

MARCH 2022 furniture JOURNAL

ON THE COVER:

SCM'S Duncan Smith makes a stunning table and bench set in collaboration with James Latham and Mirka, proving the point that even designer-makers can benefit from CNC.

Sue Dean from the FMC: how you can help spread the word to those in need.

Décors and hardware: black is beautiful

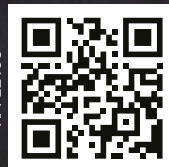
Early news from kbb 2022

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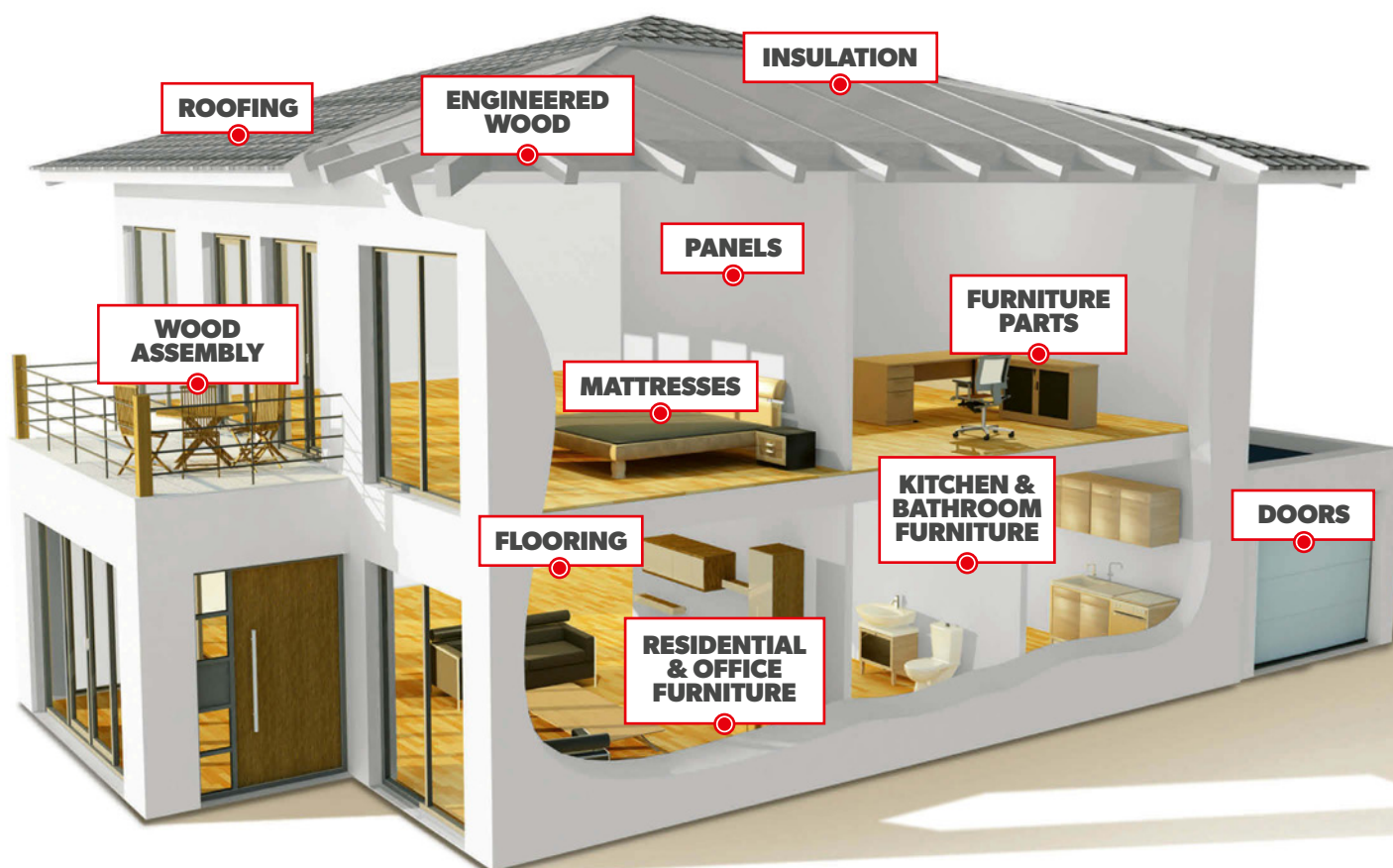
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On the Cover

SCM'S Duncan Smith makes a stunning table and bench set in collaboration with James Latham and Mirka, proving the point that even designer-makers can benefit from CNC. **Story: pages 46-52**

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Awarded by The Furniture Makers' Company

Editor: Melvyn Earle

email: Melvyn@Furniturejournal.co.uk

Direct Tel: 07734 690141

Assistant Editor: Olena Earle

email: Olena@Furniturejournal.co.uk

Publication Manager: Eoin Costen

email: Eoin@Furniturejournal.co.uk

Direct Tel: 07951 811831

Design: Leigh Brown

email: studio@leighbrown.design.co.uk

Circulation: Marie Earle

email: Marie@CPCbooks.co.uk



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ISSN 13653-8969

Readers should note that a charge may have been made by the publishers to cover the cost of reproducing some colour photographs in this publication.

Origination: CPC Ltd

Printing: Barnwell Print

Published by: Craftsman Publishing Company Ltd.

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Contents

3 Spread the word!

Sue Dean points up five ways you can help spread the word to people from our industry who are in need.

4 Continental goes mobile

The ContiHome bundles all the surface technologies from Continental – inside and outside – in one portable 32 square metre showhome.

7 Carbon neutral Proadec

The edgebanding specialist, Proadec Portugal is carbon neutral and on the way to zero carbon emissions.

8 Lawcris turns 40

Marking 40 years in business, 2022 is set to be a year of celebration for Lawcris Panel Products.

10 Plasfoils: on a roll

Plasfoils has new products and has taken on new staff to introduce its range of Bonlex décor foils.

13 New from Alvic

The beauty of nature and its different shades become the protagonists of Alvic's new Luxe, Zenit and Syncron proposals for this year.

14 Revealed by Rehau

Rehau showed matt black, metallics, tambours and new edgebands at kbb.

17 Advantedge Hranipex

If you haven't found out about the advantage offered by AdvantEdge, call Hranipex.

18 Renolit's Trend Collection

Renolit presents its 3D Thermolaminate Autumn/Winter Trend Collection.

21 Ostermann's Darker Side

There's something rather special about black. Combined with natural products like veneer, it's an easy, timeless colour for on trend furniture.

25 Cloud Nine ERP

CAD+T Solutions has launched its first 100% cloud-based ERP software solution, ERP Cloud.

26 Going dark

Dark hardware is an up-and-coming trend that's keeping pace with dark décors and Häfele has plenty of options for you.

30 Black and more from Titus

Light-absorbing black finishes, hinges, performance connectors and products that perform at -30°C from Titus.

33 Innovative storage

Better organisation, better overview and better accessibility from Vauth-Sagel.

34 Three in one

Ninka's latest innovation, Trigon, provides interior storage solutions to three different types of corners.

37 Night shades

If you are looking for movement systems that complement your on-trend dark furniture designs, Grass has the solution.

38 Rustic from Redwood

With a coating of Hesse Lignal's Fantastic-Natura from Redwood, you can still feel the raw, freshly-sanded wood after application.

41 Customised Venjakob

Future-proof your factory automation and increase the performance of your production facilities with intelligent industrial automation from Venjakob.

42 A new tradition

Thomas Molyneux explains why teaming up with Lamello was one of the best things he ever did.

46 Craftsman-made – by CNC

James Latham, SCM Group UK and Mirka UK collaborate over a project to dispel the notion that craftsman-made and CNC are worlds apart.

55 Sliding table versus vertical

It's a question that is commonly asked: should I buy a vertical panel saw or a sliding table saw?

58 Hand Guard by Altendorf

"We know what counts – safety, productivity and technology."

60 Making the switch

Thinner glue lines, easier colour and adhesive changes, reduced adhesive consumption and less maintenance are just some of the benefits of Biesse's hybrid glue head.

65 A message from IMA Schelling UK

In challenging times, it's good to know the company behind your success is able to supply your needs and keep you in full production.

68 Growing with SCM

With an aggressive growth plan to achieve, Hugh Stirling had to be certain of a machinery supplier that could help them create the factory they needed. They chose SCM.

73 Weinig: Driving change

Andy Driver's Weinig Profimat 30 moulder is helping AJ Driver Joinery combat an industry-wide skills shortage.

76 Chips away

Avoid defects when short-cycle pressing MFC with effective cleaning from Wvandres.

BFM LAUNCHES INDUSTRY NETWORKING EVENT AT ERCOL



The **British Furniture Manufacturers Association** has organised the first in a series of regional industry events, with the initial one focusing on “**The Workforce of Tomorrow**”.

It will be an opportunity for the furniture community to network and share information, knowledge and best practice, to address one of the biggest challenges facing the industry.

It is also an opportunity to tour a world leading production facility.



April 7, 2022



6pm to 9pm



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Bookings can be made by contacting Steph.Nelson@bfm.org.uk

Open to **BFM members** (free) and **non-members** (£25.00)

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Spread the word!

Sue Dean points up five ways you can help spread the word to people from our industry who are in need.

As the charity for the furnishing industry, The Furniture Maker's Company has been supporting the welfare of people working in the trade since 1903, helping those who are dealing with financial hardship by providing grants and useful advice.

Every day, people cope with financial hardship due to bereavement, relationship or family breakdown, illness, reduced work hours, an unexpected loss of income or redundancy. But no one has to deal with this alone. The FMC's welfare officer, Sue Dean is on hand waiting to support anyone in need and you can be the difference-maker by helping spread the word about the charity at your place of business.

Sue provides five tips on how to be a welfare champion:

"Displaying our charity poster and other collateral is the simplest way that you can make your co-workers aware of our charitable support. We have posters and discreet brochures that can be affixed to notice boards, displayed in the cafeteria or even pinned in bathrooms and toilet cubicles. Many companies have also created a dedicated section on their extranet or Sharepoint where employees can learn about the charity, read case studies and download materials, including the application form.

"You can also tell HR about us. Human Resource departments are great at communicating our message to employees who they know to be struggling. We're very keen to connect with as many HR professionals in the industry as possible.

"Please share our content on social media. We regularly disseminate information

about our grants and you can help get more views by liking and sharing what we publish.

"Don't be afraid to recommend us. Welfare is a tough subject to talk about but the only way we are going to change that is by addressing it head on. If one of your co-workers or contacts has disclosed that they're going through hard times, don't be afraid to let them know that we exist. If they've told you about their situation, they're likely to be grateful of the referral.

"And lastly, let us know if a supplier or customer goes out of business. We can contact either the insolvency practitioner or someone from the HR department to explore how we reach affected employees. You may even be able to put us in touch with your closest contact at the business who can help us access others in the company."

For more information about welfare support, call 020 7562 8528, email sue@furnituremakers.org.uk or visit www.furnituremakers.org.uk/welfare



Continental goes mobile

The ContiHome bundles all the surface technologies from Continental – inside and outside – in one portable 32 square metre showhome.



Continental has achieved something that construction and furniture suppliers have long dreamed of: equipping an entire house with nothing but its own materials – inside and out. “Our new showroom is called ContiHome and shows the diverse options that we offer with our broad palette of products,” says Ralf Imbery, Director of Innovation, Transformation, and Design at Continental.

Continental hasn’t simply furnished any building with its own materials, it’s conceived, designed and built the complete showhouse itself. The result – a tiny house of just 32 square metres that can be towed on a trailer – reflects current trends and also provides a glimpse of the future of living, putting the entire portfolio of products in one place for trade fairs and events.

The holistic design concept consists of various surface materials, design elements

and functional areas and it is furnished with multi-functional furniture that can serve as a sideboard, workstation, or eating area. All are made with long-lasting, recyclable surfaces that demonstrate Continental’s expertise in haptics, design, functionality, aesthetics, and comfort. Even the laminated window profiles can be 100 percent recycled and the wallcovering in the sleeping area is made of digitally-printed artificial leather.

“With our ContiHome, we want to invite customers and partners to think outside the box,” says Ralf Imbery. “That is why we have combined the various characteristics of our products in a single project – innovative, designed with functional surfaces, sustainable and intelligent. And we inspire a new way of thinking.”

To find out more visit:
www.continental-industry.com/en

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Carbon neutral Proadec

The edgbanding specialist, Proadec Portugal is carbon neutral and on the way to zero carbon emissions.

The Portuguese manufacturer of thermoplastic edgings for the furniture industry, Proadec Portugal, has just announced its new certification as a carbon neutral company – and that makes it one of the first in its sector to reach this important milestone.

Environmental issues have always had a prominent place in the company's strategy, culminating in its environmental certification under the ISO 14001 in 2013. But the challenges under the Paris Agreement and the goal of carbon neutrality require more radical measures. Proadec Portugal answered the challenge, paving the way towards zero carbon emissions and reinforcing and adopting environmental sustainability measures.

As electricity was the main source greenhouse gas emissions, Proadec made this area a priority. More than 1000 photovoltaic systems were installed in 2019, helping Proadec meet 4.3% of its energy needs, while all remaining electricity is bought from 100% renewable sources. Installing electric charging stations and converting the company's fleet to electric vehicles are the next steps.

Given the nature of its activity in the chemical industry, the use of solvents is another relevant source of GHG emissions but the company has already defined an action plan to completely eliminate the use of solvents by 2025. Any emissions from its operation that are not avoidable are being offset through the support of two internationally-certified carbon offset projects, one in Brazil and the other in Uganda. The first promotes the protection of the Amazon Forest and the second, afforestation through controlled forests.

"Becoming a climate neutral Company is a huge milestone for us on our way to zero CO₂ emissions," says Paulo Moutinho, Managing Director at Proadec Portugal. "However, we do not stop here. Reducing our carbon footprint continues to be one of our key priorities and we are working on the next steps to further reduce our carbon emissions and our impact on the climate and the environment".

Proadec Portugal works together with ClimatePartner to certify the carbon neutrality process and the offset emissions can be monitored at www.climatepartner.com/16949-2112-1001/en





Lawcris turns 40

Marking 40 years in business, 2022 is set to be a year of celebration for Lawcris Panel Products.



2022 marks 40 years in business for Lawcris Panel Products – and what a journey it's been! From a small group of experts serving local timber merchants with one forklift and a couple of vans in 1982, Lawcris has grown into a nationwide delivery service with a team of over 250 staff, 45 vehicles, 38 forklifts and four sites totalling approximately 260,000 sq ft. The company attributes its success to a dedicated staff and superb customer loyalty.

Ever since the 1960's when chipboard and MDF became the go-to products for furniture manufacturers, the growth in sheet material popularity, alongside lower prices, created a perfect platform for independent panel distributors to flourish and make a name for themselves.

It was back in 1982 when CEO Chris Hopton and Managing Director Simon Hall noticed a gap in the market for a quick raw

board delivery service and founded Lawcris Panel Products in the city of Wakefield. It was the optimum time. Chipboard manufacturing output was growing, market prices were falling and Chris and Simon set about establishing Lawcris as a major supplier of wood-based panels to manufacturers.

The company rapidly expanded and in 1996 the directors made the big move to Leeds. However, realising that raw boards alone would only take the business so far, they took the decision to broaden their product portfolio and increased their stock holding to host melamines, laminates and edging.

40 years on, Lawcris Panel Products has an enviable reputation as one of the largest independent panel product suppliers in the UK market – and determined to provide the best possible service to customers, it



The CNC manufacturing division



now has its own CNC division delivering a cut-to-size service. The precision and accuracy within the CNC manufacturing division provides furniture-making, joinery, shop-fitting and contract customers with a crucial service, offering an extension to customers' production capacity. For a complete service, Lawcris even provides a bonding facility.

Simon Hall, Managing Director, says, "The landscape has dramatically changed since we started out. Our intention was to become a strong delivery partner for timber merchants in plywood, MDF and chipboard. Back then, we would be picking in the morning and out on the road delivering in the afternoon. Excuse the pun when I say that we really did go the extra mile to make sure our customers got what they wanted, when they wanted it. That is how our reputation grew. People would ring us,

knowing that we would find a way to deliver goods to them when they needed them. It was very fast-paced and we were 100% service-orientated. As we grew bigger, so did our portfolio. Melamines were added and then laminates, worktops, edging, veneers, acrylics, the list goes on. Today, we have not slowed down and our service is still one of the best out there."

Lawcris now stands as one of the most trusted and respected suppliers of panel products, edging and other accessories and its main facility holds over £6m-worth of stock.

To celebrate their 40th anniversary, Lawcris have lined up a series of exciting events, including a celebrity charity football match in June with live music afterwards – named "LawcrisFest" – that will see the whole workplace invited to celebrate the milestone.

Lawcris is also excited to be working with its charity partner, St Gemma's Hospice to achieve "40 things for St Gemma's", fundraising, volunteering and raising awareness for this vital Leeds-based charity through a number of inspiring initiatives.

The scene is set: the last 40 years have been incredible for Lawcris; the next 40 promise to be even more so. Lawcris predicts a wonderful year of celebration.

For full details of the products and services on offer, call Lawcris Panel Products on 0113 2177177, or to watch the company's informative video on YouTube using the free Furniture Journal app, touch the image marked with a link sign on your smartphone or tablet.

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/lawcris-panel-products-limited/

Twitter: twitter.com/Lawcris1982

kbb

Plasfoils: on a roll

Plasfoils has new products and has taken on new staff to introduce its range of Bonlex décor foils.

You've heard the name Plasfoils. You probably know it's one of the few décor companies in the UK that's been able to offer consistent supply of furniture foils through the challenges of the Brexit-Covid era. You probably also know that, although raw material prices have gone through the roof, Plasfoils has maintained its prices against the odds. And from all of the above, it wouldn't be hard to deduce that Plasfoils is on a roll – quite literally – and has been picking up business across the UK.

The investment Itochu has poured into the Bonlex furniture films Plasfoils distributes has been substantial, both in terms of research and development to create market-leading products that fulfil the needs of trend-conscious furniture manufacturers and in terms of manufacturing capacity in Japan and Italy that's focused on one product and the needs of one industry. Remarkably, Plasfoils has maintained stock levels, introduced new press grade supermatts to complement existing

supermatts for flat lamination in the first quarter of 2022 and even announced two new members for its sales team to take them to market.

Joining the Ashby de la Zouch-based company as Northern Sales Executive is John Shellam, who brings with him a wealth of industry experience including 17 years with Renolit and three years with David Clouting.

Plasfoils' new Southern Area Executive is Emma Hovell. She worked with Plastribution in credit control before moving to internal sales for Plasfoils in 2021 but will now enjoy a wider role, taking the latest developments in the Plasfoils range to customers in the south.

For more information on the latest Bonlex foil products, which include high gloss, supermatt, metallic and mirror décors, call 01530 449769, visit plasfoils.co.uk or touch here if you are using the free Furniture Journal app and would like Plasfoils to contact you: plasfoils.co.uk/contact-us/

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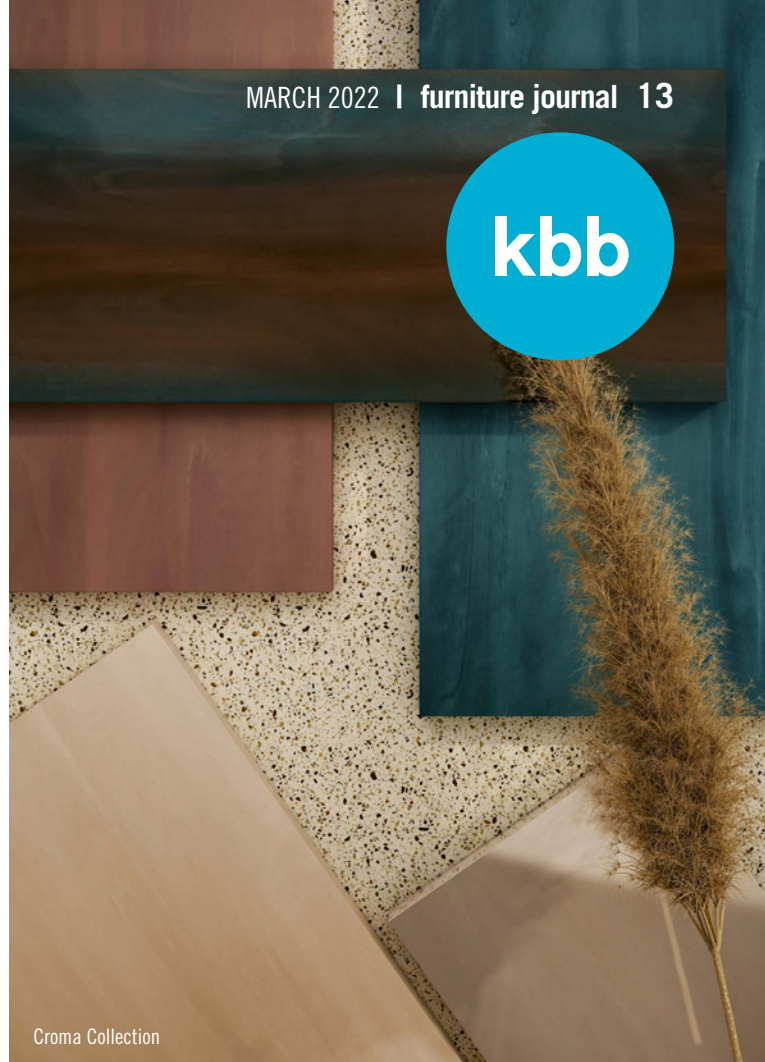
Feel the innovation



Discover the New Pigments Collection
www.alvic.com



Cross Metal Collection



Croma Collection

New from Alvic

Alvic presented its new selection of designs for 2022 at kbb in three new collections inspired by the beauty of nature and its different shades. Nineteen new designs combined in Luxe high-gloss, matt Zenit and textured Synchron and through the three new collections – Pigments, Croma and Cross Metal – you will find inspiration for creating unique spaces.

Each finish has been specially selected to enhance the design. All the new designs are available in panels, finished pieces and doors and both surfaces and components were showcased at the stand at kbb.

The new Pigments Collection reveals the on-trend colours for 2022: Ginger, Arena, Almagra, Camel and Tortora – five sophisticated shades that offer peaceful, natural atmospheres with personality. They feature the unique qualities of Zenit technology: supermatt lacquered surfaces that are highly resistant to scratches and abrasion, silky to the touch and anti-fingerprint.

Alvic's new Croma Collection represents the reflection of light on nature and landscapes, creating an infinite chromatic richness. The five designs that make up Croma – Blue, Sunset, Peach, Crop and Oat – create a game of lights and colours that work brilliantly on their own or in combination with each other. They are available in both Luxe and Zenit technology.

The Cross Metal Collection highlights the metallic effect of Light Gold, Champagne, Copper and Titano. Alvic's experts have selected a textured finish that recreates a torn metal, creating a striking design. These new designs, available in Synchron, provide unique tactile and visual sensations, bringing an avant-garde finish to your products.

For more information on any of the designs, or to learn how Alvic develops sustainable products with a firm commitment to the environment in both the use of raw materials and in the sustainable industrial processes used in its production, call Colin Singleton on 07714 788831, or email colin@kbcomponents.co.uk

The beauty of nature and its different shades become the protagonists of Alvic's new Luxe, Zenit and Synchron proposals for this year.



Zenit Croma Blue

kbb



Rehau Rauvisio brilliant graphite

Revealed by Rehau

Rehau showed matt black, metallics, tambours and new edgebands at kbb.



The polymer specialist, Rehau showcased its latest Rauvisio noir monotonic matt surface in an immersive full kitchen display. Real Homes has already named matt black kitchen units as 2022's number one kitchen trend and this is something around which Rehau has already received much interest.

Another kbb first for Rehau was the presentation of its Rauvisio fino metallic surface in bronze – a unique finish that further demonstrates the capability and versatility of the Rehau range.

Sold on the basis that it is fully integrated, running seamlessly from kitchen front to worktop, to edgeband, to tambour door, Rehau's range is perfect for maximising space in living areas. Its tambour doors hide away kitchenware and clutter while kitchen cupboards blend into the walls behind them, helping to achieve an open plan minimalist style.

Rehau also unveiled two brand-new colours within its Rauvisio crystal glass laminate surface range: Laguna is a modern light blue that will blend subtly with shades of grey or glimmer when placed alongside earthy tones, while Atlantico is a dark blue based on the Atlantic Ocean. Combine with concrete to complete any industrial kitchen look.

Also at kbb were Rehau's latest innovations in edgebanding, including two new sustainable product lines, Raukantex Eco and Raukantex evo. Composed of 50% post-industrial recycled material Raukantex eco is claimed to be equal to conventional PP edgebands in terms of quality, design and processing, while Raukantex evo is based on renewable raw materials, which means it does not contribute to the demand for crude oil.

For more information, visit their website www.rehau.com/uk-en/



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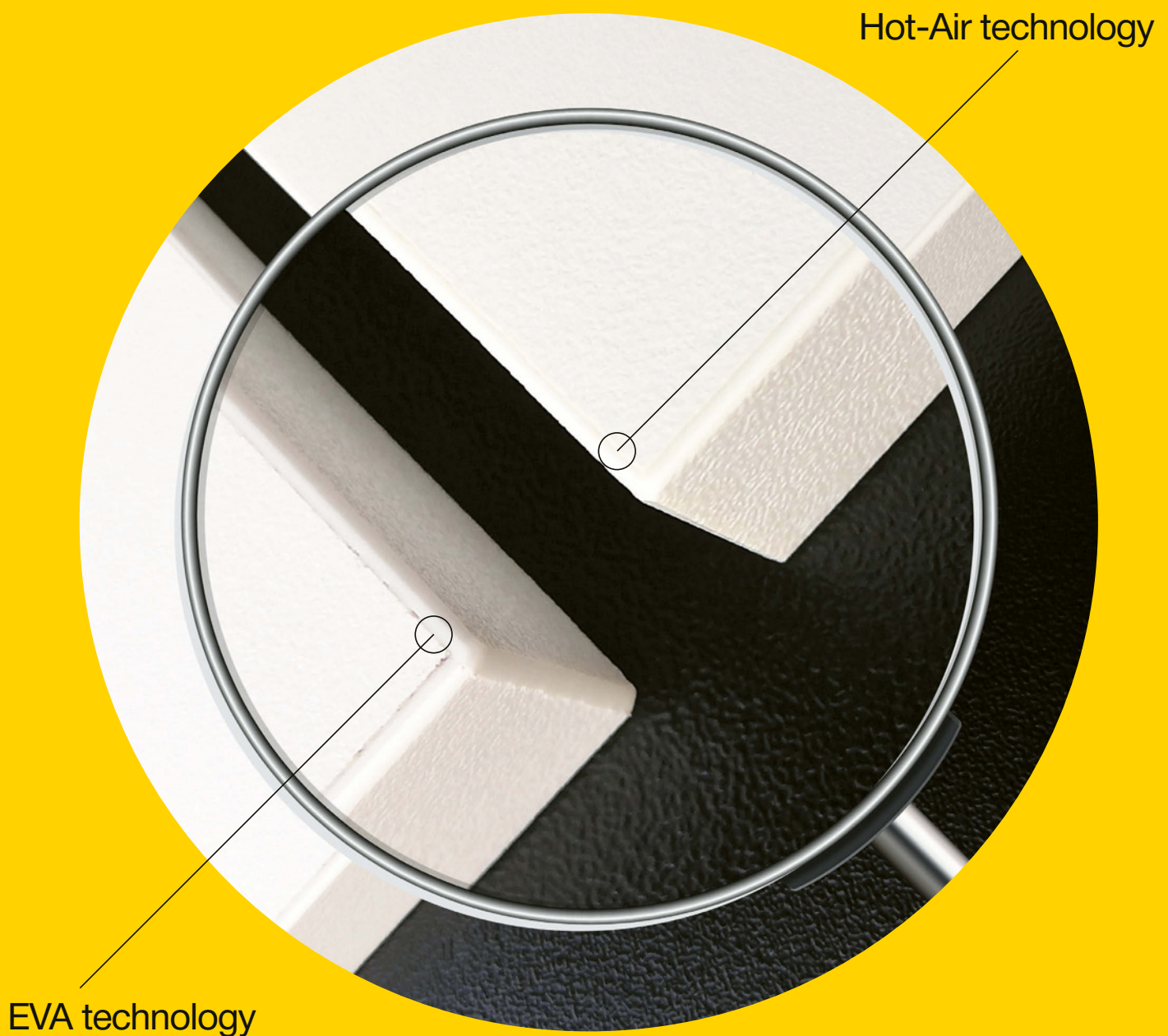
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Hranipex has a reputation for striving to help customers improve their product. Sometimes it's by offering better adhesives to minimise glue lines, other times it's by offering high quality cleaners to help clean and polish the edge. The introduction of AdvantEdge two years ago has made this even easier.

"We understand that we are a small part in a big chain," says Hranipex UK's MD, Simon Mitchell. "However, we are much more than just a supplier. We work with our clients to help refine their products, to provide their customers with a premium finish. AdvantEdge has made this possible by combining ease of use in production, with the flexibility in décors and it allows for a zero joint-edge-to-board link.

"We apply a colour-matched layer to the back of the standard ABS edging, converting it to use with hot-air systems. This layer is then heated by the nozzle on application and the edge is pressed into the board. The edge is then processed as normal through the edgebander and minimal – if any –

polishing is required. It has been tried and tested on a large variety of edgebanders, from brand-new high-end machines to the lower end, hand-held machines with great success. Our experts can even recommend machine specific settings if needed."

AdvantEdge is available as standard across much of the Hranipex range but as a manufacturer, Hranipex can apply the layer to any edge needed.

"It is easy to apply with one setting for all décors – there's no need to adjust with differing décors or dimensions. It reduces the time needed to set up hotmelt systems and eliminates the need for glue pot maintenance.

"We have a large range of décors and dimensions available for next day service from our Birmingham warehouse, with others available within 7–10 days. Please get in touch to learn more. We are excited to come and show you what we can do."

For details call 0121 767 9180 or visit www.hranipex.co.uk/en/ or www.linkedin.com/company/hranipexuk



Simon Mitchell

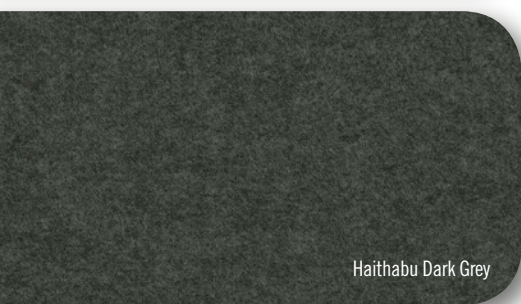


Renolit's Trend Collection

Renolit presents its 3D Thermolaminate Autumn/Winter Trend Collection.



Gran Sasso Light Grey



Haithabu Dark Grey

The décor specialist, Renolit has just announced its 3D Thermolaminates Autumn/Winter Trend Collection 2021/22 – six exciting new high-performing décors that are realistic in appearance and perfectly on trend. All products are available as stock items and ready for you to order.

Premium White Paintflow is a unique, new and exciting textured surface developed to replicate the look and finish of painted wood. The surface structure combines a distinctive new woodgrain structure finished with the very aesthetically pleasing smooth matt surface finish of Premier Matt.

Two new trend colours combined with the superior Premier Matt surface are now available. Reed Green Premier Matt is a mid-tone green that evokes calm and serenity and is just right for a subtler take on the green interior trend, while Angora Grey Premier Matt, a soft beige with a gentle red undertone, is ideal for the neutrals trend and can be paired with a multitude of complementary colours.

Material mixing is right on-trend – and felts are the breakout star. Renolit has created Haithabu Light Grey and Haithabu Dark Grey with an embossed fleece surface that looks and feels just like felt and adds a cosy cottage vibe to your design without being kitschy. While they look just like textiles, the Haithabu greys are easy to clean and very robust – the perfect fit for shop fitting or office applications as well as home furniture.

Gran Sasso Light Grey is a stone design with a visually matching undulating tactile surface texture that looks like it has been created by rain and wind that have worn away small craters. Light-dark contrasts emphasise the structure of a design with a natural touch that resembles stone or a roughly-plastered wall.

Call 01670 718222 to speak to a member of the team or order samples at www.renolit.com/interiorsurfaces Renolit on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/renolitinteriorproducts/



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Ostermann's Dark Side

Anyone who visited the décor stands at Interzum in 2019 will no doubt remember the prediction that black would be one of the next big trends in furnishing and décors. I have to admit, I was sceptical. Black room sets really didn't do it for me. They seemed lifeless, light absorbing, uninteresting. I couldn't see it taking on. How wrong I was!

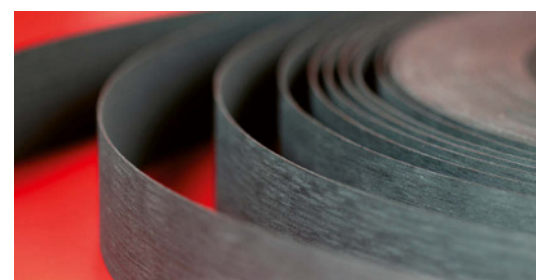
The trend towards black elements in interiors has developed apace over the last couple of years since the exhibition and underscoring it seems to be the desire among consumers for more cosiness. According to the pundits, cosiness comes partly from higher quality furnishings in modern homes, partly from the colours they choose and partly from the materials from

which items of furniture have been made. So how does black fit into this?

All colours evoke emotions. Among others, red inflames passion, yellow radiates happiness, green is peaceful, blue is calming. Black... black is special. It has full-spectrum status when it comes to the feelings it reflects. In parallel with its dark side, black is also associated with strength, authority, luxury, power and elegance. It lends an air of authority to those who wear it. It symbolises prestige, formality, professionalism and importance, yet at the same time, it remains neutral and uncomplicated. It can be paired with any other colour, making it a safe option. It transcends the seasons and it's easy to accessorise. Unsurprisingly, black has a profound effect on the psyche.

There's something rather special about black.

Combined with natural products like veneer, it's an easy, timeless colour for on trend furniture.





Combining the colour black with real wood surfaces satisfies both the yearning for cosiness and the desire for quality. But to create spaces that exude modern homeliness, black is best combined, used sparingly.

An effective way to introduce black elements is with edgings and it's here that the edgebanding specialist, Ostermann, can help.

Ostermann's edging solutions include veneer edgings for high quality furniture and among the post-Interzum 2019 additions to the range is a black-dyed variant. The *Black-coloured Oak wood veneer sanded* offers you a wide range of design options for individual interiors and takes advantage of all the feel-

good factors. It is available in widths of 24, 33 or 43mm and in thicknesses of 1mm and 2mm. The finish is natural and homogeneously-coloured – a real oak veneer – and the base layers are made of fineline veneers.

Black furniture elements are easy to use as a contrast to natural wood décors, providing a unique look that incorporates elegance and snugness for domestic furniture but sophistication when applied to contract and office furniture. The new, black-dyed oak veneer edging from Ostermann reflects the trend nicely. It captivates with its grained wood surface in jet black and acts as a mediator between real wood and black

furniture elements. Add *Black-coloured Oak wood veneer sanded* to any kind of chipboard or MDF panel with an oak veneer and the result will be individual furniture with a particularly sophisticated look.

Black-coloured Oak wood veneer sanded is not only an on-trend option, it's a sustainable option – a natural product – and it can be supplied either for application with a hotmelt adhesive coating or with a functional layer for processing with zero bondline technologies.

For more information on *Black-coloured Oak wood veneer sanded* or any other Ostermann veneer edgebanding call 01905 793550 or visit www.ostermann.eu



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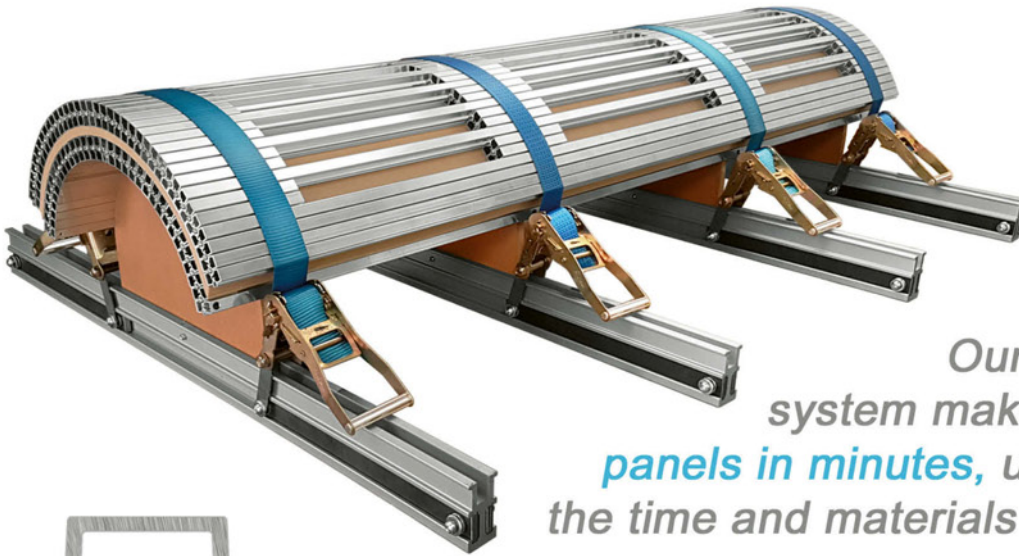
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Cloud Nine ERP

Austrian CAD-CAM and ERP software specialist, CAD+T Solutions has launched its first 100% cloud-based ERP software solution, ERP Cloud. The process management software, which is now available in the UK, offers manufacturers of any size a simple and effective way to plan, control and manage its resources effectively.

An extension of CAD+T's cloud-based configurator software – which acts as an interface between you, your customers and your production process – ERP Cloud gives you control over your company's daily operating processes from any location. The software is 100% cloud-based. This means the user can benefit from a central data management system that provides a live connection to your supplier's data, including up-to-the-minute price updates and availability. The automatic data back-up allows you to work in real-time with the different departments in your business from any location.

Three software options are available: Class, Professional and Enterprise. Each offers varying degrees of automation and can be combined with other software modules to create a tailor-made solution. Each function has been designed to ensure efficient

operation and maximum yield in all areas of the business.

Martina Schwarz, Managing Director of CAD+T Solutions says, "ERP Cloud is the ultimate service solution. The customisable cloud-based management software offers exceptional levels of flexibility and intelligence to help you manage the running of your business effectively. The ability to work remotely, whilst managing different areas of the business efficiently, continues to benefit businesses enormously and offers huge scope for the furniture production industry.

"For those yet to make the leap to cloud-based software, it's important to stress that there is very little disturbance when upgrading your software with us. Our team run internal checks that highlight any existing performance issues before we integrate our software so any hardware issues are resolved before work gets under way, reducing downtime. This hands-on approach allows us to take care of everything for you. As long as you have an internet connection on your chosen device, our cloud-based software does the rest."

For more information on ERP Cloud, visit www.cadt-solutions.com

CAD+T Solutions has launched its first 100% cloud-based ERP software solution, ERP Cloud.





Going dark

Dark hardware is an up-and-coming trend that's keeping pace with dark décors and Häfele has plenty of options for you.

Over the last few years, the popularity of greys and anthracites in furniture have steadily moved towards even darker shades with more and more manufacturers showing furniture fronts, even carcass materials in black – and uptake has been strong among consumers. But it's not just décor products that have adopted the darker look. Hardware, too, has become adventurous – some might even say sophisticated – and darkened down.

Some furniture designers will want to keep the emphasis on their furniture and let their chosen dark décors entice eager

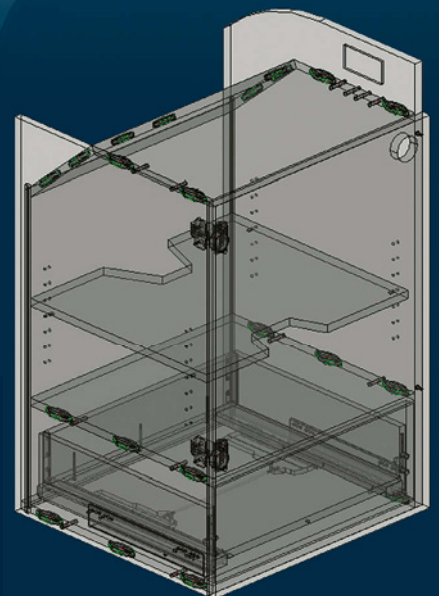
consumers and for them, the ability to use dark hardware inside cabinets is a positive advantage. For others, the stark contrast between white fascias and black handles, accompanied by black internal fittings is an opportunity to allow functional fittings to become design elements in their own right. Whatever your take on the trend, dark is here to stay, as Häfele's Category Manager, Adeline Baker explains:

"The inclusion of dark hardware in our range has been a natural progression. Since around 2015, dark kitchen doors have grown in popularity. Increasingly, consumers

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The Loox5 logo is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the word 'LOOX5' in a bold, sans-serif font, with a stylized white circle containing a dot in the middle of the 'O's.



have stepped away from whites and creams as their default choice and according to our own consumer research, we're now at a point where around 14% of the homeowner population would opt for dark grey, blue, green or black if they were updating their cabinetry doors today.

"Around five years ago, our strategic partners, Vauth-Sagel were early pioneers of dark internals in the kitchen, introducing anthracite grey bins and wirework for example, and in some areas, there's now an equal split between more traditional silvers and finishes like Lava Grey in terms of what's being purchased."

Adeline predicts these more adventurous shades will quite probably overtake some market trends to become the preference.

"Greys, anthracites and blacks are all about sleek sophistication, so it follows that style-conscious homeowners and designers want continuity in their finish and that

includes the seemingly minor details. Because of this, we've grown our range of dark hardware – even the fittings that aren't easily seen – giving manufacturers the option to create dramatic, high impact designs down to the finest details.

"Whether it's a black connector housing for our industry-leading Minifix system, or black and anthracite cover caps for our award-winning Free range of flap fittings, furniture makers can find the option they need. Similarly, all our pre-assembled Matrix Box drawer sets can be ordered in anthracite and grey options, alongside Grass Nova Pro Scala systems in stone – the brand's take on anthracite. Our recently introduced range of Aspekt doors come in Midnight Blue, as well as Anthracite.

"As part of the rise in broken plan living, with homeowners using semi-permanent or flexible structures such as shelving units or sliding doors to create zones in their home, there's a rise in industrial-style finishes for

such divides. Rustic barn door-style fitting sets have increased in popularity alongside black metal-framed internal doors.

"Handles is also an area where darker styles are beginning to be used differently. For some time, black handles have been paired with white or cream cabinetry for simplicity and contrast. Then, as darker cabinetry has become popular, this contrast was created using gold and bronze. Now we're seeing this evolve, with black on black designs for cabinetry and handles for the epitome of ultramodern.

"Whether anthracite, grey or black, it's fair to say that dark shades are no longer just a trend in furniture design but a style that's here to stay."

For more information on Häfele's range of dark fittings, call Häfele on 01788 542020, visit www.hafele.co.uk/en/ or check out the links to interactive images in this article with your smartphone or tablet via the free Furniture Journal App.

TeraBlack products with a matt black finish and light absorbing microstructure.

kbb

Black and more from Titus

Light-absorbing black finishes, hinges, performance connectors and products that perform at -30°C from Titus.



For those who attended kbb Birmingham, it was an opportunity to see first-hand the innovations introduced by Titus and discover more about its lean processes and state-of-the-art manufacturing.

Among the developments that visitors saw were TeraBlack products with a matt black finish and light absorbing microstructure, the new System 6 connector family of performance-engineered connectors for simplified cabinet assembly and state-of-the-art dampers for cold environments, which operate reliably in temperatures as low as -30°C.

TeraBlack is much more than just another colour option. It is a unique black, non-light-reflective matt finish with a highly uniform surface and it provides a perfect response to the trend towards the use of black cabinet hardware. The flagship product in the TeraBlack range is the award-winning T-type hinge with integrated damping. Key features of these hinges are simplicity of assembly, wide tolerances, and consistent performance on a wide range of doors.

System 6 connectors feature an elegant square design that allows a large surface area of the product to rest on the panel when

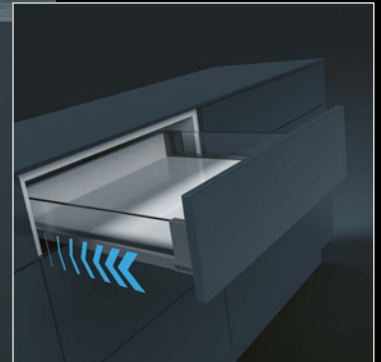
tightened, thereby ensuring optimum positioning. Anti-rotation ribs prevent cam rotation and panel shift, while the angle-drive feature on the cam makes these connectors an ideal choice for applications where space for assembly is limited.

Dampers for cold environments are the latest product of Titus' Engineered for a Purpose philosophy. By providing reliable damping at temperatures down to -30°C, these offer convenient and affordable solutions to challenges that include the damping of doors in freezers, wine coolers, mobile equipment and automobile applications.

"At Titus, our aim is always to offer innovative and practical solutions that will give our customers the maximum possible competitive advantage," said Phil Beddoe, General Manager for UK and Northern Europe. "And I believe that the new products showed at kbb Birmingham confirm that we are successfully meeting this aim."

For more information contact Titus on 01977 682582, or visit www.titusplus.com. Readers using the free Furniture Journal App will be able to watch the Titus video about TeraBlack products by touching the linked picture.

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Innovative storage

The name Vauth-Sagel has long been associated with innovative storage space solutions and this year's kbb saw the company show an expanded range of product innovations for all rooms inside the home – especially those where its products make for better organisation, better overview and better accessibility.

Together with the organiser elements VS ADD® Box and VS ADD® Separator, the wall-mounted shelf VS ADD® Board is a perfect example of this and illustrates Vauth-Sagel's pioneering spirit when it comes to contemporary living. In addition, the storage designs Planero® and Essentio blend the kitchen cabinet interior and exterior to form a single unit.

VS TOP® Down is the perfect solution for people who don't like reaching for items inside high wall cabinets. This unique drop-down hinge sets benchmarks when it comes to ergonomic storage space optimisation. The cabinet contents literally come to the user. VS TOP® Down is not only practical

but also impresses with an attractive understated design that seamlessly integrates into the Vauth-Sagel Planero® and Essentio design ranges.

With the VS SUB® Larder and VS ADD® Flex, you get complete organisation inside and maximum functionality. The individual inserts can be combined to create customised solutions for different needs and make the new base cabinet pull-out unit a storage solution that perfectly adapts to its surroundings.

The new VS WASH laundry system is perfect for utility room storage. Based on the proven VS ENVI® Space waste separation system, it differs only with regard to the containers used and provides an easy way to sort and carry dirty laundry – and to store it completely hidden from view.

For more information, call Vauth-Sagel on 00 49 5272 601 01, visit their website www.vauth-sagel.de or talk to Vauth-Sagel's UK distributor, Häfele on 0800 171 2909.

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The VS SUB®



Three in one

Ninka's latest innovation, Trigon, provides interior storage solutions to three different types of corners.

Solving the problem of wasted space in the corners of kitchens just became a whole lot easier – and sleeker – with Trigon, the latest solution from the innovative German manufacturer, Ninkaplast GmbH.

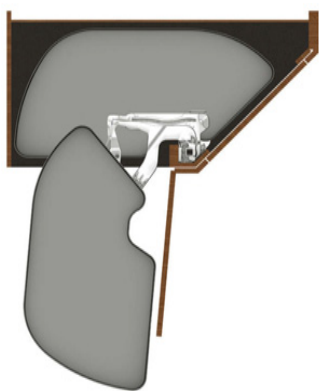
Trigon is a corner cabinet solution that maximises space inside the cabinet using a natural-organic design, high-quality surfaces – and extraordinary technical features. It offers new dimensions of kitchen architecture in semicircle corner, double corner and end corner configurations as well as optimised use of storage in other living spaces. The new fitting features high-quality pull-out trays and at first sight appears to have been made from a single mould.

Developed for all cabinet widths and various layouts, Trigon aims to use the existing storage space as efficiently as possible and fits a wide range of kitchen corners. It is possible to fit Trigon in cabinets with door widths of 45, 50 and 60 cm but it can also be integrated into a double corner for a new way of designing kitchens: two

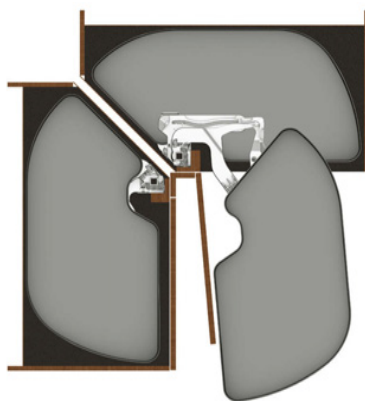
adjacent base cabinets are positioned at an angle of 90 degrees and equipped with innovative turn-and-slide pull-out trays. With the new turn-and-slide fitting, the degree of utilisation increases by around 40 percent compared with an unused corner.

The third option is also exceptional for kitchen architecture, especially for cabinets in smaller kitchens that are often positioned right next to a door. Ninka's solution is much more practical than the ubiquitous, gap-filling small triangular shelf unit – in fact, so neat is the new corner cabinet solution that it uses almost every square centimetre behind the cabinet door. Thanks to the clever fittings, the pull-out trays extend out of the cabinet, making the installation of a 50 or 60cm-wide door possible.

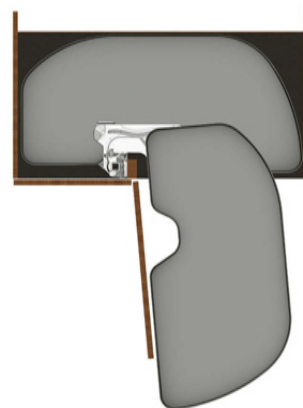
For more information on Trigon, call Häfele on 01788 542020, visit www.hafele.co.uk/en/ or touch the image if you are reading this article with a smartphone or tablet on the free Furniture Journal app.



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Nova Pro Scala in Zircon

Night Shades

Every season brings new trends, has its very own fashion colours and shapes that provide a new mix of materials and bring new proportions and styles to furniture. Constant renewal drives the furniture sector. Some of these changes take place quickly, others more slowly. For Grass, it's the long-term consumer trends that are of particular interest they enable the company to combine its movement systems harmoniously with the latest materials and colours as well as with the more traditional design styles, wherever they are used.

The current furniture trends couldn't be more varied with colours that range from subtle pastel shades and rich, bright colours to strong shades in dark anthracite. Modern interior design plays with the contrast between tranquillity and vitality.

While white kitchens continue to be popular, dark kitchen fronts have long predominated. Naturally, Grass has taken this on board when developing speciality colours.

Nova Pro Scala in the colour Zircon is in line with the trend towards darker colour shades. It blends harmoniously with the dark surfaces of modern kitchens. The latest movement systems thus become part of the whole. Subtly unobtrusive or, if the designer so wishes, rich in contrast and striking. Tiomos hinges are also available in Night.

"Our goal was to make the world a more colourful place with new surfaces and to open up new possibilities for furniture styling," a spokesperson from Grass told Furniture Journal. "This is all the more important as movement systems have long become emotional and individual design components that are increasingly oriented towards the style and aesthetics of the furniture they bring to life."

For more information about the design-orientated Nova Pro Scala range or Tiomos hinges in Night, call Grass UK on 0121 500 5824 or visit www.facebook.com/grassuk/ or www.grass.at/home.html?L=1

If you are looking for movement systems that complement your on-trend dark furniture designs, Grass has the solution.



Nova Pro Scala in Zircon



Rustic from Redwood

With a coating of Hesse Lignal's Fantastic-Natura from Redwood, you can still feel the raw, freshly-sanded wood after application.

The natural, untreated look has surged in popularity in recent years, and Hesse Lignal's new PU lacquer, Fantastic-Natura, brought to you exclusively by Redwood, is the ideal product for achieving the rustic look.

Inspired by every expert's love of pure, natural wood, the Fantastic-Natura coating delivers the appearance and feel of sanded, raw wood, ideal for modern, classic and high-quality surfaces with character. While many natural wood-effect coatings give the feel of a slightly lacquered surface, with the Fantastic-Natura, you can still feel the raw, freshly-sanded wood after application.

When it comes to application, Redwood's experts say Fantastic-Natura is incredibly straightforward. The lacquer is deliberately white in colour when liquid to enable the sprayer to manage the coat thickness and ensure it is spread uniformly across the surface. This means the quantity of lacquer can be controlled better during application and, in practice, the overall lacquer consumption will be reduced.

Thanks to Hesse Lignal's EN 13501-1, DIN 4102 B1 and IMO flame retardant lacquer certification, surfaces coated with Fantastic-Natura are protected and incredibly resilient to wear and tear – but at Hesse, safety does not stop with the fire testing. Hesse Lignal's coatings are free from wood preservatives, toxic heavy metals, phthalate plasticisers, formaldehyde, and volatile aromatic and halogenated organic compounds.

With many years' experience in supporting manufacturers, Redwood can deliver expert technical advice that not only provides you with a suitable product recommendation, it also helps you to improve your manufacturing process. In addition, all Redwood's Hesse Lignal coatings can be delivered nationwide the next day when ordered before 2pm.

To find out more about the Fantastic-Natura range and how Redwood can help improve your manufacturing processes, maximise your productivity and reduce your wastage, call 023 9223 3310 or email sales@redwoodinnovations.co.uk





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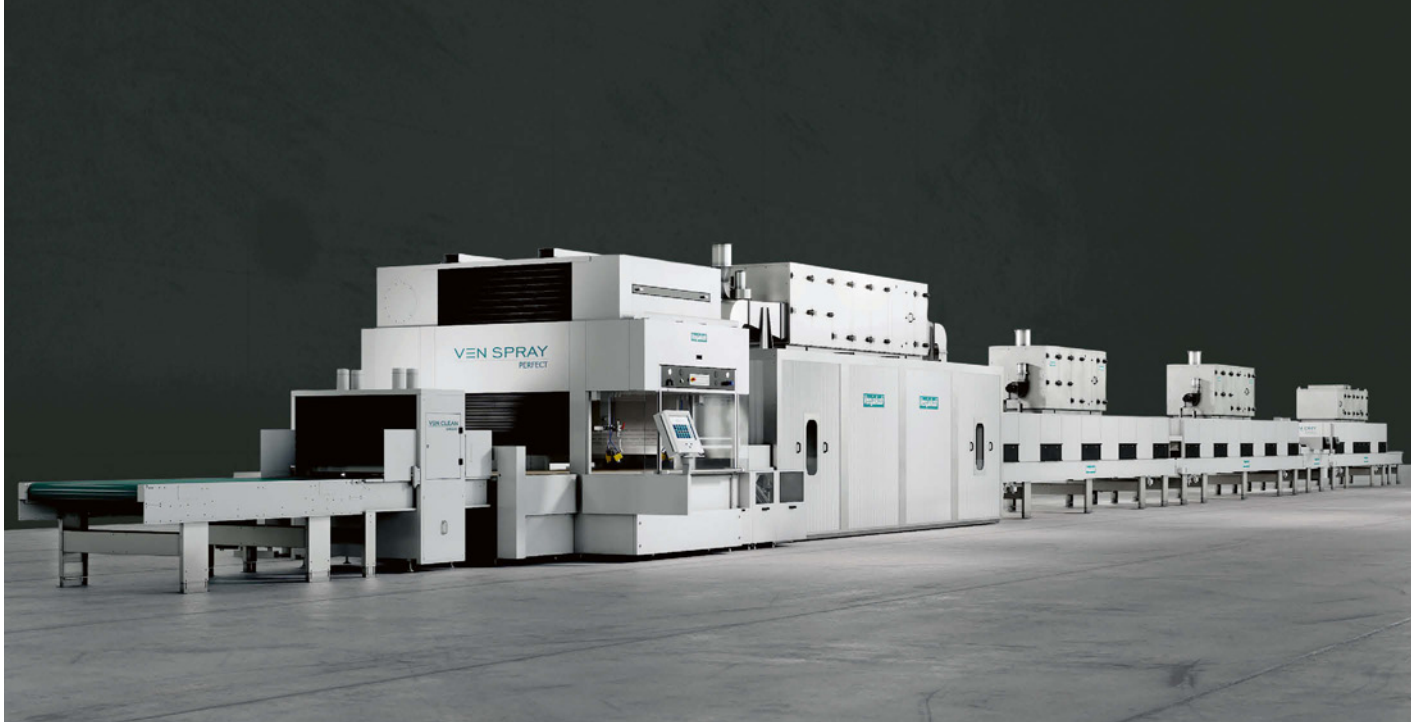
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Ven Spray Vario





Thomas Molyneux explains why teaming up with Lamello was one of the best things he ever did.

Thomas Molyneux is the ultimate 21st century furniture maker. A master of merging traditional woodworking practises with modern techniques, Thomas has created an enviable portfolio of high-end, bespoke fitted furniture that is regularly shared amongst his 12.5k Instagram followers. Focused on creating truly unique furniture designs for the residential market, Thomas's projects are works of art in their own right and at the heart of each of his inspiring designs, is Swiss wood and panel-joining specialist, Lamello.

"I couldn't achieve the results I do today without my Lamello Zeta P2," begins Thomas, who admits the brand had always been an aspirational purchase for him. "I won't be alone when I say Lamello's hand-held machine and fixings offer unrivalled design possibilities. Each design I produce is a one-off and completely unique. That's why I need to work with equipment that offers me design flexibility, strength and speed. Lamello's fixings offer me exactly that."

Until 2019, Thomas's approach relied on more traditional joining solutions, including screws, glues and dowels but, after seeing Lamello's fixings being used on social media and reading other joiner's stories, he was drawn to Lamello's invisible fixing solutions. Thomas explains, "I cannot stand the sight of visible screw holes and ill-matching cover caps. You can design the most amazing piece of furniture but if you can see the fixings, you'll never achieve that perfect finish all joiners strive to achieve. Most of my work is spray finished. You can't screw the front of a unit and hand-finish it on site. I put Lamello's fixings to the test and found they offered me the strength of a screw but a level of durability I hadn't experienced. And the best bit, they remained invisible."

Now a self-confessed Lamello obsessive, Thomas uses Biscos P14, Clamex P14 and/or Tenso P14 connectors for every project he works on. "They each have different advantages but they're all equally brilliant. The Tenso P14 is my go-to when designing units



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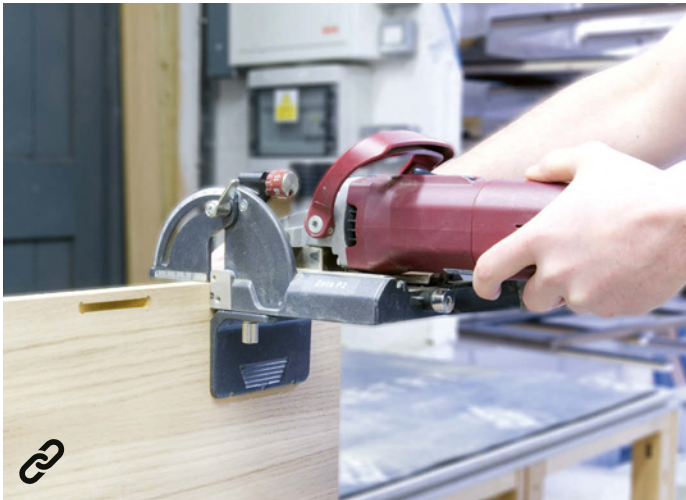
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101402S Zeta P2 with P-System groove cutter HW (carbide), in Systainer

101402DS Zeta P2 with P-System groove cutter DP (diamond), in Systainer



and display cabinets. I've even used them on a hidden door that needed to be concealed in a house." The beauty of the self-clamping gluing aid is that you get a high clamping force and a perfectly flush joint, regardless of the angle of the work piece. It's also really quick, locking into place within seconds.

"The Tenso P14 has changed the way I approach my face frame kitchens. I now create all my skirtings using Lamello's invisible Tenso P14 fixings. They offer a level of flexibility that glue alone simply can't. If a skirting gets damaged during an installation – or in the years after the kitchen is fitted – it's easier and quicker to unclip the skirting and replace or respray individual parts fixed with a Tenso P14. This not only saves me workshop hours but also the expense of having to replace the skirting in its entirety or fix more damage caused by the glue pulling off the paint."

The fully-detachable Clamex P14 is also a firm favourite of Thomas's: "I really rate the Clamex P14 on 45-degree mitres and for angle-jointing. The strong connectors are superb for putting a mitre in place and with no screws. They can be pulled tightly for a perfect join. They are so much quicker

to use than piloting a hole and pinning it. They're also easy to dismantle once assembled in my workshop and remain strong when furniture needs to be transported and re-built on site."

Most recently, Thomas used the Clamex P14 fixings on a 2.8m high wardrobe that sat 60mm from the ceiling. "Due to the height of ceiling and the wardrobe it had to be built standing-up. Thanks to the Clamex's strength and quick insertion, I was able to position and lock the sides and back together single-handedly and slide the top on without the lack of space above becoming an issue.

"Without the Clamex P14 fixings, I'd have either needed a second person on site with me to hold the panels while I screwed them in place, increasing my labour costs, or I would have had to rely on the use of a crowbar to hold the unit down while I used pocket screws on each of the panels – but I doubt my drill would have worked in a 60mm gap! Both options would have taken longer and ultimately, cost me more."

This level of flexibility and speed on site is extremely important for any business – large or small – and can minimise on-site delays. Thomas explains: "Design changes

are often needed during the installation. If I'm on site and think I need an extra fixing or want to change the location of a fixing, it's easy to do as the Zeta P2 is portable. Bisco P14 plastic biscuits are just as flexible when used on site. I use them to align panels when I need them to pull together perfectly and they are great when I need to clip something in place quickly for extra strength. And, as they fit into the same P-System groove as the Clamex P-14 and Tenso P-14, these fixings really do make other handheld tools redundant.

"Thanks to Lamello, I know I can create the designs I want to an exceptional finish," concludes Thomas. "I can offer more creative ways to deliver my finished products and it simplifies the process from conception to installation. Having the ability to use a product that not only helps me achieve a high standard of work but also makes my life easier. It is worth every penny and that's why I openly tell people to invest in Lamello and reap the rewards. My advice: don't be afraid to change your approach and try something new. You won't be disappointed with Lamello."

For more information, visit www.lamello.co.uk

Neil Cave, delivery driver for James Latham Leicester branch:
"We deliver all different types of hardwoods and softwoods, MDF and more unusual products like Accoya long-life timber. In this load we have a good section of oak – about 37 pieces – all American White Oak from the east of North America and all FSC®."



Craftsman-made — by CNC

James Latham, SCM Group UK and Mirka UK collaborate over a project to dispel the notion that craftsman-made and CNC are worlds apart.

The term *craftsman-made* is a strong selling point that furniture-makers the world over have used for decades to market fine furniture. It implies quality that's a cut above the rest, attention to detail, the best materials, beautiful detailing and an unrivalled finish applied with great care. And it implies something unique, something special. It's a term that to some might seem a little at odds with high-tech machinery and worlds away from CNC technology that seeks to replace craftsmen with operators. But does the use of CNC machinery really undermine the ethos of *craftsman-made* furniture? Is a piece of furniture any less *craftsman-made* if it's been

shaped on computer-controlled machines rather than traditional machinery?

To find out whether *craftsman-made* and CNC really were at opposite ends of an unyielding stick, Furniture Journal decided to commission an eight-seat table and bench set in a traditional design and put CNC to the test. To ensure compatibility with the best traditions of craftsmanship, it was to be made from the finest timber, employ carefully considered details in the design and bring the best out of the materials – and the brief was that it had to be made using the latest CNC machinery and finishing technology. The results not only surprised us, they provided a



very powerful lesson for any craftsman who is about to set up a workshop, or is undecided about making the move from traditional machinery to CNC.

The story begins with that most traditional of timbers, oak – but not indigenous English oak. We wanted the consistency of colour and the long, straight grain of American White Oak. And it had to be FSC® certified.

We decided on a White American Oak from James Latham. James Latham sources its American White Oak from the Appalachian Mountains in the east of North America because timber from the north grows slower. Slower growth provides better consistency in colour than timber grown in the southern states.

Augusta Mill, James Latham's partner in Virginia, is situated in an area renowned for its

consistent oak, high quality logs and plentiful supply and the Augusta product is not pulled for width, so specifications are excellent with a fair range of lengths. Through James Latham's Leicester depot, we sourced a pallet of super-prime timber from the same log for perfect colour and grain matching and Neil Caves, who has worked as a delivery driver at James Latham's Leicester branch for 16 years, delivered it to SCM's UK woodworking machinery showroom in Nottingham.

Duncan Smith runs SCM's Nottingham showroom and it's his job to show woodworkers and furniture-makers how much easier and more efficient it can be to make the products they manufacture if they buy into SCM technology. He knows the machines inside out but just as importantly, before Duncan joined SCM seven years ago,

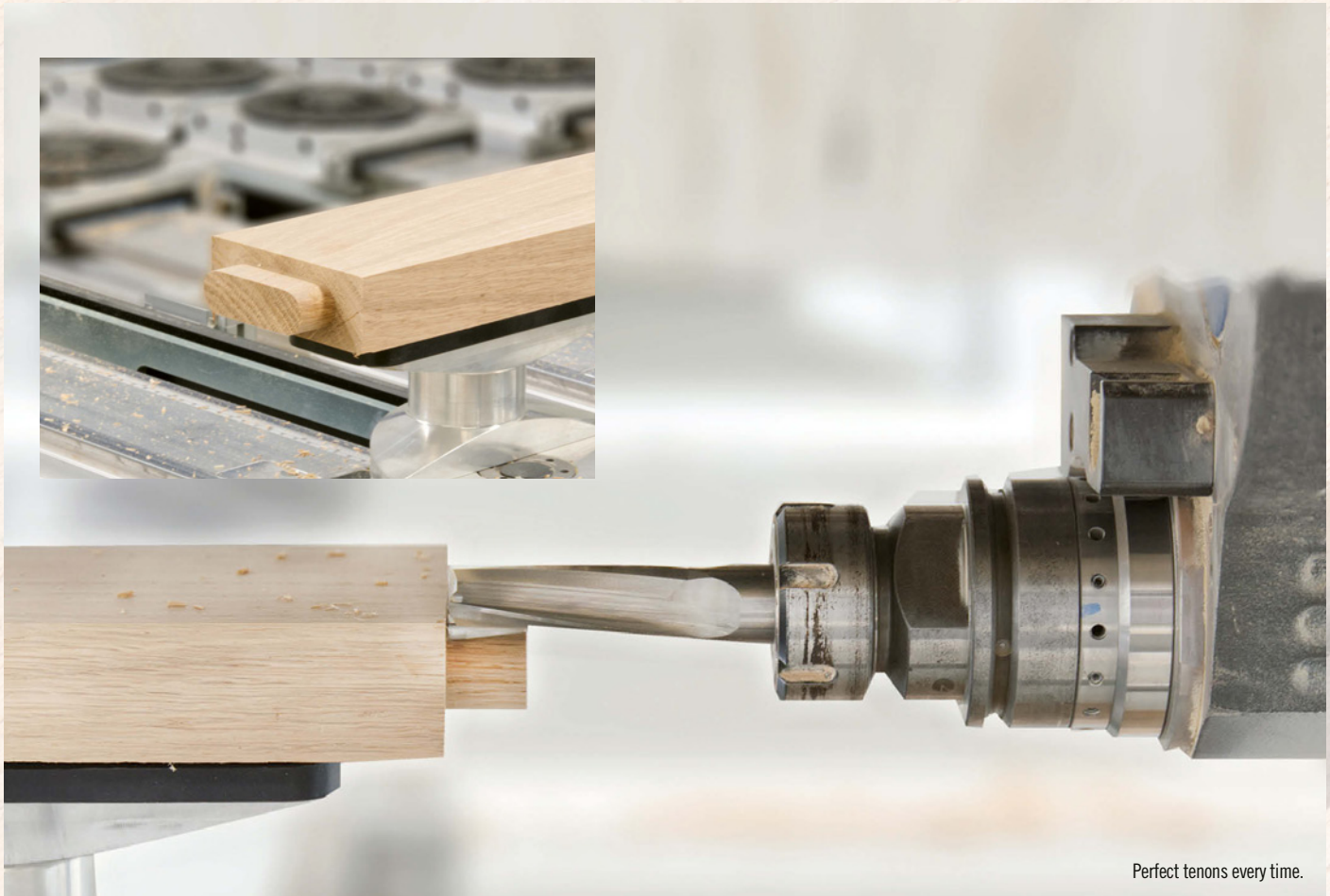
he was a cabinet-maker. Designing and making are in his blood and like every designer-maker he's a perfectionist. Details matter to him and nothing excites the craftsman in him more than beautifully-grained timber and the opportunity to create something amazing from it.

"This timber is absolutely A1 specification," he enthused as the James Latham wagon was being unloaded. "No twists, no cracks, no discolouration, no knots... It looks as good as money can buy. When you see oak like this, you understand that the project has to follow the quality of the timber and this timber really is second to none."

His first impression wasn't mistaken. As the project progressed, Duncan confirmed time and time again there was no waste – not a single piece – the grain was beautifully straight,

Chris Brook, Mirka UK: *"The machines we've used are our Deros 6" random orbital sander for the large flat areas such as the table top, the bench tops and some of the larger flat areas. Then, for detail, we chose a Deos 81 x 133 orbital sander, which is designed for detail finishing in hard-to-reach areas."*





Perfect tenons every time.

the colour was consistent through each plank and there was no sap in the timber at all.

With the design finalised, Duncan set about cutting the timber into the lengths he'd need but to make up the thickness required in the legs, some pieces had to be laminated:

"The first process was cutting the timber to the right lengths and for that I used a Gabbiani S 115 beam saw with a 115mm cut depth. You wouldn't necessarily use a beam saw for that process but it illustrates a beam saw is far more adaptable than you might think. It can be used just as effectively for cutting timber of any length as it can for cutting MFC.

"After sawing, I used a Superset moulder to plane the timber and sanded it using 80 grit on a dmc Eurosystem sander to leave the grain open so when the glue was applied there was an open surface for the glue to penetrate. When the boards were laminated, the timber was 5mm over what was required, so it had to be sent back through the Superset and the Eurosystem to get the exact thickness and width."

The next step was to create the programs on the Accord 25fx that would generate the components. "I drew the components in Maestro, including the legs, mitring them at the correct angle at either end. On the Accord 25,

I cut the components to length using the saw blade, then created the mortises and the tenons on all the mid rails and long rails. Some of the components were too small to use suction cups – in particular the cross rails on the bench – so I used vertical clamps to hold them in place. I used a single square clamp so I could machine through from the face side of the component in one hit and create the tenon that goes right the way through, and then drilled from the top for the oak dowels that go into the mortice and tenon joints.

"Components like these are better clamped. The taller a component gets, the more likely it is that it will move on a suction cup. If a component is thinner than 50mm, clamps make for much better stability when the tool starts work on it.

"For assembly, I used traditional sash cramps and dowelled the joints. I think exposed dowels look much better and more aesthetically pleasing than a concealed fitting on this type of table. When the oil or wax is applied, the laminated parts and the dowels need to stand out."

To fine-finish the table and benches before they were sealed and waxed, we invited the sanding specialist Mirka to demonstrate their revolutionary Abranet® products and Mirka

hand tools. Chris Brook, Business Sector Manager for Mirka UK takes up the story:

"The machines we've used are our DEROS 6" random orbital sander for the large flat areas such as the table top, the bench tops and some of the larger flat areas. Then, for detail, we chose a DEOS 81 x 133 orbital sander, which is designed for detail finishing in hard-to-reach areas like the tighter areas in the structure of the table and benches. Both were attached to a Mirka 1230 M-Class extractor unit that has been designed to trap 99.9% of medium risk dust.

"People often think that if they start with a really coarse disc they will get the job done faster. The danger is you will remove too much in the wrong place. Because the table was already in a good, flat condition we were really only fine finishing and not calibrating. We started with Abranet® Ace 180 grit to remove some of the belt-sanding scratch patterns and mix them up with random orbit scratch patterns ready for oiling. Then we moved to 240 grit and 320 grit on the flat top surfaces. The material is the same in the disc form as it is in the strip form.

"It's important not to sand in the same direction all the time, otherwise you'll pick up sanding lines. With a random orbital sander like the DEROS, because it does deliver a



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www.mirka.co.uk



Sized timber enters the sander.



Laminated timber and exposed dowelled joints are aesthetically pleasing.



Mirka's Deos 81 x 133 orbital sander is designed for detail finishing.



Abranet Ace is a ceramic mesh abrasive.

random orbital finish rather than the clear pattern you get from an orbital sander; you can sand up-down-up-down, then right-left-right-left. Then I favour diagonal sanding to blend, especially with the coarse grits. For the final run with the 180 grit I used the DEROS in a figure of eight so it blends all the different directions. With the last grit, the 320, I sanded with the grain so if there had been any sanding marks they would disappear. It leaves a better finish.

"For difficult to access parts I chose the DEOS. Because the strip sander isn't used on large areas, it only needs to have a 3mm orbit. I tend to go with the grain in most cases, though you do have to go against the grain with end components such as the end of the benches. It delivers a very good finish regardless.

"Where the DEOS has a 3mm orbit, the DEROS in this set-up is a 5mm off-centre oscillation. The rotation isn't connected to the motor at all, it just naturally starts to rotate

because of the powered 5mm orbit, which gives a nice random scratch pattern. The motor of the DEROS is a low maintenance induction motor and the speed of the 5mm orbit can be adjusted from 4,000 rpm to 10,000rpm. It's controlled by the paddle on top, which acts as a throttle according to how much pressure you apply."

Although Mirka does have a rather clever app that measures user exposure to vibration over an entire shift, Chris didn't connect the machines he used. It only took about an hour to sand the table and benches and the backing pad – the usual culprit when increased vibration is detected – was brand new.

The quality of the surface after fine sanding with the DEROS and DEOS was remarkable but as Chris explains it wasn't just down to the machines: "One of our most unique products is Abranet® and the product we've used on the table is Abranet® Ace, a mesh abrasive. The beauty of a mesh abrasive rather than conventional paper is the removal action

is more like a cheese grater: you are shaving the material, which is then passing through the net and the waste material is being removed at source. You are not clogging the disc or forcing any material into the face of the workpiece. Because you are shaving the material you are getting a better and more consistent finish and you are less likely to get pitting and clogging on the surface of the disc that can create pigtails and swirls in the timber.

"The other advantage of using Abranet® Ace is it is a ceramic grain, so it is self-sharpening. As you're using it the grain is breaking down, fracturing and parts of it are coming away. Every time that happens, it presents a new, sharp cutting face. It won't necessarily last any longer than a standard Abranet® aluminium oxide disc but the ceramic will do the same job faster while maintaining a dust-free environment and a high quality of finish."

While the DEROS and DEOS are already well accepted by craftsmen and are in



widespread use, machines like the Gabbiani beam saw, the Superset moulder, the dmc Eurosystem sander and the SCM Accord 25fx – all high specification machines – are less likely to be found in small workshops. However, as Duncan points out, top specification machines weren't essential to this project.

"Because it's a showroom, everything we have on show has to be all-singing, all-dancing. Instead of the Superset moulder, we could have used a Profiset, which is a fifth of the price and it's smaller. Instead of the Accord, we could have used an M100 if we'd specified the right clamps on it. The Eurosystem is a top line sander. We could have used a dmc sd 30."

To produce the table and bench set as a one-off commission, a craftsman working with traditional machines would probably need a cross-cut saw, a panel saw, a surfacer, a thicknesser, a tenoner, a mortiser, a spindle, a sander and a pillar drill. Allowing little more space for working than you might expect if the machines were laid out on an exhibition stand, the workshop would need to be a minimum of 90 square metres with probably quite a bit more to allow for safety while operating

machines like the panel saw and space for assembly. If that same craftsman had opted for a saw plus a Profiset moulder, a dmc sd 30 sander and a Morbidelli M100 five-axis CNC, his workshop would need to be little more than half that size.

That could be quite a saving if the workshop was being rented.

The big advantage of CNC machinery is the repeatability it offers. Every machine in a traditionally-equipped workshop would need setting up from scratch. Duncan estimates that in the time it would take to make the table and benches in a traditionally-equipped workshop he could probably have made four in a CNC-equipped workshop.

That's potentially four times the productivity, four times the profitability.

That brings me to the outlay: could a start-up operation really afford CNC technology? Surprisingly, buying only low-to-middle-priced machines, the cost for setting up a traditionally-equipped shop works out to be about 60% of the cost of the CNC-equipped shop. Choose top-of-the-line traditional machines for the best accuracy and longevity and it's not going to be far off the same.

Half the workshop space, four times the productivity... it wouldn't take long to achieve payback of the extra cost of buying CNC, would it? And for a little while yet you can still factor in Rishi Sunak's advantageous super-deduction tax.

So, just one question remains: if the same craftsman is placing timber on a CNC instead of working with traditional machinery and the design and finishing of the furniture show the same attention to detail, is a beautiful piece of furniture like the table and bench set we commissioned any less deserving of the title *craftsman-made* because it's been shaped on a CNC?

With thanks to:

James Latham Leicester for supplying timber that's "as good as money can buy": 0116 288 9161.

Duncan Smith, Showroom Demonstrator at SCM Group (UK), without whose design and cabinet-making expertise this project would not have been possible: 0115 977 0044.

Chris Brook, Business Sector Manager for Mirka UK's wood sector, for demonstrating and sharing his expertise in fine-sanding: 01908 866100.

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Space-saving and safety are two of the key reasons craftsmen often opt for vertical panel saws.

Sliding table versus vertical

When considering the choice between a vertical panel saw and sliding table saw, the space required is an obvious starting point. The space-saving credentials of a vertical panel saw have been well documented over the years and have often been a deciding factor for many businesses looking to invest in a new machine. After all, even when working with jumbo sheets (2800 x 2070mm), a vertical panel saw requires just 7 square metres of working space – a third of the space required by an equivalent sliding panel saw. However, the advantages don't stop there.

The beauty of a Striebig vertical panel saw is its moving saw head. This offers the operator a wealth of benefits, including a

reduction in material handling. Even when performing multiple cuts, you only need to handle a full sheet when it is initially loaded onto the machine and the board edge only needs to be put on the datum before the cutting process can begin. This removes the risk of the board being positioned incorrectly and ultimately, speeds up the cutting cycle.

On a sliding table saw, the blade remains stationary and relies on the board being manually positioned and fed through it. When cutting a jumbo sheet, it requires two people to operate the machine because of the size and weight of the sheet and a large workspace either side of the blade to handle the material safely. The level of accuracy on each cut is dependent on the operator positing the board correctly against the fence

It's a question that is commonly asked: should I buy a vertical panel saw or a sliding table saw?



Striebig's models come with a wealth of automated features.



and keeping it in position during the cutting process. Inexperienced operators are more prone to inconsistent cuts and material wastage than they would be on a vertical panel saw.

Operator safety is always of paramount importance to any saw manufacturer but, as the statistics show, operators are less likely to suffer injury on a vertical panel saw. On a sliding table saw, the blade is always exposed, whereas on a vertical panel saw, it is completely contained within its housing during operation and run-down. On a Striebig saw, you also can't turn the saw on if the housing is open or unlocked. In addition to this, a vertical panel saw is also less labour intensive – it's easier to move the saw head on a Striebig than it is to manually feed large sheets through a table saw – making it an exceptionally safe and effective workhorse.

Then there's a question of cut quality. Both saw types require a good quality, vibration-free saw blade and the right blade and feed speeds. Regardless of a sliding table saw's build quality or price-point, the feed speed can only be controlled via the operator. This requires a certain level of skill, material knowledge and

concentration. Vertical panel saw models in the Striebig range can offer an automated cut cycle with accurately controlled feed speeds, which reduces operator-error and guarantees a high-quality cut every time, even when cutting challenging materials like thick plastic or working with exceptionally large sheets over six metres long.

With many sliding table saws, automation is limited to the positioning of stops. With a vertical panel saw, the level of automation available is far superior, removing potential operator error and accuracy issues. It also lessens the skills required to use the saw effectively.

Striebig models feature a wealth of automated features, including automatic positioning digital measuring stops, fully-automated cut cycles, laser-guided indicators, pneumatically-braked support rollers and automatic trimming. The new Edition 60 also comes with an integrated panel-lowering device that positions each panel automatically, eliminating the need to turn the sheet by hand during the cutting process entirely.

Intelligent features such as this can also be teamed with optimisation software that can

be built into the machine or retro-fitted at a later date. It can also be partnered with stock and waste management software and CAD/CAM software programmes to streamline production and benefit from industry 4.0 manufacturing processes.

Matt Pearce, Managing Director of TM Machinery says: "The space saving of a vertical panel saw should never be overlooked but there are so many more benefits a Striebig can offer. Comparable in price to a sliding table saw but offering a different approach to cutting sheets to size, a Striebig saw removes many of the issues associated with cutting large panels, guaranteeing accuracy within 0.1mm on every cut. On top of this, the finish of the cut means the board can be put straight through an edgebander without further machining or hand-finishing, offering the user a wealth of possibilities when using panels, composites, plastics and metals. To see the results for yourself, book a demonstration at our Leicester showroom and explore the full capabilities of a Striebig vertical panel saw."

For more information call 0116 271 7155 or visit www.tmmachinery.co.uk

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Hand Guard

“We know what counts – safety, productivity and technology.”



New to the Woodworking Trade for 2022 is the Award winning Altendorf Hand Guard, the world's first and only Artificial Intelligence optical system that protects people, machines and material.

The unique early detection system with two cameras revolutionises the safety of the sliding table panel saw. There is no damage whatsoever to the saw when the safety system is activated and the saw is immediately ready for use again. The system works with all materials (plastics, non-ferrous metal, dry and damp wood, panels, etc.), specified gloves, any type of saw blade with a diameter up to 550mm and both single and two-way tilting machines.

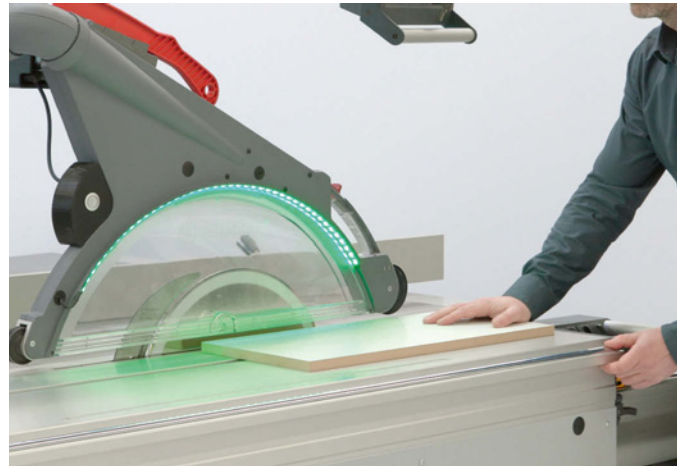
Why is the hand guard needed?

According to DGUV, Germany, in 2019 there were 971,547 occupational accidents of which 1554 accidents occurred on sliding table

circular saws. That is the equivalent of 6.7 accidents per day, which cost employers between €9,700 and €16,300 due to employee absence and associated costs – not to mention lost orders and increased insurance costs. From these hand accidents, 47% are injuries that have had an effect on the pension, meaning injuries so heavy that the operator cannot continue working like he did before.

Hand Guard is based on the early detection of a dangerous situation. Two powerful cameras determine the exact position of the hand in relation to the saw blade. In the process, differently defined situations are optically recognised and classified. The cameras constantly collect data that is processed by a powerful hand detection programme. If the system detects a hazardous situation, the danger is eliminated in a quarter of a second.

Two powerful cameras determine the exact position of the hand in relation to the saw blade.



If the system detects a hazardous situation, the danger is eliminated in a quarter of a second.

by Altendorf

With Hand Guard, Altendorf has succeeded in providing the leading international innovation for circular saw safety systems. The safety system for this product category is a milestone in occupational user safety. It prevents injuries caused by workplace accidents and has been awarded the renowned German Occupational Safety Award 2021 in the 'Operational' category.

So, what are the key advantages of the Hand Guard system compared with other systems?

Hand Guard reliably protects against hand injuries at normal working speeds as well as fast hand movements up to two metres per second. Artificial Intelligence reliably detects the human hand (with and without gloves). Saw blades of all applicable diameters can be fully lowered and by

monitoring workspace it enables timely detection of danger.

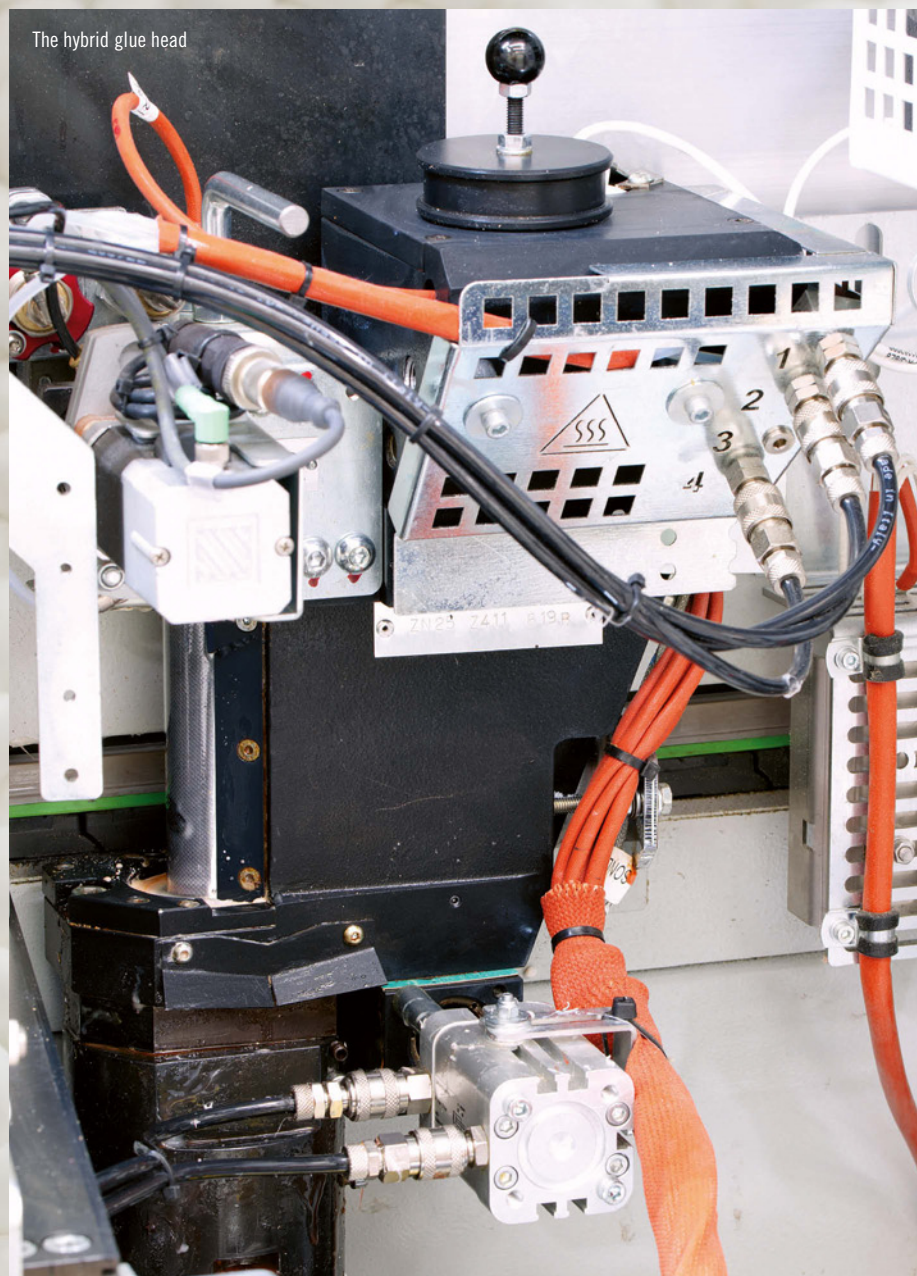
The controlled lowering of the saw blade when triggered is the fastest system on the market and resetting is immediate with no need to re-teach the machine. The intelligent system has a *continued learning* capability. It offers true safety system through its consistent two-channel design.

Justin Inman, MD of R&J Machinery says, "Alternative safety systems have been on the market for a while but they use older technology and are known as 'capacitive systems'. Being the market leader for sliding table saws, Altendorf has always avoided using capacitive systems as they have only a single channel of detection. They are also hard-wearing on the machines when triggered and the danger detection zone is so small there is still great risk of injury to

the operator, especially when working at normal speed.

"Years of development from Altendorf have resulted in the Hand Guard system we see today, which put simply will 'revolutionise panel saw safety'. The Hand Guard utilises the latest technology available and is the solution the market would expect from Altendorf. The Trade will see massive benefits from the Hand Guard machine, as it reinforces the correct operation of a panel saw while protecting operators, workflow and production and prevents potential costly injury claims and fines from HSE."

To book a demonstration of the Altendorf Hand Guard, or for further advice, call the sole UK importer for all Altendorf and Hebrock products, R&J Machinery on 01455 840224 or visit www.rjmachinery.co.uk/altendorf



Making the switch

Thinner glue lines, easier colour and adhesive changes, reduced adhesive consumption and less maintenance are just some of the benefits of Biesse's hybrid glue head.

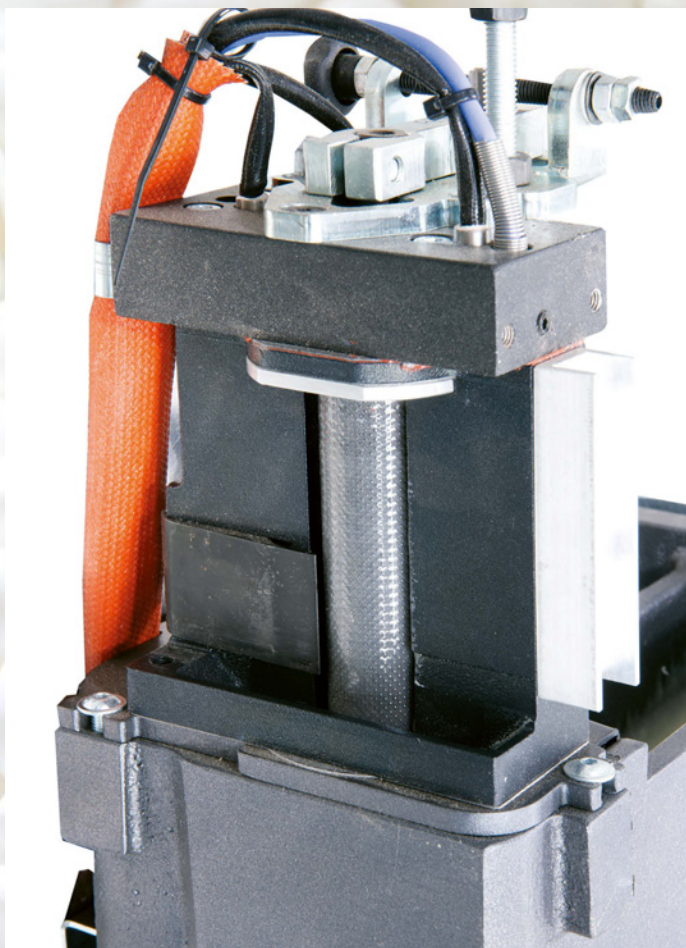
If you've got an older edgebander in your workshop, it's almost guaranteed your operator's least favourite job will be changing colours, changing from EVA to PUR and the unpleasant job of cleaning down that goes with both. It might not be the best solution for your product quality but such problems are often used as a good reason to change adhesives as infrequently as possible.

There's a pretty good chance his next most disliked task will be cleaning the glue roller when build up from chipboard processing starts to impact on the quality of the edge. No one wants the heavy glueline or

the excess glue that can get left on panel edges. Unfortunately, sorting the problem can often result in other issues emerging further down the line, especially if the operator resorts to tweaking the amount of glue that's being applied by the roller in an attempt to reduce the thickness of the glue line, or reduce the excess being squeezed out. If it gets beyond the point of easy rectification, downtime and a service callout are only just around the corner and no one wants that if it can be avoided either.

So how do you get around these issues? A couple of years ago, the Italian

Earlier generation heads were fitted with a copying shoe to guide the tape past the glue roller (on the left of this image) and a return plate (on the right of this image) on which excess glue could possibly build up.



The glue roller on Biesse's hybrid glue head is the end of the block – there's no return plate to the left of the roller – so any glue residue is fed around the roller as it rotates anticlockwise, scraped off and fed back to the glue pot via a drain hole.



woodworking machinery specialist Biesse came up with an ingenious development that solved all of these problems – and a few more – and so effective is it that most new edgebanders from Biesse are now being sold with this remarkable invention. It's called the hybrid glue head and if your edgebander hasn't got one, here are a few reasons you might want to consider making the switch to hybrid.

Malcolm Storey, Biesse UK's brand manager for edgebanding, explains:

"More and more we are seeing demand for improving the glue line quality with customers wanting a thinner glue line. That is easily achieved with PUR. But there are customers who want to use EVA for carcases and PUR for doors and drawer fronts. To do that, two separate glue pots would be needed and significant downtime is involved in the change-over. With Biesse's hybrid head,

depending how much adhesive is left in the pot, it's possible to change over in as little as 15 mins.

"The hybrid glue head has been developed to fill the demand in the market for a flexible gluing application so operators can run EVA or PUR and change whenever they want. Previously, manufacturers would have had to decide on whether they wanted a machine that ran EVA or PUR in cartridge form. Now even smaller manufacturers have the choice to meet customer demands.

"The hybrid head can be supplied with or without a pre-melter but for those who need one, we offer two different options: the TM20 and the smaller TM15. The TM15 is for the Akron 1300, Akron 1400, Stream A and Stream A Smart and it takes granulated EVA or PUR and PUR in cartridges of 260gm, allowing operators to run two types of adhesive in two formats on the same pre-



Malcolm Storey

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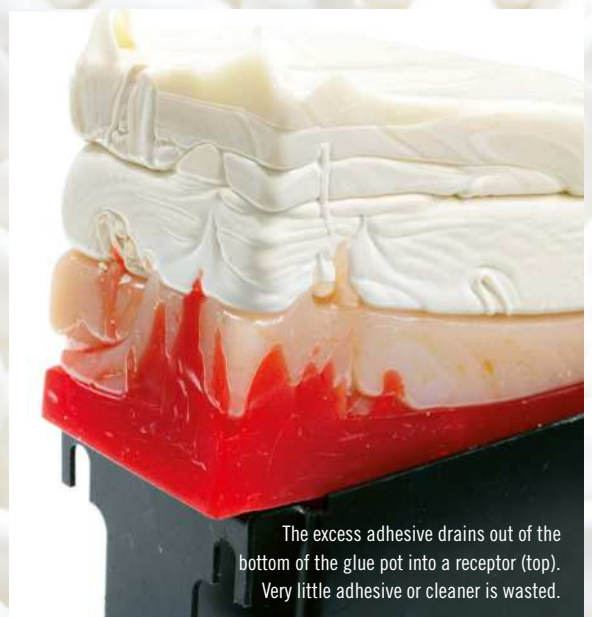
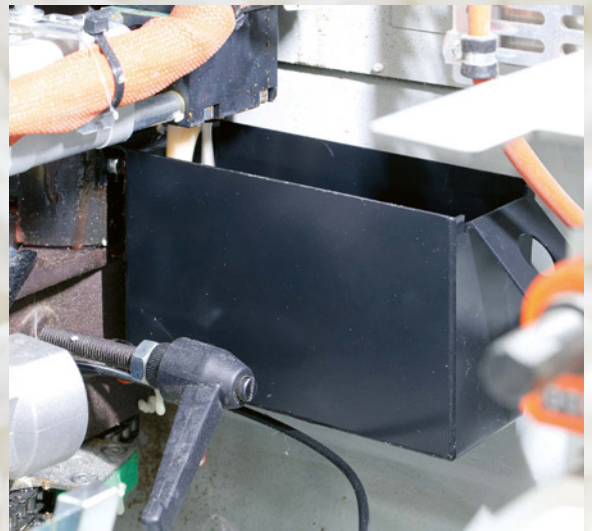
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The machine is put into the purge cycle using a selector switch that is rotated inside the gluing area. That stops the roller from turning, then a pneumatic valve controls a piston that opens the gate.



The excess adhesive drains out of the bottom of the glue pot into a receptor (top). Very little adhesive or cleaner is wasted.

melter. The package of pre-melter, TM15 and hybrid glue gate together cover everybody's requirements for applying various adhesives in different formats. We can also offer the hybrid glue head without a pre-melter but with a larger 1.5kg capacity for the small-to-medium workshop that's using the PUR application rarely."

The Akron 1300 and 1400 run at 12-18m/min so the melt rate doesn't need to be as high as a machine that's running at 20m and beyond. However, for the faster machines, Biesse fits the TM20 pre-melter which allows operators to take advantage of 2kg slugs.

Regardless of which machine it's fitted to, one of the really neat aspects of the hybrid glue head is that it enables easy access from inside the machine. Open the canopy and it's right there. You can access the glue roller while it's running without having to go around the other side of the track and the controls are an arm's length away inside the gluing area.

With the canopy open and the glue roller exposed, the first thing you'll notice is the

design of the head is very different to earlier model edgebanders. There's still a copying shoe to guide the glue head but there's no return plate for excess glue to build up on. The glue roller is at the end of the block, so residue is fed around the roller, scraped off and fed back to the glue pot via a drain hole. Net result: no downstream contamination and cleaner panels – but I'll come back to that topic later because if you opt for the NC version of the hybrid head it has an even more impressive ace up its sleeve to ensure you only ever apply the correct glue dose for the material you are processing.

First, let's take a look at just how easy it is to switch glues or colours:

"Changing from one glue type to another, or one colour to another is simple with the hybrid head and very little glue is wasted during the cleaning process," confirmed Malcolm. "If we look at a machine equipped with just the hybrid head, it could have anything up to 750g of adhesive left in it at the point when the operator needs to change

glue type. To switch over, all he needs to do is put it into a purge cycle using a selector switch that is rotated inside the gluing area. That stops the roller from turning, then a pneumatic valve controls a piston that opens the gate. The excess adhesive drains out of the bottom of the glue pot into a receptor. Once drained, the selector is rotated again to close it off. There is potentially still a coating inside the head so cleaning granules need to be added, then the machine is switched to work mode so it heats the granules up. Repeating the process, flicking the purge switch and cleaning down the head with cleaning wax is all that's needed before the machine is ready to start work again.

"If you have a hybrid head combined with a pre-melter, the pre-melter has to be cleaned at the same time as the hybrid head. First, you remove any excess glue from the pre-melter – granules or a slug – then you put the machine into the purge cycle, add the cleaning wax to the pre-melter and send it through the hybrid head. It's a bit more time-consuming because



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With the NC glue gate option the glue dose is adjusted from the console where it's shown as a percentage.

PARAMETER	VALUE	UNIT	SETPOINT
LH EDGE BANDING STRIP	2		
NO. OF PANELS IN MACHINE			0
TRACK SPEED		18.00	18.22
ADAPTIVE IRL	1		
% APERTURA RACLA SX	35		
SELEZIONE VASCA	2		
PANEL THICKNESS	18.09		18.09

COMPONENT	MODE	VALUE	SETPOINT
EVA GLUE ROLLER	WORK	200.0	200.2
EVA GLUE BOWL	WORK	190.0	190.1
PU GLUE ROLLER	OFF	140.0	200.2
PU GLUE BOWL	OFF	130.0	190.1
PREFUSORE PU	OFF	135.0	30.5
DRYER 1 OUTPUT	OFF	700.0	24.2
DRYER OUTPUT	OFF	520.0	19.3

you could be melting a two-kilo slug but it's still a quick process."

Both hybrid head options come as standard with a manually-adjusted glue gate. However, there is an option for an NC controlled glue gate that gives you two significant advantages: firstly, having NC control means you can regulate the coat weight of either EVA or PUR on the roller in relation to the core material that's being processed – and you can adjust the dose from the console where it's shown as a percentage. MFC requires more adhesive than MDF because it penetrates into the core of the material, so you might want to run the glue gate at an aperture of 35-40% compared with 25% when you're running MDF. A typical mechanical glue gate might be running at around 50-60%, so the NC version can provide a significant saving in adhesive as well as providing a much tighter glue line.

Given that not all substrates are the same, having an NC glue gate also means you can write the program at the machine relative

to the substrate you are processing and retain that for future use. By metering the aperture from the console rather than mechanically, it takes the guesswork out of the process and that in turn leads to less contamination further down the machine and ultimately a better finish.

Is there a risk operators might economise, run at too low a coating weight and create a problem with edge peeling? Well, there is but any reasonable operator will test the edge strength from time to time and apply the percentage required to provide good adhesion.

"The second advantage of the NC option is that periodically the glue gate automatically closes and reopens and that cleans any material residue that builds up on the roller – typically from MFC. When core material is pulled onto the glue roller it builds up over time behind the glue gate and you get the tell-tale rings around the roller. The NC controller prevents that because it's closing on the glue roller periodically. Any residue is

recirculated into the adhesive. That combined effect of being able to regulate the coat weight and cleaning of the roller ensures consistent quality of the glue line – all without the operator doing anything."

For manufacturers who might want absolute versatility from their edgebander, any Biesse machine equipped with a hybrid glue head can also be equipped with an Airforce hot air system for applying laser edging. Airforce is available on the Akron 1300, Akron 1400, Stream A, Stream A Smart and above and with Airforce as well as a hybrid glue head you can apply laser tapes, or glue with EVA, PUR, granulated PUR and cartridge PUR and switch between at will for the best quality whatever the product. With all bases covered, you have a machine that's pretty much future-proofed, makes colour and adhesive changes easy for your operator, gets rid of messy maintenance and cleaning issues, provides consistent glue lines and gives you repeatability at the touch of a button. So why wouldn't you make the switch?



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This is the mantra of IMA Schelling UK, where we are expanding our portfolio of equipment beyond saws, lifters and shredders.

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A message from IMA Schelling UK

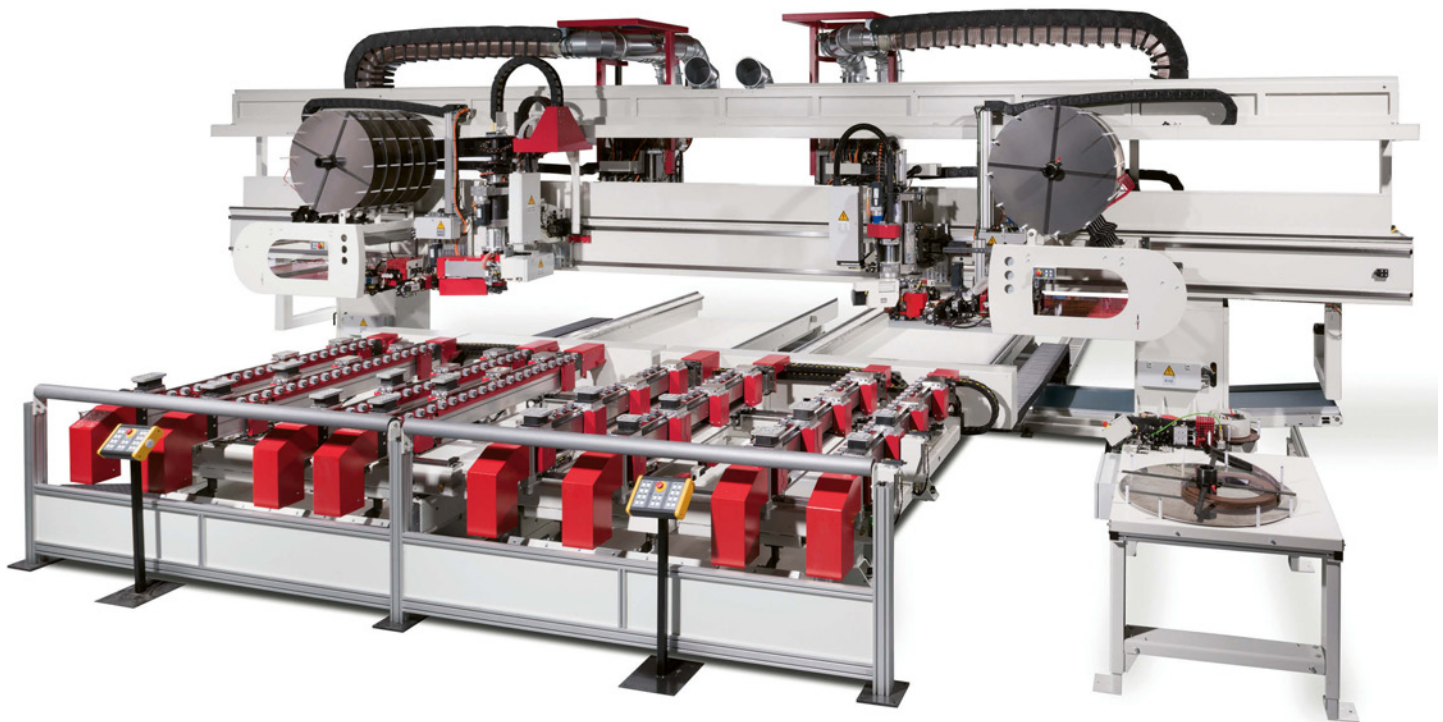
Historically, IMA (Germany) and Schelling (Austria) have always been closely allied and the two have worked under a network umbrella for many years – that was until some six years ago when Schelling Anlagenbau bought IMA, amalgamated the two into the IMA Schelling Group and formalised an informal working arrangement. Since the acquisition, IMA Schelling Group (ISG) has been busily combining the separate IMA and Schelling operations into one unified global company with a single, united corporate message – and in the last year, the separate operations

of IMA UK and Schelling UK also merged, becoming IMA Schelling UK Ltd.

Since its merger, IMA Schelling UK Ltd has expanded its range of Schelling cut-to-size saws as well as the complementary equipment available from its head office in Wetherby, which also includes throughfeed single and double-sided IMA Combima edgebanding machines running at feed speeds of up to 120 metres per minute.

From its base in Wetherby, IMA Schelling UK is able to supply and service the entire IMA Bima range of CNC machining centres, which includes specialised machines with

In challenging times, it's good to know the company behind your success is able to supply your needs and keep you in full production.



and without edgebanding and finishing facilities, and the entire Imagic range of throughfeed point-to-point drilling and dowel insertion machines. 2022 will bring its own challenges but IMA Schelling UK is confident of providing the very best in both machines and service to its customers in 2022 and well into the future.

IMA Schelling UK's service engineers are all factory trained and have experience in mechanical, electrical and electronic fault diagnostics. All routine maintenance, machine repairs and servicing can be carried

out without the expensive costs associated with overseas engineers, keeping costs to a minimum while providing faster and more efficient service.

The company has taken on new technicians to work alongside its existing on-the-road team and expanded its office staff to provide an even more efficient and friendly customer experience covering everything from breakdowns to servicing arrangements.

IMA Schelling UK would like to thank all its customers and suppliers for the support

they have shown and for the new business they have provided. Whatever the coming year presents, the company and its staff would like to extend their assurance that IMA Schelling UK Ltd will be there for you when you need them.

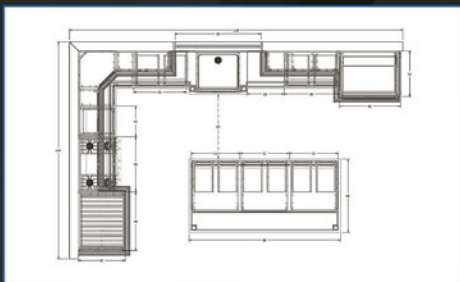
With many new installations coming to fruition this year and next it's worth following IMA Schelling UK's social media accounts for regular updates. If you have questions or queries, please contact IMA Schelling UK through the new email address, info.uk@imaschelling.com



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Growing with SCM

With an aggressive growth plan to achieve, Hugh Stirling had to be certain of a machinery supplier that could help them create the factory they needed. They chose SCM.



The Glasgow-based contract manufacturing specialist, Hugh Stirling Ltd has seen exponential growth since its management buy-out three years ago. Its turnover has risen from £6m before the buy-out to £12.5m last year. This year it's expected to top £15m and the trajectory its set should see the company reach £35m in the next few years if it continues to hit targets. But the canny Scots know they can only achieve their objectives if production keeps pace with planning – and to ensure that, they turned to SCM for help and guidance.

Hugh Stirling's business is top-end refits – time-sensitive projects for demanding clients who expect high quality and top-notch service. With a client base that includes companies like Mitchells & Butlers, one of the largest operators of restaurants, pubs and bars in the UK with almost 1800 outlets to its credit, Brian Muslek, Hugh Stirling's operations director, has to be certain that Hugh Stirling delivers consistently.

"We started by doing reactive maintenance for Mitchells & Butlers but it wasn't long before we were manufacturing restaurants, bars and hotels," Brian told Furniture Journal. "We are responsible for key capital expenditure projects that can

range from £100,000 to £900,000. We're currently working in the Horseshoe, one of the oldest and most iconic pubs in Glasgow. It's very demanding because every day a bar is closed it is losing money. It's essential we finish on time every time and to standard and that's what we pride ourselves on. We have a whole host of other things that we do for companies like Wetherspoons, Hawthornes, etc., and we've done bespoke manufacturing for Gleneagles, the Citizen Hotel and many others.

"After the MBO, we managed to double the revenue by implementing a growth plan and moving location. We moved to our new workshop in September last year and we've just taken on another next door to cater for future expansion. We knew some of our machinery was antiquated and we knew we had to go through renewal for continuity, efficiency and accuracy. About two years ago we started on the journey with our first CNC – a five-axis machine that would offer us a lot of flexibility to do bespoke work and also fire doors so we could diversify the business. That was essential because when we took over the business 80% of our turnover came from the licensed, leisure and hotel trades and if you are in just one market, as



we've seen during the pandemic, you are very vulnerable when things change. The business went through a big diversification plan just in time because by the time Covid struck, we had already opened other revenue streams to offset work for the licensed leisure industry. We're now fully certified for the manufacture and the installation of fire doors – a market we wouldn't have been able to expand into without SCM's help.

"We knew we had to upgrade our machinery but like most companies, we had to change one machine at a time. Our first requirement was a CNC that would allow us to modernise our manufacturing and speed up the process and the first piece of kit we had installed in September 2021 was an SCM 25fxm. SCM and its local partner, the Saw Centre, helped us come up with a plan to decommission our old workshop, transfer everything to the new workshop, get us up and running quickly and gear up for diversification into fire doors."

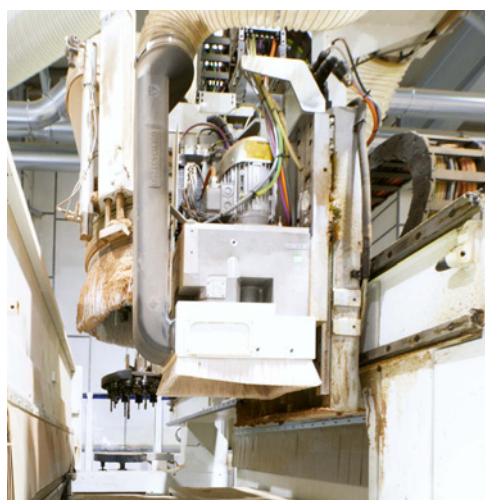
The SCM Accord 25fxm might seem like an unusual machine to opt for if your production includes large-scale production of fire doors but as SCM's Lee Gibson explained, there was good reasoning behind his recommendation: "The fx is a pod and rail

machine that's predominantly for products where you need to machine from underneath or from the side – something you can't do on a flatbed machine unless you raise the product up. A lot of people in the industry, especially shop-fitters, are going for the hybrid version of the fx, the Accord 25fxm, because it gives them the versatility to produce cabinet work on the matrix bed but add pods when they want to do work that requires 360-degree access, such as around a fire door. The Accord 25fxm offers the best of both worlds but it is only a gap-filler for Hugh Stirling at the moment. When their manufacturing requirement increases to the point where the fxm is at capacity, they have already planned to get a pod and rail machine for door manufacturing that will free up the fxm for shop-fitting work, curved and five-axis work."

"As soon as the fire doors started coming in, we realised we also needed a bigger edgebander as the small one we had couldn't cope with anything more than 15mm edging," continued Brian. "SCM knew the product we wanted to make, they knew our space restrictions and they knew we needed a tried-and-trusted product. They also knew it was a key investment for us, so we were pleased



Brian Muslek



Lee Gibson

when Lee suggested we should go to see the Stefani kd he'd recommended in another workshop. He took us to see David Urquhart in Portsoy. David and his son William talked us through their experience, showed us their machine and told us how it had impacted positively on their business.

"It's easy to take someone to a showroom, show them a top-of-the-line machine and put on a show but when you get the chance to go and see other customers who have a similar machine, they will tell you about the nuts and bolts and about the service they've received. It's the best way to find out whether a machine is going to be right for you. Being able to go and see the machine Lee had recommended made all the difference and it confirmed what we already knew about SCM's service."

Before making his recommendation, Lee delved deeply into the throughput, feed speeds and specifications of several Stefani edgebanders, comparing them with the level of fire door production Brian expected in a

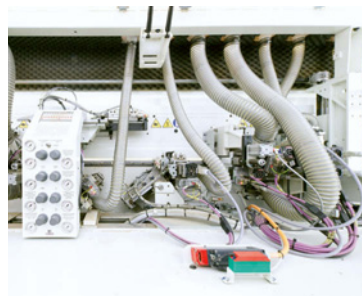
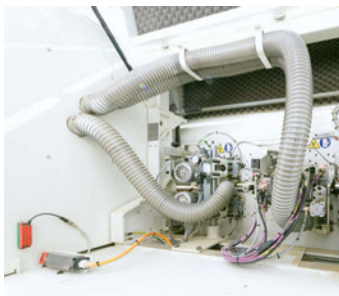
day and over a week. Then he came up with a worst and best scenario. "It's important to get the right frame on the machine," he stressed. "If Brian had said they wanted to produce 100 plus a day, we would have offered them the other machines in the Stefani range, the md or the xd models. Conversely, with production running at 100 doors plus a day, you wouldn't want a lighter build than the kd model to cope with these volumes on a regular basis because in three or four years it will take its toll and to me that's a bad investment. A Stefani kd will last 10-15 years at this level of production if it's lipping all day. It's the entry level machine for door lippings."

"We are using the Stefani kd for all our edging now," confirmed Brian. "And it's performing really well. Clear glue, white glue, solid lippings, edgings for cabinets, even a high-end kitchen that we've done for one of our clients – it's producing everything and the quality we are getting from it is exceptional."

"We do a lot of batch one manufacturing. We're using EVA and PUR and switching



Stefani kd



constantly. We have the SGP Gluepot and the PU box L. When we are running fire doors, we could be running a massive batch for which we need the 2kg cartridges and the PU Box L but then when we're doing cabinet work, we might only need a small quantity of granular EVA. It's easy to switch between them – just a quick purge and we can change in an instant. Whatever we put through it, the Stefani kd gives us the quality of finish we need for high end products. It's also given us the flexibility and the quick changeover we need to keep pace with whatever is coming off the CNC.

"We received a very high level of training with both SCM machines and even during lockdown we managed to get five guys trained remotely. We booked on-site training as soon as we could and now we're taking the guys to Nottingham. In Nottingham, they can take one guy who is already well trained and knowledgeable and continue his training from that level while other guys who haven't the same level of experience can be trained from where their starting point is. That's

really good because one set of training doesn't fit all."

Brian is just as delighted with the level of aftersales service he's received from SCM: "You will always have issues with machines but it's how those issues are dealt with and the response you get that really matters. Everyone is suffering from lack of service engineers right now but when we had a small problem, Lee was straight on it. Even the MD at SCM took it on board and gave us his email address and direct number so he could be kept in the loop with progress. They listened to us, they have been very reactive, they put a process in place to help us with updates on how it was being dealt with. It was really excellent. These little details say a lot about a company and give you a lot of confidence. It's a good foundation for a long-term partnership and that's what we need to grow our factory and our business.

"We've done a full lifecycle analysis and drawn up a plan of replacement that looks at individual machines and the new alternatives that are coming through. We will implement

that as and when growth and cashflow allows for it. By planning well ahead we hope to avoid the problems of last minute orders, especially orders for machines that might not be available on short lead times.

"We have a lot of trust in SCM. You need to be sure of the product you're buying and the company that's supplying it. With SCM's help, we've increased output, improved quality and we've had technical support and training and that, when you don't have the time to go to the market and shop around, is important. I expect Lee and his team to give us the best value and help us grow our factory in a manner that's controlled. We need that strong relationship, that trust, and in SCM we've found it. It works for them and it works for us. We know what we need moving forward and we won't look elsewhere."

To discuss an upgrade to your workshop, or for details of the SCM Accord 25fxm or Stefani kd, call SCM Group (UK) Ltd on 0115 977 0044 or visit their website www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/scmwood

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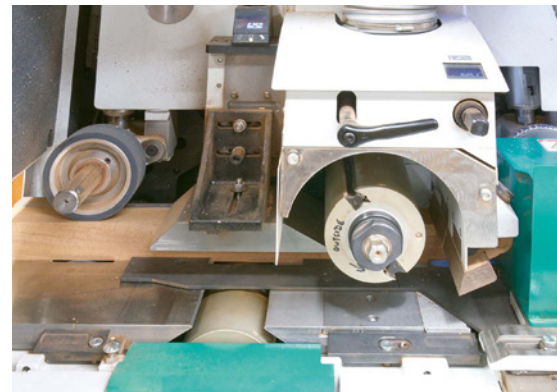
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Andy Driver: The Weinig Profimat 30 "offered the machining versatility I needed and the German build quality I had come to expect from Weinig."



Weinig's unique Servo Lock has speeded up the loosening and tightening of spindle nuts.



Weinig: Driving change

Andy Driver knows his craft. For over 30 years, he's run a successful specialist joinery business and is regularly commissioned to work on listed buildings and grand period properties. But, in the wake of a global pandemic and faced with a rapidly changing market, now more than ever, smaller businesses like Andy's have been looking to reduce costs and combat the industry's skills shortage by simplifying their manufacturing processes. For the Norfolk-based joiner, this has meant investing in the UK's very first Profimat 30 moulder from Weinig UK.

"After 15 years, 2021 was the right time to replace my trusted Weinig VarioMat four-sided planer," begins Andy, owner of AJ Driver Joinery Ltd. "We've been facing a

growing skills shortage in the woodworking industry for a number of years. The pandemic has amplified this problem and has been a driving force behind changes to my business."

Andy concedes machines that require a skilled operator are no longer a viable choice for his business. "There is no longer a pool of people with the right skill-set to work machines like this," he says. "My VarioMat was a reliable workhorse but I knew I needed to invest in a new moulder that could be operated by someone with minimal machining experience. It also needed to offer quick set-up and the same machining capabilities and build quality my old machine had." Additional requirements also included the need to machine 300 metres of 125 x 70mm hard and soft wood at a time and

Andy Driver's Weinig Profimat 30 moulder is helping AJ Driver Joinery combat an industry-wide skills shortage.



create extremely accurate and intricate moulds for traditional glazed windows using Accoya. It also had to be compact in size and offer a relatively quick return on investment.

After reading about the newly-launched moulder during the first lockdown, Andy was confident that the Profimat 30 was the right fit for his business. With a starting price just shy of £30,000 and a base footprint of 1.5 x 1.3 metres, Weinig's powerful, cast-iron-framed entry-level moulder has been engineered with the smaller manufacturer in mind. It features five spindles, a choice of two motor packages, a working height of 8-120mm and a standard working width of 13-230mm (an optional working width of 260mm is also available). Andy says, "It offered the machining versatility I needed and the German build quality I had come to expect from Weinig."

The moulder's innovative technology and easy set-up was also a big selling point. "Technology has come a long way in 15 years and standard features on the Profimat 30, like frequency converters to start and stop the spindle drives and reduce power peaks, a single button to start/stop

the motors and save energy and a clever 5mm thick lateral guiding fence that moves with the left spindle, were simply not an option then.

"The old machine was manually operated. It couldn't store data so it had to be set-up for a given profile. It also didn't tell you which block to put on which head. You needed a good understanding of the machine to run it to its full potential. With the Profimat 30, it does the work for you."

Specified with the Control Package – which combines CNC positioning for width and thickness, electronic digital displays and a 10.1" touch screen – and Weinig's Memory Plus system, which gives Andy the option to save up to 500 different profile settings directly onto the machine, the operator simply needs to follow the on-screen instructions before machining can begin. "It's exceptionally user-friendly and we no longer need a dedicated machinist to run the moulder. Instead, after two days of training given by Weinig, the whole team was more than capable of running the machine."

"This machine has been designed by someone who understands what smaller

manufacturers want," says Andy. "It isn't over-engineered or complicated to use. It has been created to do a job and it does that job very well. It's four-sided planing is as good as it gets and its accuracy and build quality is second to none. Running costs are also minimal and thanks to its simple colour-coded display and pre-programable settings, set-up is twice as quick as our last model. The extra-cost Servo Lock has also speeded up the loosening and tightening of spindle nuts when tools need to be changed and is a remarkable piece of kit."

Andy adds, "The relationship I have with Weinig is exceptional. They go above and beyond for their customers and their product knowledge is outstanding. It's this, plus their ongoing support and service, that has – and will continue – to see me invest in them. For a smaller manufacturer, there is something very reassuring about knowing Weinig is always there."

For more information on Weinig call 01235 557600, visit www.weinig.co.uk/en/ or touch the interactive picture marked with a link sign if you are reading this article with the free Furniture Journal App.

THE NEW PROFIMAT 30 QUALITY STANDS THE TEST OF TIME.

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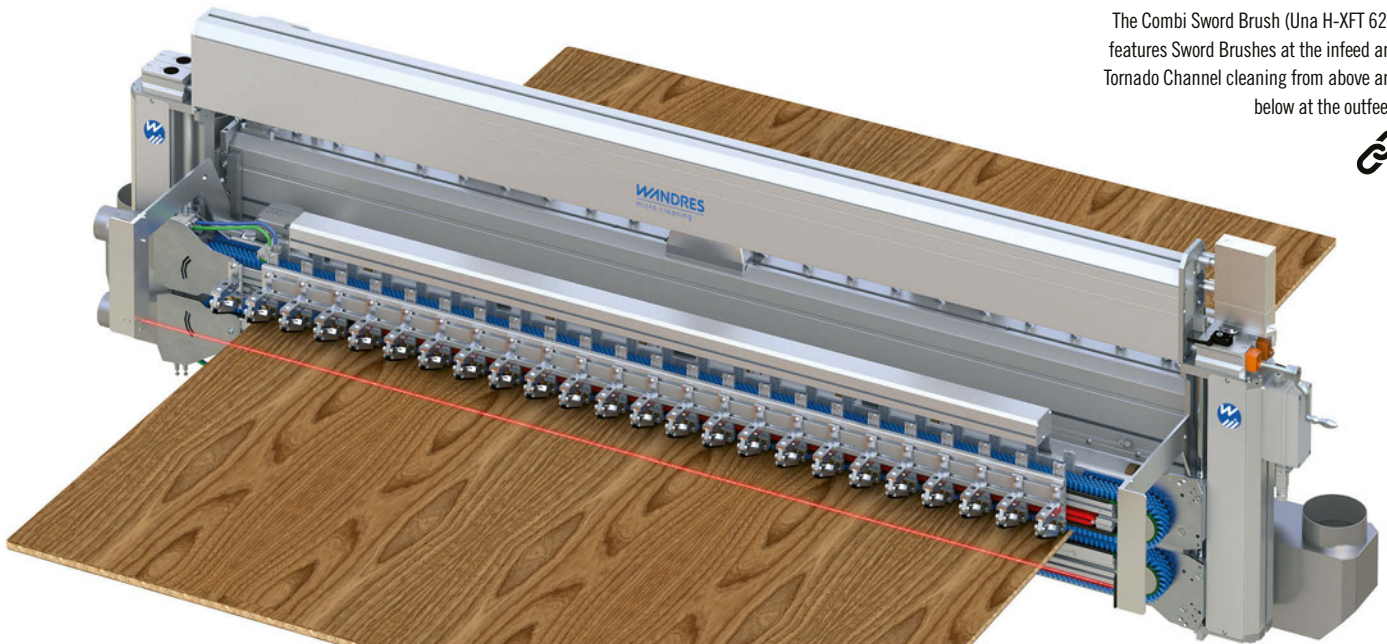


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The Combi Sword Brush (Una H-XFT 621) features Sword Brushes at the infeed and Tornado Channel cleaning from above and below at the outfeed.



Chips away!

Avoid defects when short-cycle pressing MFC with effective cleaning from Wandres.

Have you noticed blister defects or blown areas near the edges of the panels after short cycle pressing melamine-faced chipboard? It's most probably due to a build-up of thermal residue stress in the material. So how do you avoid it?

Wandres GmbH, a specialist in micro-cleaning, has developed a cleaning installation specifically designed to effectively clean chipboard, including oversized panels, after edge trimming.

Combi Sword Brushes from the Una H-XFT 621 series of machines are already being deployed with remarkable results on multiple short cycle press lines. The cleaning concept ensures 24/7 operations run smoothly and supports automated quality control. Downstream camera-based inspection can therefore proceed without disruption.

Substantial differences in height will occur on boards that display blistering and blown areas. To detect and compensate for these, the cleaning installation is equipped with tactile sensor control. This feature enables the linear brush of the upper cleaning module to be lifted automatically in the event of an encounter with protrusions, thereby preventing damage to the brushes.

Sword Brushes wipe across the upper and lower surfaces of the boards, crosswise to the direction of travel. In the process, they

remove edge-trim and fragments from the cover layer. Finer particles cling to the micro-moistened brush filaments and are swept along towards a suction system. The linear brushes have flexible mounts and a pneumatically-regulated pressure buffer. This ensures that the wiping pressure remains consistent even when cleaning uneven surfaces thus helping to deliver optimal cleaning results.

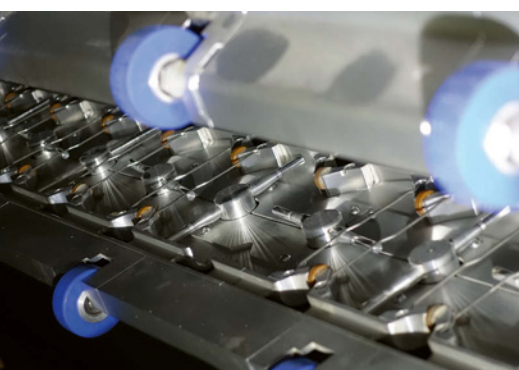
A contactless cleaning procedure utilising air technology follows at the outlet. Here, nozzles rotating at high velocity emit compressed air at several times the speed of sound, blasting particles and dust from the surface. The arms of electrically-driven Tornado Nozzles interlock precisely so the circular cleaning areas overlap. Cleaning the entire width of the board seamlessly.

In many cases automated image-based quality control is only possible after effective cleaning process. Removing contaminating particles from the surfaces of boards prevents negative impact downstream and the triggering of false positives during camera inspection.

For more information call 0049 7661 93300 or visit wandres.com/?lang=en Touch the image marked with a link sign to watch a video demonstration if you are reading this article with the free Furniture Journal app.



Cleaning of chipboard prior to camera-based inspection



Rotating nozzles in the Tornado Channel



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Tel. +44 (0)115 9770044
scmuk@scmgroup.com
www.scmwood.com



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