and cleans the panel once it's come off the machine. This one does everything – and regardless of whether you are applying with EVA or PUR, the Rover A Edge applies the glue to the board, the same as our straight-line edgebanders. That means no glue on the tape and that's why we can get to the quality without operator intervention."

Applying the glue to the board makes a lot of sense if you think about it: with a machine that applies glue to a tape that's wider than the thickness of the board, trimmings can easily stick to the exposed part of the tape during the finishing process, potentially spoiling the result. Also, if there's a misfeed, the edge will remain within the gluing unit and the glue roller will continue turning, spilling out glue that could melt the edging. That's a messy situation nobody wants. On the Rover A Edge, however, the glue roller is ahead of the glue because it's gluing the board, ergo there is no contamination. Even if you have to pull the tape back through the gluing unit there's no cleaning of the machine or the tools afterwards because there's no glue on it.



The RC60B aggregate



The Feedback Positioning System is phenomenal



Paul Willsher

Biesse has equipped the Rover A Edge with an on-board spraying station that sprays anti-adhesive over the trimming tools. It can be turned on and off. "When the machine puts the router down, it picks the trimming tool up and takes it to the cleaning station so you can machine longer distances without having to stop and clean the unit," says Paul. "It's an easy way of keeping the tools clean that doesn't involve taking them off the machine and it's a significant aid to keeping the quality at its best."

For the ultimate zero-glueline finish using laser edgebanding tapes, Biesse offers the Rover A Edge with its infra-red system, Rayforce. With Rayforce, there is no glue to apply and no possibility of contamination. "Having Rayforce on a Rover A Edge means you can complement the Airforce system on a straight-line edgebander with a system that will produce identical quality on curved components," says

Paul. "If you are doing straight edges on three edges of a panel using your straight-line edgebander but you need a curved fourth edge, you might get three nice edges but without using the same process you'd see a difference in the glueline on the curved section. We wanted a process that enabled the curved edges to look just as good as the straight edges and this system complements straight-line edgebanders very well."

Placing the panel in exactly the right position on the bed and ensuring it is perfectly dimensioned to within a fraction of a millimetre is a tall task of any operator – frankly, it's almost impossible – so how does the Rover A Edge guarantee a perfect match between edges that have been applied using a straight-line edgebander and those it applies to the curved section? The answer is to be found in a clever little aggregate called the RC60B. If the



Internal and external radii edged with EVA.

panel was even as little as 0.1 mm over length, a conventional system would dig into the side of the panel. The RC60B copies the edge that's already been applied, then it works downwards to provide the corner rounding effect so every corner has a perfect edge. "It's the ideal solution if you are edging the straight edges on a straight-line edgebander for speed, then adding the curve on a Rover Edge," says Paul.

Edging at up to 15m/min, the Rover A Edge will apply practically any edgebanding on the market, even veneer edgings. The thickness of the edging material is the limiting factor when edgebanding curved components but with a 0.4mm veneer it can edge an internal radius of just 18mm and on less challenging external curves, 2mm thick edging material can be applied.

On the latest model of the Rover A Edge, the gluing side of the machine is on the same

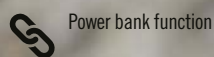
side as the electro-spindle, resulting in a narrower head and making it possible to machine and edgeband a full three-metre panel. There have also been some significant developments in the bed systems that are now available: "We have four levels of table setup system," says Paul, "Manual; Setup Assist (where the red and green lights tell you where to put the pods); EPS (where you press the button and the pods move automatically into position but any manual movement after they've been set requires the bed to be re-homed); and the very latest FPS 'Feedback Positioning System'. FPS homes the pods to start with and regardless of whether they are moved manually afterwards, the feedback system knows where they are and moves them into the correct position for the job it's about to perform.

"With FPS, you could set the bed up manually – for example, if you wanted to set

up a jig system – and because the machine knows where the pods are you can save that back to a program so the next time you want to use it, the pods can be positioned automatically. FPS is very flexible. It just makes life really easy, especially if there are lots of different set-ups during production."

Of course, if you need even more productivity, Biesse offers a Rover B Edge. With this machine, two panels can be cut at the same time, productivity increases, the tool-changers are larger and the z-height is greater. There's even a Rover C Edge.

For more information on the Rover A Edge, or its bigger brothers, call Biesse UK on 01327 300366, or, if you are reading this article via the online App edition of Furniture Journal, tap [here](#) to be linked to Biesse UK's website. You'll find a very informative YouTube presentation by touching the machine image.



Music from your toolbox



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Exemplary Edges



Jayne and Jamie Everett

Jamie Everett doesn't buy equipment, he buys solutions to manufacturing problems and Holz-Her is his go-to provider.

Norfolk Oak prides itself on doing things differently. Creating up to 150 bespoke kitchens every month from its 100,000 square feet premises in Fakenham, the kitchen manufacturer has carved out an enviable niche offering high-end kitchens and doors to architects, designers and residential clients online. But, when faced with the challenge of applying a paintable PVC edging to a smooth panel door, Norfolk Oak turned to Holz-Her UK for the solution.

"I don't buy equipment, I buy solutions to problems," admits Jamie Everett, Managing

Director of Norfolk Oak Ltd. "We needed to apply a PVC edge to a panel door which, in turn, would then be painted. On the surface, this may sound simple but with a flat, smooth door, we use a HDF substrate. The surface layer is made from melamine, which is made up of 30 layers of craft paper, with each layer glued and pressed together. It gives you a really lovely, smooth finish but, when you cut it on a CNC, you end up with HDF edges. When you're using water-based paint to finish the door, it fluffs up and makes it difficult to work. If you don't get the glue line and edge



Main image: Lumina 1598 with Return-Master 5920 panel return system.
Above right: GJ702 GluJet system.
Right: Cleaning chamber and cartridge for neutralising PUR.



from Holz-Her

down to two or three hundredths of a millimetre, you'll see every single imperfection once it has been painted. For us, that was simply not an option. We needed an edgebander that could apply a perfect, paintable edge to our door panels quickly and efficiently."

Having worked with Weinig UK for 15 years, purchasing both solid timber machinery and more recently panel processing equipment (including three flatbed CNCs and a pod and rail CNC from its sister company, Holz-Her UK), Jamie understands the importance of investing in good quality equipment. "Our thought processes are completely aligned and I trust them implicitly.

That's why they are my go-to problem solvers. They said we needed a Lumina 1598 with a ReturnMaster panel return system and they were right. It ticks every box and offers an absolutely perfect edge every time."

So how did the Lumina 1598 help Norfolk Oak achieve their objective?

As well as being fitted with a patented GJ 702 Glu Jet system, capable of working with EVA and PUR cartridges and granulates to reduce downtime time and glue cost, the Holz-Her edgebander comes with a wealth of automated features to provide enhanced speed, accuracy and versatility. The Multipurpose Package delivers automatic, program driven, profile changing to the fine

trimming, corner rounding and profile scraper units (changing from 1.3 mm to 2 mm to 45 degree chamfer to 8 mm flush). The edgebander also includes iTronic as standard. This facilitates adaptive precise pressure to the pressing station and glue quantity control to the GJ702 Glu Jet. The result: a repeatable, by program recall, glue dose for a near zero glue line.

It also features automatic remaining glue coverage monitoring and an automatic flush feature for easy cleaning of PUR. The machine's fast technology also allows for different operations to be carried out whilst panels are still within the machine. This means the operator no longer has to wait for panels



End, flush and fine trimming units



Finishing section with scrapers and buffers



Two-motor corner-rounding unit



to exit before moving on to the next production phase. Plus, with finishing units – including an extra set of buffers for the corner rounded corners and sprayers – this machine delivers finished panels to an exceptional standard.

“The automated processes make this a phenomenally quick piece of kit,” says Jamie. “Capable of running at 25 meters per min, one operator can run a whole kitchen – normally 200 panels – through the machine in under an hour. The same process would have taken two people at least 2.5 hours on our old machine.”

The ReturnMaster panel return system makes one-man operations easy but it's also providing other important benefits: “It was a big investment – around 35% of total cost of the package – but it's around five times faster than its predecessor. This offers huge labour savings and by that I don't just mean an operator's hourly rate. It comes down to cost and allocation of resources, too. I predict that the whole set-up will pay for itself within two years, probably sooner.”

The quality of the panels coming off the Lumina has also been a game changer for Jamie: “Our old edgbander needed to be manually adjusted with an Allen key and it didn't offer any automatic quality control settings. It made the process more labour-

intensive and as a result, boards would often need to be pre-processed to eliminate visible imperfections. Since our Lumina 1598 was installed, we have had virtually zero remedials at the production stage and we haven't had any customer remedials from our edging work either. Automation makes this side of our production more efficient – the tolerances are microscopic and each panel is perfect before it goes to be painted. That said, we still hand finish and check every panel for peace of mind. That will never change.”

Keen to continue the blend of traditional and modern manufacturing techniques, Jamie's motivation to invest remains strong. “You can't let old machinery and technology define your business model. You will get left behind. We are constantly trying to find new and innovative ways to do things that ultimately set us apart from the rest.

“In a manufacturing business, it's not like steering a sports car, it's like steering an oil tanker. You need to be a long way ahead of the curve to make sure you're going the right way. Holz-Her has been instrumental in this. They work with me, not for me. Replacing old with new isn't the right approach for me. We can't afford to get complacent. We tell Holz-Her what we want to achieve and they find solutions. They know their stuff, they

understand our company and it shows. But for me, above all else, they show integrity. It's not a common trait to find in business but if there is integrity, everything else will fall into place. That's why we work well together.”

So what's next for Norfolk Oak?

We may be in uncharted waters with Covid-19 and Brexit but Jamie has his next move clearly mapped out: “It may seem like a curious time to make investments in our manufacturing processes but we don't need growth to justify these purchases. Collectively, they will increase production speed, grow our capacity and offer us more control and organisation throughout our business. Financially, the period of return is too great for most people to want to do this. We want to do it because it will add to the smooth running of the operation and give us the flexibility to offer a broader range of products as the market demands. To me, that's worth every penny and with Weinig and Holz-Her by our side, we know we'll always be leading from the front.”

For more information on Holz-Her's Lumina series, visit www.holzher.co.uk or call 01235 557600. Readers using the free interactive Furniture Journal app can access a machinery video and a detailed explanation of the Glujet by touching the images marked with link signs.

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Stefani Rocket line makes Sharps even sharper



Andy Plant

With their 30-year old Stefani still producing 1500m every day, it's no surprise that when Sharps needed more production they chose the new Stefani Rocket line made by SCM.

Three angle plants, a dozen or more drilling machines, half a dozen edgebanders, five presses, seven routers, a small upholstery workshop and an aluminium door production unit – it's a big operation at Sharps Bedrooms and they press their machines hard with two shifts a day, five days a week. For operations manager Dave Lloyd and site services manager Andy Plant, a high-quality finish and absolute reliability are of paramount importance and non-negotiable. Whatever the machine, it has to perform.

"We are the UK's leading fitted bedroom manufacturer," says Dave, proudly. "What we produce is a high-quality product. We make 700 bedrooms every week, week-in, week-out. They are exclusively for the UK, we don't export and every one is sold direct to the public. We don't sell any of our furniture through independent stores or showrooms so everything that leaves the

factory is on a timed delivery to the customer and it has to be on time every time.

"Every bedroom we make is bespoke and no two bedrooms are the same. We're running batch-size-one all the time. We must have 25-35 different fitted furniture ranges with a lot of skews for boards. Our warehouse is full to capacity and we're extremely busy. Even through past recessions and the Covid crisis, we've been flat out – and we're very demanding on our machines. They have to perform continuously and consistently, even the older machines."

When Dave and Andy got the green light to invest in a new edgebanding line, they admit candidly that they did check what was on offer from several manufacturers but it was almost a foregone conclusion they would choose SCM again.

"We chose SCM because we have an original Stefani machine that the new one mirrors," says Andy. "Although it's getting on



for 30 years old, it's still producing the same quality. That's what really gave us the confidence to go for a Stefani solution again.

"Our volume has increased massively in the last few years. The old machine was already running from 6am in a morning until 2am the following morning and as the orders increased, we couldn't get the extra volume we needed, so we had to go for another machine."

The machine Dave and Andy chose was a Stefani xd and they opted for two of them, a left-handed machine and a right-handed machine connected with a Z-shaped roller conveyor system in a Stefani rocket line configuration. They didn't need the latest all-singing-all-dancing specification with all the specialised CNC controlled units the new Stefani line can offer; just a pair of reliable workhorses that would process the long edges of 16mm MFC and 18mm MDF panels down to 70mm wide at high speed – like their old Stefani – using the HyBond PUR they favour. "We do have other edgebanding machines in the factory but none of them will process anything smaller than 300mm, so

we were absolutely pounding the old machine. We've actually had a tweak done to the new machine so it will process 60mm."

Roger Gabb, SCM's sales engineer, takes up the story: "It's a Stefani xd with a PU glue system on both sides. It has the pre-melting system but it's not the highest technology machine we produce because it's only been bought to do the long edges of a narrow panel. It has top and bottom trim and they've got a grooving spindle on the second machine so it can put a groove on the underside. It was bought to mirror the older machine and all they wanted was a very straightforward specification from a simple machine that delivered the same reliability and tireless performance as the old machine."

The new Stefani rocket line does benefit from SCM's Maestro Active Edge Software with Eye-M touch screen PC control and the air cushion table on the infeed is equipped with a barcode reader. Maestro Active Edge enables the creation of just-in-time programs that can be managed either by means of a production list, or through the barcode reader, but it also does a lot more: as well as





Above: Stefani's fast changeover SGP glue pot and PU BOX L pre-melter.

Top right: The YU-1200 end trimming unit equipped with front and rear copying devices.

Above centre: An SPE brushing unit with two overlapped motors is used for polishing.

Above Right: The chamfering unit in Stefani's RSU-E 2P NC.



providing a 3d virtual preview of the panel and automatic selection of the operating units, it will program the gluepot and the pre-heating unit, manage the selection of edging coils and provide clear information to help the operator diagnose and resolve any problems. Everything is accessed via the touchscreen on a 21.5" Eye-M LCD colour display. Teamviewer software is also available with the Eye-M for remote diagnostics over the internet.

Both machines are equipped with the latest generation RT-H pre-milling unit to ensure a uniform surface and perfect junction line ahead of glue application. The RT-H unit can machine with or without copying automatically. It's equipped with diamond tools and the alternating tilt of the cutting edges makes for better preparation of the panel.

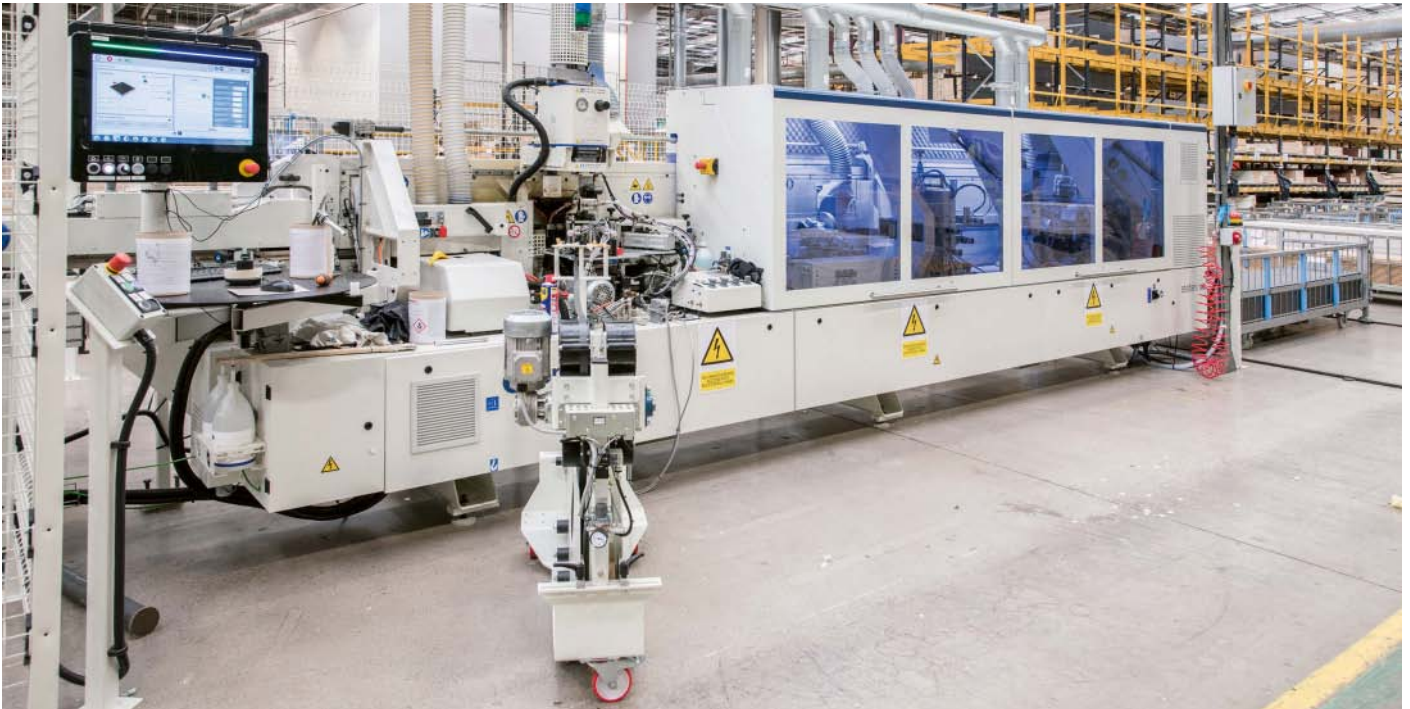
Although Dave and Andy didn't need fast changeover from one glue type or colour to another, the SGP glue pot (with SCM's twin-melter PU Box L pre-melting system for PUR

Glue and EVA and CFS forced air cooling system) is a fast-changeover solution that benefits from a very short heat-up time. Both the tanks and the roller are specially treated with SCM's Plasma coating that prevent adhesive from sticking and are easy to access. A quick release device makes removal of the gluepot a simple operation while SCM's iGlue device ensures glue loss is prevented when the machine is stopped.

"Everything we do is with PUR," says Andy. "The PU box takes 2kg slugs in the pre-melter. It only has a small tank for the glue because the pre-melter holds the majority of it, so you're not wasting much of it at all when you want to do a clean-down. With the SGP being fed from above, it's much easier to drain from below and the maximum you'd ever need to get rid of is half a kilo in the gluepot. There isn't a lot to run through. The only time we needed to clean it out was just before lockdown. When we came back eight weeks later, there were no issues whatsoever."



Roger Gabb



The twin motor, pneumatic stroke YU-1200 end trim saws are equipped with front and rear copying devices as well as a side copying device with automatic intervention and automatic independent blades that tilt from 0-22 degrees.

The chamfering unit is Stefani's RSU-E 2P NC. This unit is ideal for the finishing of thin edges as well as rough trimming of PVC, ABS and PP and it's equipped with both vertical and horizontal copying systems. The RSU-E 2P NC provides automatic changing between one thin edge and one rounded edge and micro adjustment of rounded edges. Both the chamfering unit and the end trim saw have anti-adhesive and edge-finishing sprays and a twin coil edge-feeding magazine as well as fixed lateral panel supports but it's only the second Stefani that's been equipped with a grooving spindle. If Dave and Andy wanted to run cabinet backs through, the Stefani rocket line would facilitate that. It would also process panels of up to 45mm in thickness.

An SPE brushing unit with two overlapped motors, each equipped with a cloth brush, polishes the edges. Connected directly to the pressure beam, adjustment is automatic and determined by the panel thickness.

The line has a variable track speed of 10-30m/min (Dave and Andy only run it at 30m/min) with the Z-shaped conveyor shunting panels from the left-hand to the right-hand machine. To ensure accurate panel holding, both Stefanis are equipped with a top pressure beam and twin-profile V-belt as standard for automatic positioning by NC control, regardless of whether 16mm or 18mm panels are being processed.

Although the requirement of the new Stefani rocket line is to process narrow components – something Dave says it's currently doing very well at almost 1500 metres per shift – the manual infeed panel system has a wide-dimension guide and enlarged telescopic support that make it easy to feed in large panels of up to 1200mm in width if required. A panel spacer

at the infeed automatically adjusts the loading distance if the feed speed is changed.

"It's a solid machine," admits Andy, "And it fits our needs perfectly. We know we can get SCM's engineer, Jon Wilson, down pretty quickly if we need anything but the training he gave us was very good, we had four operators trained to start with and we can handle most routine maintenance ourselves. Jon will talk me through minor things and we have the PCs that connect us remotely.

"It's producing about 1500 metres per shift, two shifts a day, and it never stops," says Dave. "We're growing so fast we need that. In fact, we'll probably need another Stefani edgebander soon."

For more information, call 0115 977 0044, or download the free Furniture Journal App and touch any of the pictures in the online edition for an immediate link to video demonstrations and more. Alternatively, touch info@scmgroup.com to send an email.



Striebig enters

Martinspeed solves its outsourcing problem with a Striebig Compact.

Martinspeed specialises in transporting artwork to museums, galleries and private collectors from around the world. The London-based company has invested in a new 40,000 square feet purpose-built manufacturing unit and a new Striebig vertical panel saw from TM Machinery in order to make the switch from outsourcing to manufacturing its own protective shipping cases and frames.

"Outsourcing is never without its problems and it means relying on third parties to get the job done," begins John Perkins, Head of Case Packing at Martinspeed. "For us, not only was this proving more expensive than manufacturing our own frames and cases, we also had to work around other people's production timescales. The lack of flexibility and the potential for delays was always a concern. As the company continued to grow, the logical step was for us to bring our manufacturing in house and gain full control over our manufacturing processes."

In 2020, Martinspeed began work on a new manufacturing unit to sit alongside its existing storage, packing and shipping departments. "The unit was a blank canvas, with plans to incorporate a separate cutting and assemble area," explains John. "We knew we needed a saw that was capable of cutting nine, 12 and 18mm plywood sheets for our made-to-measure carcass and 50mm polystyrene, polyethylene and other soft foams for the linings. We also needed it to cut multiple sheets measuring up to four metres long in one go and be suitable for single-person operation. Plus, it also needed to offer a compact footprint. A table saw simply wasn't an option – especially when you consider the space it needs and the tricky handling. We knew only a vertical panel saw could offer us what we wanted."

The Compact 5220 recommended ticked every box. The machine offers a cutting range of 4350 x 2200mm but with a footprint of just 5826 x 1466mm. John

Left: The Striebig Compact
Below: Striebig Compact Saw Carriage
Below Right: Scoring blade



the Art World

already had over 20 years of experience using Striebig vertical panels saws and a longstanding relationship with TM Machinery from his previous job, so there was no doubt in his mind that the robust Striebig Compact, with its 3.9kW sawing unit, 60mm cutting depth and pre-scoring unit, would suit his requirements. "I didn't need to be sold on the machine's pin-point accuracy and Swiss build quality because I'd had first-hand experience of using Striebig panel saws and they'd never let me down. What I needed was guidance from TM Machinery on the right model for the job and how and where it would be best to house it in the new factory. Having someone look over the plans and talk me through the space and cutting area needed was a great help and it made for a quick and simple installation. In fact, it only took two engineers half a day to install the saw – with samples being run on the saw in a matter of hours – making it easy for our extraction company to fit the necessary ducting the following day.

"It's been a gradual process, mainly due to Covid-19 restrictions, but the result is a purpose-built manufacturing facility that has the capacity to create several hundred bespoke shipping cases a week. On average, we're currently putting 24 ply sheets through the saw a day – frequently cutting four sheets of 9mm plywood at a time before moving them to the new assembly area.

"Since lockdown has ended, the Striebig has been the workhorse of our workshop and is often running all day. We are now shipping thousands of pieces of artwork a week. Not all of these items require our bespoke cases and frames but we now have the potential to fulfil a larger number of orders much more quickly. We occasionally need to create shipping crates for same-day and next-day dispatch. We would have struggled to offer this service if we had still been outsourcing and it would have been extremely expensive but now we have the Striebig, we're in a position to do this efficiently. We now have complete flexibility

and control over our processes and because it is a manual machine, it's quick and easy for the team to operate."

John adds, "The speed and precision of this machine is its biggest plus point for me. It's working at a faster rate than expected and it's still not up to full capacity. The potential when using this machine is massive. I believe this is the go-to saw for manufacturers who are looking to speed up production and simplify their operation. It's a fantastic addition to our business and the advice and service I've received from TM Machinery has been second to none."

TM Machinery is the exclusive UK distributor of Striebig vertical panel saws. For more information call 0116 271 7155 or visit www.tmmachinery.co.uk. For the latest news, follow TM Machinery on Twitter [@TM_Machinery](https://twitter.com/TM_Machinery) or search for **TM Machinery** on LinkedIn. Furniture Journal App readers can watch a training video for the Striebig Compact by touching the main picture.



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Movers





and Shakers

Following a move to considerably larger premises and plans to grow the business in the coming years, commercial washroom fit-out and contract furniture manufacturer, Stevens Washrooms, has invested in a custom-built wood waste extraction system from Leicester-based extraction specialist, Dustraction.

"With over 20 years of experience behind us, we had a clear understanding of what we needed our new extraction system to do and what it needed to help us achieve," begins Ian Stevens, Managing Director of Stevens Washrooms. "The new extraction system had to be capable of working with nine woodworking machines, including multiple edgebanders, a CNC and a vertical panel saw, and be able to work efficiently if all machines were running at the same time. The design also needed to accommodate 25% extra capacity and be easily modified and extended if we were to expand our premises in the future. Noise

levels and running costs were also key areas of consideration for us."

Following discussions with three extraction companies, it was Dustraction's unique Dustrax No 27 BB Series tubular sock type filtering system complete with automatic shaker cleaning mechanism that ticked the box for the Portsmouth-based manufacturer. "Not only did the system seem like the most comprehensive solution on paper, Dustraction's customer service, clear understanding of our requirements and speedy response to our questions made for a winning formula. Within three days, the team had drawn up detailed plans of our new 8,000 square foot premises, calculated the air volume required and offered us a competitively-priced solution that matched our brief perfectly."

Designed and manufactured around Stevens Washrooms' production requirements, Dustraction's Dustrax No 27 BB Modular wood waste filter is capable of

The new Dustrax extraction system at Stevens Washrooms offers high-performance, innovative technology and user-friendly functionality.



working effectively with the total air volume required by the nine machines on site (approx 11,470m³/hr – 6,750 cfm) and offers a filtration velocity of approx 2.36m/min. Its modular, bolted construction also allows for the addition of further filter chambers, bagging base extensions and increased fan power if needed in the future.

In addition, its automatic shaker cleaning mechanism, which sees waste transferred into an enclosed bagging hopper via the main floor-mounted extraction fan set, and fully-sequenced control panel designed for simple operation, the new Dustrax extraction system offers high-performance, innovative technology and user-friendly functionality.

Following the completion of socially distanced on-site surveys, the installation began on schedule. "We were fortunate enough to be able to carry on working from our existing premises while the new extraction system was being fitted," explains Ian. "This not only reduced our downtime

but gave the engineers more space and flexibility during the build. However, it also meant that they needed to be accurate when it came to the machine's positioning. We couldn't afford for our machines to be moved into their new home and not be up and running quickly. Dustraction's engineers visited the site several times before the build began. Their due diligence paid off and each stage of the fit-out went to plan."

Eight weeks on and the company is expecting to see significantly reduced running costs in the next quarter. "In our old premises, we had five smaller extraction units placed around the factory floor instead of all our machines running off a singular unit. Each ran at 35 amps on three-phase. On start-up, our new Dustrax fan goes from 200 amps to just 37 amps in a matter of seconds. That's how powerful and energy efficient this system is. The near-silent running fan has also reduced noise levels. Even the shaker box is really quiet."

Ian adds, "Now settled into our new premises, we are running at 60% capacity. The unit is capable of growing with us and so too is the new wood waste extraction system. Investing in key pieces of equipment like a new extraction system is never going to be an easy task – especially when you're in the process of moving your entire manufacturing plant at the same time – but Dustraction was always on hand to help us. I found them to be extremely up-front and open throughout our journey and because of this, we've built a lasting relationship with them. We plan on working together going forward and we have an annual service plan in place with them. I would wholeheartedly recommend them to others looking to install a new extraction system or those looking to improve an existing system. The whole team really has offered a great service."

For more information please visit www.dustraction.co.uk, call 0116 271 3212 or follow @DustractionLtd on Twitter.



VS

SCHELLING – The Elite New Offerings

The new VS Area Storage System and LS1 range from Schelling are just showing how well they are adapting to the climate in the market.

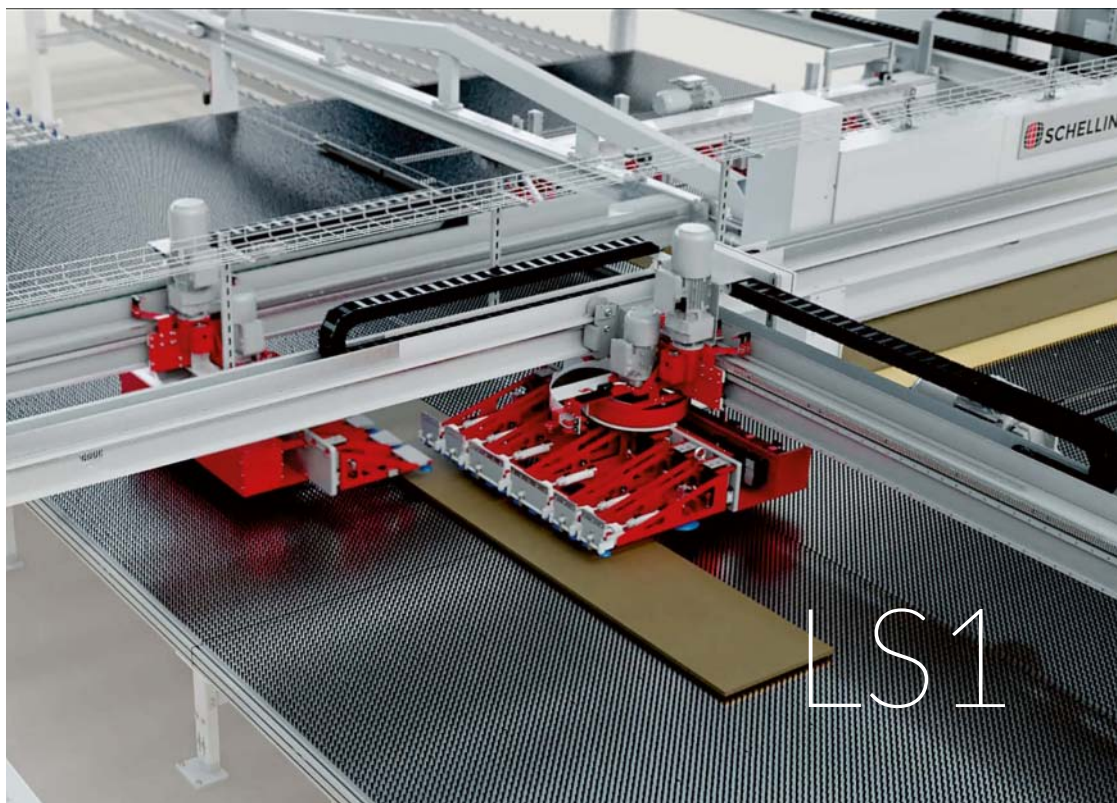
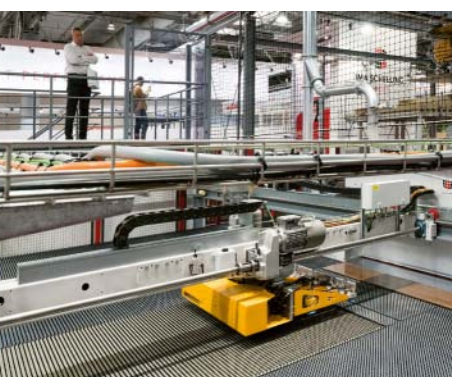
The LS1 is making batch size one production even more efficient and the VS can be adapted to suit any requirements. It can even be over multiple levels for those short of space!

Get in touch for more information on the VS or LS1.



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Keep distance and save space

Safety has always been in the spotlight but never more so than now when it dominates the news around the world. Reducing risks for your workforce, your customers and your visitors on work premises is therefore a key concern for companies of all sizes as it looks like social distancing will be required for the foreseeable future. That, of course, poses challenges if space is tight.

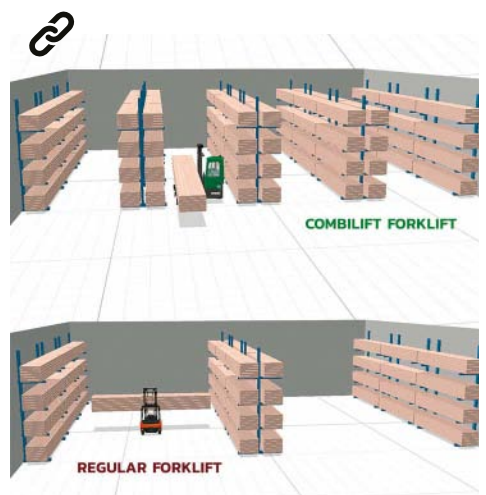
An issue that's in direct conflict with the need to maintain increased distances between staff involved in warehousing and logistics operations is the soaring growth in e-commerce and the increased demands on space that it entails. According to the Office for National Statistics, online sales in the UK in July 2020 (as a percentage of total retail sales) was 28.1% compared to 18.7% during the same period last year. This represents an increase of almost 50% year on year. Online sales are unlikely to drop back to pre-Covid levels, so warehousing space will continue to be at an all-time premium.

So where do companies just like yours look for a solution to maintaining safe social distances between personnel while battling against the conflicting requirement for more warehouse space? The answer could be closer than you think – and a lot less expensive than acquiring another building to extend your capacity.

Combilift's wide range of multidirectional forklifts, pedestrian stackers, Aisle Master articulated trucks and straddle carriers has enabled thousands of customers around the world to achieve safer and more efficient space-saving handling and storage procedures. A further free service that has long been offered by the Irish manufacturer is a warehouse layout and material flow consultation to ensure that customers make the best possible use of their space – one of their most precious commodities. In the current circumstances, advice from Combilift's team of design engineers is more valuable than ever.

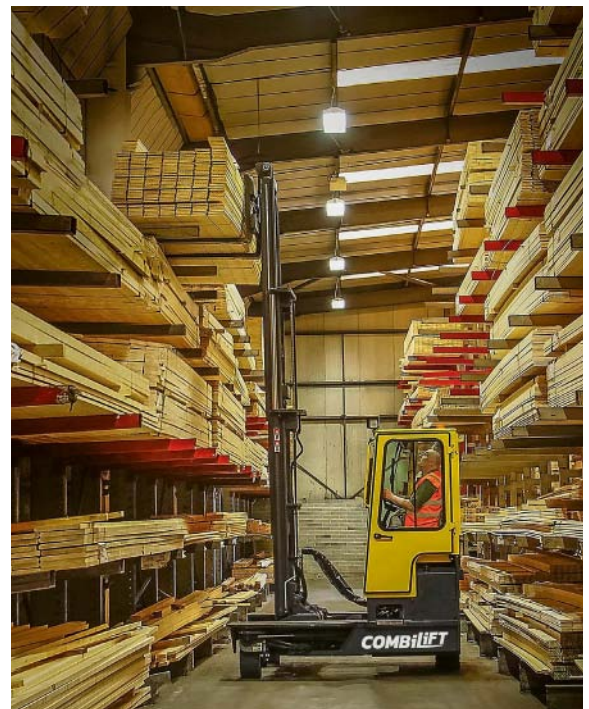
One consequence of the Coronavirus for the manufacturing sector in particular

Social distancing and increased utilisation of the space you have aren't necessarily conflicting requirements with Combilift on your side.





The Combi WR4



All Combilift trucks are easy to handle

has been the challenge of getting back to normal output levels whilst creating extra space in production areas so employees maintain safe distances from each other. Combilift's expertise in the design and layout of premises can help overcome these challenges by maximising the production areas, which is where profit is made, whilst reducing the space for storage of raw materials and finished products, which engenders costs. By optimising both these areas, companies can comply with safety requirements whilst maintaining output.

Site surveys to facilitate the layout design have generally been carried out by Combilift personnel but as some companies are currently restricting the number of visitors on site, Combilift has implemented a virtual site survey system. This uses in-house developed technology and video calling apps and is quick and straightforward.

During the call, the site owner or manager switches their phone to video mode. They can then walk through the site, stopping at specific pinch points to take a

screen grab of that area. Following this initial call, they may be asked to supply some further details on the dimensions of certain areas. On the basis of this information, Combilift can supply simulated animations and 3D designs within 24 hours and these show clearly how a substantial increase in storage capacity can be achieved – in some cases doubling it. "In times when space optimisation is more crucial than ever, demand for this value-added service has never been higher," said Combilift's CEO and Co-founder Martin McVicar. "We welcome enquiries so that we can help businesses rise to the challenge of becoming more streamlined and productive."

For further information on how you can ensure the safety of your workforce while achieving better utilisation of the space you have, call Combilift on +353 47 80500 or visit www.combilift.com. Readers with the free Furniture Journal app can touch the warehouse plan picture and watch a video presentation on the warehouse design process.



Martin McVicar

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