

SEPTEMBER 2022 furniture

JOURNAL

ON THE COVER:

**SCM Group's Wood Division
Director and General Manager,
Luigi DeVito** talks about the
future as the company celebrates
its 70th anniversary

**The economy: what to expect in
the next 12 months**

**The new Super Matt range from
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**Hranipex enters the fittings
market with 5000+ products**

**A new Wemhöner-Sittex pressing
line enters service at JJO**

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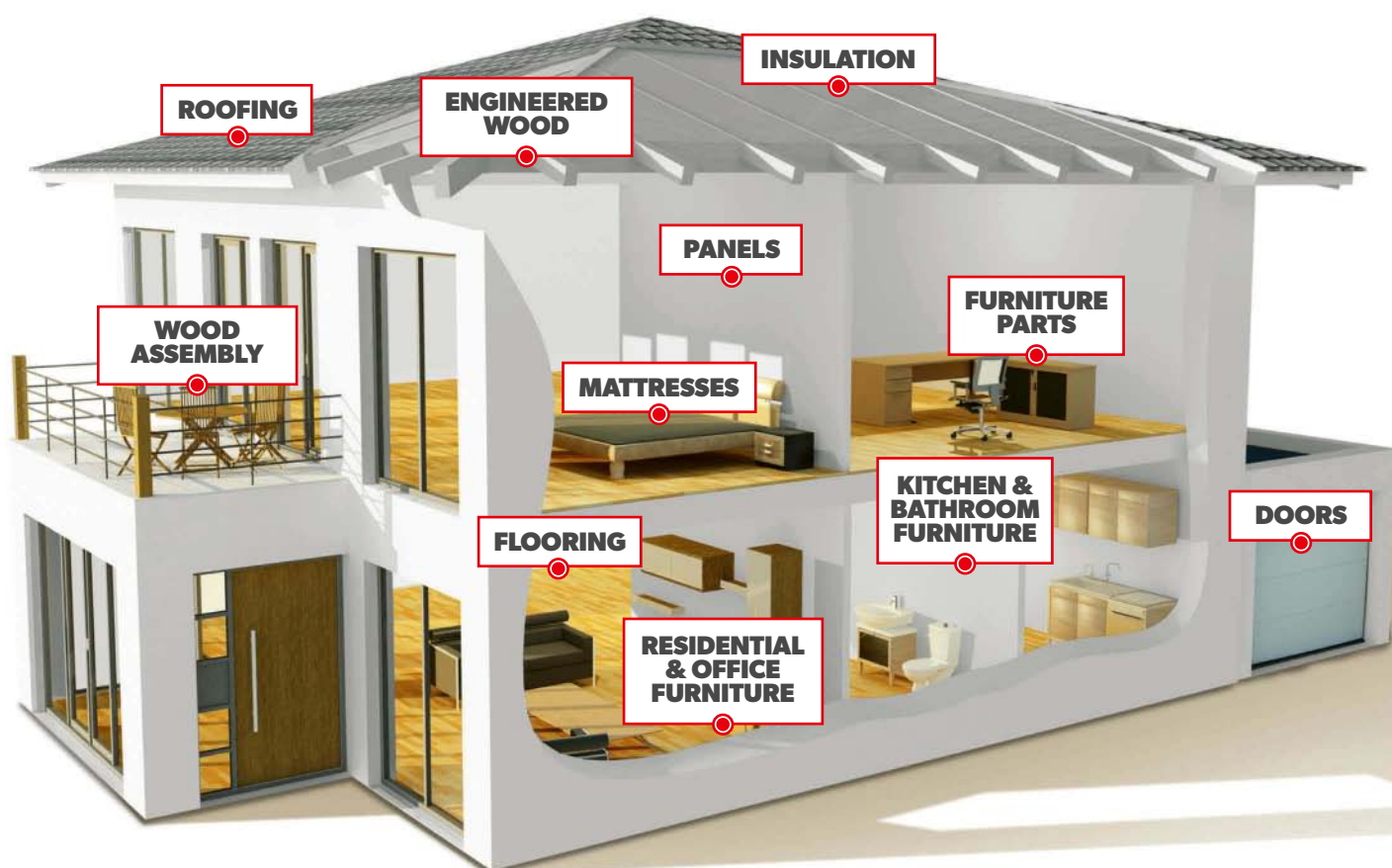
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On the Cover

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Story: pages 68-71

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The economy: looking ahead

JSA provides expert, in-depth information, advice and guidance on how to succeed in the office furniture and interiors markets of Europe, North America, Australia and Japan. Roger Martin-Fagg's insight into worldwide economics provides a valuable backdrop.

In these turbulent times, conflicting information really doesn't help when you need to be sure of moving your business forward. War, shortages and talk of inflation and recession create confusion. What should we believe? What should we dismiss as sensationalism? All too often, individual factors are taken out of context and when given perspective through real insight, positives start to emerge. It's time for a considered look at what lies ahead.

There are three types of crisis: Creeping Crisis, which is foreshadowed by a series of events that decision makers don't view as part of a pattern; Slow-Burn Crisis that provides some advance warning before the situation has caused any actual damage; and Sudden Crisis where damage has already occurred and will get worse the longer it takes to respond.

Where are Western economies? Let's begin with inflation. It's running between 8 and 10 percent. Putin is responsible for 3-4% by invading Ukraine.

The core inflation rate of 6% is simply due to households and businesses trying to spend the \$17 trillion created by central banks during Covid, whilst simultaneously, supply has been constrained by lockdowns.

In my judgement core inflation is a Creeping Crisis, and the additional 4%, a Sudden Crisis.

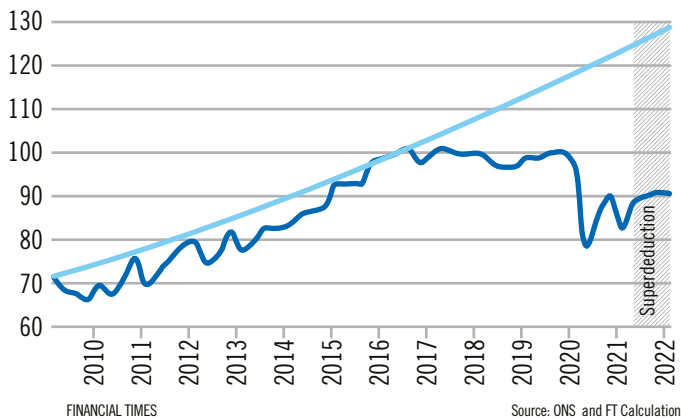
I have said many times that mainstream economic models downgrade the role of money supply. All the modelling assumes zero inflation. Thus, central bankers, to a man, were clear that after the lockdowns end, there will be an inflationary blip until supply chains are fully functioning. In their opinion, QE is not inherently inflationary. In the case of the UK paying £76Bn in wages for no work is clearly inflationary. The labour supply issue is a Slowburn Crisis.

The demographic profile of a country is clear for all to see. Take the UK: it was clear 16 years ago that, by 2021, there would be a shortage of young workers. We are short of

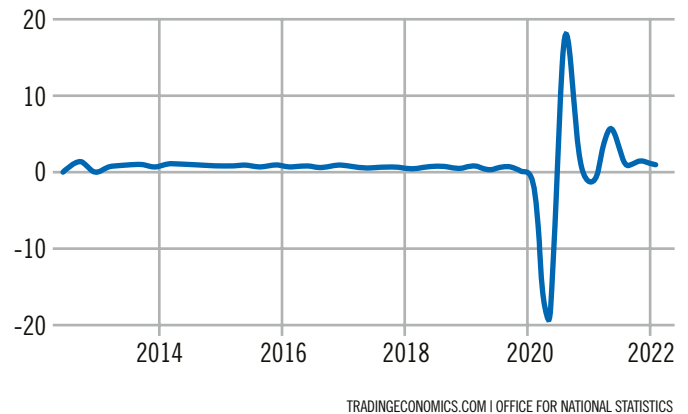
UK business investment fails to rebound

Real index, rebased Q2 2016=100

■ Actual ■ Q2 2009-Q2 2016 trend



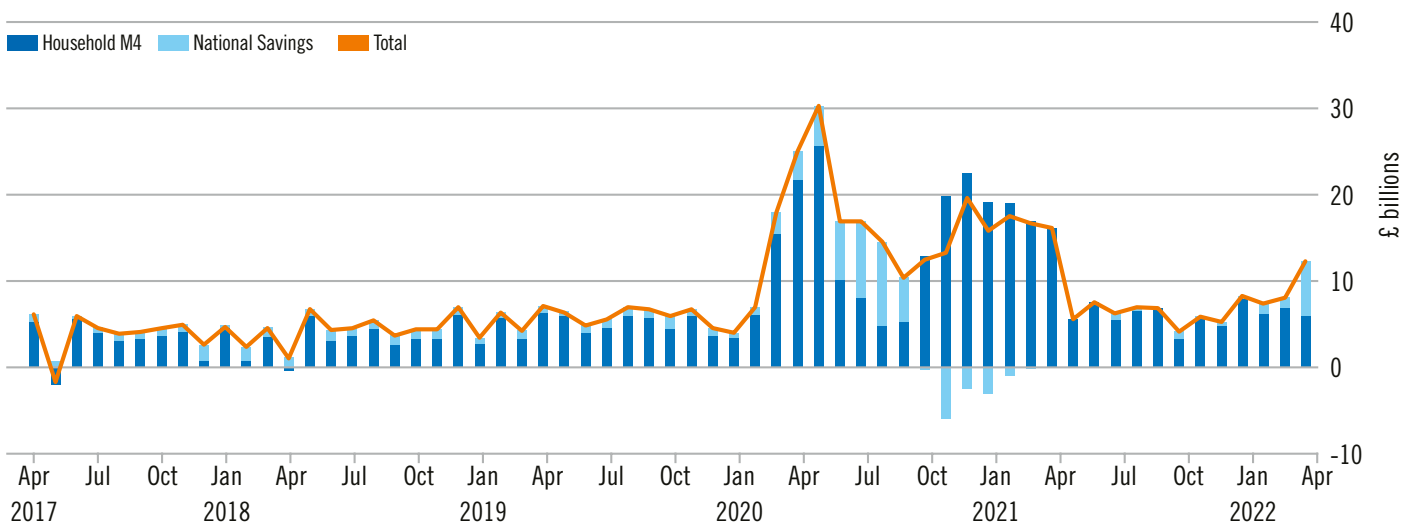
UK monthly retail sales



The average household has 5k above normal cash

Households' deposits - Seasonally adjusted

■ Household M4 ■ National Savings ■ Total



1.8million, 16–25 year-olds. It's probable that the Blair Government was aware of this - hence the push to allow eastern European countries to join the EU. Now we are out of the EU, free movement has ended. And approximately 1.2 million Europeans have returned home.

We know today that, without immigration, the population of Italy will continue to fall. Germany has addressed its lack of workers by allowing 800,000 Syrians to settle, but is still short of labour with unemployment at just 2.2%. The USA can always attract the labour it needs; current unemployment 3.1%. China is now paying the price of one child per family - unemployment 3.7%.

In fairness, it was not possible to forecast the Covid-influenced resignations and early retirement which is further reducing labour supply although it is widely known that increasing wealth gives people more choices. Thanks to QE, wealth has soared during Covid. The wealth of the UK rose 9% last

year. The wealth of a property owner in the NW of England rose 15% in the same year. Trading down releases cash and many are downsizing and retiring earlier than would be expected. The USA enjoyed a 20% increase in wealth last year and 4.4 million Americans quit their jobs.

Higher rates of investment are required to increase automation and output per hour of work to mitigate the effects of a shortage of workers,

The UK has been underinvesting since the referendum. Given the uncertainty the whole procedure has created it's not surprising, but now we are seeing the consequences. Up until 2008, our average real GDP growth rate was 2.5%; since then 1.7%. The expectation is this will be as high as it gets without persistent inflation.

The Government has announced they want to boost growth, but this is not possible at the national level, given the reduced supply of labour. However, many SME owners have

maintained or increased their investment spending and now are enjoying the benefit of enhanced productivity. And they are rewarding their employees with enhanced bonuses.

Given the demographics, the following countries need to boost labour substitution: Japan, Italy, Portugal, Germany, France, the UK, and China. Countries such as India, South Africa, and most of Asia have more than enough labour supply for the next 20 years.

Where is the UK Economy and what are the prospects? The media always chooses to ignore important detail when reporting economic data. For example, first quarter GDP was reported as disappointing and well below expectations. The truth is that at 0.8% it's twice the pre-Covid growth rate. I think we are seeing the economy moving more rapidly towards the pre-Covid growth rate of around 0.4% per quarter.

Also, to obtain real growth we have to adjust nominal growth for inflation. We use what is called the GDP deflator - a complex

Sustainably made wood panels fit for manufacturing

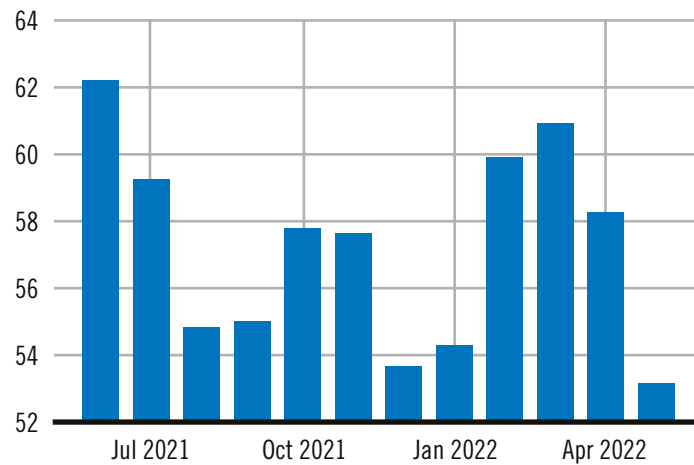
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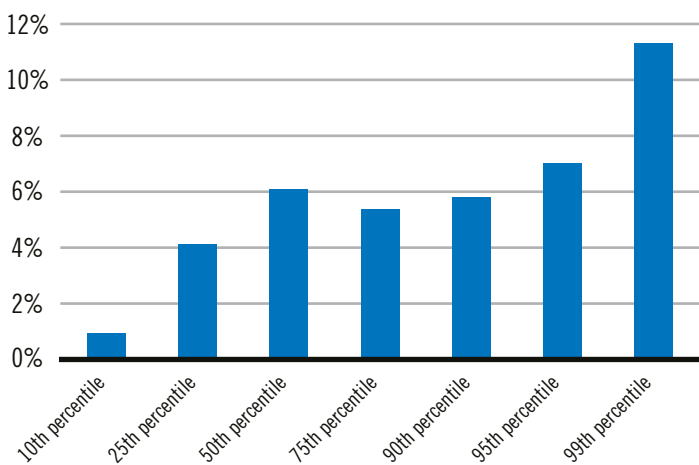


Composite PMI

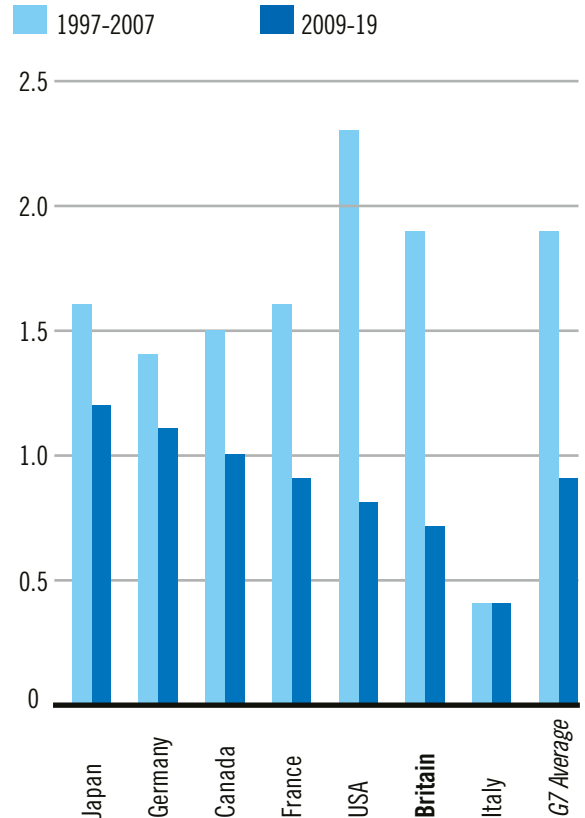


Employee pay growth along the pay distribution

April 2022 YoY



Output per hour worked: average annual % increase



index of inflation which attempts to adjust prices for quality. This means if a new iPhone has lots of additional features, but is 20% more expensive than the previous model, it is not considered inflationary in the index.

Q1 nominal GDP was nearly 12% higher than a year earlier. This is actual spending which is now 8.6% above pre-Covid levels.

It is plainly nonsensical to expect demand to be increasing at anything like the surges we have seen after lockdowns. And year on year comparisons are also misleading, when the previous year is clearly abnormal.

Another source of misleading data is to take one month's data and annualise it. So, let's take a month when average prices rise 0.8%. This becomes 9.6% when annualised!

First quarter GDP at 0.8% when annualised is 3.2% - the UK economy is incapable of growing consistently at this rate. Before 2008, we managed around 2.6%. Now, because of our demographics, 1.7% is the most likely sustainable growth rate so the current slowdown is inevitable.

As I write this the media is using the word 'crisis' continually. Our economy is slowing down to its normal growth rate. The inflation

is primarily due to excess money. Construction and manufacturing output has slowed, primarily because of supply constraints, not a lack of demand.

The reporting on wage growth has been misleading. The emphasis is placed on basic wage growth at 4.7%, not earnings growth at nearly 8% (which until April, was well ahead of inflation, thanks to large bonuses)

The bottom 25% have experienced the lowest increase in earnings. This is because many work in the public sector where wage growth is constrained by Government. The top one percent have beaten inflation. They include the bosses of big organisations such as BA who tell their staff they cannot afford wage increases.

The 50th percentile is the median; this means that the majority of earners received 6% increase in April compared to a year earlier. If the war hadn't happened, our inflation rate would be 6%

If you look at the chart of monthly retail sales, its clear retail sales are getting back to their normal range of volatility.

UK Monthly Retail Sales: This is not a crisis, it's a transition to pre-Covid levels of

economic activity. There was the shock-horror that new car sales were down 20% in April, implying a lack of demand; in fact it was the opposite, a lack of supply.

Given the differences in wage growth, consumers are changing their purchasing patterns. There is evidence of trading down, and the discounters continue to flourish. This is a natural response with soaring utility bills.

Government is trying to soften the impact of surging energy prices, giving the most help to poorer households who spend 12% of their after-tax income on energy; rich households spend 3%. The average is 6%.

The Money Supply: The growth in broad money is back to normal at 5% yoy. The excess money growth during Covid is being drawn on to pay for energy, food, holidays, and utilities. The inflation rate is doing its job of allocating scarce resource and simultaneously reducing real purchasing power. We are getting back to normal more quickly than expected.

Interest rates are now 1.25% in the UK; I expect further increases. But will this cause a reduction in the growth of money below 5%?

Many of you will think I am perverse but I expect money supply to rise to 6-7% over the

FORECASTS FROM JUNE 2021

- Average UK house prices go up 10% (London 3%, North West 12%). **ACTUAL 10.9%**
- CPI inflation 3-4%. **ACTUAL 5.4%**
- Materials shortages throughout the year as COVID-19 significantly reduces shipping capacity
- Wage growth will be 4-5%. **ACTUAL 7%**
- Labour shortages in all sectors. **CORRECT**
- Long run interest rate 1.5%, policy rate 0.25%. **CORRECT**
- UK share prices on average up 6%
- Exchange rate \$1.42, Euro 1.20. **ACTUAL £1.37, 1.20**
- Hospitality will boom

FORECASTS TO NEXT MAY

- Real GDP growth will be 2.8%
- Nominal GDP growth will be 12%
- Basic wage growth will be 6%
- Actual earnings will be 8%
- Inflation rate will be 8%
- Average house price up 6%
- Unemployment 3.2%

NB. Economy will continue to slow: it will be growing by 1.2% second half of next year. The slow down is due to lack of resources, particularly people.

I do not expect a recession but the chances of one second half of next year is 40%

Remember, there is an election in 2024, inflation is boosting Government revenues significantly.

next year. Here is why. Money supply represents the sales of banks. They have been working on tight margins. Their wage and IT costs are rising by 20%; they need to sell more mortgages.

Currently there are 77% more mortgages for first time buyers than a year ago. In August, The Bank of England will relax the requirement for the borrower to satisfy the lender that they can maintain their lifestyle in the event that interest rates rise by 3% from the current level. The mortgage default rate is at a record low of just 0.7%.

The effect of this is that the, much-publicised expectation house price fall will not happen. Instead expect a 6% increase this year.

The UK has a Creeping Crisis. It was clear that Brexit would reduce labour supply; the 1.8m shortage of youngsters has been known for at least 16 years. Our core inflation is the inevitable consequence of the Covid-support monetary expansion. Since the lockdowns ended, there has been excess demand for almost everything. Inflation was inevitable. The Putin invasion has added another 3-4%. But our core problem is underinvestment in productive assets (in the main, people) and significant over-investment in property assets.

The current Government doesn't view this as part of a pattern. Policy announcements such as 'we are going for growth' are nonsensical. We are currently growing above what is sustainable. And the policy for home ownership just encourages price increases.

The rest of the World: The performance of the EU and the USA is remarkably similar, as is the outlook. China is the outlier. Its zero-Covid policy is significantly reducing global supply of manufactured goods and its growth rate is likely to be around 3.5%. Putin is creating a global food crisis, and unless the Winter wheat which has been harvested is exported, food riots are not unlikely.

Global growth averages 4% per annum. At this rate Global real incomes double every 18 years. This year we can expect 3.5%, down from over 5.5% last year. This significant reduction should soften the demand for labour towards the end of this year, with a corresponding lessening of inflationary wage demands. Thus, a year from now, inflation should be down to around 5%, but real growth will remain sub 4%.

The UK receives 32% of its income from exports; thus a significant slowing of activity towards the end of this year should be expected as we transition to our post-2008 normal growth rate of 1.7%.

Regrettably, during Covid, productivity enhancing investment was limited. The super deduction in corporation tax made no difference. This fact supports the research which shows that the investment decision is driven by many other factors; the taxation effects is just one, and less important than we are led to believe by Government.

UK output per hour of work is growing at 0.7%. Faster growth, given full employment, requires a significant improvement in this number.

School Report: The forecasts were for 2021. It's important to note that, but for Putin, inflation would today be around 5%. Note too, that, at the end of last year, we were looking for \$1.40. Today, it's \$1.20. At the end of last year, the FTSE was up 16%, but the All Share index was unchanged, so, the 6% was a bit optimistic.

Now for the forecasts for the next 12 months:

The Bank of England is in a quandary: Increase interest rates, but not so they crash the economy. They could go to 2.5% without crashing our system. And this is likely to be the level a year from now. As two year fixed rate mortgages come up for renewal, the borrower will typically be paying about £2000 more next year.

Exchange rates: The exchange rate fundamentally depends on relative interest rates. The USA will likely have a base rate of 4% at end of next year, and the UK 2.5%. This means Sterling will remain weak against the dollar - at best \$1.25. The Euro Sterling rate will be around 1.18 as the ECB interest rate will be close to the UK

What could go wrong?

More variants of Covid which render vaccines impotent. There are many highly-leveraged Private Equity firms which could fail, prompting fire-sales of assets. Energy rationing during a fierce winter. A summer of strikes. China locks down again. Putin remains undefeated. China invades Taiwan. 20m tons of Ukrainian grain remains stuck in silos, 100m people hit starvation, illegal immigration from North Africa soars. Another Euro crisis as the ECB reduces its support by buying Government bonds.

Things to consider: It's much less expensive to keep and develop people than recruit them. Currently searching for employees is a zero-sum game. There is no pool of labour. Use the expertise of your GenZ employees to digitise your business. Embrace hybrid working.

The number of insolvencies will rocket over the next 12 months; make sure you are aware of your customers' ability to pay. In any case, increase your working capital financing options.

Bear in mind that a slowdown in your order book is not a recession but rather the system moving to a more sustainable level of activity.

The latest Composite PMI gives a clear indication of the slowdown. We normally see a figure between 52 and 55. Our system is normalising and sooner than I expected.

Roger Martin-Fagg

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Ready for Sicam?

Are you ready for Sicam? Sicam is definitely ready for you! In fact, the annual components and accessories show, held this year in Pordenone from 18-21st October, has sold all its available exhibition spaces in halls 1-10 and published its interactive exhibitor list at www.exposicam.it/en so you can plan your trip.

"We are looking forward to a truly significant trade fair," said Carlo Giobbi, organiser of Sicam, "We have already confirmed the participation of the major players in every product sector and this year we are also witnessing the return of major multi-nationals to the exhibition. I believe the solid participation of all these companies at Sicam 2022 is the best response that the components and accessories sector could give after the challenges and uncertainties of the last two years.

"Constant growth is one of the characteristics that have marked the entire history of Sicam and this edition is no

exception. Overall, we are seeing that the international furniture market has recovered well. As a result, many new business opportunities will be created in Pordenone once again this year among exhibiting companies and professionals visiting from all over the world. The format of our exhibition, whose style and atmosphere are so conducive to the development of personal relationships, remains in this sense a guarantee that is recognised and appreciated every time by the entire international furniture industry."

Activating your online registration is easy and everything is ready on the exhibition's website. All visitors to Sicam must register online. If you are reading this with the free Furniture Journal app on your tablet or smartphone, touch here – www.exposicam2022.it/en/ – for a direct link. You will receive the personal code by e-mail that you will need to print your badge at the entrances of the fair and a reminder email a few days before it opens.

The components and accessories fair has filled all available space and invites you to Pordenone to see the latest products in October.





Advika – A powerful & remarkable play of colours

Erik – Calm stripes provide balance



Inspiring

Interprint's IP Lab is known for inspiring design and staging décors authentically. Here are Interprint's latest ideas.

Interior design always interacts with real life and with people's lifestyles. That's why Interprint always thinks of décors in a real environment. Structures, patterns and colours...what works, what fits, what complements what. With a keen sense of style and trends, the IP Lab stages décors so everyone can imagine the look – and on these pages you'll find Interprint's very latest ideas.

Where is tomorrow's interior design heading? What's really kicking in interior

design? Which trends have a future? Interprint's interior design experts know the answers. They live décor. With strong impulses and trend forecasts, they convey their ideas to customers so they receive clear added value: a decisive edge on the market and the latest in style.

The ideal combination of creativity, vision and market-oriented service are the hallmarks of Interprint. That's why animated mood boards are now being created in the IP Lab;



Advika/Erik



Rebel/Alyson



Tammi/Memy



Rebel – Anything but a classic oak
Alyson – A play of both originality & modernity



Tammi – A classic oak design in a natural interpretation
Memy – A concrete-based ceramic décor

the senses

small, real living worlds for the most diverse living areas, for addressing the most diverse target groups. Sensual, appealing, inspiring, you'll see instantly what harmonises.

What creates new stimuli in interior design? In the IP Lab, customers, creative minds and interior enthusiasts can discover visions for the interior design of the future. Ideas come to life. Possibilities become visible.

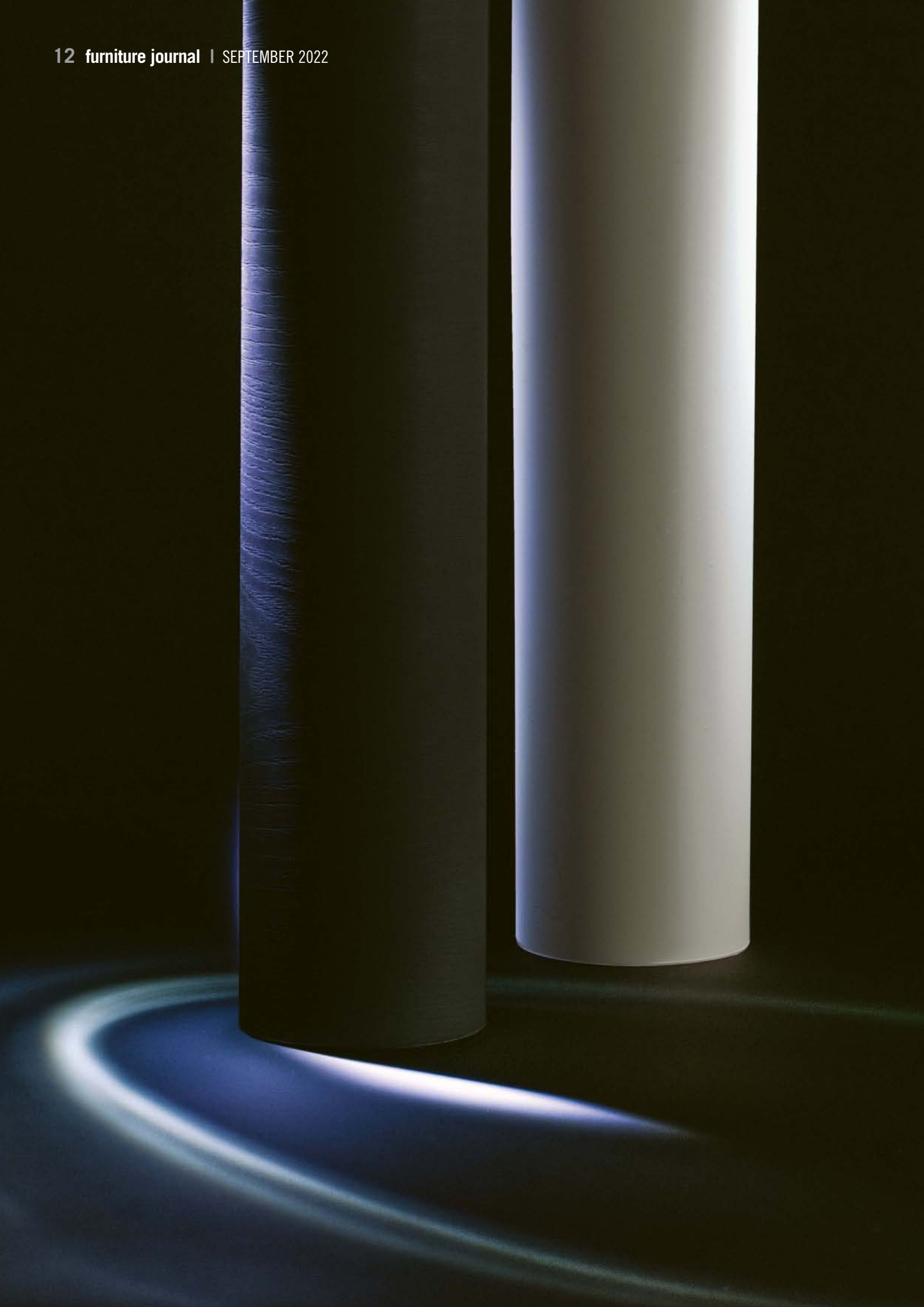
To this end, Interprint has developed a keen sense of what moves people and what

gives interior design a new drive. The décor printer moves in all relevant living environments and creative communities, absorbing what counts and translating it into décors. Fashion and design, music and movies, social media and art, urbanity and nature, emotions and values: everything influences everything and everything influences décor design, life, the interior.

Unique, authentic stories are told in the IP Lab. Stories from real life that everyone

understands straight away, stories that everyone can continue telling and implement in interior design. A benefit-oriented, value-added service; the evolution of décor printing from Interprint. "We are creating the future of interior design, together with our customers: developing the living worlds of tomorrow."

Take a look at the latest thinking, use the QR code to the IP Lab Pinterest board and be inspired.



0/100 for Bonlex

Think back to your schooldays and it's hard to imagine any of your teachers being thrilled if you'd achieved zero out of one hundred. It sounds like a pretty dismal accomplishment; one likely to be followed by a stern reprimand and the words *must do better* in your school report. But for Bonlex, it was just the opposite: achieving zero was a major triumph; a reason to celebrate.

While many of the world's best names in furniture foil production struggle to get gloss levels much below five, the newly-launched Bonlex Super Matt range, named Lotus Super Matt, is claimed to provide the lowest gloss level of any foil currently on the market – absolute zero – and it's now available and in stock at Plasfoils.

But Lotus Super Matt isn't just a zero gloss level foil. As you'd expect of an on-trend décor product, it's also fingerprint-resisting and has excellent scratch and stain resistance as well as being very easy to clean. But there's one more ace to Lotus Super Matt and it's one manufacturers, especially those who are involved with deeper pressings, will appreciate:

During the pressing cycle, it's expected that every 3d foil will experience some elongation of the surface. During 3D pressing the foil is stretched to wrap around corners and sides and, on deeper objects, can be stretched significantly," says

Chris Green, Business Development Manager at Plasfoils. "We have seen many competitor foils experience failure and surface cracking when they reach even 100% extension. The newly-launched Lotus Super Matt range has in-built elasticity that will allow it to elongate by as much as 250% during the pressing process without fear of surface failure.

Lotus Super Matt is available in a range of flat colours and also a coordinating range of newly developed woodgrain emboss. These colours include Black, White, Pencil Grey, Alby Blue, Dusty Pink, Forest Green, Cashmere, Denim, Mussel, Fjord Blue, Light Grey, White Grey, Stone Grey, Dust Grey, Onyx Grey and Indigo with more on-trend shades arriving in the coming days and weeks. Furthermore, if you have specific colour-matching requirements, Plasfoils is more than willing to discuss custom colours to suit your designs.

Material is available for sampling and the majority of items included in the swatch are kept in stock at Plasfoils' UK warehouse and available for immediate despatch. Trial material and full production delivery can be arranged within two or three business days.

For samples and swatches, call 01530 560560, 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/

You might think achieving 0/100 would be a black day for anybody. For Bonlex, it was a reason to celebrate.



Chris Green



New matt joins dp-limitless

Following the announcement of its partnership with Rehau, Decorative Panels Lamination has added new décors to its dp-limitless collection.

Decorative Panels Lamination has announced a new industry partnership with the décor specialist; one that will both increase Rehau's opportunity to sell laminated materials into the UK market on short, reactive lead times and allow dp-lamination to add value by supplying Rehau surfaces laminated onto the board of your choice.

Decorative Panels is constantly updating its collections to bring you the most up-to-date and relevant products and one of those is Rehau's Rauvisio Noble Matt Collection. This latest collection encompasses Noir

HPLs and Brilliant Matt designs, which are the perfect addition to a dp-limitless range that already includes Rehau's Rauvisio Crystal collection.

Rauvisio Crystal décors use a 2mm transparent PMMA (Polymethyl methacrylate) surface over a high quality impregnated digital print, making the stone and wood décors look like the real thing – but the collection isn't limited to printed designs. Rauvisio Crystal Mirror, for example, provides exceptional light and flat reflection values that can be likened to a real glass mirror, yet compared with glass



it's just half the weight and offers 10 times more break resistance.

Decorative Panels also offers Rehau's Noir Laminate – a collection of 12 matt finishes with a robust HPL (High Pressure Laminate) surface, perfect for horizontal and vertical application that comes with a matching balancer – and Rauvisio Brilliant Matt, which is available in eight colours, also with matching balancer. Rauvisio Brilliant Matt is perfect for vertical applications and harmonises beautifully with the Rauvisio Noir HPL collection.

While there are many brands that offer vertical and horizontal surfaces in a soft touch with a scratch resistant surface, when light reflection at acute angles is measured, some do not look matt and, indeed, reflections are visible. Others do not perform well when subjected to impact or scratch tests. None of these issues arise with the Rauvisio Noble Matt collection. Rehau's décors exceed the highest standards set by AMK and TUV in Germany, setting them apart as products for use in the kitchen sector and qualifying their inclusion in the dp-limitless range of specialised,

decorative, high-performance products available in a limitless number of possibilities. And like all products in Decorative Panels' dp-limitless range, you do not need to purchase in bulk. If you only need one board, that's what Decorative Panels will deliver.

For more information, call Decorative Panels on 01484 658341 or to see the complete dp-limitless collection, visit decorativepanels.co.uk/pages/dp-limitless-swatches If you are reading this edition with the free Furniture Journal app on your smartphone or tablet, simply touch the image marked with a link sign.



Rustic elegance

The bright orange Pine of the 1980s might be a thing of the past but Pine is still very much a part of the Scandinavian look.

Made popular by the Victorians, Pine furniture reached its heyday in the 1980s but the success it enjoyed back then has dwindled. The bright orange, heavily-knotted look is out, replace with simple, clean, light Scandinavian-look timbers that are easy to combine. These include pine with a modern twist and the edgebanding specialist Ostermann offers several that combine rustic and elegant.

Stone Pine is a subspecies of Pine and its lightest representative. Its pale-yellow tint creates a warm look without hint of the passé orange of the '80s and the grain stands out clearly against a light base tone. The Ostermann edging Fano Pine Nature is based on exactly these natural Stone Pine characteristics, while the wooden structure of the ABS edging feels deceptively real. Combine with white furniture elements for a subtle contrast.

White Loft Pine and Jacobsen Pine Blue will appeal to those who prefer clear lines in Scandinavian style. The wooden-structured

ABS White Loft Pine edging is a lighter décor with a white base that combines particularly well with pastel shades or maritime blue tones, while Jacobsen Pine Blue includes grey and blue veins that complement each other.

Jacobsen Pine Black and Silver Pine (wooden structured) are perfect for the dark tones of on-trend interiors. The black edging, Jacobsen Pine Black, has a wooden structure that is softened by grey and brown lines, while the ABS edging Silver Pine is a slightly lighter variant with a finely structured base.

Ponderosa Pine is the North American counterpart of Mediterranean Stone Pine. The edging has a greyish-brown colouration with typically strong grain. Its rustic look perfectly matches brown Ponderosa surfaces with annual rings and knot holes. It combines well with warm or dark colours, such as a strong burgundy or a deep fir green.

Take a look at the entire range by searching "#Highlights06" on the Ostermann website www.ostermann.eu

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The *Komplete Kollektion* includes 63 décors, exclusive in design and available at Lawcris on next day delivery.

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Switch on at Lawcris

A brand-new design experience has been switched on in Leeds and Lawcris is the chosen one to bring this vision to life.



A space where digital meets reality. Kronospan's App helps with available textures, sizes and material availability.

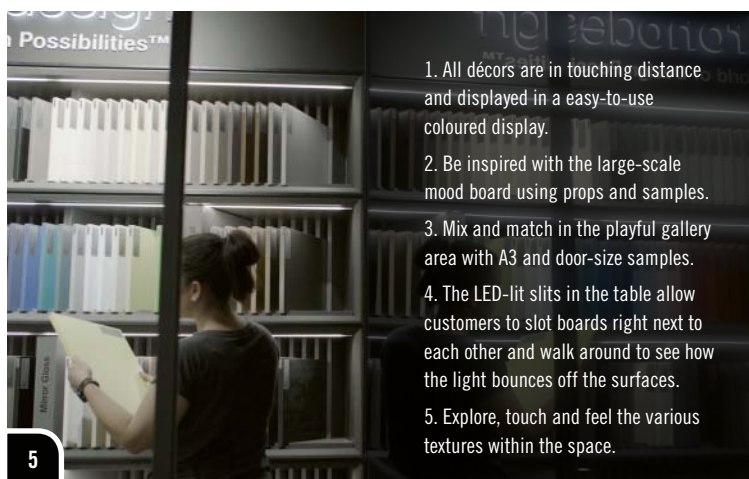
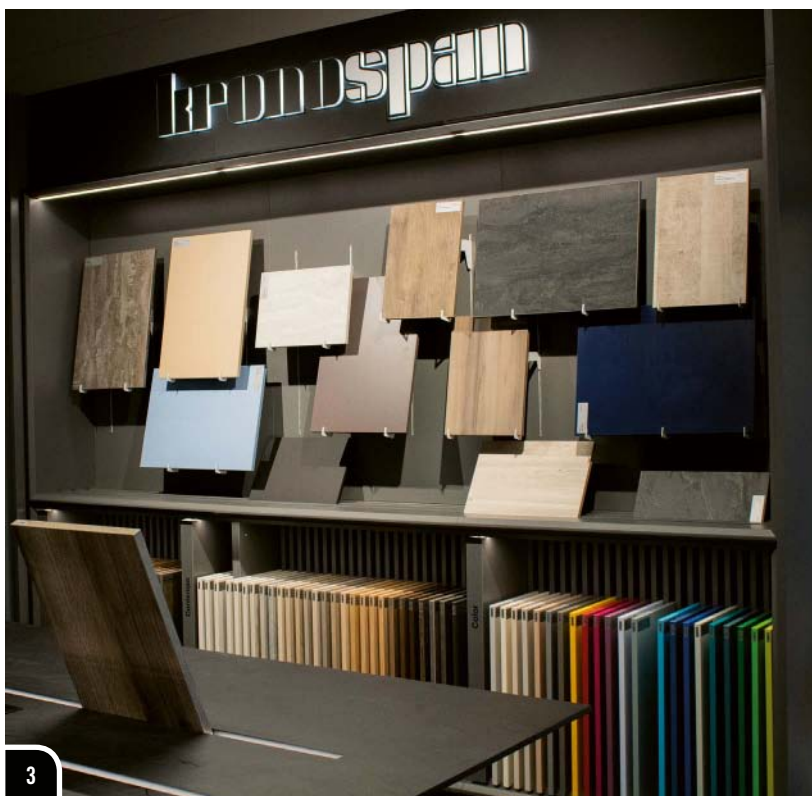
As soon as the lights go on, a very different, immersive installation awaits at Lawcris to promote Kronospan in a way never seen before in the UK. In addition to its LED-lit displays that immediately trigger the senses, its vibrant interior and unique presentation of the décors allow customers to visually and interactively experience Kronospan's colourful portfolio. It's a space where digital meets reality.

Lauren Barker, Head of Marketing, explains, "We wanted to avoid the white, sterile, unnervingly-open, noisily-tiled, big, echoing gallery concept, which is so uncomfortable for customers to work in. We have created a fun and compact space where everything is close to hand. It has an enticing flavour of a comfortable loft layout. Customers can scatter their projects on the

table, pick out large-scale door-size samples, compare, contrast, mix, pile up and get more! It is a playful space with charging points for laptops, USB points for phones and a huge 65-inch TV to view projects on.

"It has such an appealing vibe. People are using the space as a unique extension to their own office. It's a room where the doors can close and the worry about disturbing anyone is extinguished. Customers can play their own music and there is no fuss from our sales folk – well, unless they want it. We are truly blown away with the feedback we have had so far. For me as a marketing manager, working with Kronospan, who have devoted so much time and money to this space, has been truly worth it."

The space presents over 100 décors, the majority from the newer *Komplete Kollektion*,



1. All décors are in touching distance and displayed in a easy-to-use coloured display.
2. Be inspired with the large-scale mood board using props and samples.
3. Mix and match in the playful gallery area with A3 and door-size samples.
4. The LED-lit slits in the table allow customers to slot boards right next to each other and walk around to see how the light bounces off the surfaces.
5. Explore, touch and feel the various textures within the space.

exclusive in design and stocked at Lawcris for next day delivery.

Lauren continues, "Customers have never had the opportunity to see the *Komplete Kollektion* in this way before. Customers are flabbergasted when viewing them on a larger scale for the first time. Décors such as the Flows and the Grange Oaks cannot be fully appreciated in an A4 format. To see them on a larger scale really changes everything. There are even routed slits in the table, which allow customers to slot boards right next to each other and walk around to see how the light bounces off the surfaces. The addition of natural light really helps in the decision process when looking at contrasts and combinations."

Kronospan has come a long way in the last four years. It is not only Lawcris's design space they have invested in; Kronospan has

spent more than £250 million on its UK manufacturing base. The factory has been comprehensively upgraded, streamlined and future-proofed and the changes are evident everywhere. Part of this investment has gone into a brand-new cleaning line for chipboard production.

Dean Carroll, Head of Procurement, reveals, "We were invited to Kronospan in Chirk, near Wrexham, to see these developments for ourselves and came away speechless. Kronospan uses a very high percentage of recycled timber in its chipboard and this gives materials such as metal and stone the chance to be processed alongside the chips. These unwanted items have tarnished Kronospan's reputation in recent years. It's been a hard sell to customers. However, since the new cleaning line was launched, things have most

definitely changed. The technology is jaw-dropping to witness and is astonishingly efficient. Hearing the positive feedback from the market, I truly believe that customers can now have the confidence to buy the board once again".

Lauren finishes, "Kronospan's ambition is endless. The major step to introduce brand new state-of-the-art technology to clean their recycled timber, alongside their investment in a new design space for the north, plus the exclusivity of their décors, is a significant transformation from a Kronospan of ten years ago. For the UK market, these changes have set the bar extremely high and boosted Kronospan onto a whole new level."

For more information, or to arrange a visit, call Lawcris on 0113 217 7177. For more information, visit www.lawcris.co.uk



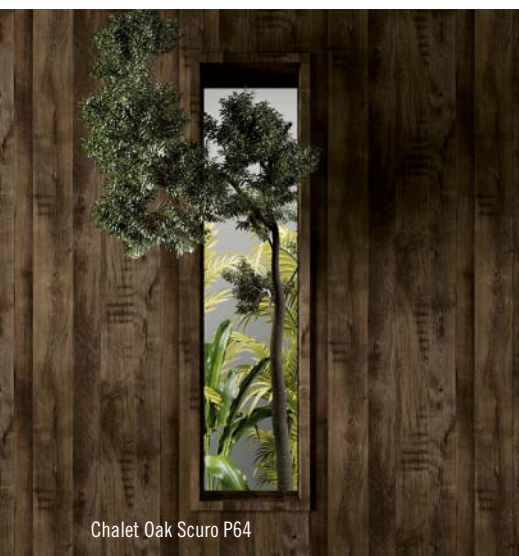
Textone Portland A11



Kiruna DC7

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Chalet Oak Scuro P64

Saviola goes from strength to strength. As a Group, Saviola has been producing panels with FSC Certified 100% recycled wood since 1997 and Saviola is now a world-leading post-consumption wood processor.

The whole philosophy of the company is based around recycling and upcycling; giving materials a second life without the need to fell trees. It has embraced the circular economy for over three decades and is now recognised for its unique product: particleboard panels with the lowest formaldehyde emissions, created from over 7.2 million tonnes of waste wood.

Panelco and Timbmet are proud to partner with Saviola, an innovative company that fits perfectly within their collective focus.

But it's not just Saviola's panels, or its approach that are unique. Design and aesthetics are the cornerstones of everything Saviola does and the company's passion for recycling has been combined with innovative décors and exceptional finishes and textures.

Saviola's Trend-A-Porter UK collection is available from stock and offers a carefully selected range of designs backed by the

availability and service you'd expect from Panelco and Timbmet. Decorative elements combine with unique textures in the Trend-A-Porter collection, providing an exclusive feel that's perfect for creating outstanding and very different furniture. Patterns, rustic authentic woods, cracked and burnt structures, elegant lines, natural sensations and marbling effects – these are just some of the features you'll find in Trend-A-Porter.

Following the success of the collection, both Panelco and Timbmet have added three contemporary plain colours to the range: Brilliant White, Pastel Grey and Diamond Grey. With these classic décors, all available with a 1mm edging, you can now produce a recycled kitchen and everything you need is in stock on next day delivery.

For more information, visit Panelco's Design Showrooms where you will find large format samples on display, along with interactive Design areas where you can fully immerse yourself in the design process and access the full Panelco portfolio. Go to panelco.com/design-facilities to book your visit.

Go Green With Style

Interior design by Katarina Kondelova

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Meet Transformad, the latest range of decors joining the Lathams family! Our new exclusive range of Melamine boards have to be felt to be believed. Tmatt – the new 'supermatt' – is a result of Transformad's continuous search for the most innovative products and features surprising properties such as anti-fingerprint, thermo-healing and more. Transformad's Crystal collection has been designed to provide superior durability in demanding environments and, with its ultra high gloss finish, gives a modern feel with a sense of space and light. Both collections are available now from your nearest James Latham depot.

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Decospan

Summer Décors Campaign

With endless choice available in the decorative materials marketplace, it's good to know James Latham, one of the UK's leading distributors of decorative products, is making the selection process as smooth, engaging and inspiring as possible.

James Latham's 2022 Décors campaign celebrates 1,400 decorative lines, including laminates, melamines, edgings, veneers, solid surfaces and more. Whether it's Egger, HiMacs, Abet and Kronospan you need, or the cool sophistication of UK-exclusives by Transformat, XyloCleaf, Aristech or Dekodur, Latham has them all. Also in stock are some of the world's most innovative and sustainable furniture materials from Valchromat – a high-density, through-coloured fibreboard available in 11 shades – to Garnica Ultralight, a Poplar plywood sandwich panel that weighs just 4.5kg/m² for an 18mm sheet.

The Décors campaign features innumerable textures, colours and shades, including industrial metallics, rusts, concretes, marble, natural timber, leathers and linens. Throughout the ranges, you'll also find décors with anti-bacterial, anti-microbial,

flame-retardant, impact-resistant, even thermo-healing properties. Latham also stocks an extensive catalogue of MDF, plywood, fibreboard, hardwoods and modified, engineered and profiled timbers.

As part of its commitment to making the product selection journey as intuitive, interactive and user-friendly as possible, the company recently launched its James Latham Digital Showroom. Supported by powerful algorithm-backed search functionality, the Digital Showroom enables you to discover a limitless array of material possibilities and quickly and easily identify the perfect options. Each material is rendered in hyper-realistic 3D and can be viewed under a range of lighting conditions. It also includes information on James Latham's 48-hour delivery and sampling service as well as a video consultancy.

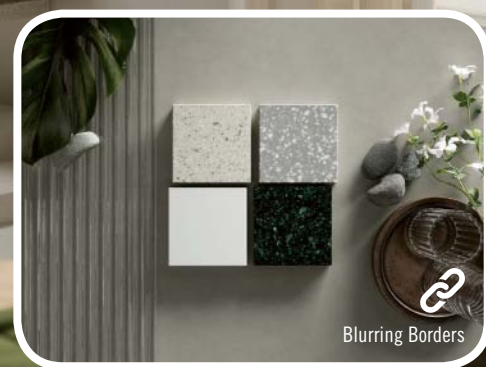
The Summer Décors campaign not only reveals the extensive design potential of a catalogue that's unique in the industry, it also highlights the company's ability to meet any specific needs and demands you might have.

To find out more visit www.lathamdigitalshowroom.co.uk or email info@lathams.co.uk

James Latham's 2022 Décors campaign celebrates 1,400 decorative lines and includes innumerable textures, colours and shades.



Inspiring bathrooms



There are many reasons why HiMac's is an ideal material for the bathroom environment – and now there are new and even more innovative options.

In recent years, the kitchen has become the focus of attention with much of the development in décors, hardware and surfaces devoted to broadening design options and creating product differentiation for kitchen manufacturers. We've seen how the kitchen and the living room have been brought together with products that bridge former divides – but talk to Dutch designer Marike Andeweg and she will confirm, "With the kitchen becoming the new living room, now is the time to give the bathroom the attention it deserves."

In previous editions of Furniture Journal, we've shown you many stunning and inspiring interiors – both domestic and contract – with magnificent elements only made possible by taking advantage of the properties of HiMac's: its ability to be

moulded into any shape; the minerals, acrylic and natural pigments that come together to provide a smooth, non-porous and visually seamless surface that meets the highest standards for quality, aesthetics, fabrication, functionality and hygiene; its versatility to be used throughout holistic interior design concepts that include architectural and interior applications, such as sculptural and high-performance wall-cladding or kitchen, bathroom and furniture surfaces in commercial, residential and public space projects.

Durability, aesthetic appeal, a silky texture and high standards of hygiene are just some of the reasons why HiMac's is the ideal material for any bathroom environment as well and it's these very properties that Marike has used to create the beautiful bathrooms featured on these pages.

The collaboration between Marike and HiMac's is a long-standing and undeniably successful one. For several years now, Marike has been using the incredible properties of HiMac's solid surface material to design basins and bathroom accessories for her brand *Not Only White*. Combining her expertise with HiMac's, she has created

the new *Bathroom Inspiration* brochure, a useful guide on how to choose designer styles and inspirations for your new bathroom using HiMac's.

The volume features four trends: Blurring Borders, inspired by the harmony of nature; Barefoot Luxury, an ode to 'slow living'; Japandi, a fusion of Zen style and Scandinavian design; and Emotional Shades, essential and full of light.

If these inspire you, you might be interested to know that LG Hausys, the company that manufactures HiMac's, recently introduced two new products and it's claimed they represent the biggest innovation in the history of solid surfaces since the product first arrived on the market in 1967.

HiMac's Ultra-Thermoforming is an innovative new formula that pushes the boundaries of solid surface shaping to a whole new level, with 30% more thermoplastic capabilities, while HiMac's Intense Ultra combines the characteristics of Intense Colour Technology with Ultra-Thermoforming.

HiMac's uses a simple heating process to give three-dimensional thermoplastic

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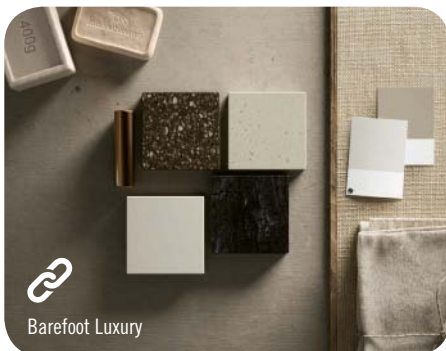
Barefoot Luxury



Emotional Shade



Japandi



Barefoot Luxury



Emotional Shade



Japandi

forming capabilities and through heating, it allows visually seamless designs to be created, offers a virtually limitless range of colours and – for some shades - exhibits a special translucency when exposed to light. Although it is almost as robust as stone, it can be worked in a similar way to wood: it can be sawn, routed, drilled or sanded quite easily.

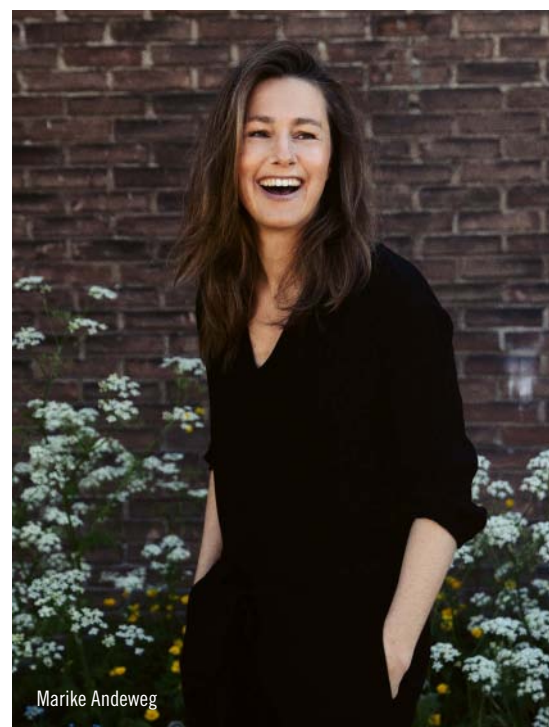
Manufactured using a new generation technology known as thermal curing, HiMacs benefits from the temperature reached during the manufacturing process. Higher than other solid surfaces, the temperature creates a denser, even more homogeneous, sturdy, durable surface with a better resistance and superior thermoforming performance.

Of particular benefit for manufacturing bathroom furniture, along with being highly resistant to stains and is easy to clean, maintain and repair, HiMacs does not absorb

humidity. The product has also won countless international certificates recognising everything from its ecological commitment and hygiene to its fire resistance.

(It may be a little-known fact but HiMacs was the first Solid Surface in the market to receive the official European Technical Approval (ETA) for façades – for Alpine White S728 colour as well as the French QB certification and CSTB ATec Avis Technique for façade applications. It also comes with a 15-year warranty for products fabricated by a Quality Club Member.)

Still need more inspiration? Take a look at Marike's new *Bathroom Inspirations* brochure. Readers using the free Furniture Journal app will find links here: [Blurring Borders](#); [Barefoot Luxury](#); [Japandi](#); and [Emotional Shades](#). For more information visit www.lathamtimber.co.uk/contact-us and choose a James Latham branch near you.



Marike Andeweg

Solidworks for Utopia

Utopia is creating 3d models and detailed 2d drawings and driving all its machines from a single software solution from Solid Solutions.

Utopia has been at the forefront of the UK bathroom industry for 30 years. Every Utopia bathroom planned and designed so it fits perfectly in size and shape. The furniture is designed, manufactured and hand-assembled in the Midlands from the best quality materials, resulting in beautiful products with performance to match. And to create its 3d models, Utopia uses Solidworks from Solid Solutions.

"We use Solidworks predominantly to create 3D models and detailed 2D drawings of wood-based panels, including all details for connections and associated ancillary parts," confirmed Dean Allen, Engineering Manager at Utopia. However, in addition to 3D models, the key advantage Utopia found with Solidworks is the furniture-specific bolt on software Swood, which provides them with many additional benefits:

Design reports that include spread sheets can be imported into Utopia's MRP system as BOMs, eliminating human intervention and reducing data errors. Machine programs that can be created for various machines within the company's production facilities, making it easier to create and control

program maintenance. Having a suite of Swood Frame templates allows Utopia to load, modify and publish data of new sizes of units, while the suite of Swood boxes and connectors, based on their ancillary parts can easily be pulled into assemblies with associated fixing and connection details.

"This led to us using common CAD data and connection details throughout our different ranges of furniture, making it easier to maintain, says Dean. "Now we can drive all our machines from a single software solution within Solidworks. Our operations run a lot more consistently as we use the same 3D models from purchase to assemblies and all our design standards operate within the same data and libraries, keeping the same parameters for parts such as connectors and panels. We now use that same information more consistently. Whenever something goes to the shop floor, the personnel know exactly how to load the panels into the machines, leaving no room for errors."

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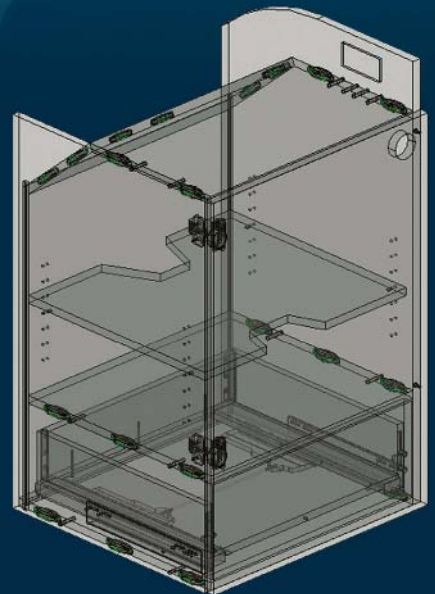
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CAD+T at HH

Whether you are a cabinet-maker, a shop-fitter or an exhibition stand-builder, individual design requires individual solutions. That's where CAD+T's extensive software solution portfolio comes in.

Presented on its largest exhibition stand to date, visitors to this year's Holz-Handwerk were able to explore the very latest design and visualisation applications, connected CNC/Nesting manufacturing software and complete ERP systems on CAD+T's stand – along with brand new cloud-based applications that will be introduced later this year.

Visitors to the four-day event explored the new EOS product family for license and data management, the online shop and e-commerce solutions, as well as the CAD+T configurator professional. The configurator, which automatically creates engineering drawings, parts lists, price calculations and exports based on predefined parameters, was demonstrated on an interactive screen during the show to highlight how it can be installed in combination with an e-commerce interface.

Also making its European exhibition debut was CAD+T's brand new contactless parts tracking software. Using RFID technology, it detects the presence, absence and assembly stage of all parts required to fulfil an order, while also identifying plan deviations and measuring processes of individual production for error-free parts tracking and connected production systems.

Martina Schwarz, CEO of CAD+T sums up: "After such a long period of time, Holz-Handwerk was always going to be an important exhibition for the furniture manufacturing industry and it didn't disappoint, with high footfall and good-quality discussions taking place on our stand. It was clear that the industry hasn't been standing still during the pandemic. It's shifted up a gear. For us, it was a brilliant event to display complete software solutions for the interior design and production industry and showcase the benefits cloud-based solutions can offer the furniture manufacturing industry and we are looking forward to the next edition in 2024."

For further information visit
www.cadt-solutions.com

The latest design and visualisation applications, connected CNC/Nesting manufacturing software and complete ERP systems on CAD+T's stand at Holz-Handwerk.





Filling the skills gap

Tek Contracts teams up with Microvellum to solve a recruitment problem.

There's no doubt that the strength of any business is its people. But these days, finding the right people can be challenging. One company has found a solution to handle the shortage of skilled workers with AutoCAD-based technology supplied by Microvellum.

Staffordshire-based Tek Contracts is a specialist bespoke manufacturer that undertakes everything from specialised fit-outs, custom joinery and office interiors to dental, pharmacy, and healthcare facilities. Managing Director, Chris Perrior, commented on their dilemma: "After our Joinery Manager retired, we found it difficult to find his replacement, so we started looking at our options to see if we could substitute the need for a joinery manager with one or two production managers, a CAD technician and new software instead.

"We spent a significant amount of time examining our systems and researching multiple types of software we felt had potential. Ultimately, we chose Microvellum."

Microvellum helps companies align their processes behind one flexible platform, developed to put users in total control of the way they estimate projects, design, engineer and manufacture products. The open architecture of the program provides users with the tools to customise their experience, resulting in a competitive advantage that streamlines the entire design to manufacturing process.

"One of the most time-saving benefits of our Microvellum software is after the initial design is completed, most of the work is done. The drawings are detailed automatically, the cutting list with full edge detailing notes is done, the project reports are ready to be accessed – the only thing left to do is process the project for cutting on our SCM Praxix router."

Microvellum's platform is ideal for small to large manufacturers equipped with point-to-point machining centres, nest-based routers, saws and other types of automated CNC machinery. The comprehensive software includes a fully integrated solution for part optimisation, machine code generation and on-demand part labelling. "After our projects are processed, code is sent straight to the CNC and the labels and instructions print off right next to our machine.

"We challenged ourselves to think differently, to find a software solution that helped us fill the gap in our process. Microvellum has not only given us a platform to improve how we work and operate our joinery shop but a foundation for further growth. The difference in efficiency compared to our old workflow is a long mile. We would easily recommend Microvellum as a good place to stop looking if you are serious about investing in your next software upgrade."

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The NC70 range of hinges are the highest quality cup hinges in Hranipex's own-brand Riex range.



New — from Hranipex

In a radical but logical departure from Edgebandings, adhesives and cleaners, Hranipex UK launches a brand-new fittings range.

No, we haven't put the wrong photographs with this article – but you are absolutely right to wonder. The edgebanding specialist, Hranipex, whose Birmingham-based UK arm recently announced an extension to its edgebandings, adhesives and cleaners range with the launch of edgebander servicing contracts, has done it again. And this time, it's taking on the fittings sector.

At first, it might seem like quite a leap from edgebanding materials to furniture fittings but talk to Hranipex UK's managing director, Simon Mitchell, and it soon becomes clear this is quite a shrewd move by the

Czech Republic-based parent company: "It's about keeping customers happy by reducing the number of calls they have to make to suppliers," he says. "They can now contact us for everything apart from the wood."

"If you look at the marketplace, we know there are plenty of well-established suppliers of fittings and components. None of those sell edgebandings, cleaners or adhesives. The question we've come across when we've been speaking to our customer base is *what else do you do?* Now we can offer a product portfolio of over 5000 pieces that are either manufactured by us under the brand name Riex, or by our partners."



With a large number of Hranipex UK's customers in the office furniture and student accommodation manufacturing sectors, that's where Simon and his enthusiastic Technical Product Manager, Adam Stevenitt, decided to pitch the launch. "The product is available to anyone who wants it and we have over 1,000 components in stock in the UK right now – different items, different sizes, different quality levels," says Simon. "But we have decided to start with the office sector because it coincides with the people we have already spoken to. It's where we have a good reputation for our edges and it's where we want to push initially.

"We have a range of drawer slides, hinges, push-to-open mechanisms, lift mechanisms and gas springs. Alongside these we have a huge range of handles, knobs, profiles and hooks. On the website, you'll find office furniture components and table legs, castors, glides, table bases and fittings

and we've got a nice range of locks, magnets, cable management systems and push-to-open sockets."

The own brand Riex NC70 hinges are the highest quality in the range. Featuring all metal construction, with or without soft close, combined with a variety of other features. **The clip-on, full overlay, soft-close hinge** is equipped with a lever-shaped, cast clip mechanism for easy detachment from the plate and a round sunken cam screw with a large adjusting range of the hinge arm to ensure perfect alignment of the door. The steel damper is capable of absorbing a dynamically closing door. The NC70 range includes 155-degree hinges with zero protrusion, inset, overlay, 30-degree, 45-degree and more with



Simon Mitchell

Riex GF30 and Riex GC70 furniture castors.



various different mounting plates and covers for the arm and cup. You can buy the hinge with the mounting plate, screws and covers all in one pack, or each of the components separately and the minimum order is one item.

Top-of-the-range in Hranipex's slim double-wall drawer offer are **RiexTrack Slim drawer boxes**. Their 13mm sides reduce lost space within the drawer while maintaining a sleek profile. The integrated side panel brackets connect the draw to the slides, along with back panel holders, making the drawer easy to assemble. Only the cut-outs for the drawer base, back and front need to be made. RiexTrack drawers are equipped with a soft-closing mechanism and synchronisation for smooth operation and good lateral stability. Their load capacity is 40kg. Available in grey, white and black and a variety of dimensions.

When it comes to slides, Hranipex offers two options: the **Riex NU80 Concealed Slide** with full extension, soft close and

synchro included as standard - for wood drawers of different dimensions and up to a 40kg load; and the **Riex NB55 Ball Bearing Slide**, a full extension 45mm ball-bearing slide with 45kg load capacity. Riex NU80 slides are connected to the drawer with brackets that allow the drawer front to be adjusted vertically (up and down), horizontally (left and right) and the gap between the front and cabinet can also be adjusted. They are designed for use with side panels of up to 19mm.

With so many applications for castors, Hranipex has plunged in with a range that includes soft tread, hard, braked, free, rotating and many more variants. Featured are the **Riex GF30 furniture castor**, a 50mm diameter model with a 42 x 42 x 1.5mm plate, softened tread and brake in black and the **Riex GC70 Furniture castor**, a transparent white, 50mm diameter design with a 50 x 50mm plate, softened tread and brake. Both are designed for use on hard surfaces.

Along with a range of table legs equipped with a patented fixing mechanism, Hranipex also offers a number of cable management systems, power sockets, data connection and LED systems. Featured are the **ASA Plastici Versahit Dual Electrical Socket** in stainless steel with two-metre cable (and three-pin UK sockets) and the **SFL Brick Electrical Socket**, a pop up electrical connector in stainless steel with three-pin UK sockets, USB connectors and a two-metre cable.

"We also stock kitchen fittings like cutlery trays, non-slip pads, ventilation grids, duct vents – everything right through to larder units, wall and base organisers, pull-out baskets, hangers and kitchen storage systems as well as wardrobe fittings," adds Simon. "We have a full range of lighting, screws, dowels, Euro-screws, shelf supports and everything you might need for sliding doors. With over 5,000 lines available to us and over 1,000 in stock in the UK, we have a lot to offer customers."



Hranipex table legs are equipped with a patented fixing mechanism.



"If it's not in the UK we can call off stock in the Czech Republic and get it to customers in three to four days. If it's in UK stock, order by 5pm and you can have it the next day."

Heading up the fittings offer is Adam Stevenitt, Technical Product Manager at Hranipex UK. "He covers the whole of the UK," says Simon. "He has all the product and technical knowledge and he controls the stocks we hold. He is backed up by a team of 10 people in the Czech Republic."

"For us, having this new product range is incredibly exciting. We're very proud of it and delighted by the feedback we've received so far. The product, the availability, the service and the price are key factors our customers really appreciate and we will be introducing more products to the range moving forward."

For more information on all the new products available from Hranipex UK visit www.hranipex.co.uk/en or call 0121 767 9180.



The Riex NU80 Concealed Slide and the Riex NB55 Ball Bearing Slide



Cable management systems, power sockets, data connection, LED systems – all part of the new range.



The handle-less specialist

The Titus Push Latch Gen2 incorporates a softener that controls the motion and it's been designed with the handle-less market in mind.

The acquisition of the Kinetics Division of Simon Group by Titus back in 2020 probably isn't going to mean too much to you unless you're already familiar with Simon Group's technology. However, when I tell you that this shrewd move by the fittings, hinge and drawer slide specialist has propelled Titus into a much stronger position in the handle-less fittings sector, you'll see why we're bringing it to your attention again.

Titus is now uniquely positioned to offer some of the most innovative push-to-open solutions for drawers, pull-out organisers, cabinet doors, hinged furniture doors and interior sliding doors on the market and with demand handle-less furniture on the increase there's never been a better time to look at the 'ConfidentClose' feature of Titus products.

The Titus Push Latch Gen2 incorporates a softener that controls the motion, making the opening action decisive but soft and precise, not too slow and not too fast. With the second generation of push-to-open,

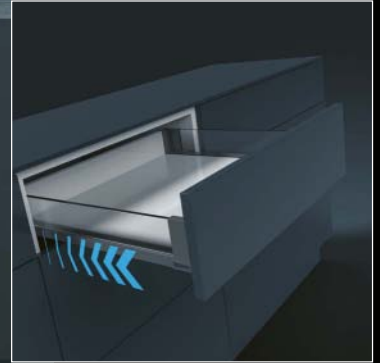
Titus has eliminated unnecessary bouncing of the door at the end of the opening process and the whole sequence is now quiet and almost in slow motion.

Push-to-open systems for drawers are ideally suited to modular furniture concepts. This is not only useful for double wall drawers but also for various pull-out systems and wire baskets. The Titus system, which is a one-for-all concept, ensures a single mechanism fits various drawer sizes and can be assembled easily with an intuitive *place and fix* mounting, even if not all the drill holes are perfectly aligned with the installation.

Like most Titus innovations, with minor modifications and a combination of standard components, the specific requirements of various applications can be catered for. The compact design with soft-close and push-to-open in one unit offers multiple uses from pantry units and other sliding systems where handles are not aesthetically desirable.

For more information call Titus on 01977 682582, or visit www.titusplus.com

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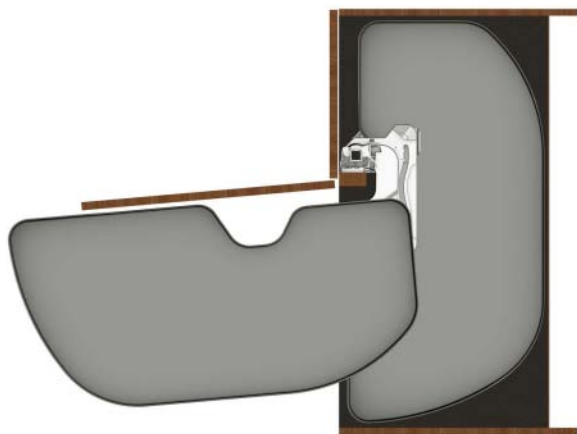
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one2five

one2six



Bin it with style

If you are heading out to Sicam, be sure to visit the Ninka stand. Well known for its plastic waste recycling systems, injection-moulded from a single moulding and available in numerous colour options, and pull-out frames, Ninka will be showing several recently-launched products.

The *one2five* waste separation system offers a perfect, robust bin suspension frame that can be fitted in all common drawer systems and cabinet types, even directly beneath the worktop. Seven waste bin heights and various volumes from 4.2 to 42 litres are available and *one2five* is available for cabinet widths of 30, 40, 45, 50, 60 and 90cm. There's even an optional top storage shelf.

You'll also be able to see *one2six*, a flexible, easy-to-clean waste separation system with hanging containers in 4.2 to 42 litres volumes. The ease of assembly is a special benefit of both waste separation systems. The frame and drawer runners

form an integrated unit and available colour options include Alu Grey and Dark Grey to match the hanging containers.

Ninka's well-known *bioBin* has been designed for ergonomic disposal of small quantities organic waste generated during meal preparation – but it would also make a brilliant addition to any kitchen if used for planting herbs. With its 4.2-litre volume, it is large enough to take organic waste but light enough to be emptied quickly in large waste containers. A newly developed bracket now allows the *bioBin* to be placed on any vertical surface. Seven or eight-litre waste containers with high rims can also be attached through the new bracket, or it can be used as dish towel holder.

For more information visit Sicam, call +49 5222 949-0, visit www.ninka.com or email info@ninka.com Ninka's UK distributor is Häfele: 01788 542020, or visit www.hafele.co.uk/en/

Ninka will show its range of waste separation systems at Sicam.



Ninka will relaunch its *bioBin* with a new bracket



European début

Resounding success for Lamello's first battery powered Classic X and Zeta P2 jointers at Holz-Handwerk.

Making its European exhibition debut, Lamello's first battery powered Classic X and Zeta P2 biscuit joiners took centre stage at this year's Holz-Handwerk.

To date, the Zeta P2 biscuit joiner and Classic X biscuit joiner have remained firm favourites among furniture manufacturers and have become the hand tool of choice for those looking for a fast and effective way to join panels and solid wood. The new cordless range, which will be available in the UK from September 2022, offers users the same level of precision and flexibility as the original models, without the need for a separate power outlet. A full range of battery pack options was also on display, showcasing just how powerful and lightweight the new cordless range is.

The award-winning P-System connectors were also on show, with live demonstrations of the Clamex-P, Divario-P and Tenso-P taking place throughout the four-day event. Leading machinery manufacturers, including Homag, Holz-Her, Masterwood and Felder were also demonstrating Lamello's unique P-System CNC fixings on a range of three, four and five-axis CNC machines. Visitors were presented with unique solutions designed to increase productivity and reduce the production time and labour costs commonly associated with furniture manufacturing and assembly.

Lamello UK's Shaye Chatfield says: "708 exhibitors from 33 countries took part in the long-awaited Holz-Handwerk exhibition, with over 28,500 people in attendance. This provided the perfect stage for us to present our brand new cordless Zeta P2

biscuit joiner and Classic X biscuit joiner and demonstrate the ease, strength and flexibility of our award-winning P-System connectors range. It was also brilliant to see so many machinery manufacturers presenting our unique CNC connectors on their stands. We had fantastic feedback and the interest around our extended product offer was really strong."

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



New cordless Classic X

Lamello

P-System

Zeta P2

The machine for the evolving P-System, saving you time daily.



Clamex P-14/10 Flexus



NEW

Clamex P-10



Clamex P-14



Clamex P-14/10 Medius



Tenso P-10



Tenso P-14



Divario P-18



P-System

The time-saving joining system with form-locking anchoring



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

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

V8

**Vionaro V8
Slim Drawer System.**

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Everything. Except ordinary.

Until recently, the very idea of reducing a drawer side to 8 millimetres and, above all, making industrial production commercially viable would have been unthinkable. The new slim drawer system not only offers the only 8-millimetre one-piece steel drawer side in the world – Vionaro V8 is also the first pure-metal drawer side with no plastic elements. All parts are made of steel and joined using cutting-edge laser welding technology. That produces maximum stability plus longevity and ensures an almost 100 per cent recycling rate.

**GERMAN
DESIGN
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WINNER
2022**



Helping hands

I'm sure every Furniture Journal reader will have been in the position of knowing they could take on that extra job *if only...* And the *if only* is usually followed by *more time, another pair of hands*, etc., etc. You know you have the skills to do a fantastic job but there's only one you.

It's a familiar story to Becky Forest, Custom Solutions Manager at Häfele in Rugby and her colleague, Technical Services Manager, Sam Melling and it was one of the key drivers behind the establishment of the Häfele to Order service.

"The Häfele to Order service starts with either what the customer needs to do, or a problem they've got that we can solve for them," explains Becky. "Sometimes it's a question of helping them save time, or save money but it can also be about helping make their production easier."

The Häfele to Order service isn't about making the furniture for you but it is about making, customising or providing the bits that go into it. The service can include making up all the twin-wall metal drawers you need for a kitchen right through to the

manufacture of bespoke dovetailed drawers with custom interiors in a variety of timbers if you don't have the time to make them. Häfele will even make bespoke cutlery trays, knife blocks, spice racks and engrave each drawer with a name or a logo. You provide the logo, Häfele does the rest.

The bespoke under-stairs solution Häfele took to kbb is a perfect example of how the Häfele to Order team is able to put combinations of its products together to create something unique. It included timber drawers with sliding track, hooks, handles, runners, hinges – and all were combined into a unique and very different product.

But Häfele to Order is about much more than just drawers and although it's a service many small businesses and fitters have found especially beneficial, project-based customers, including property developers who need complete house packs, have also found it useful to involve the team at Häfele.

"We can make up hinge packs for you, cut wardrobe rails to the right size and pack them with all the necessary fittings, or for larger projects, we can provide a kit for

Häfele to Order isn't about making the furniture for you but it is about making, customising or providing the bits that go into it.



Sam and Becky



each room – kitchen, bedroom, or bathroom,” says Becky. “We will pack it for you, labelling it up with a plot reference so your fitter can grab a whole house pack and get to work.”

“Anywhere there is a point of pain for the customer or where a customer needs to solve a problem, they can come to us and ask if we can help,” continues Sam. “We focus on how we can add value. Our message is send us a plan – for a bedroom, for example – and we will spec the lighting, spec the wardrobe tube, propose the fixtures and fittings, make the drawers.”

Lighting is certainly an area many cabinet-makers and furniture designers will feel less than confident specifying but getting the right lighting in a cabinet or a room can

make a huge difference. Häfele to Order includes a lighting design service so when you order you can be sure you will get the right specification for your application. Each product is made exactly to suit your requirements and tested before it's packed and shipped. “Our system is plug and play,” says Sam. “When it's delivered, you can be certain it's ready to plug in and it's going to work and because you buy only what you need, there's also a lot less waste. We're helping customers streamline and refine the process, eliminating cost and waste.

“Our lighting design service is easy to navigate using an online form. You can fill in as much detail as you have or provide a floor plan and we will put together a specification for you. We have designed

lighting for kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, libraries... We can propose the best possible solution for any cabinetry or area based on what we have in stock, what's coming through in trends (or include the colours you prefer) and make recommendations for specific light temperatures. The technical design element is a free resource. We will you save time, labour and money. That's what Häfele to Order is all about.”

If you'd like a fresh pair of eyes and a helping hand to make your next project happen, Häfele to Order might just be the answer. Becky and Sam are waiting to hear from you. Call 01788 542020 and ask for Technical Support or email hafeletoorder@hafele.co.uk



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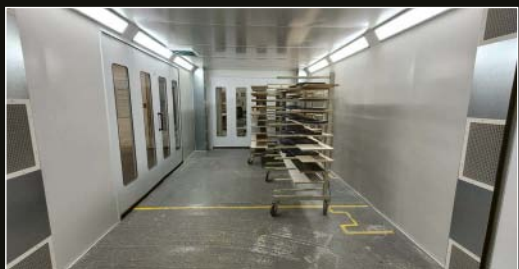
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The Ultrimax in drying

Looking for a total paint shop support service from finishing plants to spray booth filters, spray equipment and paint? Originally operating in automotive paints, Ultrimax has a history dating back to 1976 and provides a turnkey service in finishing rooms that encompasses design through to installation across the UK.

When Ultrimax was approached by MPS Ltd to collaborate on a full joinery finishing project for a Midlands-based manufacturer of bespoke products, the specification included a Cefla Mito. However, with the sudden increase in productivity, came the need for a drying system that would keep pace with it. To deliver the flash off and drying room on-time and to specification, MPS called on Ultrimax to design and install the additional paint facilities.

To ensure correct room size and a zero product surplus, Ultrimax's spray booth specialist, Mike Booth conducted an initial on-site investigation, producing drawings and renderings to provide a clear representation of how the new system would look and, together with MPS, illustrated how it would streamline workflow.

"Any drying system is a delicate balance of both heat and airflow," says Mike. "One

without the other does not provide an effective drying system. The most accurate and energy-efficient way of achieving this is to recirculate air past a small electric heater element. By doing this we can keep the required kW rating down and only use approximately 10% of the heater's capacity. This gives the heater element an extended lifespan with little to no maintenance required.

"The combination of filtered air input and extracting 10% of the drying room's volume has dual functionality: firstly, the drying system's humidity levels remain at an optimum point, assisting with the drying process; and secondly, there is no harmful build-up of VOCs during the drying process. These drying systems can show an energy saving of up to 60% and up to 40% improvement in drying times."

Ultrimax performed the full bespoke installation within a seven-day turnaround, ensuring minimal disruption. The facility was re-commissioned and LEV tested before resuming production.

For more information call 01302 571504, email: enquiries@ultrimaxcoatings.co.uk or visit www.ultrimaxstore.com

Ultrimax steps in to design and deliver a drying room that would keep pace with a Cefla Mito.



Stable spray



Looking for a pump to feed your spray systems? The Prima™ 01D100 from Sames Kremlin has a lot to offer.

Robust, silent, easy to rinse and maintain, the new Prima™ 01D100 diaphragm pump from Sames Kremlin is distinguished by the stability of its spray and attractive price. It is aimed at craftsmen and small businesses who work with pneumatic spraying and are looking for a quiet and effective solution. The Prima™ 01D100 succeeds the PMP150 and benefits from significant improvements, as well as a lower price.

The Prima™ 01D100 is a pump manufactured at the Sames Kremlin facility in France. The choice of materials, the quality of assembly and the test cycles carried out in the factory on a robotic bench all contribute towards the guarantee of many years of reliable service and when in operation it produces just 69 decibels, making it one of the quietest pumps on the market.

There are other noteworthy advantages, too: it is very stable due to the design of the feet; it is equipped with a 90-degree adjustable inlet and outlet to fit into most workshop configurations; and it flushes easily with little solvent because its interior circuits have very few dead zones. Dismantling for maintenance is simple: a

single tool is all you need to remove diaphragms, distributor and flanges.

The Prima™ 01D100 can be used with all paints: solvent or water-based paints, enamel paint with anti-abrasion diaphragms and with coatings for electrostatic application. It is compatible with all guns in the Airspray range.

Also available from Sames Kremlin is the new REGPro, which combines filtration and regulation to deliver more stability during spraying. This unit has been designed to guarantee a high quality of application whatever the inlet pressure and it works with ultra-low flow rates (a few tens of cm³/minute) as well as higher flow rates. The engine air distribution and piston position have both been redesigned to prevent untimely stalling.

An online configurator means you can create tailor-made spraying packages with all required accessories, while benefiting from advantageous prices. It is now possible to set up the spray pack in a few clicks, starting with the pump and the inlet and outlet accessories right through to the nozzle of the spray gun.

For further information visit www.sames-kremlin.com

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TruStile Doors in the USA



Garant Türen & Zargen GmbH



International Venjakob

If you are in the market for a large spray line that runs at high speeds and presents a safe environment for continuous production, it's a specification with which the German spray coating specialist Venjakob is entirely at home.

The company has recently delivered just such a line to TruStile Doors in the USA, who use it for spraying interior doors. The line runs at 14 m/min (46 fpm) with water-based paint and consists of a loading area, denibbing sander, edge sander, Perfect spray coating machine, OIR dryer (optimised infrared), HVIR dryers and handling systems that include a turn-over device.

At such speeds, it is very important that the spray coating machine fulfils highest quality and technical demands and to ensure safe and continuous production Venjakob equipped the spray machine at TruStile Doors with an air humidification system and a dry cyclone dust separator to control the overspray in the best possible way and keep the finishing quality consistently high.

Venjakob has also recently delivered another high-speed spray line to Garant Türen & Zargen GmbH, which runs at 10m/min (33fpm). In this case a water-based UV paint is sprayed for the final coat and the line includes a robotic loading/unloading system, integrated edge sanders, wide belt sanders, diverse vertical drying technology and turn-over systems. The spray booth has a 90% air recycle system with air humidification to achieve best finishing quality and reduced filter consumption. This solution is also environmentally friendly and cuts emissions to a minimum.

Venjakob's ability to supply high-speed spray lines doesn't stop there. The next one is already being assembled on the company's shop floor. It's destined for a door manufacturer, this time in Brazil, and will run at 20m/min (66 fpm).

To find out what Venjakob could do for your company, call 0049 5242 9603 162 or fill out the contact form at www.venjakob.de/en/contactform/christian-streit/

To spray specialist Venjakob, designing large-scale spray lines and supplying customers around the globe is all part of the service.



PREVIEW

Adhesives for all

TAKA-WPR extends its range of adhesives, encompassing profile and flat wrapping and edgebanding, all backed up by the WPR-TAKA Academy.



TAKA has developed a range of PUR adhesives that has been extended in recent years to cover all processes in the furniture industry. It now includes TK2308.38P for profile and panel wrapping, TK2308.25P for profiles with complex geometries or rigid films and TK2308.25PV for CPL.

For panel finishing with roller coaters, longer open times than glues for slot nozzle application are required. TAKA offers TK2308.40 for processes with different kinds of foils and TK2308.75 for working with thicker materials such as HPL in sheets. The latest addition in the TAKA range is TK2308.33, which is suitable for both slot nozzle and roller coating application when foiling flat panels with thin foils.

For edgebanding, TAKA's TK3308.20 and TK3308.5 have been formulated to provide a transparent glue line whatever the edging or colour you need to apply.

Even the best adhesive, if not applied correctly, may not lead to a final product

that meets the quality requirements of today's market. The exhaustive experience of WPR (wrapping machines) and TAKA (polyurethane hot melt adhesives) have led to the creation of the TAKA-WPR Academy, which will work alongside each customer to optimise production processes, choosing the most suitable adhesive and suggesting the correct parameters for the process to help guarantee the best possible production outcome and high customer satisfaction. The WPR-TAKA Academy is available for production audits and different training programmes for both operators and production managers.

For more information, contact the WPR-TAKA Academy at academy@wpertaka.it or the UK agent, Anthony Rook, from Brit-Ad Ltd on 07484 341294 – arook.ba@gmail.com - or visit www.britishadhesives.co.uk

You can also visit TAKA-WPR at Sicam in hall 10, stand A15.



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For detailed information on TAKA's product range,
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Wemhöner & Sittex for JJO

More than 20 years of near faultless service from their old Wemhöner made the choice a simple one when JJO wanted a new, more automated pressing line.

J J Ormerod is a name that requires little introduction. Established towards the back end of the 19th century, it's a successful family company with a reputation for manufacturing kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms, which are sold either directly through a UK-wide network of independent specialist retailers, or to the contract trade.

Production Director, Robert Myers, explains: "You won't see the name JJO on the kitchens we sell through retailers. You might see Avalon Kitchens or Colonial Kitchens, Holcombe Bedrooms or Eco Bathrooms – those are our brands – but mostly we brain-box everything and put whatever label the retailer wants on it.

"We supply across the UK from Lands End to John O'Groats. We have our own fleet of trucks and the long-distance wagons go out fully loaded on a Monday, return on a Wednesday to reload and come back on a Friday. We deliver everywhere in the UK five days a week.

"We also have three other outlets and a bathroom assembly site. Rossendale Interiors

Stacksteads operates as a showroom for existing and prospective retail partners. We also retail to the local community. Rossendale Interiors Ulverston is a long-standing retail showroom with family connections. Marshall House is our Trade and Collection Centre. Victoria Works warehouses bathroom furniture components & assembles furniture to order."

Employing 310 people and with a turnover of around £40m, J J Ormerod runs a two-shift system on the manufacturing side, six until two and two until ten, with the warehouse running from eight in the morning until five in the afternoon. Efficiency is high on Robert's agenda. He's also keen on ensuring consistently high standards – a reason, he says, why JJO only works with panel product and vinyl suppliers like Egger, Finsa and Kronospan. All manufacturing is done on site in Rawtenstall: "We convert it, cut it, edge it, drill it and package it. It's the same on the vinyl side. For our doors, our board comes from Finsa. We cut out the blanks, route and profile them, spray, press and package everything."



With prices rising, especially energy prices, Robert has a keen eye on production-enhancing investment opportunities: "We purchased an IMA line in 2003 but over the years we've diversified into different markets and had to change some of our machinery to keep pace with demand. We changed the first combination line so we could machine smaller panels and get into the bathroom sector. The second combination line we changed three years ago, purely because of its age. The drills behind it we changed seven years ago to take advantage of developing technology, increase production and reduce manufacturing costs. Recently, one of the areas we decided could benefit most from investment was the door pressing line.

"Back in 2001 we bought a Wemhöner press and it's served us very well. It's still a very good press, in great good condition and we've never had any problems with. Once you turn it on and it reaches operating temperature, it stays at that temperature and it burns electricity all day long. Although we'd never had a problem with it, we knew the

newer presses were more energy efficient and could give us both the energy savings we required and the increased production. We also wanted an automated solution for vinyl doors, that included automatic trimming of the pressed panels, so along with the Wemhöner press we also invested in a Sittex automatic trimming line."

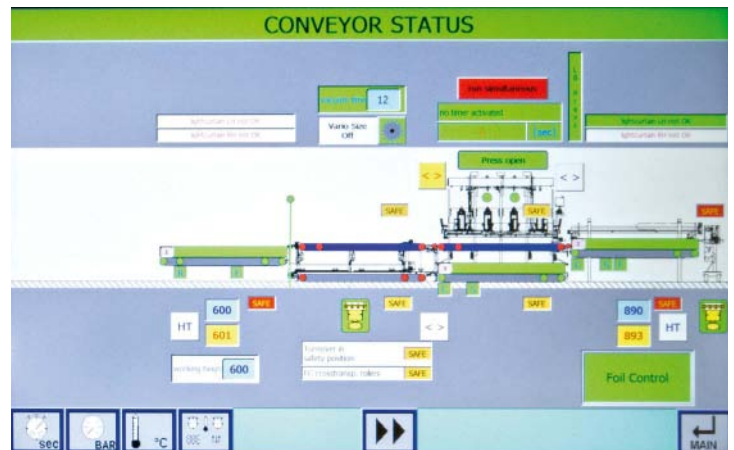
The new Wemhöner 3dVariopress and Sittex pressing and trimming line was commissioned in late spring 2022 and pretty much from the offset it met Robert's production requirements.

The new press has laser temperature control that reduces its energy consumption and within two weeks of being commissioned it was already demonstrating increased throughput performance and had provided a sizeable 30% uplift in productivity. "That's purely because the pressure we can achieve with this new Wemhöner reduces the cycle time from three minutes to two," Robert told me. "In round numbers, the old press could do up to 20 cycles per hour; the new press can do up to 27 in the same time. The old press



Robert Myers

- 1 & 2: The boards are laid on the press tray by two operators.
- 3: The press tray drops down on a scissor lift and travels through the base of the press.
- 4: The foil is automatically pulled over the door blanks and the Wemhöner Variosize system automatically reduces the size of the press tray and foil cut-off according to the number of panels on the tray.
- 5: The roll paternoster takes up to 20 rolls.
- 6: Pressed panels are conveyed to the board turning device.
- 7 & 8: Pressed panels are turned through 180 degrees with an automatic turnover device.
- 9: The Wemhöner places the pressed panels onto a conveyor.



was six bar; the new press is eight bar, so you have more pressure with less heat. That means better performance, especially with high gloss foils."

Aside from greater energy efficiency and increased productivity, Robert also wanted to reduce staffing on the pressing line from four people to three. He's achieved that: two staff at the front end lightly sand the surface of each of the pre-glued and dried door blanks before placing them on the pressing tray. Although the Sittex can cope with mixed sizes and scans each pressed door before trimming it whatever angle the doors are placed on the tray, the unique VarioPin® system helps the operators to locate panels squarely – and it's plain to see as you watch them work that they do like everything perfect, even though the system doesn't require that. A third operator recovers the panels after trimming on the Sittex, disposes of the waste foil and quality

checks each panel as it comes out of the brushing unit.

The press size of the new machine is 2540mm x 1250mm – the same as the old Wemhöner – but the footprint of the new machine is a lot larger, more than anything because of the additional space taken up by the Sittex trimming line: "The old press is a roundabout system where the new one is a straight-line machine through which the panels travel backwards and forwards," Robert explained.

"When we first bought the Wemhöner in 2001, we purchased a Gottschild trimming line as well, purely to semi-automate the process because back then we had quite a few people trimming by hand. The Sittex gives us the opportunity to reduce the manpower required to operate the press even further.

"The panels go straight through the press to the trimming line without any manual

intervention. Each is scanned where previously we had to trim every door out individually and place it on the trimming line. Now we don't touch it. The Wemhöner presses all the panels in the tray, turns the tray over and sends it to the trimming area where it's scanned and trimmed automatically. The trimming knife does the rest and the panel comes out completely finished. The quality is much better."

It's a fascinating process to watch:

The boards are laid on the press tray by two operators who work in tandem from both sides. Once fully loaded, the press tray drops down on a scissor lift and travels through the base of the press, coming up on a scissor lift at the other end. The foil is automatically pulled over the door blanks, dropped into place and cut. The press tray then goes into the press so the pressing process can take place.



After pressing, the tray leaves the press where it's turned over 180 degrees with an automatic turnover device that removes it from the Wemhöner; feeds it onto a conveyor and transfers it to the Sittex for trimming – all while the next tray is being readied.

Once the turnover device has off-loaded the tray onto the Sittex conveyor; the Sittex knows there is a fresh charge of product on the way and as it enters the Sittex, the whole pressing is scanned. Multiple sizes, shapes and thicknesses of panel can be combined in the same pressing and regardless of the dimensions of the individual doors, the scanner relays the exact position, shape, thickness and size to the robot trimming arm. It only takes a few seconds.

While Sittex manufacture a double trimming arm machine – believed to be the first one of its kind on the market – Robert opted for a single arm alternative. The robot

arm, equipped with a single rotating knife, trims out the doors accurately and at high speed, following the parameters provided to it by the scanner. Each door is separated perfectly.

Once all the individual doors have been trimmed out, the door set is transferred by conveyor to the third operator position where it pauses so unwanted foil from the process can be removed by hand. Finally, still in the original layout on the conveyor, the doors continue through a brushing machine, which takes away any residual glue over-spray and removes any sharp edges or imperfections on all the doors simultaneously as they pass through. Each panel is then manually off-loaded from the off-feed table and visually checked before stacking.

“The only difference for staff was moving from a roundabout to a line press, which slightly alters some of the handling,” says Robert. “All the programs and sequences we

had in the old press transferred easily to the new one.

“It's very, very easy to create a new program. We have a configured set of heat, pressure and time. That's it. The foil manufacturers also give us guidance on their products that we can also enter in the program. Sometimes we have to adjust a few of the parameters but that's about all. What we have now is a much faster, more efficient system and we're very, very pleased with it.”

I realise it's a no-brainer but I have to ask the question: with so many alternatives in the market, why did Robert choose to invest in a Wemhöner and Sittex line?

“The performance of the Wemhöner we already have has been superb and the reliability has been really excellent. The service we've been given by Wemhöner made it not worthwhile to look elsewhere. We know



10: Panels move to the Sittex for scanning.

11: The robot arm is equipped with a single rotating knife.

12: Each door is separated perfectly.

13: Once all the individual doors have been trimmed out, the door set is transferred by conveyor to the third operator position.

14: Unwanted foil from the process is removed by hand before the panels enter the brushing machine.

15: Each panel is manually off-loaded from the off-feed table and visually checked before stacking.

there are other presses on the market but the support we have received over the years makes Wemhöner the only choice for us.

"If it was down to pounds, shillings and pence and we only looked at the initial cost of the press, we'd probably have spent less by going elsewhere but the expertise Wemhöner has in pressing is second to none and the machine we already had has proven itself to be more than reliable over two decades. Finding a comparable company with a machine of that build quality and starting a new

relationship wasn't something we wanted to do. We are a loyal company. Unless there is a real need because of market influences, we stay with our suppliers. In combination with the Sittex machine, we've got a great system that does everything we need. You can't say fairer than that."

For more information on Wemhöner, visit www.wemhoener.de/en or call 07715 994840. For more information on Sittex, use the same number or visit www.sittex.it/default.asp?lang=EN



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Machining microns



David Gordon

Machining to tolerances within 0.025mm isn't typical for panel processing but that's exactly what Grant Westfield needed for its latest Multipanel Collection.

Take a close look at the photograph in the background of this article and from a machining perspective, at first glance you'd probably think there was nothing very remarkable about it. Now take a closer look – not at the joint that runs along the leading edge but at the dark grey line that runs across the surface of the panel and the very edge of it. It's a decorative grout line, cut with remarkable precision in the laminate surface of a fully waterproof bathroom wall panel one of the latest designs in Grant Westfield's market-leading Multipanel Collection, and its production has been made possible by Biesse technology.

Since Edinburgh-based Grant Westfield started manufacturing Multipanel products at the turn of the new millennium, its reputation has become second to none for delivering high performance products on time and to a quality standard that enables the company to offer a 30-year guarantee with confidence on every wall panel that leaves the factory. "We're now market leaders," David Gordon, Operations Director at Grant Westfield Ltd told Furniture Journal. "We are proud of our products, our manufacturing processes and our quality and we have long-standing relationships with the suppliers we use, so everything we produce is well tried and tested. We're also super



proud of our staff and that shows in the end product.”

There is no doubt that wall panels are a faster and more efficient solution than tiles for cladding bathroom walls and the absence of grout lines makes them mould and maintenance free, even inside shower cubicles. Finished with laminate, the choice of patterns, finishes and colours in Grant Westfield’s Multipanel range includes both high gloss and textured finishes. “We tend to find customers like a combination of panels,” explained David. “We offer a lot of décors and our Linda Barker Collection has become one of our best sellers. We launched a Neutrals Collection just as the pandemic started – tones that would support marble and wood effect panels – and at kbb we launched our new Tile Collection.”

Moving into tiles was a shrewd move when you consider the UK tile market is

worth close to £700m compared with £80-100m for the panel market. But creating an authentic tile look that was almost indiscernible from grouted tiles on a wall panel worthy of a place among the Multipanel Collection was far from simple. It would have been relatively easy to create the look within the laminate during the printing stage but David and his team didn’t just want a product that looked like tiles, they wanted one that felt like tiles as well: “We investigated sawing and laser-cutting the grout lines but based on our experience, we knew a CNC would be the better option.

“Historically, when we were in the contract side of the business, we had Biesse equipment on site and a good relationship with Paul Willsher [Biesse’s UK Commercial Director]. Paul contacted me regularly and it just happened that a couple of days after we’d decided to branch out into tiles, he

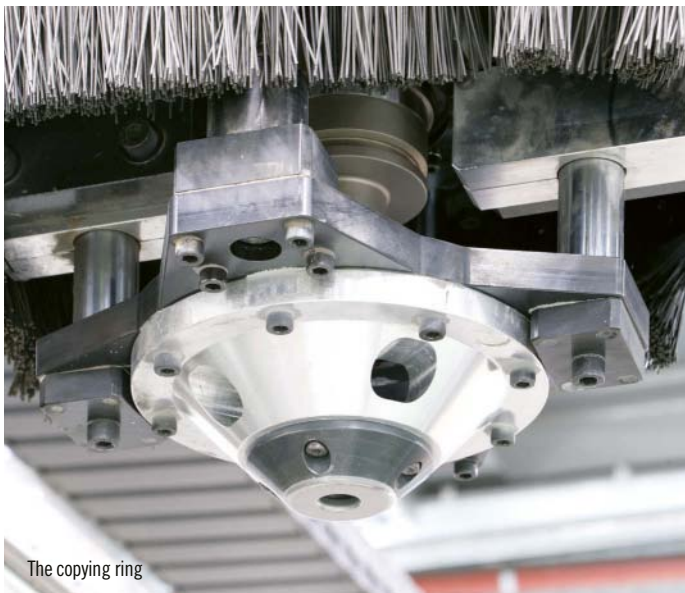
called. Shortly after, he came up to talk us through various options.

“What we wanted to do was take a laminate sheet that had additional layers of material in it and cut through the top layer to create a grout line. We needed precision and consistency to machine accurately through a couple of microns of surface material. The problem is, no matter how good it is, no board is ever completely flat – and to complicate things further, we also wanted to cut grout lines into boards with a textured surface.”

The machine David and his team decided on was a flatbed version of Biesse’s Rover B, a gantry machine with double independent Y-Axis spindles that’s designed to be solid, balanced and, crucially, very precise. A super-high specification wasn’t important as the machine would only need to carry a single tool in each of its two three-axis heads.



Biesse Rover B with Synchro



The copying ring



A single tool protrudes through the centre of the copying ring during the cutting operation

“One of the things we really liked about the Biesse is it has a copying ring. What this does is as the tool moves along, it moves up and down over the static panel. It is constantly measuring how far the laminate is from its reference point so the depth of cut always remains consistent.

“When we first got the machine, that’s one of the things we really had to get right so we created a library of programs we could call up easily. Different panels require different machining speeds, so when we are doing a flat panel, we can machine quicker; when the surface is textured, we need to cut slower because the tool needs to take its time to read the surface and adjust the speed to maintain the depth perfectly.

“We know the thickness of the panel we know the thickness of our laminates and

we know the thickness of the glue we apply but we also know the surface of the panel is not perfectly flat to the micron. The copying tool adjusts as it runs along the length and width of the panel so we get a perfect grout line every time. That’s absolutely essential. The cutting is just two or three microns deep into the texture and if it’s not absolutely perfect the lighting people want in modern bathrooms will show any inconsistency, especially on a textured laminate. In addition, if it were to cut a fraction too deep, the tool would penetrate the next layer in the laminate. It would show as a different colour. That’s how accurate it has to be.”

Aside from accuracy, David also wanted to automate the process so the machine could be operated by just one operator. The

solution Paul Willsher proposed was to add a Biesse Synchro, a loading and unloading device that transforms the Rover machining centre into an automatic cell and enables it to machine a stack of panels autonomously without the need for an operator.

The Synchro is a very easy-to-use add-on that, because the machining centre program also contains the Synchro command instructions, requires no additional input from the operator. “It’s a very easy machine to operate. We place a pack of raw material on an empty pallet, the operator hits start and it does everything else.

“Because we can work two panels simultaneously on the Rover B, the Synchro picks up the panels two at a time and carries them over to the bed. There are metal stops on the bed of the Rover B that are used to



The Synchro operates along a track, loading and unloading two panels at a time.



Boards are separated from a 40-panel stack and aligned against a moving fence.



Board aligners

align the panel perfectly. The Synchro places the panels, aligns them, adjusts them and taps them down gently. Suction from the bed of the CNC pulls the panel down at the same time as the Synchro is returning. The CNC does its job then the Synchro removes the two panels and places them on the finished product pallet. We hold 40 panels in each pallet and the two machines work in tandem until the whole pallet has been machined."

David can't speak highly enough of the service and the training his team has received from Biesse and he effervesces over the engineers who installed it and even stayed an extra couple of days to help them prepare their new launch for kbb.

"The machine was bought during Covid so we couldn't do the factory acceptance test but Biesse was fantastic. We had a full

eight-hour shift with Biesse over Teams so we could run through everything. There were a number of tests we needed them to complete. Biesse were aligned completely to the process, even when we asked them to demonstrate the Synchro working with 40 panels. We also wanted to see specific measurements, so we asked them to machine a specific depth and run along it with a calliper, measuring different points to ensure quality and consistency. Then they went through all the mechanical and electrical aspects of the machine, opening it up and talking us through every aspect. It was a really good process.

"The machines were delivered in February and kbb, where we wanted to launch our new product, was early March. Two guys came over to install it and they

were fantastic; really, really good engineers. They installed it in two weeks. They were super friendly, super helpful and extremely knowledgeable about the machine. I think they were part of the team that built the machine so their knowledge was second to none. During the operator training, we created the product for kbb. The engineers stayed back to help us produce it. They were phenomenal. In fact, Biesse was spot on from start to finish. Everything they said they were going to do they have done. We couldn't be more pleased."

To find out what Biesse could do for you and your company, call 01327 300366, visit www.biesse.com/uk/ or for more information on the Rover B, touch the image marked with a link sign in Furniture Journal's free app edition.



The Holz-Handwerk exhibition took place in July 2022 and its 708 exhibitors attracted around 28,500 visitors.

Presenting its rescheduled 'summer 2022 edition', the Nuremberg exhibition, Holz-Handwerk, attracted woodworking, wood processing machinery and related products from 708 exhibitors spanning 33 countries. Over the four days, around 28,500 trade visitors from more than 100 countries visited the 13 halls of the

exhibition and enjoyed an extensive support programme with topic-specific shows and presentation forums.

Making the most of the fine weather, the window, door and facade community of the neighbouring Fensterbau Frontale exhibition held a grand party on the exhibition centre lawns, while Holz-Handwerk birthday guests celebrated the anniversary of their industry gathering, including a sizeable number who had visited all 20 editions of the event.

Alongside attendees on site, interested parties who were unable to travel to Nuremberg had the chance to take part in the Fensterbau Frontale Forum Online as a live stream. The programme, as well as the

guided tours and a *Practical guide to digitisation for craftspeople* forum were recorded, and the sessions and presentations can be seen at: www.live.frontale.de/en

Commenting on the fair, Stefan Dittrich, Director of Holz-Handwerk, reported, "There was great excitement about this face-to-face reunion in the run-up to the event and this was also reflected by the mood in the halls. We heard a lot of people saying how glad they were to finally be back at a trade fair again."

Holz-Handwerk and Fensterbau Frontale will return to their usual timing from 19 to 22 March in 2024 at the Exhibition Centre in Nuremberg.



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SCM Group Board of Directors. Left to right: Martino Gemmani, Enrico Aureli, Marco Mancini, Valentina Aureli, Giovanni Gemmani, Andrea Aureli and Luca Franceschini.

SCM celebrates

SCM Group marks its platinum jubilee with celebrations in the Oltremare Park in Riccione for the whole SCM family.



With a turnover in excess of 750 million Euros, more than 4,000 employees spread across five continents, three highly specialised production centres and a worldwide operation in markets as diverse as furniture, construction, automotive, aerospace, ship-building, stone and plastic processing, it's hard to think of the SCM Group as a family business. But watch the uplifting video of [SCM's 70th anniversary celebrations](#) on 11th June in the Oltremare Park in Riccione and you'll very quickly realise that's exactly what it is: a family business; a business that involves not just the founding Aureli and Gemmani families, who established the name SCM in the same year HM Queen Elizabeth 2nd came to the throne but also the families of every employee from every corner of the globe whose combined expertise and passion have made SCM what it is today.

Back in 1952, when two mechanical and foundry workers, Nicola Gemmani and Lanfranco Aureli produced their first woodworking machine – designed by Nicola's son, Giuseppe Gemmani – the company was small but the key values they established 70 years ago still hold firm today:

- *The customer takes first place.*
- *Loyalty, transparency and honesty always pay.*
- *Motivation and the happiness of employees are the backbone of a business.*
- *To do things well and be successful, using your head is not enough: you need to put your heart into it.*

Technology has come a long way since the company's first woodworking machine, L'Invincibile, developed into the brand name behind a range of classical woodworking machines and under the direction and watchful eye of successive generations, SCM has grown beyond recognition. But even as a


Adriano and
Alfredo Aureli

SCM Group CEO,
Marco Mancini

SCM Group President,
Giovanni Gemmani

at 70

mere journalist looking in from the outside, it is still possible to feel those core values at work, guiding, encouraging, motivating. I've been there. I've visited many of SCM's production plants. I've met engineers, designers and management, experienced their willingness to find solutions and felt their enthusiasm and their uniquely Italian passion for making the unimaginable possible. And I've had technology explained to me and seen prototypes demonstrated long before they have appeared on the market. The transparency Nicola, Lanfranco and Giuseppe strove for is very much alive in everyday presentations and customer liaisons with today's SCM employees. It's a testament to SCM's management that, even through the difficult times we've all experienced recently, those essential values and strong team spirit have endured. The jubilee celebrations can only have encouraged them to grow stronger.

To survive 70 years in business is an achievement worthy of celebration. To grow an idea into a company that is an acknowledged world leader across so many different markets and industries and make it an international success story is an accomplishment almost beyond words.

The SCM foundry is still one of the Group's companies today. By 1960, Adriano and Alfredo Aureli, sons of Lanfranco Aureli, had joined the company and together with Giuseppe Gemmani they set it on a course for growth that, over the next 16 years, would see SCM develop solid wood machining centres and systems for doors and windows.

By the mid 1980s, the Group had embarked on a campaign of acquisitions that would consolidate SCM's desire for global leadership. First came a merger with the Mahros Group in 1984, swiftly followed by

the acquisition of Minimax in 1985 and Gabbiani in 1986. Two more companies joined SCM in 1987 – the sanding specialist DMC and Morbidelli, with which SCM would enter the panel processing machinery sector. Five years later, the rapidly expanding group branched out into technology for processing wood elements for the housing industry when it acquired Routech and in that same year, the edgebander manufacturer Stefani also became an SCM Group member. The finishing specialist, Superfici was acquired in 2004, followed swiftly by CPC (timber construction) and Sergiani (Presses) in 2006, with Celaschi (squaring machines and lines) the most recent organic acquisition in 2007.

Simultaneously, the rapidly-expanding group was branching out to include plastics, advanced materials, glass, stone and metal processing, both in Italy (when CMS Spa joined the group in 2002) and abroad, most



recently when the German company HG Grimme and the American company DMS became part of SCM in 2018. As a group, SCM now exports over 90% of its production.

Huge investment in product innovation and a far-reaching digital transformation has seen the group grow both externally and organically in recent years – but keeping pace with its investment in strategic acquisition, it's also invested heavily in research and development: 7% of its annual turnover, in fact.

"Not only do we set aside 7% of the group's annual turnover for research and development, we rely on an innovative team with multi-disciplinary skills that allows us to have an open, forward-thinking approach that goes beyond the specific applications of our sectors, once again to the full advantage of

the customer," Luigi De Vito, SCM's Wood Division Director and General Manager explained to Furniture Journal.

"We are also increasing the production capacity of our industrial sites and currently record an average production of 20,000 machines per year. As well as expanding the plants' surface areas, we are carrying out modernisation work – like the work currently ongoing in Rimini – to achieve more eco-sustainable spaces congenial with our human resources.

"Another important driver is the digitalisation of our production lines that sees the spread of lean processes and FCS (Factory Control Systems) in the various plants, in line with Industry 4.0 requirements. The aim is to improve industrial organisation

by enhancing integration of the factory with the IT systems.

"At the same time, we are investing in sales branches abroad. This year, expansion of the new headquarters in Moscow was completed and other investments were made in Canada with the modernisation of headquarters in British Columbia (West Coast) and the opening of new branches in India and Turkey, which guarantee an increasingly direct and capillary presence in strategic markets.

"We are also investing in people, in the skills of our global team at both sales and after sales level and this is where our Campus training centre plays a key role.

"Simultaneously, we are accelerating the digitalisation process of both our organisational models and interaction with



Luigi De Vito with the company's first woodworking machine, L'Invincibile.



the client along the customer journey and in the services we offer. We aim to be even closer to their business needs and devise the best strategy together."

One of the main goals for the future is to make the processes used by SCM customers increasingly smart, efficient and sustainable, optimising production and helping with the development of new projects. "On the subject of sustainability, we are investing both in internal processes as well as products and services to offer solutions that reduce the space occupied in the factory, machining times and margins of error and keep down costs linked to energy consumption and waste of resources and material.

"We have always done this but we are taking a further step to guarantee even more

direct contact with additional consultation during sales and after-sales. This continuous support is of greater value to our customers. It involves a deeper understanding, anticipating and pro-actively making more accurate suggestions to help customers achieve what they really need and calibrating our product and service offers to make them more customised."

Everyone knows the benefits of working with a small, family business. You're guaranteed of experience, dedication and above all, a personal touch. It's reassuring to know there are real people you can talk to when you need support and guidance. Such qualities are seldom to be found in a multi-faceted Group of companies that's focussed on internationalism and growth. But SCM is

about much more than that. A giant of industry it certainly is and its success on the international stage is irrefutable but at its heart, SCM is still a family business that prides itself on innovation and service. The people who continue to drive it forwards still believe in the values of its founders. That's rare. Such stability is both comforting and reassuring for anyone who invests in the brand. But don't take my word for it. Ask SCM's customers. Most are as transparent and honest as they are loyal to the brand. SCM's family values have found a match in them too.

If you'd like to find out how SCM could help you develop your business, call 0115 977 0044 or visit www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/scmwood



Holz-Her's revolutionary SafeDetect technology means no more guards, no more bumpers and no more slow running.



The third generation 'plug and play' Cube 3.



Weinig Group on show



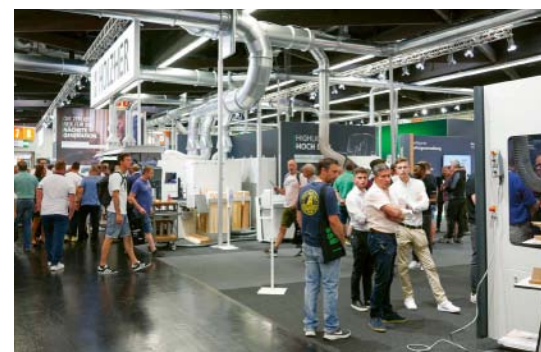
The Conturex Vario XS.

New machines and the latest update to the Weinig App Suite were all demonstrated on the Weinig Group stand at Holz-Handwerk.

Taking centre stage at this year's Holz-Handwerk, Weinig Group exhibited a wealth of ground-breaking technology on its 1,600sqm stand. The interactive stand, which was shared with panel processing machinery specialists, Holz-Her, demonstrated over 30 machines and innovative software and

digital solutions, including the brand-new Cube 3 automatic planer and Conturex Vario XS.

The Conturex Vario XS is the latest addition to the long-standing Conturex range and the most compact to date. Launched in response to current trends in the window market, the XS has been designed with smaller



manufacturers in mind. Benefiting from the same advanced technology used on larger industrial models, the XS offers exceptional machining versatility while benefiting from a remarkably small footprint. It's capable of working with lengths from 175mm to 4,500mm (optional 6,000mm), widths from 20mm to 330mm and workpiece heights up to 150mm. It also features PowerGrip Motion 2D/3D software enabling complete processing in a single clamping procedure and full freedom of the X,Y and Z directions with no additional set-up, making it suitable for batch one and series production as well as 'just in time' manufacturing.

The third generation 'plug and play' Cube 3, which also made its début, has been designed to offer even greater time savings, simpler operation and enhanced standard equipment for an even better price-performance ratio. The trusted model, which was first launched over a decade ago, also offers more flexibility than ever before with performance-enhancing features that can be retrofitted to the compact

planer if/when your production requires them, unlocking the full potential of the machine. From automated stackers to return conveyors for safe one-man operation, your Cube 3 can be tailored to suit your production needs now and in the future, while always guaranteeing perfectly right-angled workpieces.

Also making its début at Holz-Handwerk was Holz-Her's revolutionary SafeDetect technology, demonstrated on the newly extended Epicon CNC range. The introduction of SafeDetect means the operator can benefit from free access to the machine even when it's running at full speed because the space above the machine table as well as the area in front of the machine is monitored for all-round protection. Laser lines projected on the floor in real time continuously show the operator the safe zone surrounding the machine head. If this is encroached, the machine will stop, keeping the operator safe. What's especially impressive is that unlike a machine equipped with a bumper system that needs to run at a slower speed,

SafeDetect allows the machine to run at full speed until it gets within 1,400mm of the operator; then it stops fully when within 700mm of the operator. When safe to do so, it will continue where it left off. And that, we think, is a world first.

Available as a web or mobile application, the Weinig App Suite offers a wide variety of functions to keep you informed, including machine monitoring, trending, OEE, individual notifications and various analysis options. The latest update, which was put to the test in Nuremberg in July, allows interlinked machines, production lines, complete systems and even an entire factory to be operated fully automatically and digitalised from order entry to the end product. With each function individually assembled and selected via a modular structure of the functions, each Control Suite is tailored to the operator's needs for the ultimate Weinig experience.

For more information on the latest innovations from Weinig, call 01235 557600 or visit www.weinig.co.uk

CONNECT EVENT

13 – 15 SEPTEMBER 2022



Epicon Series: The Official Launch

This September, be the first to see the newly extended **Epicon 5-axis CNC** range in action at Weinig UK's state-of-the-art showroom in Abingdon. Watch live demonstrations on the **Epicon 7235** and **Epicon 7135** and explore the benefits of adaptable, 5-axis machining first hand. Keen to find out more? Connect with Weinig and experience all this and more from the **13-15 September 2022**.

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CONNECT EVENTS

WINDOW MANUFACTURING

18 – 20 APRIL 2023

THE SMALLER WORKSHOP

12 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

Event opening hours: 10am - 4pm.
Location: Weinig UK, Abingdon.

CONNECT EVENTS

FIRE DOOR MANUFACTURING

7 – 9 FEBRUARY 2023

NESTING VS CUT, EDGE & DRILL

13 – 15 JUNE 2023

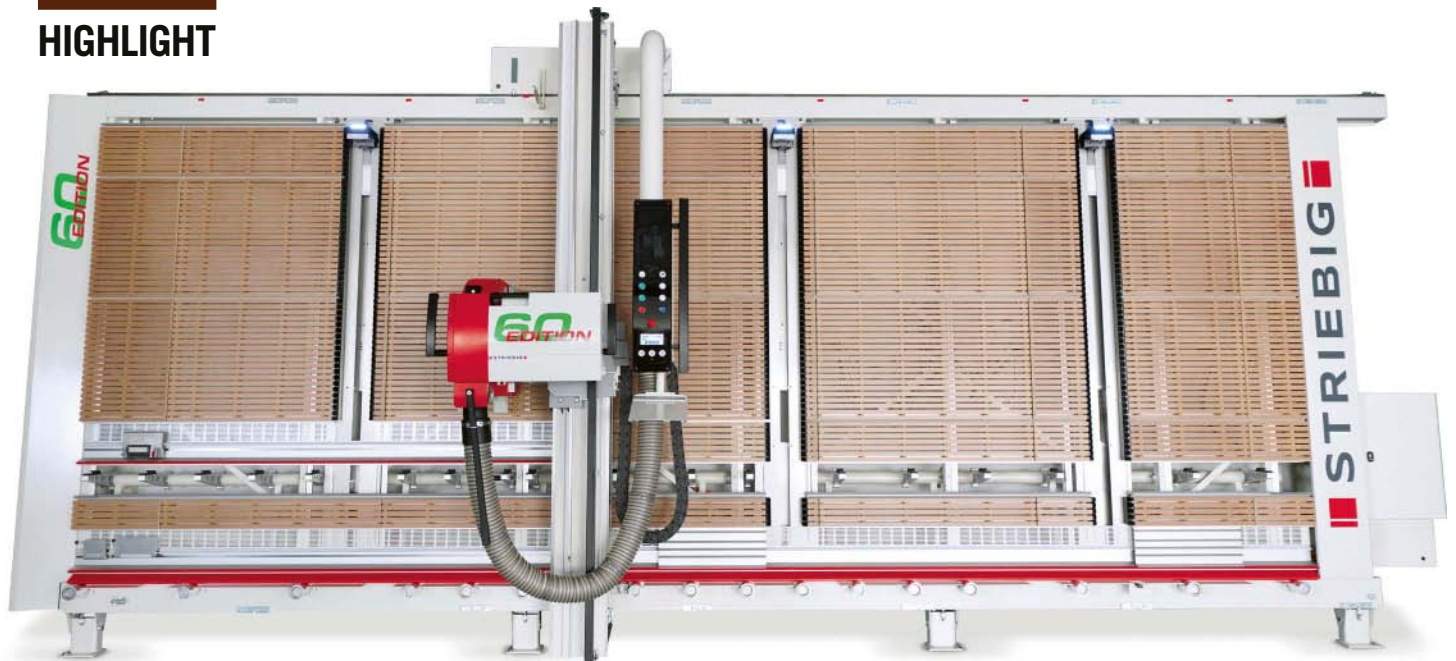
EDGEBANDING TECHNOLOGY

17 – 19 OCTOBER 2023

Event opening hours: 10am - 4pm.
Location: Weinig UK, Abingdon.



To register your attendance and to book your dedicated arrival time please visit **weinig.co.uk**



New from Striebig

Swiss vertical panel saw manufacturer, Striebig showcased its very latest vertical panel saw range and software offering at this year's Holz-Handwerk. With industry 4.0 and digitalisation very much at the forefront of its presentation, visitors were able to experience the very latest cutting technology alongside a new warehouse management system, Optistock at the four-day event in Nuremberg.

Making its European debut, the Edition 60 vertical panel saw took centre stage. Designed with single-operator use in mind, the new model, which is exclusively available in the UK through TM Machinery, centres around an integrated panel-lowering device (PAV) comprising two panel-lowering units that position each panel automatically. This process eliminates the need to rotate the sheet by hand during the cutting process, reducing handling.

The Edition 60 is suitable for use with panels up to 3000 x 2159mm and weighing up to 160kg. A third lifter can also be added for cutting large format panels up to 5000 x 2150mm that weigh up to 240kg. The new PAV system is also quick, offering an impressive feed rate of 5m/min under load and 10m/min without load.

To demonstrate how simple it can be to integrate a Striebig vertical panel saw into your operational data flow, visitors were also given an opportunity to see Striebig's latest optimisation software on its Compact and 4D models. ExpertCut allows you to take on parts lists from conventional CAD or ERP systems and optimise them directly at your office workstation. You can also use the program to process and manage orders, materials and parts lists quickly and easily.

Striebig's brand new Optistock warehouse management module, launched at Holz-Handwerk and part of the newly-extended ExpertCut system, is designed to help you manage your external remnant stock. During optimisation, remnants can be allocated to stock and recalled for processing when required. Optistock then adjusts the library of remnants, adding, labelling and numbering any new offcuts as they are created before allocating space in the stock. It is possible to book remnants out manually but Striebig's Operator Station software, which works with a Windows-based PC, provides a simple graphic representation of remnants, making them easier to manage.

For more information visit www.tmmachinery.co.uk

Striebig exhibited its Edition 60 vertical panel saw at Holz-Handwerk and launched Optistock, a brand-new warehouse management module.

BaseCut CON and ExpertCut CON





Daltons Wadkin

Salvador, Kimla, SCM,
Altendorf, Elcon, Stenner
and integrated factory
systems from the Woodwork
Dust Control Company and
iVision on show from 4th to
6th October.

**WOOD
& PANEL
MACHINERY SHOW**
NOTTINGHAM 4 - 6 OCT 22

Daltons Wadkin is holding its annual Wood & Panel Machinery Show in Nottingham from 4th to 6th October 2022. This year's focus will be on automatic crosscutting and CNC technology and it will showcase the latest innovations from leading European manufacturers including SCM, Altendorf, Kimla, Salvador, Elcon and Stenner.

"Our previous shows have proved a great success with customers," comments managing director, Alex Dalton. "UK national exhibitions are still a way off. Our machinery portfolio continues to go from strength to strength with the introduction of new brands and product lines that we have carefully selected for maximum benefit to the end user. We can't wait to show it all off!"

Salvador, in partnership with Daltons Wadkin, have a proven track record in revolutionising furniture and joinery manufacturing through the installation of automatic and semi-automatic crosscut saws

increasing yield, reducing skilled labour, and boosting productivity. Visitors will be able to see live demonstrations on the high speed SuperPush 250 model with chain infeed and automatic outfeed system, the innovative power of the all new SuperPush 150, the versatility of the SuperAngle 600 for angle crosscutting and the latest range of semi-automatic SuperUp saws.

Exhibiting for the first time in the UK will be the incredible Kimla PowerCut fibre laser. The PowerCut delivers uncompromised performance, maximising the synergy between fibre laser efficiency and Kimla's unique CNC motion technology – a must see for anyone cutting large volumes of sheet metal. The PowerCut will be taking centre stage at the show alongside Kimla's flag ship CNC router, the BPF Industrial. Equipped with a large format vacuum bed, advantageous 400mm Z axis clearance, versatile oscillating knife head and the latest PC-CAM



on show

CAD-CAM nesting software, it will be processing a wide range of materials including wood-based panels, plastics, foam, rubber, non-ferrous metals and composites.

Panel processing solutions, including sliding table saws and vertical panel saws, will also be exhibited, giving customers an objective view of the pros and cons of each cutting method. In addition to traditional panel saws from Altendorf, the brand-new eye-S control system from SCM will be exhibited. With its large colour multi-touch screen, eye-S provides an intuitive control over all powered machine settings and can be used in combination with the cut sequencer function for complex machining. Wifi and USB connectivity allows for 4.0 integration and futureproofing.

The Elcon 155DSXL wall saw offers a host of features available across the range including pneumatic head plunge and tilt, electronic digital readouts, deep 80mm plus

cutting depth and Elcon's patented Limpio dust extraction system. For maximum extraction efficiency, the Limpio system includes a rear dust capture tray with its own secondary extraction point that travels directly behind the saw head whether cutting vertically or horizontally. The point of cut is almost totally enclosed, with the machine extracting dust from both sides of the cut. Dust emission values are reduced to less than 0.5mg/cu.m when connected to a suitable extraction system.

Breathing in wood dust can cause irreversible lung diseases. With the HSE visiting woodworking businesses across the country as part of a targeted inspection programme, it is vital that duty holders know the established health risks associated with woodworking, including wood dust, and have effective controls in place to keep workers safe and protect their respiratory health. Daltons Wadkin will be demonstrating a range

of dust extraction solutions, including integrated factory systems from the Woodwork Dust Control Company and specialist stand-alone units from iVision. The iVision range includes high pressure solutions with advanced filter monitoring – especially effective for advanced materials.

More products will be announced over the coming weeks including band resaws, edgebanders, spindle moulders, planers, moulders, mortisers, bandsaws, radial arm crosscut saws and more. The show will run across three days, 4th to 6th October, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Visitors are requested to make an appointment where possible to ensure demonstration availability.

For more information on the Wood & Panel Machinery Show call 0115 986 5201, email info@daltonswadkin.com visit www.daltonswadkin.com/oh22 and follow Daltons Wadkin on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Twitter and YouTube.

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When performance matters

The boom in sales for the furniture and woodworking industry means more than ever, furniture makers and industrial woodworkers need a reliable partner to equip their CNC machines with the right cutting tools.

Freud, an Italian brand widely known for its long-standing presence in the premium cutting tool industry, offers an extensive range of solid carbide router cutters – named SCH – that have been designed to meet the high performance requirements of many demanding applications.

The result of innovative developments from Freud, a company with a 60-year history and a reputation for intensive R&D, SCH provides optimal solutions for sizing, plunging, grooving and drilling, not just on soft and hard wood but also on other materials such as chipboard, MDF, laminated panels and plywood.

Freud's in-house production of TiCo Carbide – a special mixture of Titanium and Cobalt Carbide, unique to Freud – is the main component of SCH. For the router cutter range, a special high-performance formula known as H05MG has been engineered. This provides a higher level of

hardness and tenacity for the greatest resistance to wear and impact while ensuring a sharper edge. Extended lifetime, decreased router cutter breakage and, consequently, a considerable reduction of machine downtime make these tools a cost-effective investment.

Besides tenacity, the SCH range provides versatility without compromising on quality. Leveraging its technological know-how, Freud has engineered new geometries and helix designs for different applications. The upcut, the downcut and the compression helix guarantee superior finishing on the lower edge, on the upper edge and on both edges of the panel. There are different geometries for different applications but all are designed to provide superior cutting performance and impeccable results.

The SCH range currently includes 250 items in diameters ranging from 3mm for detail processing up to 20 mm for roughing operations. The range will be further increased by 50 new routing tools by the end of the year.

Visit www.freudtools.co.uk to discover more about SCH range and Freud's cutting tools.

For high performance and longevity, take a closer look at Freud's 250-strong SCH cutting tool range.



Freud's solid carbide router cutters for sizing applications.

60mm cutting depth and
mitre cuts of 45° in solid
panels of up to 40 mm



Hot knife through butter

**Festool launches its new,
more versatile and safer TS
60 K plunge-cut saw.**

The new TS 60 K plunge-cut saw from Festool “cuts wood like a hot knife through butter” and is claimed to be safer and more versatile than ever before, setting new standards for plunge-cut saws.

Thanks to the unique KickbackStop technology, the new saw minimises the risk of injury, protects the workpiece and makes work safer. “Our best plunge-cut saw is now even safer because our unique KickbackStop not only protects the workpiece, it even minimises the risk of injury,” says Simon Illing, application engineer and master joiner. “Our new TS 60 K is highly precise, safer and delivers excellent results.”

So how does it work?

In the event of a kickback, the KickbackStop is triggered by the saw blade jamming during sawing or plunge-cutting into the workpiece and stops the saw blade faster than the blink of an eye. A particularly practical feature is that once the KickbackStop has been triggered, the saw is ready for use straight away without replacements or additional costs.

With the TS 60 K, Festool has created its most versatile plunge-cut saw yet and its 60mm cutting depth and compact design

make it particularly versatile. It is even possible to saw mitre cuts of 45° in solid panels of up to 40 mm – and the guide rail can also be used. “The entire accessory system around the TS 60 K really demonstrates its versatility in day-to-day use. What’s particularly great is that the new plunge-cut saw can be combined with all cross cutting guide rails,” Simon adds.

Festool has considered many other details, such as easy saw blade changes, a splinter guard, an angle stop, a parallel side fence and precision depth adjustment with a double pointer – and because of its latest-generation brushless EC-TEC motor, the TS 60 K is not only powerful, it’s virtually maintenance-free. The maximum speed of 6800rpm ensures ideal machining, an effortless feed rate and, as a result, the best cutting quality. It can make precision cuts in solid wood and will efficiently size large panels while reducing user fatigue.

The new TS 60 K, like all Festool tools, is covered by Festool Service, which includes repair orders, warranty claims, protection against theft and spare part availability. It will be available at specialist retailers from October 2022. For more information visit www.festool.co.uk/@576724





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Partnering with Mirka

In close partnership with Eli-Chem, Mirka's technical team solves a wood and resin sanding and polishing problem for Iluka.

Eli-Chem, an independently-owned formulator and manufacturer of epoxy and polyurethane resin systems, has been around for over 50 years and during that time the business has witnessed the growth of epoxy resins across multiple sectors, including furniture. This evolution has been driven by businesses wanting to create unique products that have a glass-like finish and stand out in the marketplace.

To achieve a high gloss finish is often a labour of love, so Eli-Chem is keen to assist its customers in any way it can. This is often

through the development of processes with its key partners such as Mirka (UK) Ltd.

To create a glass-like finish, the Mirka technical team was invited to Eli-Chem's workshop to explore different process options and after several sessions a process for the resins was developed. It features Abranet® ACE (80-800 grit) and Abralon® J3 (1000-4000 grit) abrasives employed on a Mirka® DEROS and Polarshine® polish, applied using a Mirka® polisher.

According to Scott Ticehurst, Eli-Chem Resins Ltd's key account manager, "Since we



Matt finished American Walnut and Grey Resin table with brass base.



Every piece Dan creates is a unique combination of wood and resin.



started working with Mirka, we have found that it has the best products for the job and having access to them is a massive asset for one simple reason: it has enabled us to create the perfect finish for sanding and polishing resin. In addition, a lot of our customers use Mirka's products and because the process we have developed is tried and tested on our products this instils them with confidence.

"Working with Mirka has also allowed us to offer a full service to our customers. We are able to sell them the resin they require for the project along with the consumables to achieve the required finish from Mirka's portfolio. There is a synergy between Mirka and Eli-Chem because we both want to offer our customers a quality product to get the job done right and you can see this through what customers like Dan at Illuka London have achieved."

Illuka London is run by Dan and Sarah Bullen-Webb and the business produces one-of-a-kind hand-made pieces, which range from tables to lights and accessories. Each build has its own unique aspects and what the couple wanted to achieve was two distinct finishes for the products they make. The first finish is what Dan describes as highly polished; it is used on decorative tables that are created using a mix of wood and resin that would not look out of place in an art gallery. The second finish is a hard-wearing matt. Each finish brings its own unique style to the table but depending on the end use, Dan recommends a specific finish to the client.

The main issue he faced when sanding resin was to ensure a dust-free work environment – not just to achieve a consistently high-quality finish but also for health reasons – and that's what Mirka products give him.

Working with a mix of wood and resin demands a versatile tool and abrasive. The combination of a Mirka® DEROS sander and Abranet® ACE abrasives is perfect. Dan starts with an 80 grit and finishes with 320 grit; then, for the polished finish, an 80 grit followed with a 2,000 grit prior to polishing. "The constant communication with Mirka about various process options has allowed me to devise a process that I know helps create one-of-a-kind products that stands out from the crowd," says Dan.

"My projects are constantly evolving. I want to use tools and abrasives that evolve with them. That's what Mirka offers. Since I started using them, I have not looked back and I would recommend Mirka to anyone."

To find out how Mirka could benefit your business, or to discuss a sanding issue you are having problems with, call 01908 866100 or email marketing.uk@mirka.com



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