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2024 Online Resource Guide

http://resourceguide.woodshopnews.com

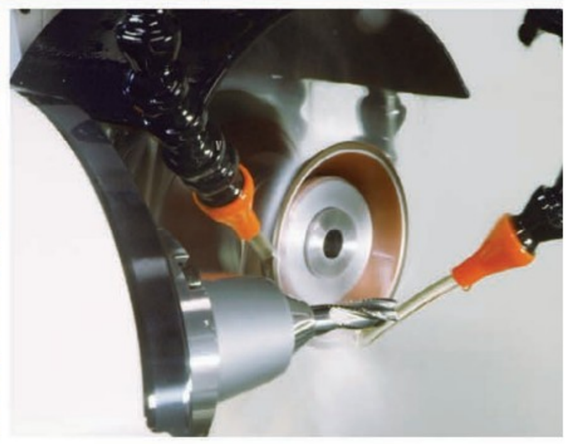
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Cabinotch acquires KCD Software

By Tod Riggio

Cabinotch, producer of the RTA Cabinotch Cabinet Systems, announces the acquisition of **KCD Software**. The company said that the strategic move marks a "significant step forward for Cabintoch Innovative Solutions' commitment to better serving the needs of woodworkers and cabinetmakers worldwide."

As part of the acquisition, Cabinotch plans to enhance and expand KCD Software's offerings.

"We are thrilled to welcome KCD Software into the Cabinotch family," Phillip Crabtree II, CEO of Cabinotch, said in a statement. "This acquisition represents a significant step forward in our mission to revolutionize the woodworking industry through innovative software. By combining Cabinotch's patented manufacturing solutions with KCD Software's design expertise, we will empower woodworkers with the tools they need to thrive in today's competitive market."

"While embarking on this journey of acquisition, it was paramount for us to find a partner who not only shared our vision but also honored and upheld KCD Software's core values. In Cabinotch, we've found not just a buyer, but a collaborator who is committed to nurturing our legacy, taking care of our customers, and supporting our employees. This partnership ensures the continuity of our values and the preservation of our legacy as we move forward together," added Tim Murphy, president of KCD Software.

Supreme Cabinetry Brands, which includes Dura Supreme and Bertch, has announced a pending acquisition by **MasterBrand**.

"The combined company will represent the most diverse manufacturer of residential cabinets in North America, with an expansive range of brands that broadly targets stock, value, and premium price points, through multiple channels, in framed and frameless construction," the company said.

"With the addition of Dura Supreme and Bertch, MasterBrand broadens its position in the highly regarded, premium cabinetry segment, with an enhanced dealer network. Additionally, Supreme brings a strategically located facility footprint with ample capacity to support growth."

The sale is expected to be finished during the third quarter of 2024.

SCM announced that Fabrizio Anzalone is taking over the management of its U.S., Canada, and Mexico subsidiaries.

"Anzalone is a dynamic and accomplished executive leader with over two decades of experience in driving growth and success within the industrial sector and spent the last three years leading the SCM France subsidiary," the company said in a statement. "His career trajectory spans across various roles in locations including Europe, the United States, and Brazil, each marked by transformative leadership and strategic foresight.

"Anzalone's objective is to continue the action led by his predecessor Giuseppe Riva with the support of the SCM North American team to continue the growth and development of the Group in the American, Canadian and Mexican markets." **w**

WOODSHOP NEWS
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By aligning training programs and skill standards with industry needs, the NWB and WCA hope to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary to launch successful woodworking careers.

NWB & WCA are working together

By Jennifer Hicks

The National Woods Board (NWB) and the Woodwork Career Alliance of North America (WCA) have announced a strategic partnership aimed at advancing the next generation of professional woodworkers in North America.

This collaboration underscores both organizations' commitment to aligning educational programs with industry standards, promoting career opportunities, and cultivating talent within the woodwork sector, according to a statement from the WCA.

The NWB will incorporate the WCA's skill standards and credentialing program in the woodworking curriculum it is preparing for use by high school and post-secondary woodworking programs.

The five-year agreement also calls for the NWB and WCA to promote each other's programs to raise awareness among schools and industry.

"I am excited to officially launch our partnership with Woodwork Career Alliance," said Thomas Allott, chairman of the NWB. "Our education system needs a structured education and credentialling system that is built by industry to give students the opportunity to make a career in wood product manufacturing, and this partnership helps fill that need. Workforce development and finding skilled employees is the number one challenge that wood product manufacturers face daily and currently there isn't a pipeline of skilled employees ready to step into these positions. This partnership will empower suppliers, manufacturers, and educators to help build the next generation of educated, competent, and confident employees. The WCA has helped lead the industry in industry-vetted skill standards. The National Woods Board feels grateful to be a part of the accomplishments to come."

"This collaboration not only strengthens our commitment to excellence but also underscores the value we place on industry alignment and accreditation," commented Amanda Conger, executive director of the NWB. "By integrating the WCA's esteemed credentialing program into our curriculum, we are not just raising standards, we're opening doors of opportunity for aspiring professionals in the woodworking industry. Together, we are shaping a future where skill, knowledge, and credibility intersect to drive innovation and success."

"Our partnership with the National Woods Board represents a significant milestone in our efforts to strengthen the woodworking workforce and elevate industry standards," said Scott Nelson, president of the WCA. "Together, we will provide the next generation of woodworkers with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. By pooling our expertise and resources, we can address the challenges facing our industry and unlock new opportunities for growth and innovation."

To kick off the partnership, the two groups are laying the groundwork for a pilot program. High school woodworking instructors throughout the country are being invited to try out the NWB's Foundations in Woods Manufacturing 1 curriculum that incorporates the WCA skill standards and credentialing system, in their programs this fall. The objective of the pilot program is to receive instructors' feedback that can be used to help further refine the curriculum and make it even more scalable. Instructors interested in learning more about potentially participating in the trial should contact Amanda Conger, executive director of the NWB, at *director@nationalwoodsboard.org*. **W**

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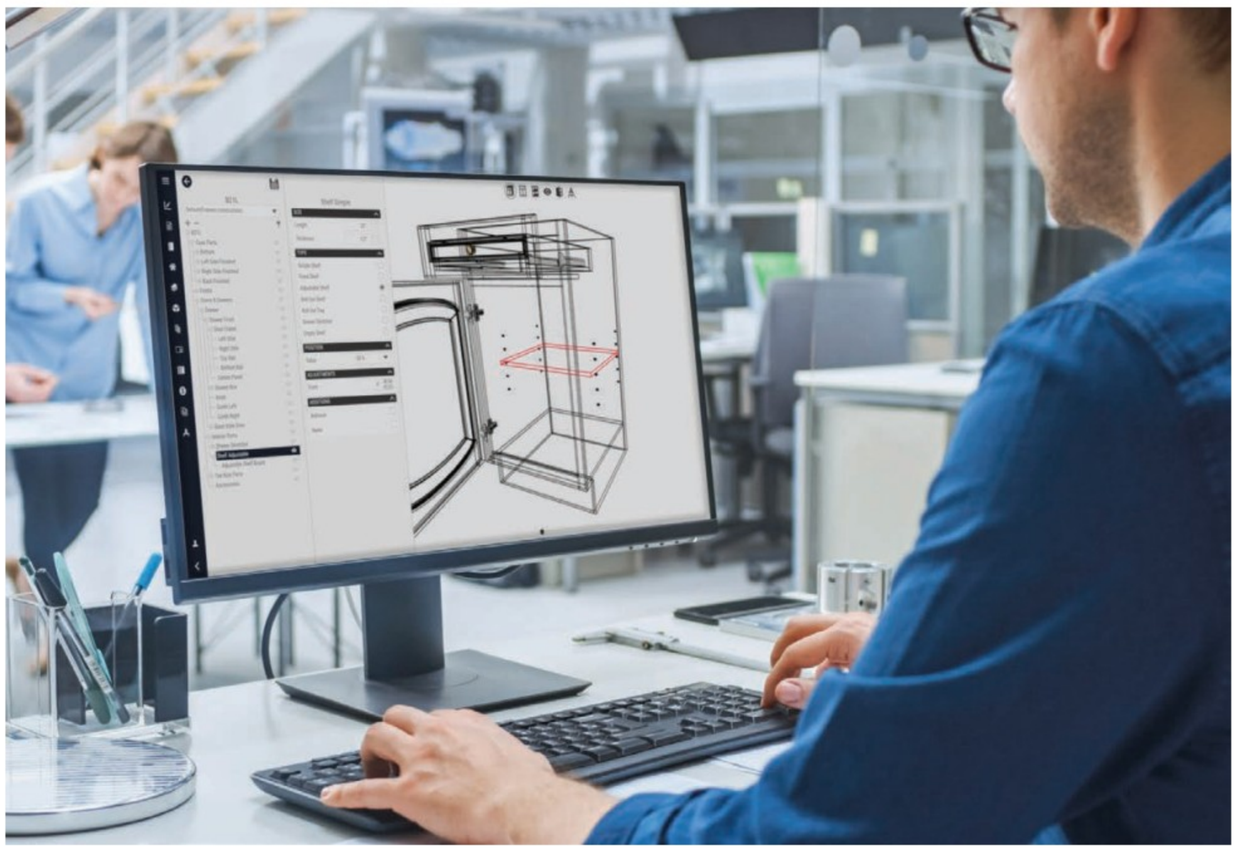
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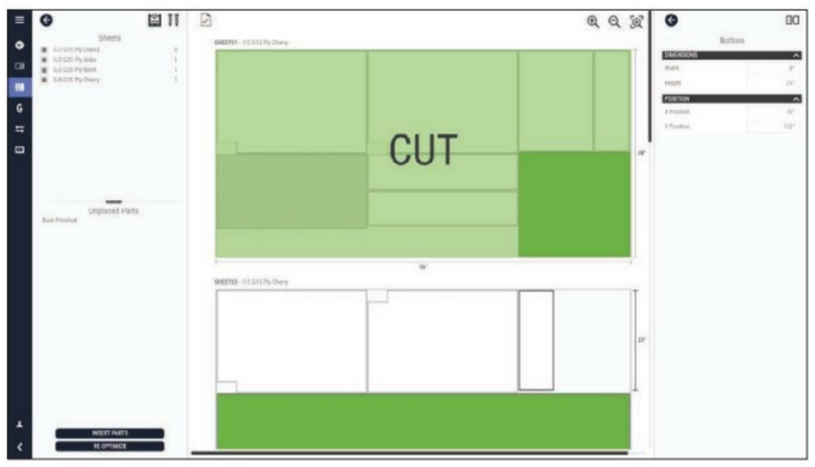
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IWF to feature over 1,000 exhibitors

By Jennifer Hicks

There should be plenty to see and learn at the 2024 International Woodworking Fair (IWF) in Atlanta.

"At just over 90 days out, IWF 2024 proceeds on course toward a positive showing August 6-9 at Atlanta's Georgia World Congress Center," the IWF said in a statement to Woodshop News. "With progress marked by continuing demand for exhibit space and registrations pacing ahead of plan, the show is on track to present North American woodworking's largest product mix in Halls A, B, B-C and C.

"The IWF 2024 floorplan currently contains 1,046 exhibitors of which 297 are first-time participants."

This year's show will offer special hours in Hall A, which will open before the other halls at 7:30 a.m. daily, and an extensive Education Conference program, including full-day symposiums on Aug. 5 and approximately 60 seminars on business management, manufacturing and design, marketing and business development, workforce maintenance and organizational culture, and other topics during the regular show hours.

The show will also feature Design Emphasis, a furniture design competition for college and university students, and the Challengers Distinguished Achievement Award program that recognizes exhibitors who have developed innovative technology in products, services, or manufacturing techniques that will advance the industry.

The show is now owned by the Wood Industry Association (WIA), a new organization formed from the merger of the Woodworking Machinery Industry Association (WMIA) and Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA).

"The merger of WMIA and WMMA, effective January 1 (2024), into the Wood Industry Association means that we truly represent all aspects of distribution for machinery and equipment in the wood industry in North America. WIA members represent the most innovative domestically manufactured and imported technology available in the marketplace today. We couldn't be more excited about IWF '24 this summer in Atlanta," says Fred Stringfellow, CEO of the WIA.

Register and learn more at *iwfatlanta.com*. **W**

C.R. Onsrud hosts factory demo day

By Jennifer Hicks

C.R. Onsrud, a manufacturer of CNC machining centers, brought together its manufacturing team, vendors, and over 200 prospective customers and distributors with a factory demo day event on May 8.

"It's a lot of fun for us and a great networking opportunity for all of us in the manufacturing community," said Thomas Tuck, the company's regional sales manager. "We get to hear about challenges manufacturers are facing in different industries and discuss solutions together."

Visitors toured the factory while production was in full swing and the company's new 67,000-sq.-ft. They viewed demonstrations, attended seminars, and had the opportunity to speak with third-party CNC automation and tooling vendors.

Learn more at *cronsrud.com*. **W**

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AWI to roll out credentialing program

By Jennifer Hicks

The Architectural Woodwork Institute (AWI) is starting a new wood industry credentialing platform, among other industry education initiatives, as a solution to help solve labor shortage issues and raise general awareness about woodworking career opportunities. The online learning platform, designed for those with emerging careers in the wood industry, will officially launch Sept. 23 at the AWI's annual convention in Amelia Island, Fla.

"The idea behind it is to try and be an educational resource for woodwork manufacturers and suppliers. What we're wanting to do is start at ground zero, so we're assuming participants have no woodworking background, no formal training, any of that, and just start building a foundation from there so they can build a career in this industry," says Doug Hague, CEO of the AWI.

"We know that a lot of the public high schools and those kinds of settings no longer have traditional wood classes anymore, and people graduating out of public and private school systems have zero wood experience. But what's cool about kids in this day and age is they have an aptitude to work with their hands."

The program will begin with the Principles of Woodworking as the first course, free to anyone who would like to participate. Subsequent courses will be offered to AWI members as a benefit. Principles of Woodworking will cover 17 topics, including joinery, sanding, hardware, fasteners, adhesives, and more. It will include dozens of instructional videos, offered in English and Spanish, and a quiz at the end for the credential.

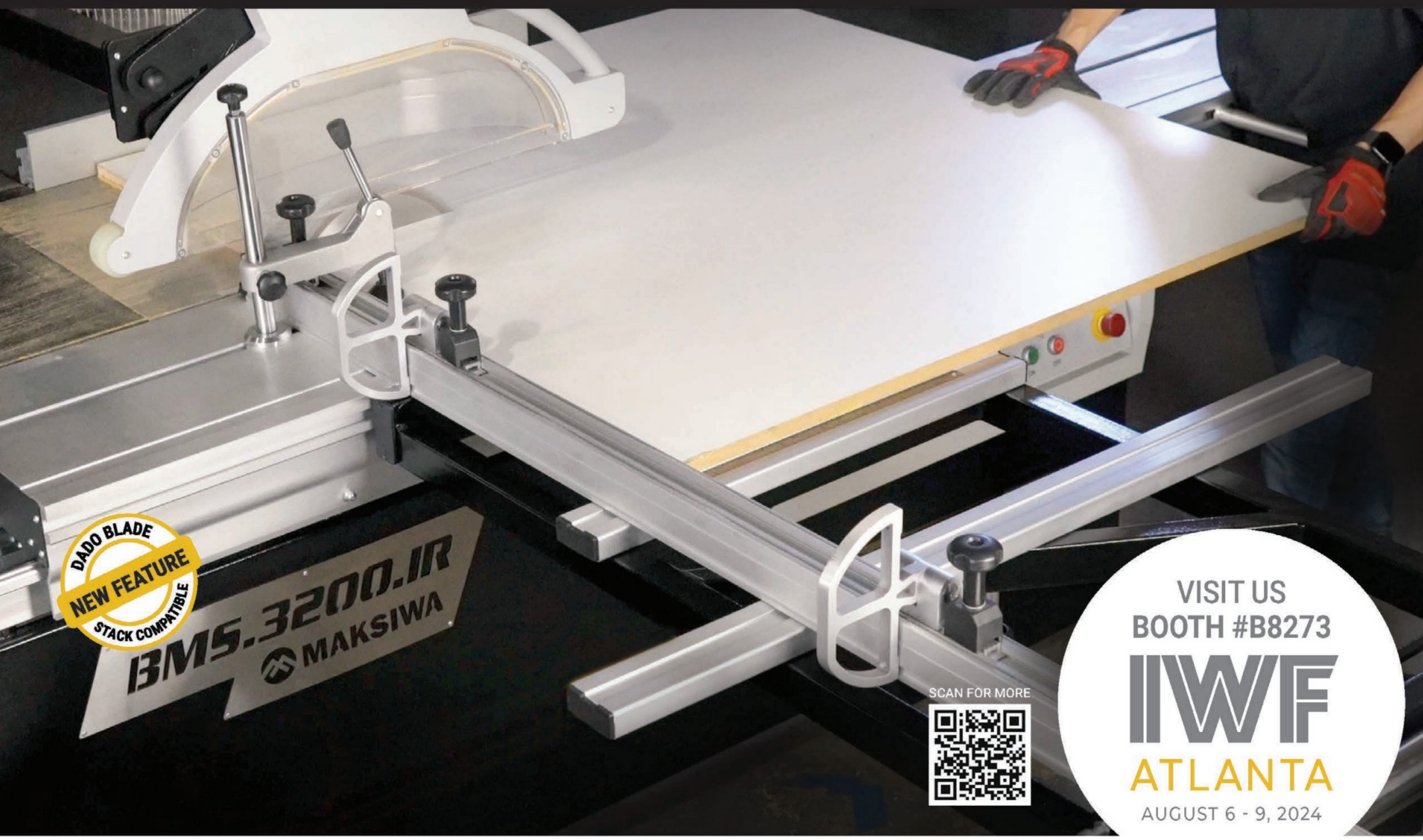
"It will be a starting block for everybody, so we know we're on common ground," says Hague. "We respect the Woodwork Career Alliance's machinery credentials and the path they provide for our industry. AWI just sees another area to serve. While we're calling this an industry solution, I know that it's going to take many people to fill the labor shortage void. It truly takes all of us. We're focused on the knowledge-base side of woodworking and credentialing learning."

The AWI has also announced a new format for its Education Outreach Seminar Program. Offered twice a year at various locations, the content has been revised and shop tours have been added. Coordinated by AWI education director Adria Salvatore, the first updated event was held June 3-5 in Cincinnati and featured seminars on financial management, estimating, project management, and contracts.

The AWI is also adding week-long woodworking boot camps at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kan.

Learn more at *awinet.org*. W

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Walnut remains a top seller

By Jennifer Hicks

Despite higher prices, there's strong demand for black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). Sales are neck and neck with white oak and hard maple, according to suppliers interviewed by Woodshop News.

"Walnut has continued to be a top mover for us. It's in the top three every year, every quarter," says Clint Dillon of Steve Wall Lumber in Mayodan, N.C. "We have seen a bigger increase in customers wanting superior walnut, which is just a heavier color grade and has a minimal amount of sapwood. That's really being driven by our customers doing custom tables and custom countertops."

"The regular straight-line (walnut) lumber is as hot as ever and people are using it for everything from furniture to countertops," says Josh Nozick of FreeState Timbers in Timonium, Md.

"Live edge, generally, I think is now on the decline. A friend of ours runs a sawmill and produces live edge material, and he's seen the live edge on the decline as well. Of the live edge, walnut is still one of the most popular species."

Nozick adds that while availability of FAS lumber is not an issue, pricing keeps increasing, depending on length and thickness. He says wholesalers are charging extra for longer, wider boards where they haven't in the past.

"The FAS retail is running anywhere from $14 to $16 per board foot for 4/4 through 8/4. Availability of 10/4, 12/4 and 16/4 is still good when you get into those heavier cuts, there could be a retail of anywhere from $17 to $20 per board foot. I've even seen it as high as $22 with somebody selling 16/4.

"The one issue in terms of pricing that we're going to have to now start dealing with is several of the large mid-Atlantic/Northeast mills and concentration yards, as of April, are now starting to charge even more for width and length. So, it used to be if I ordered 200 feet of random width or length the price was 'X', and if I needed 10-footers or all 12-footers it was still the same price. Now it's going to be an upcharge if I need all twelves."

Doug White of Doug White Hardwoods in Marissa, Ill., sees similar pricing trends with black walnut, which he attributes to inflation and demand.

"Pricing is very high, just like (with) white oak. They're both hot items and they're both going up in price," says White. "We've been selling more walnut this year than we have for a while." **w**



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Operation is simple with clearly marked push buttons, a large display and all the advantages of pinless meter technology.

NKBA GLOBAL CONNECT STAGES VIP TOUR AT EUROCUCINA

The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA), representing nearly 50,000 North American kitchen and bath industry professionals, and the owners of the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show, hosted an "Americans in Milan" program at Eurocucina 2024.

"Eurocucina, launched in 1974 as bi-annually integrated trade show at Salone Del Mobile, has established itself as the leading international kitchen and bath design event. The show takes up multiple major halls at Fiera Rho, outside of Milan, with the combined shows seeing well over 200,000 visitors, 80 percent of whom are from outside of Italy," the NKBA explained in a statement.

"NKBA Global Connect's aim was to enhance the show experience through a curated VIP tour for North American designers, buyers and media that were already in town, offering an opportunity to meet with leadership of established and new-to-market international kitchen and bath design brands and participate in in-depth educational tours and new product presentations.

"The aptly named 'Americans in Milan' tour was a new way for NKBA Global Connect to demonstrate the association's commitment to connecting the international kitchen, bath, and residential design community."

Learn more at *nkba.org*.

NATIONAL WOODS BOARD COLLABORATES WITH NEXT STEP OF WEST MICHIGAN

The National Woods Board (NWB), whose mission is to replicate and proliferate the successful model implemented by the Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab (The MiLL) in Colorado Springs, Colo., on a national level, says it was pleased to participate in recent open house at Next Step of West Michigan.

"Next Step, a social enterprise non-profit, hosted the event to celebrate the inauguration of their new space for the wood product manufacturing education program," the NWB explained in a statement.

"Next Step is dedicated to providing job skills training and employment opportunities to community members who have been marginalized, yet are determined to forge a brighter future. This initiative resonates deeply with NWB's mission to empower individuals and communities through woodworking education and vocational training.

"In collaboration with Kent ISD, the school district for Kent County, Michigan, Next Step is participating in a piloting program for the NWB curriculum, slated to commence this fall. Through this innovative partnership, local students will benefit from enhanced educational opportunities and practical skills development in woodworking."

"We are proud to align with Next Step and support their vision of fostering inclusion and empowerment through woodworking education," said Thomas Allott, Executive Chair for NWB and Director of Talent for Stiles Machinery. "This collaboration underscores the crucial role of community support in advancing trades education and expanding the industry. As we unite to nurture this partnership, we eagerly anticipate its positive impact on the growth and development of skilled trades. Together, we are shaping a future where the trades sector thrives and flourishes."

Learn more at *nationalwoodsboard.org*.



Festool adds router & cordless combo kits

By Jennifer Hicks

As part of its summer line-up of new products, Festool USA introduces the limited edition 1010 REQ-F-Plus router and light module kit as the company strives to make product selection easier by pairing important accessories as a package unit.

"The enhanced router incorporates features that are intended to make professionals' work more efficient and enjoyable," says Rick Bush, senior product marketing manager.

"It has an LED light module that provides a clear view of the workpiece and router bit by eliminating shadows, improving visibility and clarity for users. It can be used with an edge guide or free hand, and its compact design makes it easy to maneuver for a wide range of applications, including routing profiles, grooves, and dovetail joints."

The kit sells for $559.

Festool is also presenting two limited-edition cordless combo kits and a new level.

The cordless kits pair the CTC MIDI dust extractor with the TSC 55 track saw or the KSC 60 sliding compound miter saw. They sell for $1,349 and $1,699, respectively.

"The Festool Level is a lightweight spirit level ensures accuracy within plus or minus 1.0mm. Crafted from durable, naturally anodized aluminum, and featuring Festool's iconic blue and green color scheme, it's also designed to next inside a Systainer3 handle."

The level sells for $65.

Learn more at *festoolusa.com*. W



Festool's 1010 REQ-F-Plus router with LED light module.

Courtesy of Festool



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Oneida updates Direct Drive series with new 7.5-hp model

By Jennifer Hicks

Oneida Air Systems introduces the 7.5-hp Direct Drive Industrial Cyclone Dust Collector, which will be on display at the 2024 IWF in August.

"The Direct Drive is the name of our industrial dust collector series for shops running multiple woodworking machines simultaneously and processing large volumes of material," says Oneida's Michelle Kelley. "These systems range from 7.5 to 20 horsepower and from 2,514 to 6,646 actual CFM, providing continuously high suction power and unbeatable filtration performance.

"Throughout the years, we've updated our package offerings and made design improvements to this series, such as our patented Spunbond filter stacking system."

The machine also features a steel cyclone separator, magnetic starter with overload protector, cast-aluminum impeller, real-time filter efficiency pressure gauge, and angle-iron frame stand.

Customers can choose between 230- or 460-volt power and waste disposal options.

The collector has a base price of $8,895. Learn more at *oneida-air.com*. **W**

Courtesy of Oneida

New cordless brad nailer from Milwaukee

By Jennifer Hicks

Milwaukee Tool introduces the M12 Fuel 18-gauge brad nailer, a lightweight tool designed to access tight spaces.

"Weighing only 4.6 pounds when paired with our M12 RedLithium 2.0 battery, the M12 Fuel 18-gauge brad nailer provides an ergonomic design and the lightest weight of any cordless brad nailer allowing more productivity on the jobsite," the company said.



Courtesy of Milwaukee

"Without the battery, the brad nailer weighs 4.2 pounds, and measures 9.8" long x 9.4" high x 3.1" wide. Equipped with a nitrogen air spring drive system, the tool allows users to sink 5/8" to 1-1/2" brad nails. Paired with an M12 CP2.0 battery, it provides over 700 nail fires on a single battery charge and zero ramp-up time. For additional run-time, it's fully compatible with all Milwaukee M12 RedLithium batteries."

The brad nailer, model 2541-20, also features Milwaukee's PowerState brushless motor and RedLink Plus intelligence hardware and software. It sells for $249.

Learn more at *milwaukeetool.com*. **W**



WCA TO PRESENT TRAINING WORKSHOP AT IWF

The Woodwork Career Alliance will conduct a workshop at 2024 IWF addressing the industry's ongoing challenge to recruit, train and retain productive woodworkers.

The session will focus on developing or improving an in-house training program. Learn more and register at *iwfatlanta.com*.



Are you listening?

Automation with AI and robotics is making a lot of noise in the woodworking industry

By John English

David Bowie once noted that "tomorrow belongs to those who can hear it coming". Apparently, woodshop owners have good hearing. Casework and furniture manufacturers are undergoing a transition from traditional machines to automation, and hands-on labor to robotics. Prescient shop owners have accepted technology as a viable solution to the scarcity of affordable skilled employees, and that places them in the forefront of the new industrial revolution.

In the past, such revolutions meant more jobs. This is the first one to reverse that trend, which is a profound concept. Robots, and the artificial intelligence (AI) that is just beginning to drive them, are altering our workplaces and societal norms. AI is going to disturb the matrix of humanity more than automobiles, the Internet, cellphones or any other precedent technology. And while networking online gave us a means of sharing information, AI can both manufacture and distort the data that we share.

Cobots (robots that work safely around humans and avoid physical contact) are already widespread in woodworking. These machines are evolving rapidly as they tackle tasks that until recently were done by human hands. But soon AI will do the work of human brains, too. Well, somewhat.

The simplest definition of AI is that it allows a machine to both learn and deduce. But machine learning (ML) doesn't let computers 'think' in the sense that we do. Our thought patterns are obviously influenced by facts, but they are also nuanced by emotional responses, belief systems, traditions, conventional mores, societal norms, and both individual and group experiences and dynamics. AI makes deductions based only on stored data. Some of its reasoning uses estimated values to jump gaps, but none of it depends on emotion or intuition. This limited intelligence is known as 'narrow' AI. The concept of an artificial intelligence that can actually think, using both reason and perception, is still in the future. That is called artificial general intelligence (AGI), and the technology to support it is in the pipeline but not yet viable.

AI IN THE WOODSHOP

When narrow AI is used to track operations and monitor or control machines and processes, it does so by



following sets of rules (algorithms) that were originally created by a human. Some AI operations can contribute to and alter the algorithms, creating a more effective and efficient path to garnering results. The algorithms learn by finding patterns in existing data. The more they see repetitive data, the greater their assumption of predictability. In other words, if every door that has passed through a CNC in a certain job gets an ogee edge, then the AI program assumes that all future doors need to be milled that way. But if 12 percent of the edge treatments are something else, then the program will assume there is only an 88 percent chance that the next door will conform, so it will need another variable to complete its deduction. That might be CAD input, or a manual change on the controller, or a barcoded label that gives it direction.

Providing instructions for the algo-



Courtesy of Biesse

The Robotically Operated System (ROS) from Biesse can sort panels by job, cabinet or size while unloading a CNC.

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rithm is known as supervised learning. But machines can also learn without supervision. They do that by sampling. For example, AI tools such as clustering or association might be used at a sawmill to grade and select hardwoods. The grading could be based on parameters including knots, grain patterns, color and defects. Clustering is a method of data mining that groups items with either similar or different characteristics (for example, knots of a specific diameter). Association simply finds relationships within the data.

Beyond supervised and unsupervised learning, AI also uses a technique called reinforcement to learn as it works. In this case, it constantly changes the parameters of its algorithms by basing its choices on success or failure, and it thereby learns to reduce or eliminate mistakes.

While all of this sounds a little like that old computer adage about "garbage in, garbage out", there is a fundamental difference here. AI will accept the garbage in (poor algorithms or impaired data), but it can actually work on improving the output. It can help reduce human error or oversight by processing vast amounts of data and revealing patterns and probabilities.

So, supervised AI learning is where the operator 'trains' the program, while unsupervised and reinforcement learning are methods whereby the machine essentially trains itself.

AI is currently being used by larger woodshops in areas such as predictive maintenance, analyzing energy usage, tracking waste, optimizing, and managing just-in-time inventory. Indeed, proponents of AI are quick to point out the positive effects of artificial intelligence resource management as a means of lessening the industry's impact on the global environment. More AI means less waste, and thus less pollution.

On a more intimate scale, AI is being used on the production line where generative algorithms can shave seconds off various tasks, and the cumulative effect can be significant time saving with fewer defects. An AI program finds small ways to speed things up, and over time or with many processes, this can have a significant impact on both schedules and budgets.

So, should a woodshop invest now in controls with advanced AI components? At this point, that largely depends on volume. The more production that is running through the plant, the greater the rewards from sampling and processing data. But for smaller shops, some AI will trickle down into controls and software, and eventually the technology will become as affordable as phones and tablets. AI is now about where pagers were before smart phones. There's a lot more coming.

COBOTS IN THE WOODSHOP

As a musician, it's easy to see why David Bowie would tell us to listen

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for the future. But another wise man, Abraham Lincoln, said that the best way to predict your future is to create it. That path is now open to even the smallest of woodshops, thanks to the cobots mentioned earlier. These collaborative robots are both affordable and adaptable, and they can transform a production line.

The main function of cobots is to automate the tasks that woodworkers find boring. These robotic arms are perfectly suited to repetitive work such as sanding, applying coatings, sorting and moving parts, and presenting parts to the tooling on machines. Many cobots are small and light enough for one or two people to move them from one workstation to the next. That makes them ideal for woodshops that produce small items such as advertising specialties, wooden souvenirs, hardwood handles and the like. In cabinet shops, cobots can be set up to perform tasks such as drilling for decorative hardware or panel connectors, gently breaking sharp edges, or perhaps milling edge profiles. One area they really excel in is sanding complex parts, especially when a small detail sander is attached to the arm.

Cobots are surprisingly easy to program. They benefit from having come into their own after smartphones and laptops, in a timeframe where technology has become very intuitive. Many run on simple apps with archeology that is already familiar to most of us. Indeed, many cobots can even be 'trained' by just moving them through the sequence of positions required by the task. They create a three-dimensional map as they move, and additional task instructions (stop here, rotate there) can be input later to build a more refined sequence of instructions.

Cobots shine in the spray booth. Their arm has extensive flexibility, and the 'hand' is far more versatile than a human one. It can swivel and rotate far beyond the range of wrists and fingers. Small shops are discovering that one cobot holding the part and another holding the spray gun is a magical combination. This pairing can dramatically reduce overspra, and address the nozzle at the perfect angle for complete and faster coverage on even the most complex parts or subassemblies.

Cobots are also working wonders with sanders. They can follow the curves of a chair seat or apply delicate pressure on thin veneers. They can be fitted with random orbit or inline sanders, and can learn to apply different levels of pressure, speed or repetition to produce a perfect surface.

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use, cobots also deliver recuperable cost. Most of the cobots being purchased by smaller woodshops cost less (and often a lot less) than an employee's annual wages and benefits. So, they usually pay for themselves within months. And once amortized, they don't usually cost a lot in maintenance. Cobots don't take sick days or coffee breaks, or cause any workplace relationship problems, or quit without giving notice. On the other side of the coin, they don't make creative suggestions or switch tasks instantly if needed, as a valuable employee can. But if a shop can't hire people, then cobots are a solid substitute.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

In May 2024, **Fanuc America** (*fanucamerica.com*) introduced a cobot designed for industrial painting, coating and powder applications. The new CRX-10iA/L Paint works with high-mix, low-volume applications, but also is designed to comply with the most stringent explosion-proof safety standards in the U.S. Woodworkers with no robotics experience can deploy the new cobots to automate painting and coating processes by using "easy-teach" features. The new cobot will be available in September.

Indiana-based **Robotic Solutions** (*roboticsolutionsinc.com*) is the exclusive importer of **CMA Spray Robotics** (*cmarobot.it*), an Italian company that has been working on the evolution of self-learning. It has also created a lead through teach option where, instead of sitting at a computer and programing the robot, a woodworker uses a joystick with a spray gun to coat the first wooden part while virtual reality tracks the process. The resulting program can be edited using a CMA offline programming tool to perfect the paths, after which the robot arm can take over and spray the rest of the job by mimicking the human's movements.

Robotics Solutions also imports robots from **Kuka** (*kuka.com*), which introduced a new large cobot, the KR Fortec, earlier this year. Its arm can lift loads up to 240 kg (529 lbs.) and has a reach of 700mm (27-1/2"). Considerably lighter than its predecessor, it was designed to achieve a lower total cost of ownership. Among the attributes that aim to achieve this is modularization, which means that parts are interchangeable between models. That translates into lower costs for spare part storage. The KR Fortec has two waterproof and (more importantly) dustproof wrists. Plus, its workspace can be expanded using a track system called the LK4000, which can be anywhere from 1.5 to 30 meters long.

Last November, the Danish cobot manufacturer **Universal Robots** (*universal-robots.com*) announced that it will expand its product portfolio with a new 30 kg (66 lbs.) payload cobot. Universal, which has a significant North American presence, says that "despite its compact size, the new



UR30 offers extraordinary lift, and its superior motion control ensures the perfect placement of large payloads, allowing it to work at higher speeds and lift heavier loads." (For reference, a sheet of 1/2" ply is about 50 lbs.) Universal suggests that the UR30 is well suited to tasks such as machine tending, material handling and high torque screw driving.

Among the newest additions from **Homag** (*homag.com*) is the Feedbot D-310. Designed to reduce the overall cell size of workstations, it allows for processing on both sides due to a return conveyor reversing function. It can handle loads up to 60 kg. and workpieces up to 3050 x 1250 x 80 mm (120" x 49" x 3.15").

The Robot Maestro from **SCM Group** (*scmgroup.com*) is a 6-axis anthropomorphic robot with the possibility of an extension to 11 axes. It's ideal for coating items such as window frames and doors. It's equipped with a gun holder tool (seventh axis) and supplied with a brushless motor that allows it to spray all parts of the product. The Maestro can manage spray angles from 0 to 90 degrees and its exhaust recovery system and brush nozzle cleaning can be set by the software.

The **Biesse Group** (*biesse.com*) says that its Robotically Operated System (ROS) is "ideal for rail boring-insertion lines and can be seamlessly integrated with a CNC for the machining of doors with waste and strip management."

Vention (*vention.io*) has developed a system that can automate a woodshop in a matter of days. The company's cloud robotics platform is designed to simplify the design, automation, deployment, and operation of robot cells. The available modules include tasks such as sanding, machine tending and palletizing. Vention offers a comprehensive library of modular components with plug-and-play compatibility. Recognizing that no two shops are identical, the system slots various tasks into the line so that a shop's manufacturing process can be intimately customized.

The unusually named **7robotics** (*7robotics.com*) is an Oregon-based supplier of robotic and automated systems in the wood products industry. The company can design digital twins and 3D models to help its customers better visualize the production process. A digital twin is a computer graphic that accurately reflects the dimensions, shapes and movement of a physical object. So, the designers can build a virtual robotics system for a woodshop on a computer, and that can then become a physical system after the kinks are all worked out.

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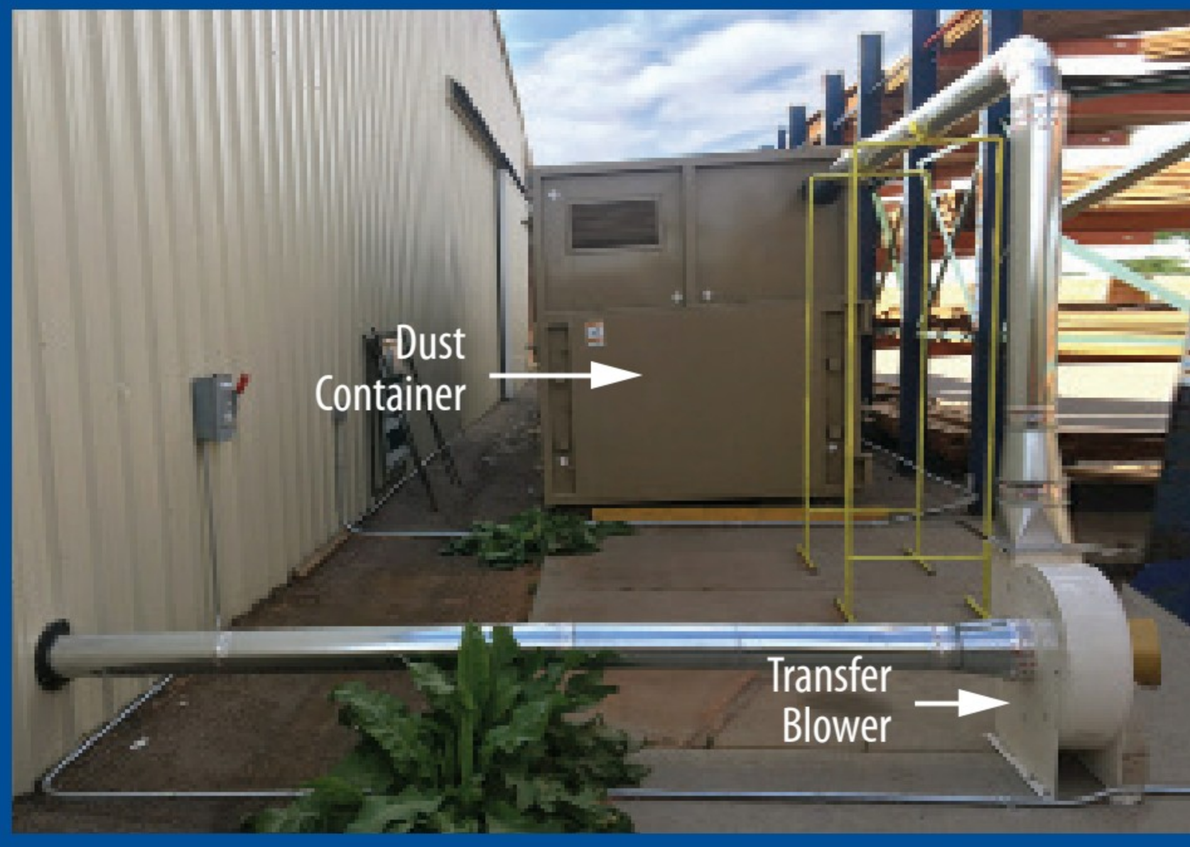
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AutomatechRobotik is a robotics supplier in Quebec that has been working with the wood industry since 1977. In the U.S., it partners with Stiles, Kuka and Biesse to design solutions for woodshops. The company's website (*automatechrobotik.com*) includes a very interesting essay on what is possible today, and what is still science fiction. It's well worth a read for anyone who is contemplating the use of available technology to create a fully interconnected production line. The article describes how parts can be tracked with RFID tags and manipulated by robotics, while everything can be orchestrated and analyzed and optimized by MES and ERP systems.

Located in Pennsylvania, **Ideal Machine** (*idealmanufacturingllc.com*) is a wood processing machine manufacturer that builds products such as a high-efficiency stile-and-rail shaping system, and a double pocket hole machine with automatic screw insertions. That hands-on background has led it into supplying robotics for tasks such as sanding and tending (loading and unloading CNCs) that are specifically designed for custom shops. The company points out that using robots for tasks that workers find boring means that the more important and interesting jobs can still be done by humans without sacrificing quality or volume. Ideal Machine has partnered with Ehst Systems and Controls to form **Penn Lancaster Robotics**, which supplies small- to medium-sized shops with everything from design services to robot learning and programming, and operator training.

Some other innovative names in this field include **Kawasaki, Ferrobotics, Doosan and Lesta**, but the field is expanding rapidly. Visiting a trade show such as IWF Atlanta this August is perhaps the best way to learn about the latest options. What we're going to see over the next few years is an increasingly productive marriage of robotics and AI in the woodshop. As the machines continue to learn and perform more tasks, small woodshop owners may surprise themselves by bringing back some outsourced tasks that they can now automate. And shop owners may also find themselves becoming more creative as their machines begin to think.

Tomorrow belongs to those who can hear it coming. David Bowie heard a very distinct future that included hits such as Starman, Space Oddity and Life on Mars. His vision is rapidly coming into focus with the privatization of space flight and a thermosphere crammed with satellites.

Back here on Earth, cobots and AI are equally revolutionary. But there's no need to listen because they're not coming. They're already here. **W**

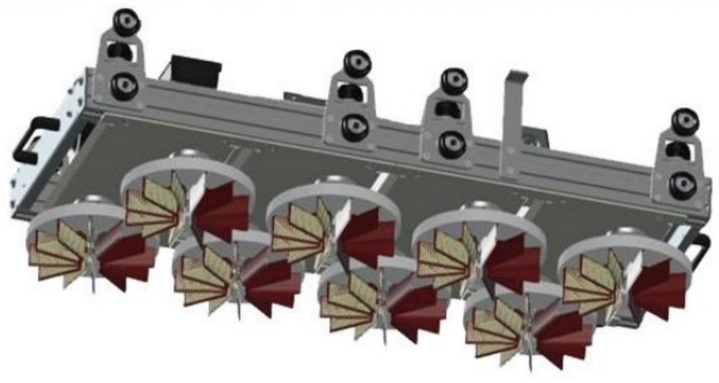
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The new 20" disc sander, model G0967, from Grizzly Industrial.

Sanding Solutions

From the smallest repair to the largest sheet, and from curves to profiles, there's a specialty sander somewhere that can speed up a woodshop's production and deliver better results.

By John English

Specialty sanders come in all shapes and sizes. There's a stationary machine that can sand just about any contour from flat panels to profiled doors, curved edges, moldings or even textured surfaces. There are wide belt, edge, stroke, contour, profile, brush and drum sanders, along with aggregate heads for CNC routers and solutions designed for robotic arms. Whatever a shop is sanding, there's a machine for that. Or an optional upgrade.

The Opera 5 from **Biesse America** (*biesse.com*) is a good example. It can be ordered with up to five optional modules that can be lined up in any order, such as cross-grain or super-fine finishing with pads or brushes, very fine calibration, bulk removal with a helical insert cutterhead, or even special effects that include texturing such as wavy planing and sawmill marks.

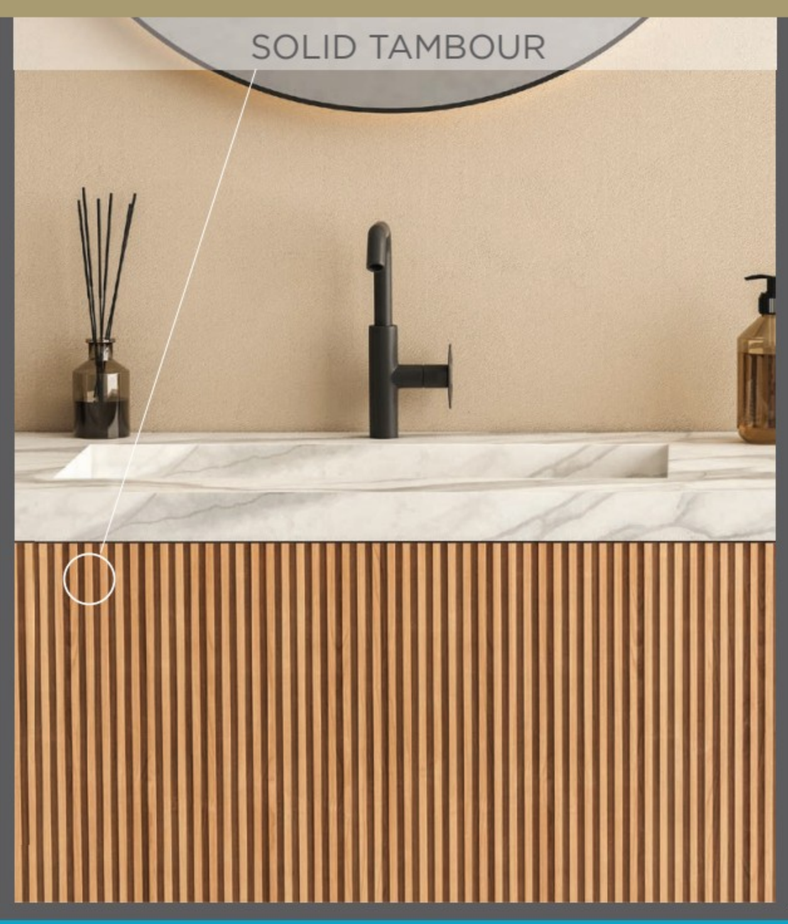
Cantek America (*cantekamerica.com*) offers options that include

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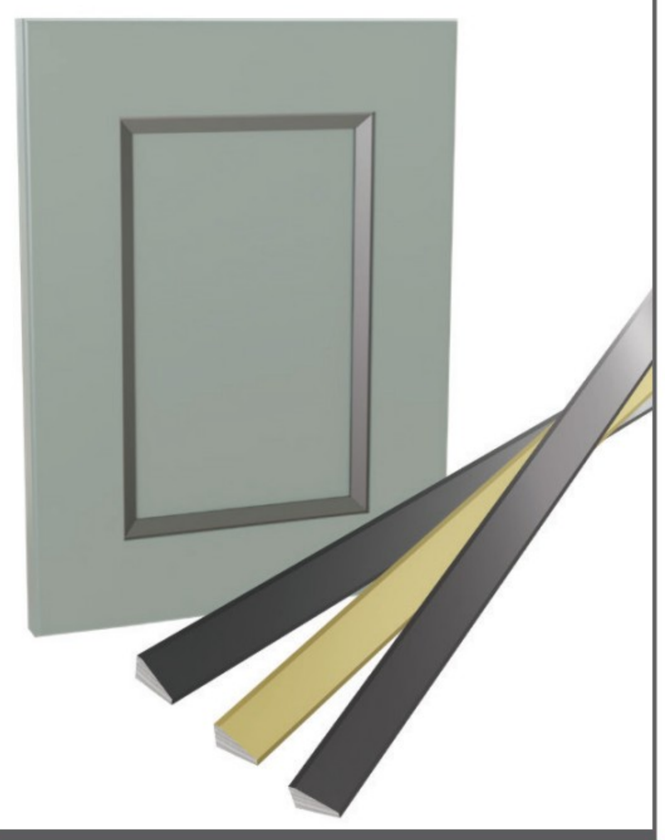
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RT Machine Co. carries the Timesavers MS-12-5 five-head molding and profile brush sander.

brush, edge and planer models, plus 17 different wide-belt units with capacities from 24" to 63". Cantek also offers options of up to four heads, which can speed up processing when a single pass can complete both coarse and fine abrasion.

Sometimes we search for a solution based on the familiar and overlook an opportunity. A shop that works with live-edge slabs or solid edge-glued panels can save a lot of time and get very uniform results with a wide belt sander. But a stroke sander might be a better choice because of its long belt (about 20 feet). The work is placed on a bed that slides across the belt's path and is usually controlled manually by the operator. Pressure is applied with a self-leveling platen so a woodworker can really tailor the finish, applying extra time and pressure in one area and less in another. It works very quickly and can be quite aggressive. A medium grit belt can deliver the same removal rate as a coarse grit belt on a portable sander, in part because the long belt means that heat dissipates and doesn't build up. These machines are generally less expensive than wide belt sanders, and some have high capacities.

Casedei-Busellato (*casadeibusellato.com*) offers the LN series of stroke sanders that will handle work up to 1100mm (43.3") wide and 3000mm (118.1") long, which makes it ideal for large items such as entry doors, countertops, desktops and dining tables. They are available from JKL Machinery in Brighton, Mich. **Doucet** (doucetincsanders.com) also offers a range of stroke sanders, which are also used in metalworking.

Indeed, specialty sanders are available for almost any task. If a shop needs to sand four faces of a curved workpiece, there's the **Castaly Lobo** SD-HV404BD (*lobomachine.com*), which automatically adjusts for varying widthes and has infinitely variable speed. **The Felder Group** (*feldergroup.com*) offers stroke, edge and wide belt sanders, plus a couple of brushing machines including the new Structura 40.02. This has a pair of 7-1/2" diameter brushes, starting

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with a wire brush that rotates in the same direction as the feed, followed by a Tynex plastic brush that spins in the opposite direction.

The catalog from **Grizzly Industrial** (*grzzly.com*) includes drum, belt, disc and edge sanders, plus a full quota of oscillating spindle sanders for edge work and inside radii. And the company has added a feature-rich 20" variable speed disc sander with a large 12" x 25" table, both X and Y miter slots, cast iron trunnions, a motor brake, a pedestal on/off switch, and a storage area for supplies and jigs. The G0967 has a 2-hp, 3-phase motor with a built-in single-phase inverter.

The Surcare SMF is an unusual sander offered by **Hermance Machine** (*hermance.com*), which has fixed sanding discs and rotating base. The larger 200 model has four 6" diameter hook-and-loop discs and the smaller V4 has four 5" discs.

The **John G. Weber Co.** (*johngweber.com*) in Sheboygan, Wisc., carries a large selection of both new and used machines, including the Cantek E6. This is an oscillating sander with a 6"-tall profile and a 0.82" stroke for sanding the edges of both solid wood and MDF cabinet doors.

Baileigh Industrial (*baileigh.com*), a division of JPW Industries, makes three drum sanders for smaller woodshops that offer an alternative to the cost of investing in a



Northtech's 62618N tilts to 45 degrees and takes a 9" x 158" belt.







The SS/24 spindle sander from Laguna Tools tilts for sanding contours such as bevels on a curve.

large wide belt machine. The middle model, the SD-255, can handle parts up to 5" tall and 25" wide, and runs on single-phase power. It has two drums for different grits and a variable speed conveyor.

California-based **Laguna Tools** (*lagunatools.com*) makes oscillating spindle sanders and belt sanders under the Laguna brand, plus an array of Supermax specialty sanders. These include open-ended and contained drum sanders, plus combination brush and drum units. The SS/24 spindle sander can tilt to 45 degrees for touching up miters and bevels, especially on a curve. It comes with six table inserts and ten spindles for different diameter sleeves.

Among the family of Weber wide belt sanders from **Martin Woodworking Machines** (*martin-usa.com*) is the KSN Compact. With many high-tech features, this machine can quickly be converted to handle lengthwise or crosswise final sanding, so it can be used for calibration and finishing without an extra sanding station.

Mirka (*mirka.com*) makes some interesting spot sanders that, while designed for automotive work, could be quite useful for touch up and repairs on materials such as solid surfaces and moldings. What makes them unusual is that the discs and orbits are restricted, so they can focus in on a very small area where a standard cordless RO tool might be overkill. For example, the AROS 150-B has a 5mm orbit and the disc is only 1.25" in diameter.

Oliver Machinery (*olivermachinery.net*) offers its 6" x 89" edge sander in either oscillating or non-oscillating versions for the same price. For some tasks the non-oscillating version offers more control, while the oscillating model can deliver a better finish and longer-lasting belts. Oliver also makes a larger 9" x 138" machine in either single or 3-phase options.

For drawer box production, the R25814 single-sided oscillating horizontal edge belt sander from **Ritter** (*rittermachinery.com*) has a massive 14" wide belt exposure and a 16" x

Courtesy of manufacturers



144″ ground steel platen. This is the largest of six models from Ritter, which also makes the R258 that runs an 8″ wide belt.

RT Machine Co. (*rtmachine.com*) carries some Northtech sanders including the 62618N, which is also ideal for large runs of drawer boxes. This sander has a 1/2″ stroke, tilts to 45 degrees, and takes a 9″ x 158″ belt. Based in Hughesville, Pa., RT also carries the Timesavers model MS-12-5, which is an unusual five-head molding and profile brush sander.

Rikon Tools (*rikontools.com*) makes nine different light-duty sanders for small shops and hobbyists, including the 50-300, an oscillating spindle sander with a tilting table. And **Safety Speed Mfg**. (*safetyspeed.com*), which is known for panel saws, makes both 37″ and 43″ wide belt sanders that are well suited to smaller woodshops.

SCM Group (*scmgroup.com*) offers a complete range of wide belt sanders to suit every production scenario, from a one-man shop to industrial production. For specialty sanding in smaller operations, the company makes the Formula DG 60 belt and disc sander with a titling table.

Founded in 1906 as a metalworking machine manufacturer, **South Bend Tools** (*southbendtools.com*) added woodworking in 2021 and the line currently includes a 37″ wide belt sander, 9″ x 138″ oscillating edge sander, 26″ variable speed drum sander, 6″ x 108″ variable speed oscillating edge sander, and 6″ x 48″ belt/disc sander with a 12″ disc. Woodshops looking for smaller sanding machines might also want to visit the Shop Fox line at grizzly.com/shopfox.

Stiles Machinery (*stilesmachinery.com*), with locations in California, Texas, Michigan, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, has a vast catalog that includes the UKP Series from Heesemann, a profile sander for the sanding of all side edges regardless of shape. The machine can sand from one side or all four simultaneously. **W**



The Formula DG 60 from SCM has a disc with a tilting table, a sanding belt and a drum sander.

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The shop's milling bay features a 1946 Northfield 16" joiner with a Byrd head.



RENAISSANCE WOODWORKS

This one-man shop in Maryland works well with interior designers

By By Jennifer Hicks

Peter McMahon has plenty of room to roam at Renaissance Woodworks, an architectural millwork and cabinet company in Keymar, Md. He's got a shade over 5,000 sq. ft. of shop space all to himself.

"I've been doing this for almost 40 years and still enjoy coming to work each day, which is nice. We all know people marking the days. I will say it's almost an embarrassment of riches in the amount of space I have. Typically, it would be myself and a couple guys working, but the last three years I've been mostly working for myself. There are a number of people I call on for help and all, and it's working pretty well," says McMahon.

The shop serves the outskirts of Washington D.C. and specializes in elaborate built-ins and stand-alone furniture for a residential clientele.

CHOOSING A PATH

McMahon was born and raised in D.C. and found woodworking after a try at general contracting.

"I originally thought I was interested in being a general contractor. I had a grandfather who was a very successful general contractor who built quite a number of churches in Washington, D.C., and while I was never directly involved with him, the whole idea seemed very interesting to me," says McMahon.

McMahon was a bricklayer for five years after graduating high school. His fate was sealed after getting a job at Woodstock Design in 1982, a defunct cabinet shop in Rockville, Md., where he rose to the position of shop foreman.

"Woodstock Design built freestanding furniture, mostly bedroom and dining room furniture. After starting with them, I felt inspired and consumed by woodworking," says McMahon.

"Then I got hired at a much larger commercial millwork shop, Hill Enterprises, in Gaithersburg, Maryland. We started out doing residential furniture, and it morphed into commercial, serving primarily the Washington, D.C. market. It was a pretty good-sized company with about 40 people working."

In 1994, he established Renaissance Woodworking in Gaithersburg. There, he had up to three employees. The busy location aligned him with the right professional contacts.

"Far and away, the biggest source of my work is the same half dozen



Examples of the shop's work include this curved cherry library, fireplace surround, bath vanity, and custom table.

interior designers and GCs I've been working with for almost 30 years. So, it's nice that I'm not always chasing the work. These connections are really long-standing."

SHOPPING FOR A SHOP

McMahon purchased the property for his home and shop back in 2006, just as real estate prices were climbing in his area. The 5-1/2-acre lot is in a very rural setting.

"I sought an industrial space to buy," he says. "The rent was going up so high where I was. I looked to build. I looked into warehouses, condos, and couldn't find anything. So, I talked to realtors about some more rural properties. Most wanted to show me a barn that wouldn't be approved for what I was doing. Long story short, this property had an old agricultural building on it, and I saw possibilities.

"I talked to my wife, and we bought this and the house. It's pretty rural and was a bit of a stretch from what we were used to, but we had four-year-old twins at the time, and we thought it was a wonderful place, an old historic town, to raise them."

McMahon renovated the three-story agricultural building for a shop. The first floor has three bays, set up for hand tool work and assembly, panel processing, and finishing. There's also a generous office and drafting area.

The extensive renovations, time it took for local approvals, and overall state of the economy affected his business trajectory at the time.

"The financial crisis of the Great Recession changed a lot for me, and I was kind of out of business for 18 months. For some people I was the preferred supplier, but being out for a while as I got new shop going didn't work for them. The timeframe to get things going was really surprising to me, but the county was much stricter on a number of things than you can imagine, and the process was crazy long."

THE D.C. MARKET

McMahon primarily serves the suburban D.C. market, with an occasional out-of-state job. He prefers to work with the same core of designers he's always had. Very rarely does he work directly with homeowners.









"None of us are getting any younger, and a couple of my designers aren't doing as much work as they did years ago, so I am starting to do some work with some newer people. The biggest advantage to working with designers is letting them handle the homeowners because I'm not a sales-type of person."

Most of the work is traditional in style and stained. Some jobs are quite involved and can take over a year to complete.

"I like the longer jobs more than the shorter, smaller ones," he says. "The difficulty is that you still have to service your regular customers. You still have to price and bid. But the designers know what you're doing and know you're somebody that's going to sweat the details."

WHAT'S IN THE SHOP:

SawStop table saw • SCM panel saw and wide belt sander • Powermatic 24" planer • Northfield 12" and 16" jointers • Holz/Her edge bander • Powermatic lathe • Polamco shaper • Yates American 30" 'Snowflake' band saw • Dewalt 16" radial arm saw • Panto Router • Ritter line drill • Blum hinge inserter • Murphy Rogers dust collector • Presto scissor lift • Polar 10-hp air compressor and dryer • American Rotary 50-hp phase converter • Col-Met spray booth

STAYING SOLO

McMahon says for the most part, business is steady every year and he doesn't see any great fluctuations. He's not looking to hire anyone at this point and outsources to keep up.

"The only thing we outsource are some drawer boxes and some doors. I'm installing probably 75 percent of our jobs and the other quarter are contracted through designers and GCs who do their own install arrangements."

He says that when he first moved to the area, he thought there would be all sorts of semi-retired people looking for work, but it hasn't been the case. He isn't interested in automation at this point in his career.

"If I was a younger guy just getting started, I'd probably want to be in a more automated shop just because you want to be looking ahead. Having said that, there's going to be a place for non-automated shops for a long time, just because there are things we can do that is the easiest way to do it."

McMahon is 65 and says he's only starting to consider retirement options.

"I would hope I'm still doing this for another five years," he adds. "The last six months was unusually a little slower for me, but right now we're jam-packed. I'm booked out this year and queuing out into 2025. So, the future looks strong, I would say."

Learn more at *renaissancewoodworksinc.com*. W



McMahon prefers the complex jobs, such as this half-round desk,



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Walk-in closet fabricated with Shinnoki prefinished veneered panels from Hardwoods Inc.

Just scratching the surface

Panel producers continue to innovate with new products and more offerings

By John English

Technology keeps marching onward, and the wood industry seems to stay in step. Our machines are evolving rapidly, but so are the materials they cut, shape and coat. The transition from carbon-based fuel to electric vehicles over the next couple of decades may be one of the biggest factors here. There's a perception that oil-based plastics and resins may become more affordable over time as demand for gasoline declines, and that hints at a whole new array of surface materials.

But there's no need to wait. There are already some very interesting options available to woodshops.

NEW MATERIALS

Founded in 1943, **Richlite** (*richlite.com*) makes a surface material that is very resistant to chipping, scratching or denting. Over time it has evolved into a significantly sustainable choice, now made with 100 percent recycled products while using an exclusive waste-to-energy process. Its core is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper sourced from responsibly managed forests. Layers of this engineered paper are infused with thermosetting resin, then pressed under heat and pressure to produce a solid and stable sheet material that can be used indoors or out.

The new Decorative Collection 24+ from **Egger** (*egger.com*) offers more than 80 décor/texture combinations that come in sheet stock, laminate and edging options. Egger is an Austrian family-owned business with a presence in Linwood, N.C. Its products include raw particleboard, MDF boards, thin MDF boards, thin MDF boards with foils, lacquered boards, thermally fused laminate (TFL), laminates with a colored core, edge banding, and MDF moldings. Egger laminate is made with decorative paper infused with melamine resin and one or more layers of soda craft paper infused with phenolic resins, which are laminated under high pressure and heat.

Duramar Interior Surfaces (*duramar.com*) makes TFL and polymer laminate panels in its 50,000-sq.-ft. Facility in Irvine, Calif. The products are in line with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, and if a project is based in Southern California, products sourced within 100 miles of the jobsite double in LEED value.

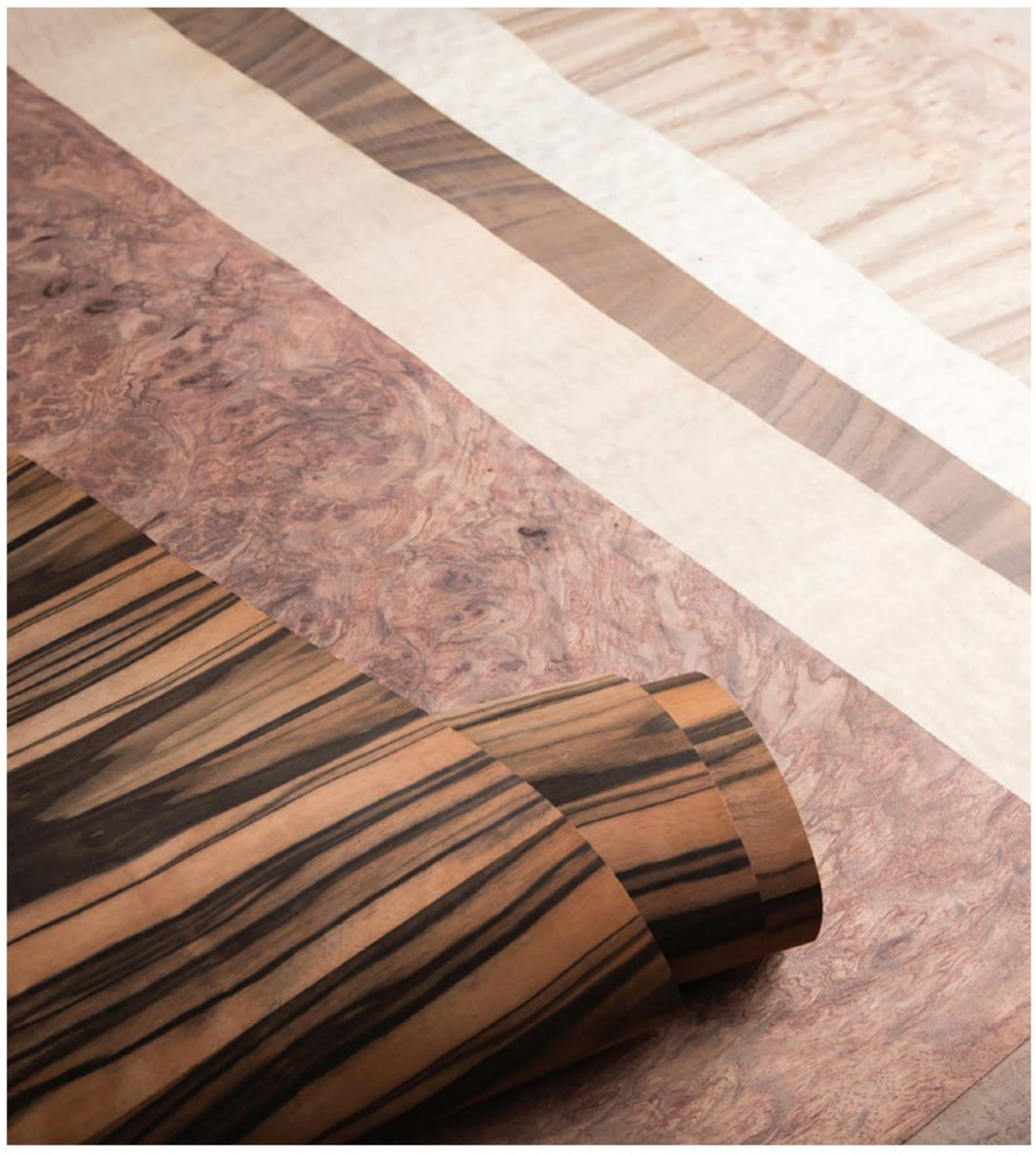
Courtesy of manufacturers

PLYWOOD AND LUMBER

Formwood (*formwood.com*) makes Uni-FormWood reconstituted veneer that features guaranteed color and grain consistency and is surprisingly less expensive than naturally imperfect, real species counterparts. These reconstituted wood veneers are defect-free, identical from sheet to sheet, and are offered on a choice of backers from paper to plywood. And the company's RainboWood product is real wood veneer that's infused with luminous colors. The natural tones are extracted from real wood and replaced with luminous color, while the rich wood grain remains. The veneer requires only a natural sealer or topcoat finish.

California-based **GL Veneer** (*glveneer.com*) offers a huge range of veneer species and substrates — there are more than 880 SKUs. When these are laminated onto the large number of substrates the company carries, GL Veneer can produce over 100,000 possible custom plywood products. And if that doesn't meet a shop's real wood surface material requirements, there's also one of the most extensive collections of live edge slabs in the country, if not the world.

Hardwoods Inc. (*hardwoods-inc.com*) carries Shinnoki prefinished wood veneered panels that let architects and cabinetmakers design and create some very stylish and distinctive interiors. Unlike regular veneered panels, these are ready-to-use and as easy to work with as a melamine



GL Veneer offers hundreds of wood veneers on a vast range of substrates to meet most shops' wood surface requirements.





board. They offer huge time and cost-savings but deliver the unique look and feel of real wood veneer. They use a proprietary mix-match technique to guarantee a continuous look without significant visual interruptions, and they bring color consistency to the entire project. Shinnoki is a complete program including matching panels, veneers and edge banding that are all available from stock in 18 colors.

The mills at **States Industries** (*statesind.com*) can build custom plywood panels to a woodshop's exact specifications. A proprietary manufacturing process allows the shop to customize every detail about a panel, from the substrate to the veneer species, the color, and a NOVA finish.

L.L. Johnson Lumber Mfg. Co. (*theworkbench.com*) makes very large, edge-glued hardwood panels, and also carries Bally Block edge-glued butcherblock counters.

For smaller shops in and around Connecticut, it may be handy to know that **Parkerville Wood Products** (*parkervilewoodproducts.com*) carries a large selection of stock hardwood plywood and sells half sheets in either a vertical or horizontal orientation, for which it charges $6 more than half the cost of a full sheet.

Indiana-based **Superior Veneer** (*superiorveneer.com*) is a manufacturer of sheet veneer and plywood, including thick wood veneer faces, sheets and panels. Superior says its SuperBack Hi-Performance laminate is an alternative to high-pressure laminate or phenolic-backed veneer. It possesses most of the moisture resistance found in traditional laminate, but is more flexible, so sheets are much easier to handle and apply.

On the West Coast, **Talbert Architectural Panel & Door** (*talbertusa.com*) offers oversized veneered panels, veneer sheets and UV finishing. The factory also makes 90-minute fire doors and cut-to-size parts and panels.

IMAGINATIVE SOLUTIONS

Distributors such as **Kencraft** (*kencraftcompany.com*) and **Anderson Plywood** (*andersonplywood.com*) offer a phenolic-coated Baltic birch product that has two faces that are coated with a heat-bonded, colored, translucent phenolic film. This reveals the grain (less so in darker colors), and delivers a smooth, glossy and hard surface that is resistant to abrasion, weather, moisture, and many household chemicals. Anderson notes that "the panels are rigid and often used for making jigs and tooling, as they are extremely durable." They are also used for desks, table tops, shelves, fittings for kitchens, offices and shops, garden furniture, signs and billboards. There are currently nine colors available.

Kerfkore (*kerfkore.com*) is familiar to woodworkers as a supplier of bendable substrates that let shops build curved reception desks, but the company also makes two foam-core, lightweight panels. The denser version, Worklite XPS Foamkore, has recently had an update to a more environmentally friendly format. The panel is very customizable as it can be cut to a smaller size or extended to meet special orders. And the company can also manufacture it with surfaces such as laminate, veneer, metal, leather, or similar semirigid materials, and add custom frames and internal bands to save customers time and resources.



Bath and kitchen featuring walnut, espresso and charcoal laminates from Duramar.

Lenderink (*lenderink.com*) has introduced a new composite substrate called Elkboard that is engineered to deliver unparalleled strength-to-weight performance. It's resistance to water absorption and has a sleek, non-porous, No. 38 Dyne surface that facilitates easy printing and lamination. It can be used in many ways including compression molding for intricate 3D projects, or serving as a versatile flat inner-ply or overlay. It's 3D moldable and easy to laminate, cut, glue, print and paint. Stiffer than aluminum, it's 30 percent lighter than maple.

Omnova (*omnova.com*) makes a broad range of 2D, 3D and paper laminates that help woodshops meet their budgets. The company's 3D and surf(x) 3D laminates are used on cabinet fronts, while the 2D and paper products are used on interior and exterior surfaces. There's an app called the Harmony Exclusive program that lets shops navigate through the various options and deliver the same style and design throughout the project while meeting both functional and budgetary requirements. Omnova's surf(x) technology delivers increased resistance to scratches, abrasion, and chemical cleaners, making these laminates ideal for horizontal surface applications such as retail fixtures, work surfaces, counters and tabletops.

For woodworkers who need a lightweight solution and are willing to think outside the box, **Kerr Panel** (*kerrpanel.com*) has just added ThermHex polypropylene honeycomb panels to its catalog. In comparison to traditional materials such as MDF and llywood, ThermHex can offer up to 85 percent weight savings. Polypropylene is a strong and flexible lightweight material that provides optimal mechanical performance in composite Nexos exterior panels from Uniboard sandwich structures. The honeycomb panels are available in thicknesses from 3 mm to 28 mm, and in sheets with a maximum width of up to 1400mm. The



Nexos exterior panels from Uniboard resist moisture.





standard panel length is 2500mm, while longer sheets are available upon request.

Sing Core (*singcore.com*) is a new base material for surface materials that is only available under license by the truckload to participating manufacturers. It's a 'green', lightweight and high strength core that is sandwiched between two stress skins, and the manufacturer says it's stronger than steel (660 psi). It's an alternative to cores such as balsa wood, plywood, particleboard, MDF, plastic, aluminum honeycomb, paper, cardboard and foam. A Sing Sandwich comes with a plywood surface material that can be worked with woodshop equipment and can be bonded to other surface materials using standard wood glue. It can be cold pressed, vacuum pressed, hot pressed, cut, sliced or ripped just like wood.

Woodshops looking for exterior surface materials might be interested in the Nexos line from Quebec-based **Uniboard** (*uniboard.com*). The manufacturer makes TFL and HPL laminates, MDF, particleboard, and door cores. Its Nexos exterior panels are made with 100 perecent recycled and recovered pre-consumer wood fiber. They're easy to work with and can be cut, routed and machined to various specifications. Designed and produced with proprietary technical properties that resist moisture, Nexos is ideal for use outside where the panels are not directly on the ground. They are available in North American standard sizes and thicknesses.

Surface materials are fairly inert, so they depend on their substrate for much of their environmental impact status. For example, Roseburg's Duramine is a TFL panel that can be ordered through **Paxton Lumber** (*paxtonwood.com*) and other outlets. It comes on stock substrates that include Roseburg's SkyBlend or UltraBlend particleboard, or SkyPly hardwood plywood or MDF. A Duramine panel can be specified FSC, which may contribute to LEED credits, and it can meet ULEF (ultra-low emitting formaldehyde) requirements if is delivered on SkyBlend particleboard or MDF, or on SkyPly CFC veneer cores.

While natural wood casework will always be popular, there's a global trend toward manmade surfaces. These materials allow designers to add color, texture and detail to flat panels and moldings. Beyond the aesthetics, they also offer a sense of sterility in a post-pandemic world, and a degree of durability and wear resistance that sprayed coatings are perceived as lacking. The impression is that manmade materials are tough, pretty, and safe. But wood is warm and will always have a special place in our hearts. **W**





Maine exhibition shares work of emerging talent

By Jennifer Hicks

"Current Student Work" opened at the Messler Gallery of the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship (CFC) in Rockport, Maine, on April 26 and ran through May 29. The exhibition featured furniture and furnishings by students in the school's flagship Nine-Month Comprehensive course.

"It is a highlight of our year to see the students' journeys at CFC culminate in this showing of such well-crafted work as they venture forward to further influence the field and culture of wood craftsmanship and design," says executive director Matt Hoggle.

Students ranged from 18 to 71 years old and come from backgrounds such as ministry, design, carpentry, education, cabinetmaking, entrepreneurship, and steelwork, according to the school. They included Keenan Blough, Shawn Bowen, Garrett Burridge, Eric Carr, DeWolf Emery, Isaac Feuerman, Bonnie Hawk, Coleen Holden, Maren Jevremov, Jude Moffitt, Bill Tesar, and Hannim Song.

The Nine-Month Comprehensive program is designed for aspiring professional furniture makers and dedicated amateurs who seek in-depth training. The course's lead instructor Tim Rousseau is joined for different parts of the course by co-teachers with specific expertise in casework, carving, drawing, bending, veneering, marquetry, turning, and chair making, among other skills.

Learn more at *woodschool.org*.

Courtesy of Messler Gallery



(Clockwise, from top left) Pieces by Bonnie Hawk, Keenan Blough, and Shawn Bowen at the Messler Gallery exhibit.

DEL GUIDICE: LOST IN THE WOODS

Mark Del Guidice, a woodworker and furniture artisan with a studio in Stow, Mass., will have his furniture and sculpture pieces in a solo show, "Lost in the Woods", at the Fitchburg Art Museum in Fitchburg, Mass. from June 21 through Sept. 8.

"Del Guidice is a long-time participant in the American studio furniture movement, creating one-of-a-kind artworks that meld the expressive potential of contemporary sculpture, the artisanal craft of woodworking, and the functionality of furniture," the museum said.

"His personal aesthetic is grounded in the juxtaposition of diverse woods and surface treatments, a dialogue between two- and three-dimensional elements, and curved forms inspired by nature. All of his artworks include carved surface elements — a system of hieroglyphs that are both symbolically personal, and evocative for viewers."

Learn more at *fitchburgartmuseum.org*. W

NEW PRODUCTS



BLUM
introduces the MerivoBox metal drawer system, which uses just a few components and two color palettes to offer a variety of looks. The MerivoBox can hold up to 170 lbs. of storage goods and can be as wide as 55", according to the company. Learn more at *blum.com*.

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ASHLEY NORTON introduces wood knobs and pulls. Designs include the undulating Wave Pull, the slightly slanted Angled Knob, the twisted Arc Pull, the Craftsman-inspired Rectangular Knob, the circular Yo-Yo Knob, and the bridge-like Modern Pull. Additional ash wood styles are available in a stained black finish. Learn more at *ashleynorton.com*.







DURA SUPREME CABINETRY
recently introduced a collection of Wire Mesh cabinet door inserts. The collection offers three patterns, ranging from a wide double diamond to a tight weave, and is available in four metal finishes (Satin Brass, Antique Brass, Black, and Stainless Steel). Learn more at *durasupreme.com*.



GILASI
a manufacturer of countertops from recycled glass, and CaraGreen, a source for healthy building materials, introduces the new Resort Collection that draws from coastal inspiration and environmental stewardship. Learn more at *gilasi.com* and *caragreen.com*.

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presents a new mechanical construction pencil, the CPM, with a broad, rectangular shaped lead. The flat shape allows for stable and continuous marking, according to the company. Learn more at *sola.us*.



OSBORNE WOOD PRODUCTS
has expanded its product line with 10 Simple Wooden Bracket designs. The collection includes plain corbels with simple curves, as well as more detailed designs featuring several carved elements. Learn more at *osbornewood.com*.

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Organizations sponsoring meetings, classes or shows of interest to professional or hobbyist woodworkers are invited to submit items to *editorial@woodshopnews.com*.

Include name, dates, location, description of event and a contact address or telephone number. Calendar items, which should be typed or printed clearly, must be received at least 60 days before the event.

Please note that fees, as listed, might not include materials or shop fees. Check with a specific class for further details.

— Compiled by Jennifer Hicks

ARIZONA

Aug. 12 - Sept. 5 — Fundamentals of Traditional Woodworking II. Builds on fundamental skills with full instruction on power tools, concluding with a bench with mortise and tenon joinery. Fee: $796. Location: Southwest School of Woodworking in Phoenix. Learn more at *sw-sw.org*.

Sept. 23 - Oct. 31 — Fundamentals of Traditional Woodworking III. Advanced course for students to further develop joinery and shaping techniques, along with finishing. Fee: $1,198. Location: Southwest School of Woodworking in Phoenix. Learn more at *sw-sw.org*.

Sept. 28-29 — Introduction to Woodworking. A welcoming hands-on class for those who want to enter the world of woodworking in a fully equipped shop. Fee: $399. Location: Southwest School of Woodworking in Phoenix. Learn more at *sw-sw.org*.

CALIFORNIA

Monthly — San Fernando Valley Woodworkers meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Highland Hall Waldorf School woodshop in Northridge. *sfvw.org*

Monthly — Society of Wood Manufacturing, a chapter of AWFS consisting of educators, manufacturers, hardware and industrial suppliers, and machinery dealers, meets during the second week of each month. For location and dates, visit *awfs.org*.

Monthly — San Joaquin Fine Woodworkers Association meetings open to all experience levels at members' shops and local conference rooms, alternating between the northern and southern regions of the Valley. For locations and dates, visit *sjfwa.com*.

FLORIDA

Ongoing — The Dunedin Fine Art Center is offering six-week woodturning classes at its Cottage Campus taught by AAW professional member Tony Marsh for beginners and intermediate-level participants. Full-day classes are held on Thursdays. Call 727-298-3322 or e-mail education@dfac.org.

Monthly — Woodcrafters Club of Tampa meets every third Thursday evening at 3809 W. Broad St. in Tampa. *tampawoodcrafters.org*

Sept. 22-24 — Architectural Woodwork Institute's annual convention, featuring networking opportunities, guest speakers, and more. Location: Amelia Island. Learn more at *awinet.org*.

GEORGIA

Aug. 6-9 — International Woodworking Fair, North America's largest woodworking technology and design trade show. Location: Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. *iwfatlanta.com*

MAINE

Ongoing — The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship offers year-round classes in woodworking to the highest degree of craftsmanship. One- and two-week workshops from June through Oct., 12-week Furniture Intensives, nine-month Comprehensive, eight-week Turning Intensive, and Fellowships. *woodschool.org*

MARYLAND

Monthly — The Howard County Woodworkers Guild meets the first Saturdays of the month at the Bain Senior Center in Columbia from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MINNESOTA

Monthly — The Minnesota Woodworkers Guild meets on the second Tuesday of each month at various locations. Learn more at *mnwwg.org*.

MISSOURI

Oct. 2-4 — National Hardwood Lumber Association's Annual Convention & Exhibit Showcase at America's Center in St. Louis. *nhla.org*



NEW JERSEY

Monthly — The North Jersey Woodworkers Association meets the third Monday of every month in. *njwawoodworkers.org*

Monthly — The Professional Woodworkers Guild of Upper New Jersey meets the third Wednesday of every month. *njwoodguild.com*

NEW YORK

Monthly — The Woodworkers of Central New York hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department in Baldwinsville. *woodcny.org*

Monthly — Northeast Woodworkers Association meetings held on the second Thursday of the month at various locations in the Albany area. *woodworker.org*

Monthly — The Long Island Woodworkers meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Frank Brush Barn of the Smithtown Historical Society in Smithtown. *liwoodworkers.org*

NORTH CAROLINA

Monthly — Triangle Woodworkers Association meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Klingspor's Woodworking Shop in MacGregor Village in Cary. *trianglewoodworkers.com*

Monthly — Charlotte Woodworkers Association meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at MakerSpace Charlotte. Learn more at *charlottewoodworkers.org*.

OHIO

Ongoing — Cincinnati Woodworking Club meets the second Saturday in the months of Jan., March, May, Sept. and Nov. from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the E.B. Mueller Co. in Reading. *cincinnatiwoodworkingclub.org*

PENNSYLVANIA

Monthly — Lehigh Valley Woodworkers Guild meets at 6:30 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month at Woodcraft in Allentown. For locations, visit *lvwwg.com*.

RHODE ISLAND

Nov. 8-10 — Fine Furnishings Show featuring handcrafted furniture, art, and accessories for the home. Location: WaterFire Arts Center in Providence. *finefurnishingsshows.com*

TENNESSEE

Nov. 10-12 — STAFDA Convention, an industry event that includes educational programs, seminars, networking and more at the Music City Center in Nashville. *stafda.org*

TEXAS

Oct. 6-9 — World Millwork Alliance 2024 Millwork Convention & Tradeshow at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. *worldmillworkalliance.com* W

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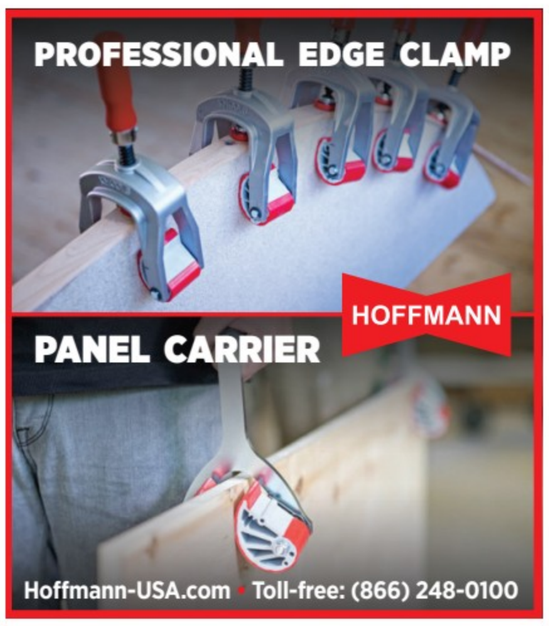
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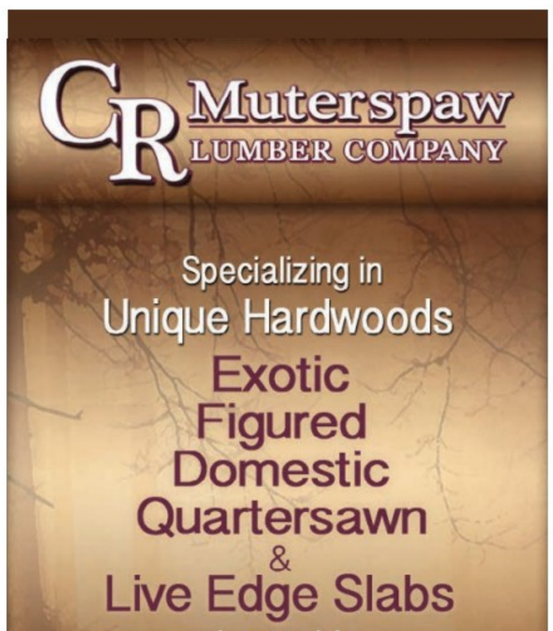
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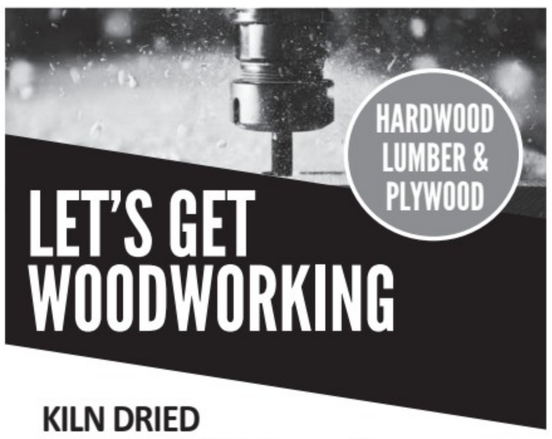
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OUT OF THE WOODWORK







Winners: Twisted side table by Kyle Hagerty, bent lamination chair by James Waugh III, and carved Hand Chair by Lia Parker.

Tried That

Rockler selected three winners in its national woodworking contest, the Try That Challenge.

The contest called for woodworkers of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels to tackle new projects and try new tools and products. The winners — from Georgia, Illinois, and Texas — crafted unique furniture pieces that pushed the boundaries of conventional woodworking, the company said.

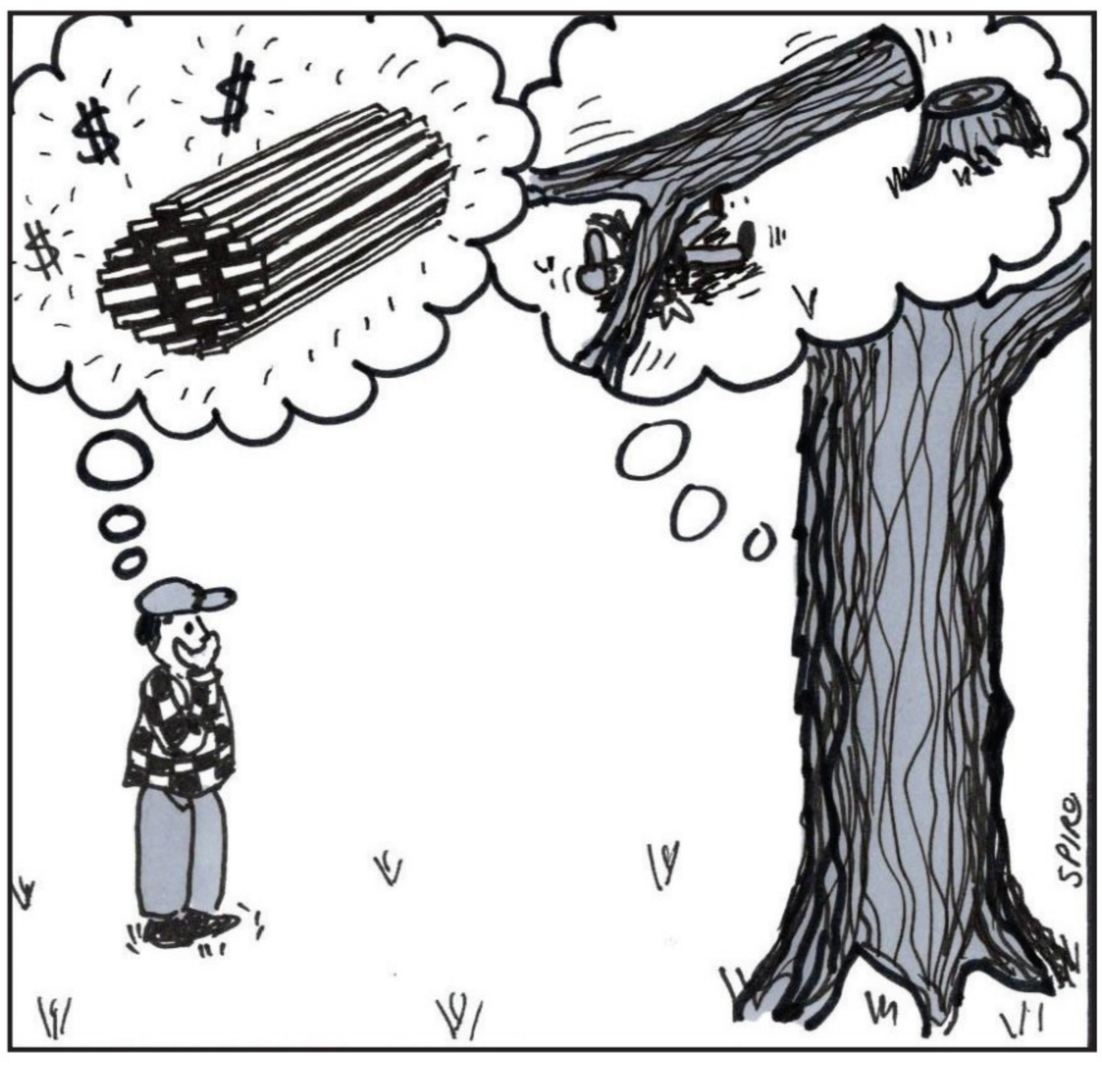
"We were blown away by the creativity and daring that some of these woodworkers brought to the #RocklerTryThatChallenge this year," said Rockler's chairperson Ann Rockler Jackson. "It was so exciting to see people push themselves and try out new skills, tools, and techniques that they might've not otherwise attempted, to raise their woodworking to the next level. Woodworking is all about creativity and passion, and we're glad to see that people brought it with this challenge."

Rockler, celebrating its 70th anniversary, launched the challenge in October of 2023 and received over 1,100 entries, which were judged by pro woodworkers Chris Salomone and Shaun Boyd.

The winners were Kyle Hagerty of Atlanta, Ga.; James Waugh III of Edwardsville, Ill., and Lia Parker of Atlanta, Texas. They received Rockler gift cards.

Learn more about Rockler challenges at *rockler.com*. **W**

60 Grit — **Rough humor by Steve Spiro**



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With patented technology, CSI-1.5D cuts Castle's distinctive, 6 degree, low-angle screw pocket, drills a low-angle pilot hole and inserts a flush screw - all in 1.5 seconds. In customer time tests, CSI reduced assembly time by up to 40%. Produce stackable parts in faster production times, reduce waste, and eliminate non-value-added labor in high-capacity production joinery. Use the CSI-1.5D with composites, panel and hard/soft wood. Optional SideShift Autopositioner, Hi-Lo Plate, and Offset Work Decks. https://castle-usa.com/products/csi-1-5d-pocket-cutter-screw-inserter-machine.html

CASTLE USA
800-282-8338
sales@castleusa.com
www.castleusa.com
Booth: A10213

Production pocket joinery... for any shop.



TSM-30 Series features heavy duty construction throughout, with easy, top-down access for quick tooling changes. Powerful, durable induction motors drive the pocket cutting spindle and high-torque, heavy-duty air motors drive the pilot bit. Cut pockets and drill pilot holes in a single cycle. Designed for continuous, multi-shift production in a broad variety of woodworking manufacturing environments, the TSM-30 Series is available in three different voltage options. Each cuts the patented, 6 degree, low-angle Castle pocket.

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Delmhorst Introduces the New JX Moisture Meters!



The JX meters offer a professional-grade, accurate, and versatile tool to the lumber, sawmill, and woodworking sectors, as well as hardwood flooring installers and inspectors. Perform every job with complete confidence.

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www.delmhorst.com
Booth: BC717

Product Preview: Industrial Downdraft Tables



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Denray Machine
417-466-4046
sales@denray.com
www.denray.com
Booth: A10413

New Product: Automated Cartridge Filter Cleaner



By using vibration, air, and rubber fingers to clean, we can provide a deeper clean than ever before! Simply place your cartridge filter inside the unit and turn it on. The cleaning process will start, rotating the filter during this automated process. The average cleaning time is 3-5 minutes per filter! Each filter cleaning time may vary based on the amount of dirt in the filter.

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For every budget and application, prototyping to production, there's a ShopBot CNC.



ShopBot CNC machines are used for cutting, carving, machining, and milling in a wide array of materials—including wood, MDF, plastic, foam, and aluminum. In the past, CNCs were strictly industrial machines, used only in large factory settings, but ShopBot's innovations in CNC technology has made these powerful machines more affordable and accessible to everyone. Whether you're a hobbyist, looking to boost productivity, or a larger business gearing up for factory-level fabrication, there's a ShopBot that suits your needs.

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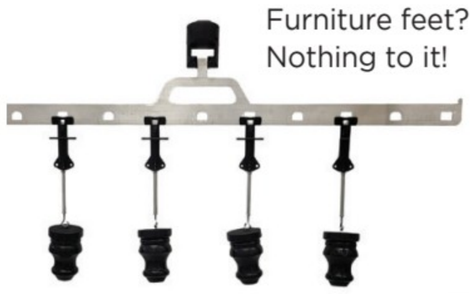
Baseball bats?
Piece of cake!



Corbels?
Certainly!



Furniture feet?
Nothing to it!



Shutters?
Yes!



Drawer fronts?
Easily!



Balusters?
Of course!



Shelves?
All day!



Table legs?
Absolutely!



Cabinet doors?
For sure!



Face frames?
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Trim?
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Interior doors?
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Hang it, spray it, and dry it – all with less material handling.

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Visit us at booth #C2758

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New Products

New MDF Tambour Panels Premiering at IWF



Designs of Distinction® (DOD) will introduce new MDF Plus tambour panels at IWF 2024 Booth #C2562. These panels, CNC'd from MDF Plus, offer increased internal bond strength, making them ideal for intricate machining. Made from 100% recycled wood, MDF Plus meets various environmental standards and certifications. DOD will showcase panels in popular cabinet sizes and styles. This launch expands their USA-made tambour panel line, available in multiple profiles and hardwood species.

Designs of Distinction by Brown Wood, Inc.
888-331-6480
info@brownwoodinc.com
www.brownwoodinc.com/dod
Booth: C2562

New Furniture Feet with Brass Slipper Cups Premiering at IWF 2024



Designs of Distinction® (DOD) will unveil a new line of furniture feet featuring authentic brass slipper cups at IWF 2024 Booth #C2562. The line includes Square Taper Foot, Round Taper Foot, and "Calla" Foot in 6"H and 9"H, available in Hard Maple, White Oak, and Walnut. Each foot includes a 5/16-18" bolt for easy installation. DOD includes screws to attach solid brass slipper cups, available in 4 finishes. Unassembled components allow for easy finishing. Visit Booth #C2562 for a firsthand look.

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Felder Group will exhibit at booth #B7535, where attendees can explore the company's advanced woodworking solutions.

Some of the new machinery that will be at their booth are:

K 945 S with PCS©: A top sliding table saw with a modern design and easy operating element. This technology has already won back-to-back awards, but it is now available in the FELDER range. The K 945 S now includes our award-winning patented saw safety system, PCS©.

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website: www.feldergroupusa,com
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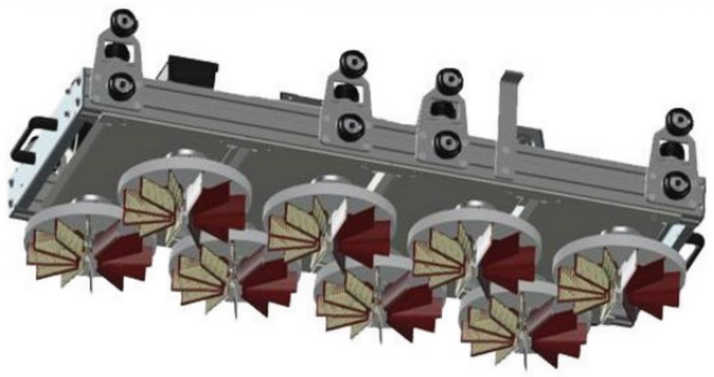
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Felder Group to Showcase Cutting-Edge Woodworking Solutions

Felder Group will exhibit at booth #B7535, where attendees can explore the company's advanced woodworking solutions.

Some of the new machinery that will be at their booth are:

KV 925, advanced Vertical Panel Saw: Felder Group introduces a new range of vertical panel saws featuring user-friendly functionalities like LED status lights, digital measurement displays, and pneumatic beam and head locking systems.

Finebrush Widebelt Sanding Machines: Designed to deliver exceptional finishing results. A line of machines to carry out fine sanding, save time, and avoid unnecessary handling.

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Booth: B7535

New Products

Cup Brush



Gibbs Group North America is pleased to announce the new Cup brush sander from Gibbs-Sandtech in Great Brittan. This sander's impressive size and robust construction highlight its ability to perform both the most delicate of sealer-sanding and general sanding tasks. Features include unique surface 360-degree rush sanding technology, easy LOW-COST abrasive replacement, touch screen display with 6 customizable programs, roto air jets leaving the doors dust free and ready for finishing.

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a.staalner@gibbsgroupna.com,
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Tregarne Woodwelder



The Tregarne Woodwelder is Gibbs Group NA's flagship product. The Woodwelder produces radio waves via a pair of triode valves causing heat within the glue, evaporating the water causing the glue to set in 15 seconds or less at each joint. This process will work using all standard PVA and UREA glue. Along with our line of drying racks, spray tables, and sanding equipment, Gibbs Group has many options for any cabinet shop.

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Experience the power of Maksiwa's CBC.P Edgebander



Experience the power of Maksiwa's CBC.P Edgebander

The Maksiwa CBC.P Platinum Automatic Edgebander redefines woodworking precision and efficiency. This heavy-duty machine packs high performance into a compact design, making it ideal for any workshop. With features like pre-milling, vertical rounding, and a glue scraper unit, it ensures a flawless finish. The XMELT glue pot system and C.A.S.S cleaning agent spraying system simplify maintenance, while the user-friendly PCL Touch Screen Control Panel enhances usability. Upgrade your workshop with the CBC.P today.

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The best-selling BMS.3200.IR is now dado blade compatible! This updated model features enhanced construction and materials for durability and performance. Experience ergonomic design with soft-touch buttons and a redesigned control panel. This sliding panel saw boasts a robust 5HP main motor, available in 1 Phase and 3 Phase 220V options, dual blade covers, adjustable leveling feet, and integrated dust collection.

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The innovative ConnectControl technology from MARTIN



ConnectControl is the umbrella term for the cloud-based, patented control concept that characterises the latest generation of sliding table saws and spindle moulders from German first-class manufacturer of woodworking machines MARTIN.

This award-winning MARTIN invention provides users with a uniquely designed, highly powerful control concept that not only opens up completely new horizons for machine operation, but also unlocks the entire world of modern data exchange.

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MARTIN sliding table saws - centrepiece of your workshop



Are you a professional who loves wood and the precision with which it can be processed? For people like you, we build innovative, reliable sliding table saws to turn your vision into re-



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Commercial pocket joinery... in 1.5 seconds.

Castle's low-angle, 6° routed pockets and patented screw-in-pocket technology cut labor time in half, providing you with stackable parts that are ready for quick assembly. Finished products have strong, stable, and superior joints.

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ality with the highest precision. In addition to high-quality basic equipment, MARTIN sliding table saws offer numerous useful and partly patented options, ensuring you have the best tools for your craft. Experience the ultimate in woodworking precision with our advanced machinery.

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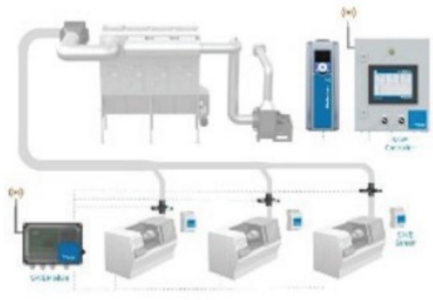
Nederman S-Series - Compact, Enclosureless Dust Collector



Nederman S-Series is a 99% efficient enclosureless NFPA compliant system ideal for small to medium woodworking shops. S-Series is available in three sizes S-500, S-750 and S-1000 and has an operating capacity of up to 5,000 CFM. Also equipped with a low RPM operating fan for efficient operation. Choose S-Series for silent operation, safe indoor installation and simple setup and maintenance. S-Series is now available with enhanced shaker cleaning with increased airflow and reduced maintenance.

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Nederman SAVE for Optimized Filter Performance



Nederman SAVE enhances dust collector performance and optimizes air filtration through intelligent airflow control. This comprehensive solution optimizes and enhances the performance of your industrial filtration system, leveraging operational data from your machines or processes to

determine the precise amount of air needed for effective dust extraction and safe material transport. This results in significant energy savings (achieve up to 70%), reduces the risk of fire and explosion, expands operational capacity and minimizes maintenance time.

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Quickly Finish and Dry Interior Doors (PSDRID)



The PSDRID allows a single operator to quickly finish and dry 20 full-sized doors in a small area. It employs a foot-operated turntable and screw-in door stands for spraying all sides while standing in a stationary position. Included hinge hole V-clips and door latch lift handles are used for lifting newly painted doors from the turntable to a drying area. Doors of varying sizes can be closely nested together for curing, minimizing space requirements. https://paintline.com/products/psdrid

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ELEV8 CNC combines multiple machines into one!



The Elev8 CNC Edge & Dowel machine from PRO EDGE TECHNOLOGY provides 8mm bore and dowel insertion plus true 3-axis CNC edge routing. This enables the complete manufacture of shaker-style doors, Soss Hinges, and much more! The CNC edge routing is capable of machining both the edge and bottom of panels. The machine includes a tool touch-off device and open-architecture parametric programming. All with a 2-year warranty! Contact Pro Edge Technology today:
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Automatic Case Clamp Features Five Year Warranty!

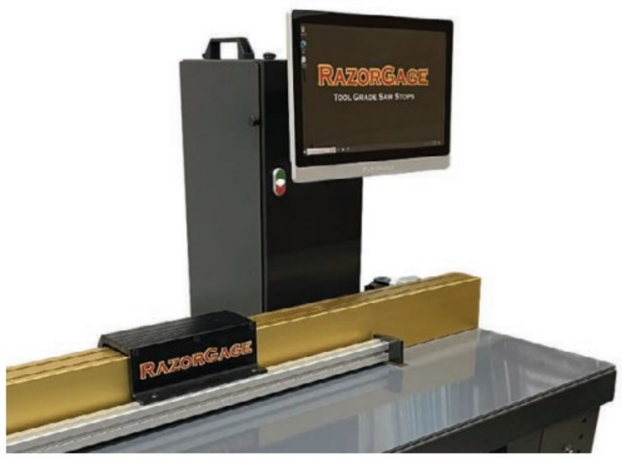


Pro Edge Technology's SqueezeTight throughfeed automatic case clamp features a 5-year parts warranty (excluding belts). This easy-to-use hydraulic case clamp automatically recognizes the product dimensions, requiring no programming and eliminating the need for constant adjustments. Simply put the product on the conveyor and let the machine do the rest! It's built to last, easy to use, and dependable. Check it out at www.proedgetechnology.com/caseclamp.

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The RazorGage RG3 Automatic Saw Measuring System is at the heart of our product line. Whether you use the RG3 as an automatic pusher or a measuring stop, this digital measuring fence can be used with a chop saw, upcut saw, downcut saw, drill press, haunching, notching and punching machines. When looking to improve the output and efficiency for your operations, the RazorGage RG3 offers the highest degree of accuracy, repeatability and long-lasting dependability.

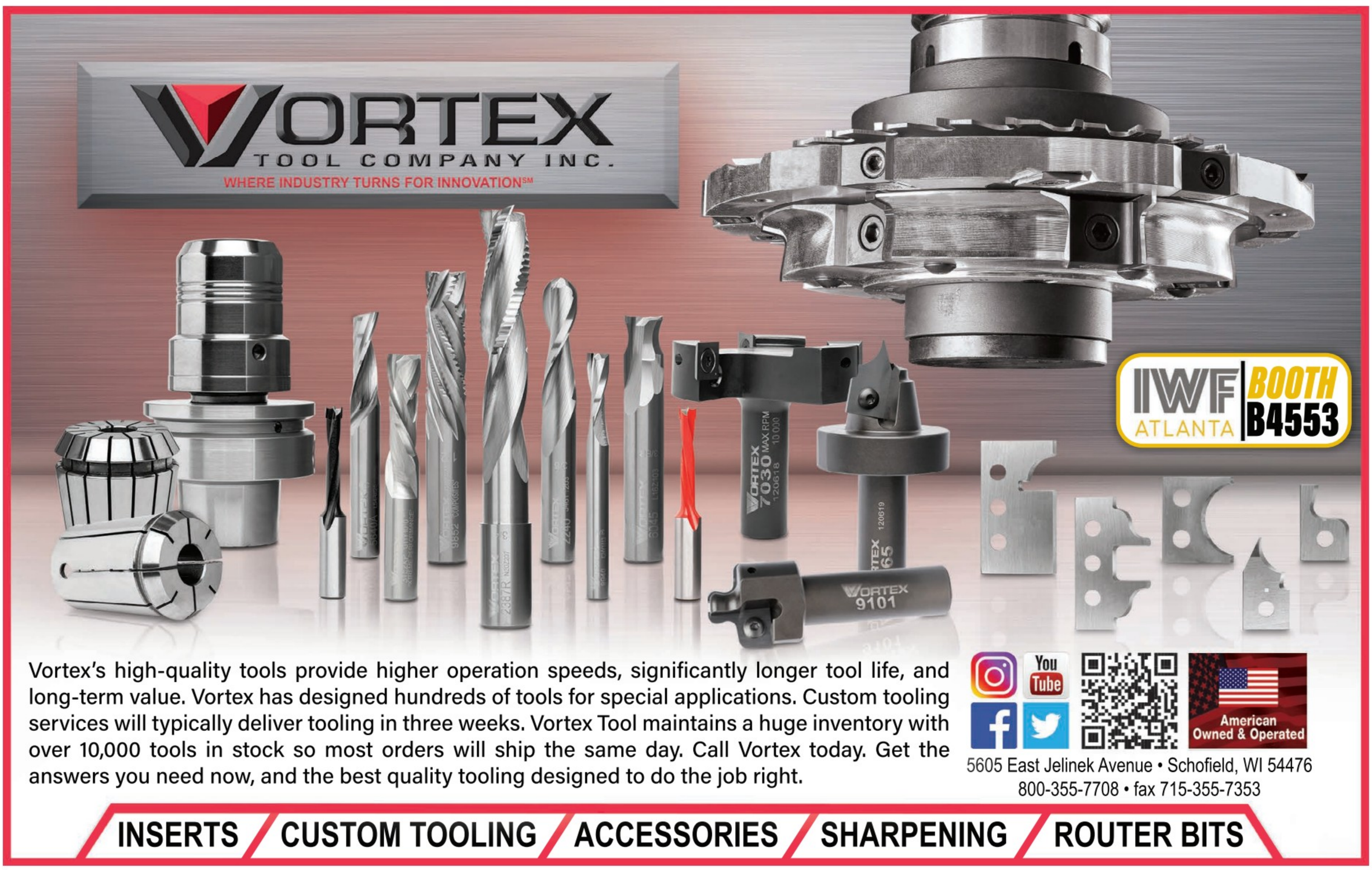
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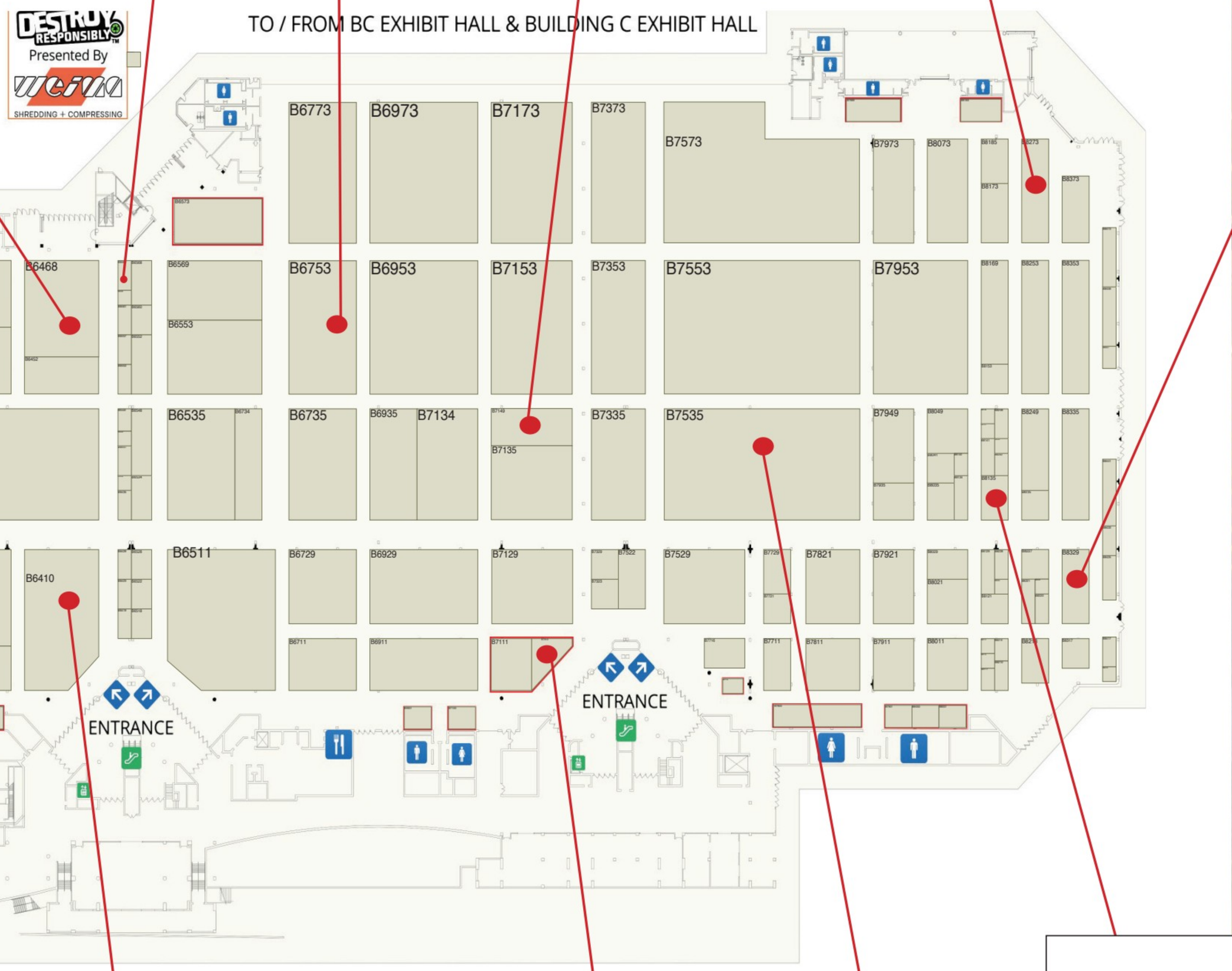
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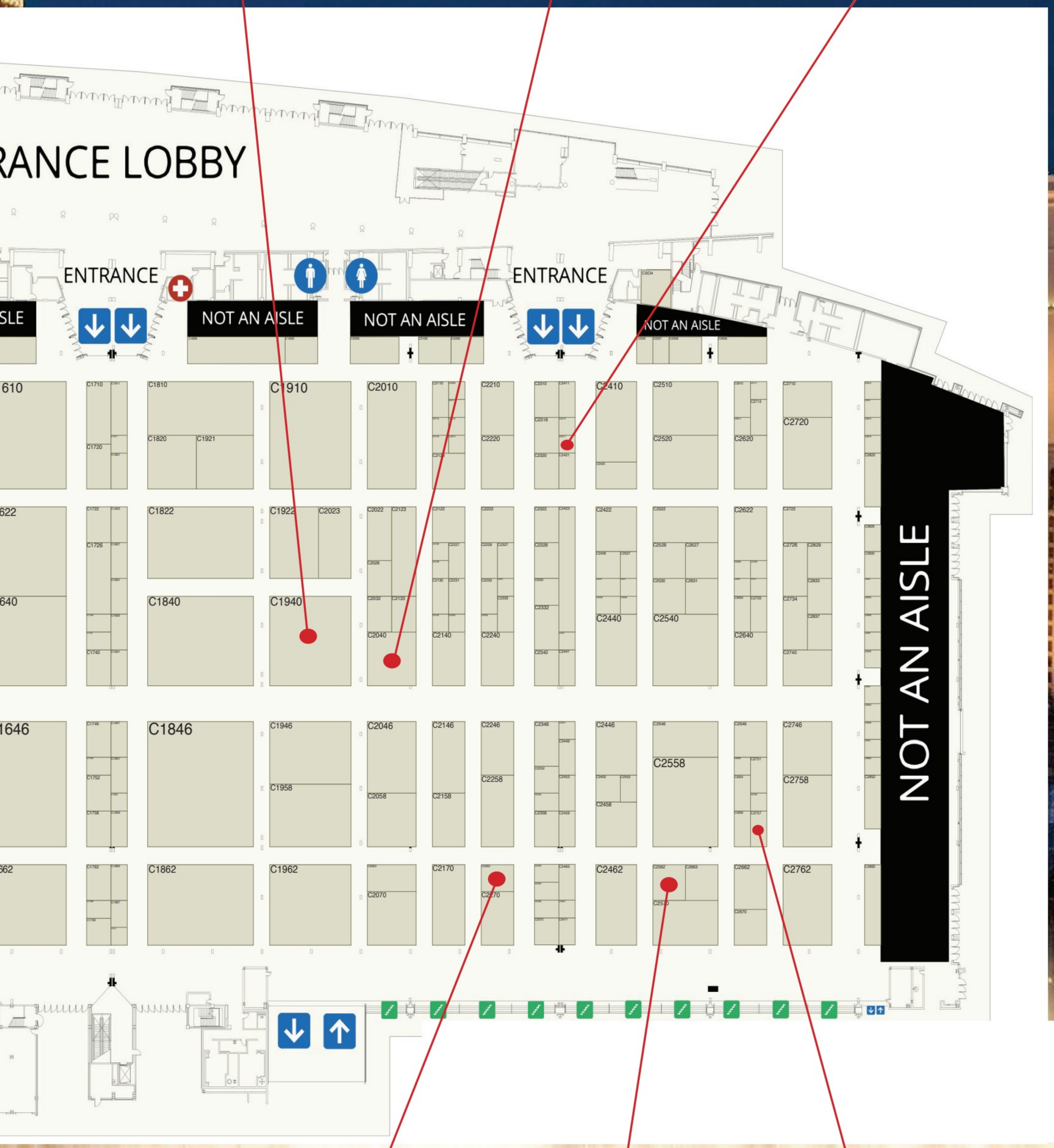
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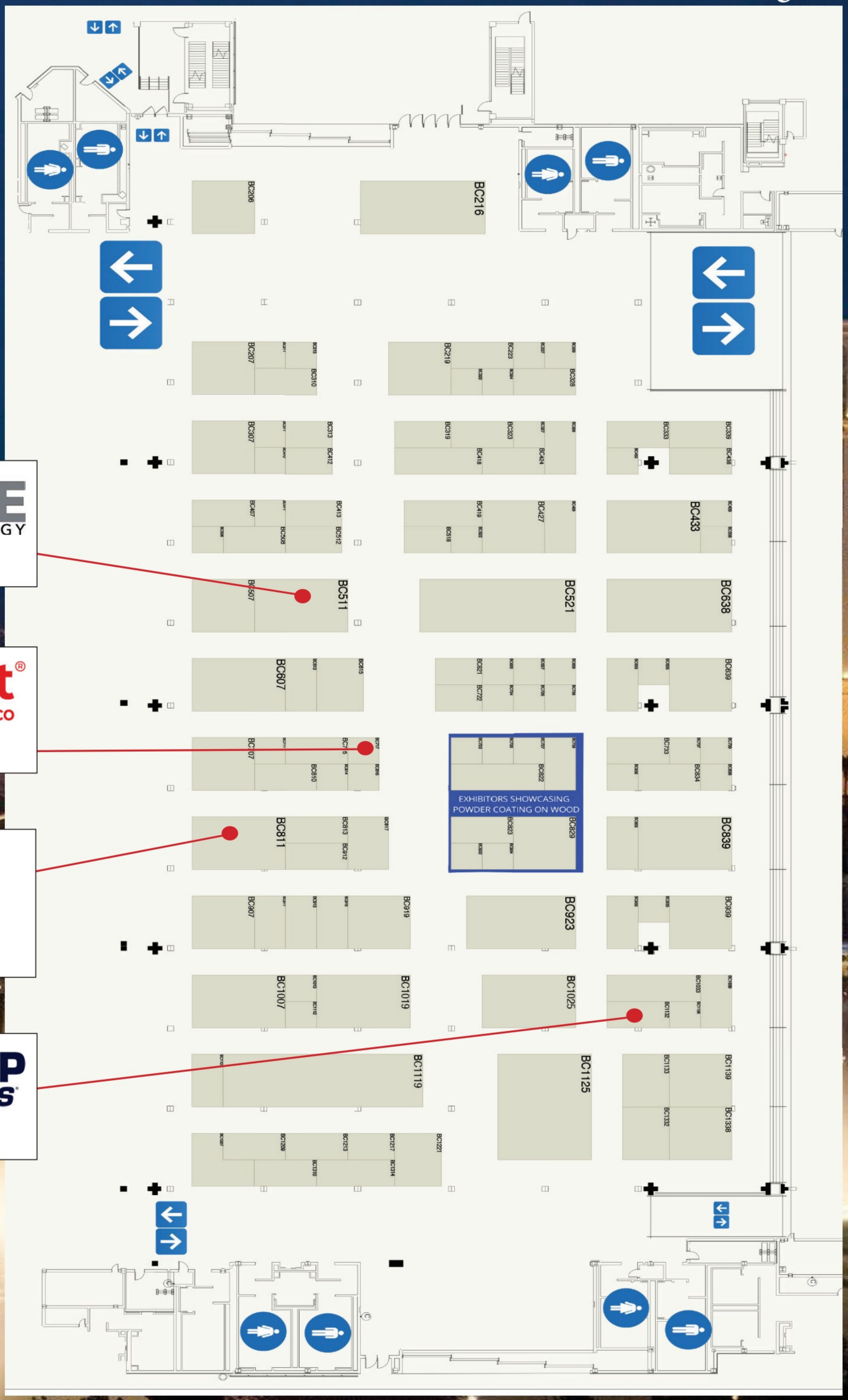
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WOODSHOP NEWS Shaping the Successful Shop™

BOOTH BC1132



New Products

The Re-Envisioned ShopBot Desktop MAX ATC



ShopBot's Desktop MAX ATC CNC machine is available with several deck options, has a removable toolbar allowing for through cutting of long materials that extend off its 36" x 24" work bed, and comes with 7 ER-20 toolholders. The time savings from automatic tool changes, combined with the aggressive cuts possible with its 1HP electrospindle and larger bits, translates immediately to higher output and better quality from this CNC. Made in the USA.

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Spray all you want – adhesive, paint, and finishes – but it won't stick to Smartech's Easy|Axis Turntable. The HDPE construction is super easy to clean and the cylindrical center column eliminates blow-back. Two top plates are included with the option of non-slip pads or stainless-steel elevation pins. Made in the USA and in stock, ready to ship!

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For more information about the Vortex XP series and their complete line of tooling contact Vortex Tool Company.

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New Briquette Press Debuts at IWF Atlanta



WEIMA introduces the TH 1200, a versatile briquette press ideal for woodshops. Its modular design easily integrates into existing setups, compacting wood shavings and dust. The Duo discharge configuration doubles throughput with minimal space. Key benefits include enhanced dust control, increased plant safety, and space efficiency. Features include a large material hopper, advanced touchscreen PLC control, and customizable components, ensuring reliable operation and easy integration into production lines.

WEIMA America, Inc.
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Booth: B7149

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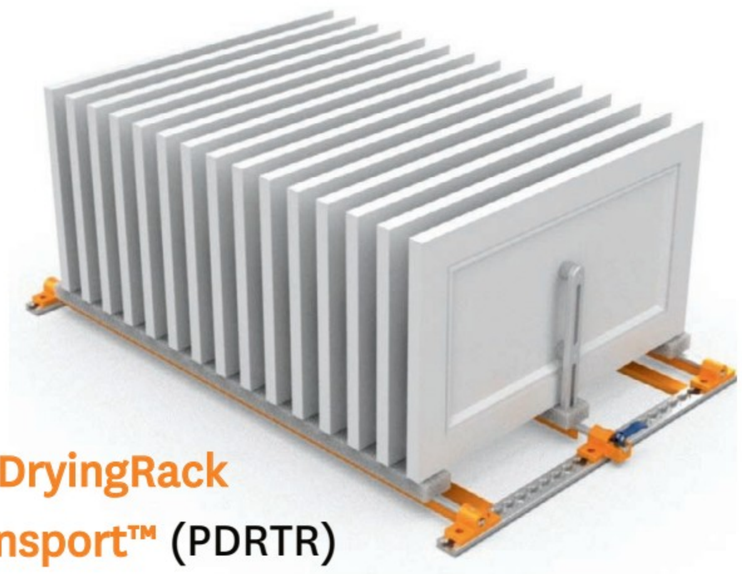


WEIMA's horizontally-fed wood waste shredders are the ultimate solution for efficient linear wood waste management. Equipped with vibratory infeed conveyors, these versatile machines automatically guide material to the rotor for optimal throughput, saving time and labor. Ideal for wood shops and lumber manufacturers, WEIMA shredders handle all types of wood waste, from pallets to furniture, turning bulky scrap into reusable commodities. Discharge options include belt conveyor, screw auger, or pneumatic systems for a seamless, hands-free process.

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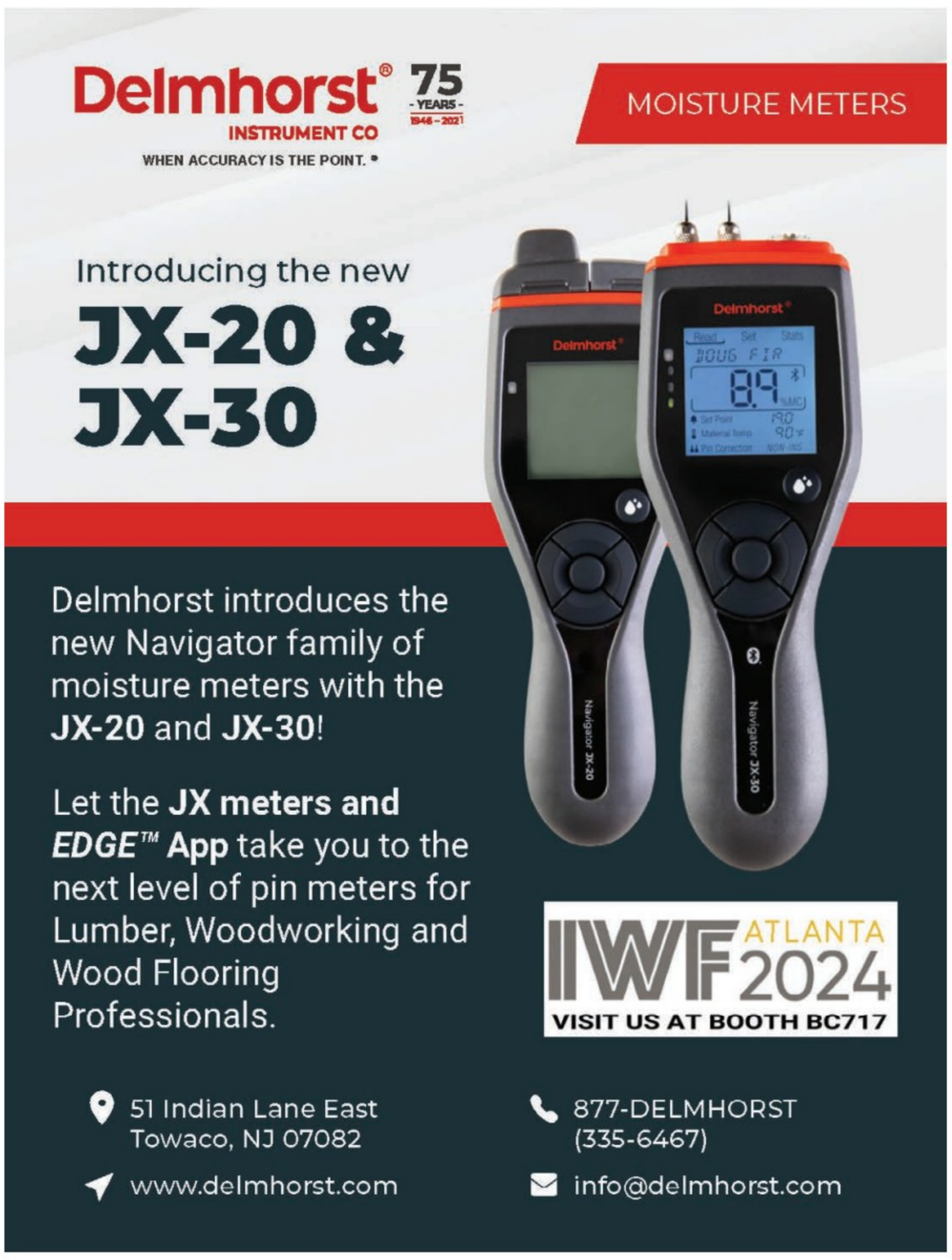
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