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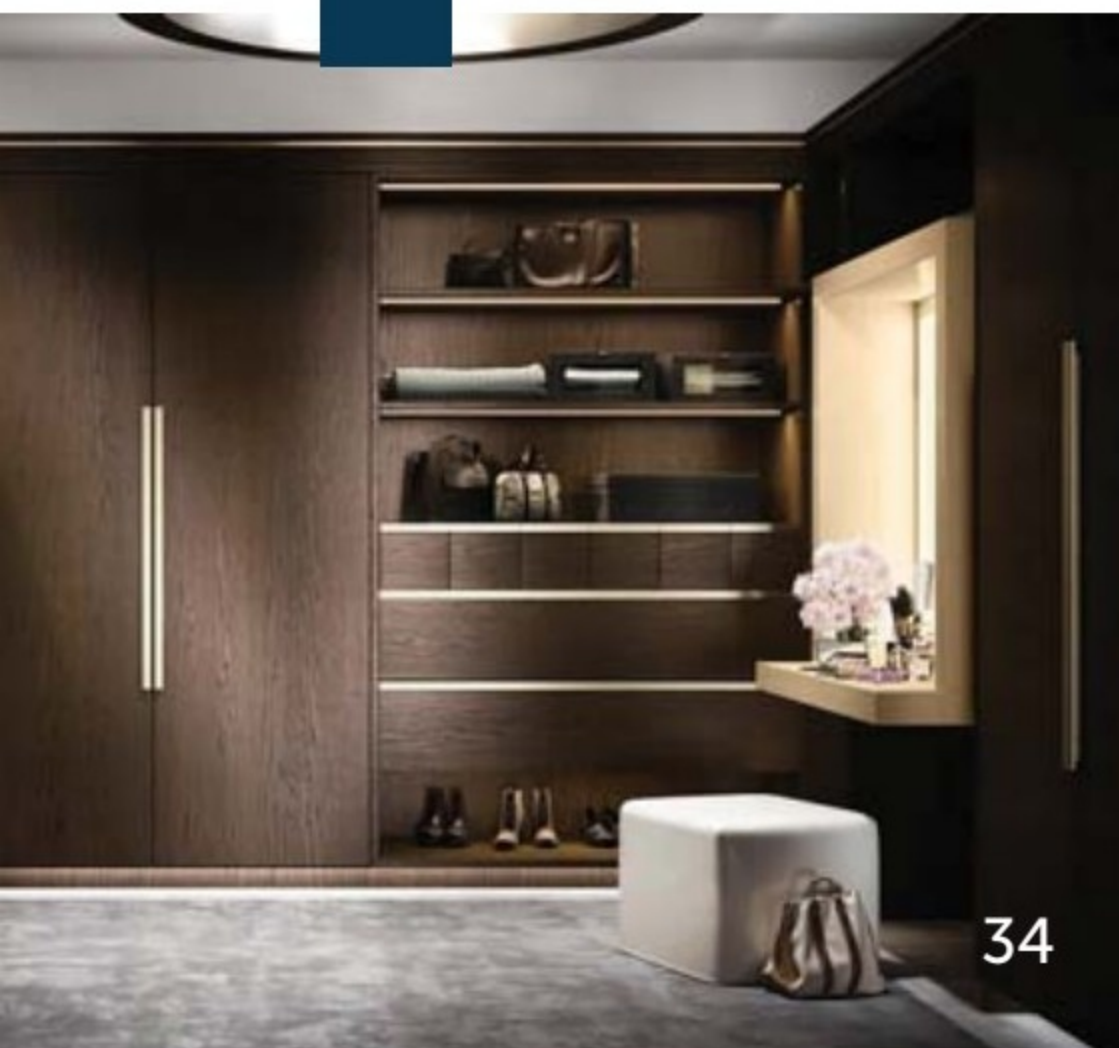
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BLOGS



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Industry veterans join National Woods Board

By Tod Riggio

The National Woods Board has appointed two woodworking industry veterans to its leadership team: Stephan Waltman and Gary LeBlanc. Their appointments support the NWB's mission to modernize woodworking education and develop the industry's future workforce.

Joe Wadsworth, CEO of Custom Source Woodworking, has moved from the NWB Board of Directors to the NWB Advisory Board, where he will continue providing strategic guidance to the organization.

The NWB elected Waltman to its board of directors. A 35-year veteran of Stiles Machinery, he retired as vice president of sales and marketing in 2017.

During his tenure at Stiles, Waltman helped launch the Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab in Colorado Springs. The NWB has updated the lab's woodworking curriculum by incorporating the Woodwork Career Alliance's skill standards and credentialing program. The NWB curriculum is being implemented in high schools and postsecondary institutions across the United States to prepare students for woodworking careers.

"I'm proud to have been involved with woodworking education my whole life and professional career," Waltman said. "I'm honored to be on the National Woods Board as a way of continuing my interest in developing intentional career development in the woodworking industry."

LeBlanc joins the NWB Advisory

Board. Currently organizational development manager for Richelieu Hardware, he brings nearly 50 years of industry experience, including leadership roles at Grass America and LeBlanc Global Sourcing.

LeBlanc spearheaded development of the cabinetmaking program launching this fall at Susquehanna Valley Technical Institute in Pennsylvania. He is working on a similar program at Davidson-Davie Community College in North Carolina.

"As a career and technical education graduate, I know the value of a trade education and am working to expand cabinetmaking classes at high schools and community colleges and to connect the industry to youth through support of organizations like SkillsUSA and the National Woods Board," LeBlanc said. "In four short years, more than 20 percent of the population will be retired. The Baby Boomer cabinetmakers will be gone. Who replaces them? The shortage of cabinetmakers can be addressed one school district at a time but not without the engagement of local woodworkers and their suppliers."

"The National Woods Board is fortunate to have industry leaders like Stephan and Gary," said John LeTorneau, NWB chairman. "Their expertise and deep commitment to the future of the woodworking industry will accelerate our momentum as we establish the NWB curriculum as the gold standard for woodworking education in America." **W**

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Cabinetmaker acquires WoodRat following founder's retirement

By Jennifer Hicks



Jonathan Cooper,
WoodRat's new owner.

WoodRat Engineering, the England-based company that produces the WoodRat router-based precision joinery system, has resumed production after a hiatus tied to founder Martin Godfrey's retirement. The business is now owned by Jonathan Cooper, a cabinetmaker and long-time WoodRat user who approached the founding family to preserve the brand.

"The WoodRat is one of the most ingenious woodworking machines ever designed in this country. I couldn't stand by and watch it disappear. My aim is to support

existing owners, preserve what Martin created, and introduce the WoodRat to a new generation of woodworkers," Cooper said.

Originally developed in England more than forty years ago by Godfrey, the WoodRat has earned an international following among professional and amateur woodworkers.



The WoodRat router-based joinery system.

The Godfrey family continued refining the machine into a router-based joinery system. The compact system enables users to produce dovetails, mortise-and-tenon joints, grooves, raised panels, and other precision cuts.

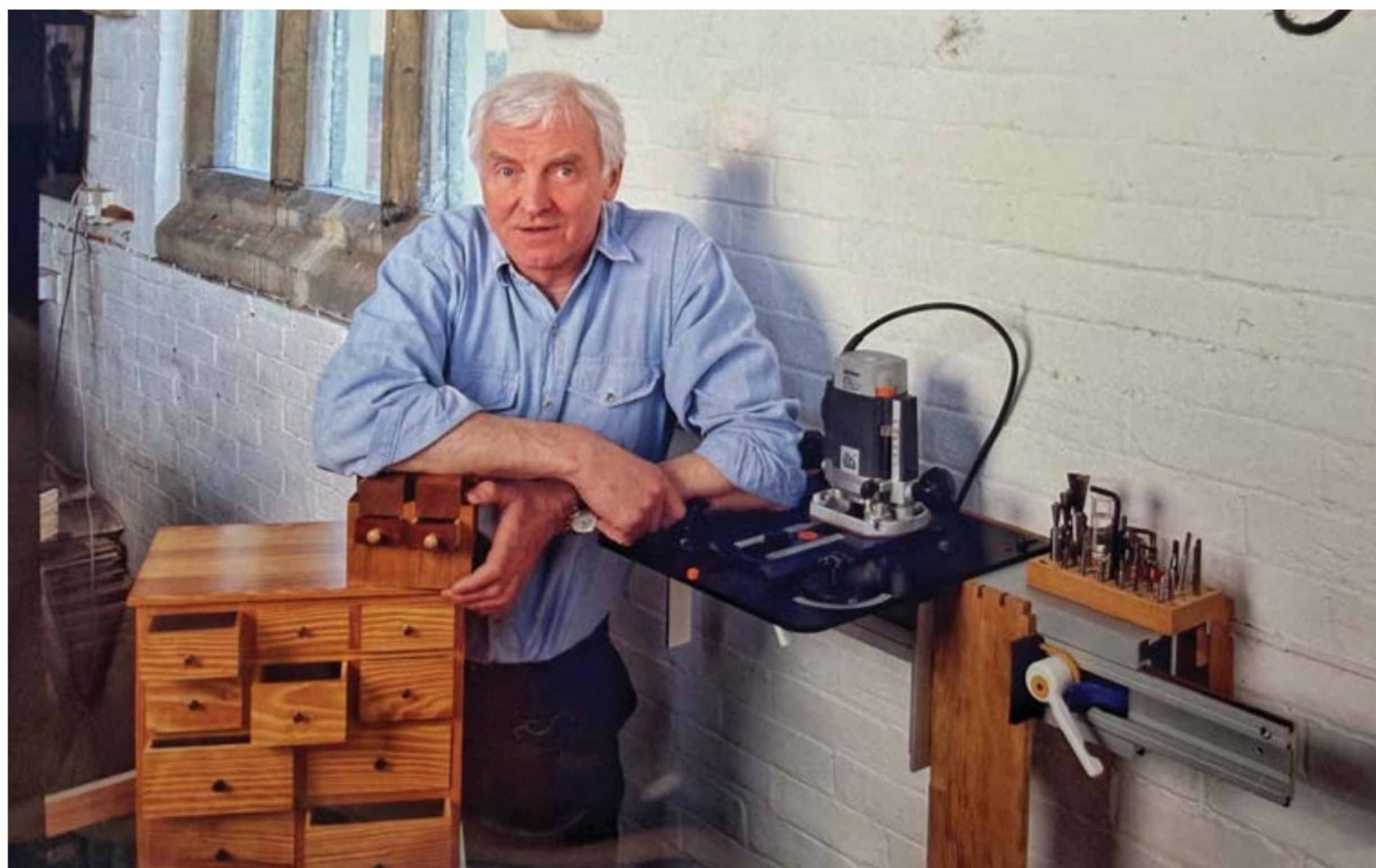
Following Godfrey's retirement and the announcement that the company would close, WoodRat owners worldwide expressed concern about future availability of machines, cutters, accessories and technical support. Cooper approached the Godfrey family with a proposal to continue the business, leading to an agreement that includes an ongoing royalty arrangement.

Before moving into engineering and project management, Cooper trained in furniture making and cabinet-making. Cooper said production of WoodRat machines, cutters and accessories will remain in England. The company has resumed working with English suppliers and manufacturing partners, including cutter makers in Sheffield. All production, assembly, and quality control are handled domestically.

International shipping has resumed, with recent deliveries to customers in Europe, the United States and Australia.

The relaunch includes an updated website with WhatsApp customer support alongside phone and email channels. A full website redevelopment is planned, with expanded training resources, technical content and product enhancements in development.

Learn more at woodrat.com. **W**



WoodRat's inventor, Martin Godfrey.

Helena Garzotto awarded national fellowship for traditional craft study

By Jennifer Hicks

Helena Garzotto, a San Francisco-based furniture maker and interdisciplinary artist, received a \$15,000 Windgate-Lamar Fellowship from the Center for Craft. The annual fellowship recognizes 10 graduating students demonstrating exceptional skill in craft disciplines.



Helena Garzotto

Garzotto graduated from the California College of the Arts (CCA) in San Francisco with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in furniture design. This fall, she plans to travel to Japan to expand her woodworking practice and study traditional craft techniques. From October through November, she will attend a one-month intensive program at the Mount Fuji Wood Culture Society, focusing on Japanese hand-tool techniques, bespoke furniture creation and the philosophy



Garzotto's "Kraft Bench", made with aluminum, walnut and white oak.



Garzotto's "Vector Cabinet", made with white oak and aluminum.

of preserving wood culture.

"In my application, I outlined a very detailed proposal to go to Japan. I just recently got verification that I'm going to the Mount Fuji Wood Culture Society," Garzotto said. "Last spring my sister was doing an internship in Tokyo, and I dragged my mom to this place I'd heard so much about from my teachers at the base of the mountain. It's basically a place where people come together from all over the world for classes and lectures. It's a cultural hub."

Garzotto plans to extend her stay through the society's work-trade program, volunteering in exchange for woodshop access. "I hope to learn as much as I can from the master there, Tak Yoshino. He's a master craftsman who does amazing work."

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Garzotto first considered woodworking as a career during her gap year in Denmark, her mother's homeland. There, she connected with midcentury modern design aesthetics and Danish folk craft traditions while studying at two Danish folk high schools: Krabbesholm in Skive and Johan Borups in Copenhagen.

"I've always been a very hands-on person. As a kid we had a little woodshop in my basement and my sisters and I would always tinker around," she said. "But I didn't really take it seriously until after my gap year. I took a gap year during COVID and went to Denmark, took a design course that was a sampler of different kinds of design, and I just became enamored with woodworking."

After returning to California, Garzotto enrolled at CCA, where she was nominated for the fellowship. During her time there, she exhibited work in solo and group exhibitions and currently accepts commissions. Looking ahead, she is considering graduate school in Denmark and eventually launching her own furniture business.

Learn more at helenagarzotto.com. **W**

High teak prices push buyers to alternatives

By Jennifer Hicks

Known for rot resistance and rich appearance, genuine teak (*Tectona grandis*) remains one of the most sought-after hardwoods on the market, with prices to match.

Lumber suppliers interviewed by Woodshop News say that while teak still commands respect for high-end and marine applications, costs hovering around \$80 per board foot are increasingly steering customers toward more affordable alternatives such as mahogany, sapele and iroko, all of which can perform well in many of the same environments.

Dennis Armstrong of Armstrong Millworks in Highland, Michigan, says teak sales have historically been limited because of the wood's premium cost. Orders tend to be small and highly project-specific, particularly for marine work where customers purchase only what they need.

"Sales are very sparse and it's mainly price driven. If it's a project they think they want to use teak but mahogany will work, mahogany generally wins," says Armstrong. "But there are sometimes projects that teak is the only thing they deem necessary, so we sell it on occasion, but it's not a big mover for us."

The cost difference is substantial, with alternatives selling around \$18-\$20 per board foot for African mahogany, genuine mahogany or sapele.

Armstrong cites several factors working against teak: increasing scarcity, rising prices and concerns about illegal logging. He says ensuring legitimate sourcing through proper chain of custody has become more challenging.

"People are trying to find alternatives," he says.

Armstrong says most teak sold for boat projects is used for repairs such as swim platforms. Outside the marine market, customers need a strong preference to justify the expense. The company stocks rough lumber and custom mills it to customer specifications.

"We may see teak used for the interior of showers — ceil-



ings, fixtures within the showers like a shelf or rack," he says. "We've made tongue-and-groove paneling for showers, but that's pretty elaborate as opposed to just using tile."

Josh Nozick of Freestate Timbers in Timonium, Maryland, also describes teak sales as limited and low-volume, with most customers purchasing the wood for marine projects, shower mats or other moisture-prone applications. The largest teak project his company supplied in recent years involved tongue-and-groove cladding for a luxury residential shower.

"Retail, depending on the thickness, we're anywhere from \$65 to \$80 a board foot, and I'm not selling much at all," says Nozick. "I might have 50 board feet of 4/4 and 50 feet of 8/4 on hand at any given time. If they need volume, I can call my supplier and they can have a truck here in two days with 1,000 feet on it if somebody wants it," says Nozick.

Like Armstrong, Nozick says alternative species have become practical choices for many customers because

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they offer similar durability and appearance at a fraction of the price.

"When people come in asking specifically for teak, 90 percent of the time they walk out with sapele, genuine mahogany or iroko," says Nozick. "Iroko comes out of southern Africa and sometimes sells under the name African teak — not because it's related but because it's kind of a golden straw color similar to teak and it's also highly rot resistant."

Sapele and iroko cost between one-sixth and one-eighth of teak's price, he adds.

Gerard Romeo of Exotic Woods USA in East Northport, New York, says teak sales have softened over the past three to five years as substitutes have become more widely accepted and readily available. Customers have become increasingly educated about the distinctions between slow-growth teak, plantation teak and alternative species.

"Twenty years ago, there wasn't really any plantation teak," says Romeo, who offers both types when available. "Slow-growth teak is more expensive, but plantation teak is making it more affordable."

Romeo says he adjusts inventory based on market conditions and pricing. Finding regular teak can be chal-

lenging, though he occasionally stocks specialty items like 100-year-old teak for customers needing to match existing wood on boats or furniture.

"Teak's an expensive item, but there are people who want it," he says, citing bathroom projects and outdoor showers as typical applications.

Sales of alternatives have "extremely increased" because of lower prices, Romeo notes. While substitutes like iroko don't have teak's exact appearance — they tend toward red while teak is browner — they offer comparable durability for outdoor applications. In the marine industry, however, matching existing teak remains important. **W**

US LBM ACQUIRES SOUTH CAROLINA'S BUILDERS SUPPLY CO.

US LBM, a distributor of specialty building materials, has acquired Builders Supply Co. in Lancaster, South Carolina.

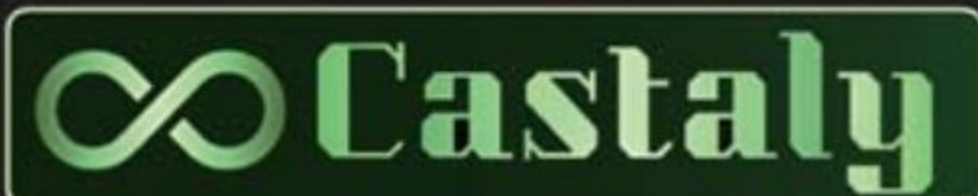
Serving the greater Charlotte market since 1908, Builders Supply Company offers lumber and millwork inventory, with products ranging from framing material and engineered wood to window and door distribution and installation services.

"There is a clear strategic need to serve the national production builder segment in the Charlotte market," said Southeast Regional Vice President John Merritt of US LBM.

"Bringing Builders Supply Company into our network strengthens our ability to support these customers with both full-line product distribution and turnkey specialty solutions."

President Greg Gregory of Builders Supply Company will continue to oversee day-to-day operations.

"Builders Supply Company has been in my family for four generations," Gregory said. "Joining the US LBM family of companies allows us to continue delivering the quality and service our customers have trusted for decades."



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Mafell introduces cordless track saw with 4-inch cutting depth

By Jennifer Hicks

Mafell, a German power tool manufacturer distributed in the U.S. and Canada through Timberwolf Tools, presents the K105-18 Cordless Track Saw to its portable circular saw lineup.

"With cutting depths up to 4-1/16" on a track and 4-5/16" off a track, beveling capability up to 60 degrees, and safe plunge cuts using the FLIPPKEIL riving knife, the K105 is on the bucket list of virtually every fine woodworker and timber framer," says Mafell product manager Philipp Rogg.

"Mafell portable saws have an ideal center of gravity for fatigue-free working irrespective of the power packs or selected attachments. Whether working close to the edge, executing perfect crosscuts, plunge or angle cuts, facilitating rapid blade changes, or offering an elegant solution



for adjusting the cutting depth, the K105-18 epitomizes ease of use and efficiency."

The machine offers a no-load speed of 2,800-5,200 rpm and runs on two 18-volt Cordless Alliance System batteries, which can be used in all Mafell products and

select other brands. Mafell and Metabo are founding partners of the CAS interchangeable battery system, according to the company.

The saw weighs just over 20 pounds. Several accessories help tailor setups for specific applications, according to Rogg.

"Add the Guide Track 370 and 28-tooth blade for speedy cross-cutting and precise miter angles up to 60 degrees. Add the F 160 Guide Rail Set and 56-tooth blade for glue-ready track saw cuts. Add the Roller Edge Guide for working close to the edge of narrow materials. And add the Dust Bag to harness the saw's optimum chip ejection," he says.

The Mafell K105-18 starts at \$2,125 and includes a 15-tooth ripping blade and parallel guide fence. Optional accessories include batteries, charger, case, and cross-cut track.

Learn more at mafell.com and timberwolftools.com. **W**

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WOODSHOPNEWS

Crimson Tool to distribute Triton products in North America

By Jennifer Hicks

Crimson Tool has been named the exclusive North American distributor for core Triton woodworking products and replacement parts, following the Australian brand's acquisition by Timbecon, an Australian woodworking company.

Timbecon acquired Triton Tools earlier this year, according to the companies. The Australian company said the acquisition positions Triton for continued product development while strengthening dealer and customer support in North America.

"Triton stands on a strong legacy and a clear future," Hague Haswell, managing director of Timbecon, said in a statement. "We understand woodworkers because we are woodworkers. We'll build on Triton's foundation and keep investing where it matters most."



Triton's TRA001 Dual Mode Plunge Router.

Under the new agreement, Crimson Tool will oversee distribution of Triton tools and parts throughout the U.S. and Canada, providing dealers

and end users with expanded access to products and inventory support. The companies said the partnership will improve long-term parts availability for existing Triton owners, addressing concerns among professional shops that rely on the equipment daily.

Products now available through Crimson Tool include the TRA001 2400W Dual Mode Plunge Router and the SuperJaws Portable Clamping System, which delivers up to 2,200 pounds of clamping force and accommodates various workpiece sizes for shop and jobsite applications, according to Triton.

The TWX7 WorkCentre and TWX7RT001 Router Table Module are included in the current rollout. Part of Triton's modular workstation system, the TWX7 platform provides a portable woodworking station with integrated clamping features, on-board power and interchangeable modules. The Router Table Module is compatible with Triton's plunge router lineup, including the TRA001, MOF001 and JOF001 routers.

Crimson Tool is distributing selected Triton products through its U.S. and Canadian dealer network. Additional products will be available throughout the year, with the full lineup expected by fall.

Learn more at tritontools.com. **W**

Oliver offers an 8" benchtop jointer with an HCX helical cutterhead

By Jennifer Hicks

Oliver Machinery recently introduced the 10080 eight-inch benchtop jointer with HCX helical cutterhead, bringing commercial-grade features to the benchtop market. The compact jointer features a 2-hp motor and is designed to deliver cutting performance on demanding materials while producing a smooth finish with minimal noise and vibration, according to the company.

"We are very proud to offer our new 10080 eight-inch benchtop jointer. This machine has many of the features found in our larger floor standing machines including a parallelogram infeed table design, our HCX helical cutterhead, cast iron fence and tables, and steel bed extensions standard," says Gregg Healy, Oliver's marketing director.



"This is the only benchtop jointer on the market with a 2-hp motor that has built-in chip extraction capabilities. This machine fills a niche for shops that place a premium on space but need a jointer that can perform like a traditional floor standing machine over the longer term."

The jointer features cast iron construction for the fence and tables, with steel components for stability and durability. Foldable steel extension wings provide support for longer stock while maintaining a compact footprint when not in use. A parallelogram infeed table design ensures alignment and consistent results when flattening boards.

The HCX helical head features three rows of seven knives for a total of 21 four-sided, indexable carbide inserts. Table dimensions measure 40 inches long by 8.5 inches wide, extending to 55 7/8 inches with wings deployed, according to Oliver.

The Oliver eight-inch benchtop jointer (model 10080.201) has a suggested retail price of \$1,199.99. An optional universal adjustable benchtop machine stand with casters is available for \$249.99.

Learn more at olivermachinery.net. **W**



MX380PRO Automatic Edgebander

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Festool adds cordless miter saw combo kit

By Jennifer Hicks

Festool introduced a limited-edition KSC 60 Cordless Compound Miter Saw and Energy Set combo kit designed for portable cutting performance on jobsites.

The KSC 60 features a twin-column guide system for precise crosscuts and offers miter angles up to 60 degrees and bevel angles up to 47 degrees. Paired with the Energy Set, the package provides extended runtime and fast charging, according to the company.

The saw runs on a dual-battery system with a brushless EC-TEC motor. The Energy Set includes two 8.0-Ah Li-HighPower batteries and SCA 16 Airstream rapid chargers housed in a compact Systainer case for transport.

The combo kit also includes a 36-tooth saw blade, screw clamp, LED spotlight, angle transfer device, elevation feet, and dust bag.

The Energy Set combo launches alongside Festool's new Cordless Domino Joiner DFC 500, Domino Joiner DF 500 R,



and Systainer SYS3 MFT mobile workbench.

"At Festool, we're dedicated to continually improving the tools professionals already know, trust and rely on every day," Philip Strnad, director of brand and product marketing at Festool, said in a statement.

"The enhanced and cordless Dominos, along with the mobile workbench Systainer and cordless miter saw combo set, equip professionals for success on any job, at any jobsite. Each product is designed to support efficient work through easy setups and faster, more streamlined workflows."

The KSC 60 and Energy Set Combo (579356) is available for \$1,299.

Learn more at festoolusa.com. **W**

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Kreg expands cordless tool line-up

By Jennifer Hicks

Kreg Tool recently expanded its Ionic Drive Power Tool ecosystem with new cordless tools and battery system upgrades. The expansion builds on the company's initial cordless power tool offerings, ranging from high-torque impact wrenches and compact hammer drills to a shop blower, wet/dry vac and angle grinder.

These tools and the company's new Blue Ion battery options are designed to provide woodworkers, makers and builders with greater capability and versatility, according to the company.

"The first wave of Ionic Drive tools showed woodworkers what was possible when a brand truly built for them entered the power tool space," David Rowe, chief revenue officer at Kreg Tool, said in a statement. "This expansion is about delivering on that promise. More tools, more capability and a platform that keeps getting better."

The 20-volt Ionic Drive 1/2-inch 'compact' hammer drill (\$119.99) and 1/2-inch 'high speed' hammer drill (\$149.99)



The Ionic Drive expansion introduces tools across five new categories.

are designed for applications ranging from tough hardwoods to concrete and masonry.

The shop blower (\$89.99) is handy for keeping workspaces clean and clear, while the wet/dry vac (\$129.99) features HEPA filtration.

The angle grinder (\$139.99) features six speed settings for material removal, sanding and power carving applications. New impact wrenches include a high torque (\$249.99) and two compact (3/8" and 1/2") models (\$129.99 each).

New Blue Ion battery options include 6.0 Ah (\$149.99) and 8.0 Ah (\$169.99) battery packs for extended runtime, plus a Super Charger (\$79.99) that provides four times faster charging than the standard Kreg charger, the company said.

All tools are sold as bare units. Prices are based on the company website at press time.

Learn more at kregtool.com. **W**

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WOODSHOPNEWS

STRIEBIG

What are the benefits of owning a Striebig and a CNC machine?

"While the CNC is running a complex part, I'm already cutting the simple ones on the Striebig. Remakes get done and the CNC stays focused on what it does best. Two machines means the shop never stops."

- Jeff Krug, Owner
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The many hats of a wood finisher

Why your 'simple' project requires 13 different skills

By Diane Shattuck

When people think about woodworking, they often picture carpenters shaping lumber or artisans carving intricate designs. But finishing woodwork is a multifaceted process that requires a surprising range of skills and knowledge. It's not just about slapping on a coat of varnish and calling the job done — it's an orchestration of trades, science and creativity that makes a piece both beautiful and durable.

We can have the best laid plans and still "shift happens." The other day I listed all the jobs that contribute to successful wood finishing. The result validated what I've always known: This single craft is remarkably complex.

Let's take a simple project — refinishing a kitchen table — and examine the roles a finisher must play. The table has loose legs, a missing drop leaf, dents on the solid wood apron, missing veneer on the top edge, and water stains on the finish. We need to strip the existing finish, make repairs, build a new drop leaf, and apply conversion varnish to match the original color and existing chairs.

Furniture repair technician: First, you're a skilled craftsman restoring and fixing all the loose legs and replacing the missing veneer, ensuring the structure is sound and ready for the next steps.

Mathematician: Calculating the drop leaf size, necessary clearance and material amounts requires practical math skills — formulas, percentages and fractions for estimating materials and coatings based on equipment efficiency and composition.

Wood technologist: Because wood is a living, changing material, understanding how different species and types (solid and veneer) respond to environmental changes is essential. Moisture content, acclimation, grain and color all affect warping, stain acceptance and adhesion.

Artist and color formulator: Before removing the old finish, you formulate and match colors, so the table blends with the chairs. This requires attention to detail and understanding of wood species, pigments, and finishes.

Chemist: Choosing chemicals that strip the old finish while preserving wood integrity is crucial. You must understand mixing ratios, formulas and pot life, plus consider potential reactions between stripper, wood, solvents and new coatings.

Chemical hygiene officer: Proper handling, storage and disposal of hazardous waste protects both you and the environment.

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WOODSHOPNEWS



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Wood craftsman: After repairs and stripping, skilled sanding, steaming dents and using proper fillers prepare surfaces for a flawless finish.

Meteorologist: Before we jump to finish, we need to be aware of the temperature and humidity to have the proper conditions for application and curing. If the conditions are not favorable, we can ruin our project or have extended dry times and possible reactions that appear in the coating.

Coating specialist: You assess surfaces to determine appropriate coating types, monitor drying times and environmental conditions, and conduct quality checks for proper adhesion and finish standards.

Finisher: You apply clear and pigmented coatings, understanding spray equipment fundamentals and application requirements. You also handle staining, equipment cleaning, and polishing.

Service technician: You diagnose, maintain and repair finishing equipment to ensure efficient operation.

HVAC technician: You check airflow and ventilation for proper drying and fresh air exchange to avoid overspray and unhealthy air.

Physicist: When coatings blush, bubble or fail to ad-

here, understanding physical causes helps diagnose and correct problems.

Each step in refinishing furniture demonstrates the intersection of science, art and craftsmanship. From calculating material needs to ensuring chemical safety, from matching colors to adjusting for environmental factors, the process draws on diverse skills. The finisher must balance function and beauty, choosing the best techniques and products for each project.

Finishing woodwork is far more than a simple task. It's a culmination of many professions, from repair technicians and mathematicians to chemists and artists. Each project presents unique challenges that require broad skills, patience, and dedication to excellence.

Next time you think you're "just a finisher," think again. Respect the process and give yourself credit — this work demands expertise across multiple disciplines. **W**

Diane Shattuck is a finisher, consultant, guest speaker, writer and teacher. She can be contacted at dianeshattuck@msn.com. Questions, suggestions and comments are always welcome.

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A look at some of the best new tools on the market.



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Oliver's New 10080 8-in. Benchtop Jointer

The new 10080 benchtop jointer includes features typically found on Oliver's floor-standing jointers—features like an HCX helical cutterhead, cast-iron fence and tables, a 2-hp universal motor, and a built-in chip-evacuation blower. These features, in addition to Oliver's well-known build quality and long service life, make the new 10080 a standout in the benchtop jointer space that really has no competition.

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The new portable AKHL1320E compressor from Max USA Corp. has connectors for two 100 PSI tools and two 500 PSI tools.



Compressors cut the cord

New generation of portable units offers battery power, quieter operation and 'smart' controls

By John English

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WOODSHOPNEWS

Independently powered portable air compressors with internal combustion engines first appeared in woodshops at the beginning of the 20th century. Larger industrial versions had been used in factories since the Civil War (the first patent was filed back in 1829), but by 1905 manufacturers such as Atlas Copco saw an opportunity to make and sell small, portable units for individual craftsmen. By the 1930s, they were a commonplace sight in cabinet, furniture and millwork shops.

Today's portable compressors come in models that can use 120-volt household current or battery power, and they deliver considerably higher pressure than their predecessors. With oil-free options (less maintenance and usually better for colder temperatures), quiet operation, and easy monitoring through digital readouts and controls, they can provide up to 180 PSI when needed. Technical advances such as compact pump and tank engineering, programmable memory, and enhanced safety features are the norm nowadays.

SOME CORDLESS OPTIONS

Typical of this new generation of jobsite compressor is the relatively simple 12V1P10S from **California Air Tools** (ultraquietaircompressor.com). Not what one thinks of immediately when hearing the word 'cordless'; this is a small Light and Quiet unit that's powered by clipping its leads to a 12-volt DC vehicle battery. It works with staple, brad and finish nail guns, plus airbrushes and blow guns, and it can pump up car tires, too. The 12V1P10S operates at 56 decibels (dBA), which makes it one of

the quietest compressors on the market. It comes with a 1-gallon steel tank and a single piston pump that's rated for over 3,000 hours.

Makita USA makes both plug-in and battery versions of its Quiet Series compact compressors. The main model has a 1/2-hp motor and 1-gallon tank, and the new cordless model (item AC001GZ at makitatools.com) runs on the company's 40-volt XGT platform. Makita notes that this is the lightest cordless compressor in its class, and it's also pretty quiet at 68 dBA.

Ryobi Tools (ryobitools.com) has introduced a 14 lb. cordless compressor that uses its 18-volt ONE+ battery system. Called the P739, it's a 1-gallon unit that delivers up to 120 PSI and can "turn pneumatic finish nailers into cordless finish nailers," according to the company. Quite affordable, it's backed by Ryobi's 3-year manufacturer's warranty.

The **Milwaukee** 2840-20 is a 2-gallon compact, Quiet Compressor that runs at 68 dBA and has a low profile and stackable design for easy storage and transporting. Online at milwaukeetool.com, it can fire up to 1,600s 18-gauge brad nails on a charge, and is compatible with all of the manufacturer's M18 Redlithium batteries. It also uses Redlink Plus intelligence which "integrates full-circle communication between tool, battery and charger," according to the company.

Freeman Tools (freemantools.com) makes a 20-volt, 1-gallon lightweight air compressor. The company also offers an adapter that lets the compressor and other tools use 20-volt batteries from DeWalt, Milwaukee and Makita.

Within a comprehensive line-up of small, portable com-

Max USA Corp.

pressors that includes both gas and electric models, **Meta-bo HTP** (metabo-hpt.com) also makes a 36-volt 2-gallon cordless unit, model EC36DAQ4. It works with pneumatic finish nailers, and also comes with an AC adapter that gets the job completed if the battery isn't available. It has a 17 second refill time for less waiting between cycles, and it can drive more than a thousand 18-gauge brads on a charge, according to the company.

CORDED COMPRESSORS

The Quiet Tech model 3300244 from **Kobalt** (available at lowes.com) offers a 2-gallon tank, 3/4-hp motor and dual oil-less pumps. The low-profile design makes it easy to transport to the jobsite. Other nice features include a large regulator knob and two easy-to-read gauges for the tank and tool pressure.

The C2002 by **Porter-Cable** (portercable.com) is a 6-gallon, oil-free compressor in a pancake style. This unit has two regulated, factory-installed air couplers to support two users simultaneously, and it only weighs 30 lbs.

For small woodshops that don't often need to transport a compressor to jobsites, **Champion Pneumatic** (championpneumatic.com) makes the Commandair family of splash lubricated reciprocating compressors. These are single-stage units that run from 1/2 to 3 hp, which can be configured vertically or horizontally.

DeWalt (dewalt.com) currently offers seven portable compressors for jobsite and workshop use. Among these

are an 8-gallon, 1.9-hp dual voltage wheelbarrow model; both 1.6 and 1.9-hp 30-gallon upright units with large wheels; an 8-gallon belt-drive, gas-powered 5-1/2-hp wheelbarrow; and the well-reviewed DXCM201. This latter is a two-stage machine with oil-lube, large 10-inch pneumatic wheels, and a belt drive that produces 6.2 CFM. It has a horizontal 20-gallon tank, and the ability to deliver up to 200 PSI. It runs at 78 dBA (not too loud, considering that hearing damage doesn't become an issue until about 85 dBA).

Grizzly Industrial's family of portable compressors (online at grizzly.com) includes two larger 20-gallon wheeled vertical tank models, the 2-hp oil lubricated T32339 and the oil-free T32337. Then there are three smaller units that are ideal for jobsite transporting. The 2-gallon one tank (T32335) and 4-gallon two tank (T32336) are both oil-free members of the Quiet Series. They run at 60 dBA and 67 dBA respectively, which is ideal for jobsites where clients may be present. And the Grizzly PRO 6-gallon, twin cylinder, oil-free, pancake compressor (T33858) is both light (56 lbs.) and quiet with a 1-1/2-hp motor and low power draw (just 9 Amps at 3.5 SCFM).

LARGE FAMILIES

Jenny Products (jennyproductsinc.com) makes hand-carry, single and two-stage wheeled portable compressors. There are seven models in the hand-carry family (six 2-hp units that run on household current and one 4-hp gas-







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powered), 21 single-stage wheeled options from 1 to 5 hp (where the 3 and 5-hp units require 230-volt power), and five 230-volt two-stage models.

Five compressors from **Kyocera Senco Industrial Tools** (senco.com) range from 1/2 hp through 1, 1-1/2 and 2 -hp models, with single and double horizontal tanks and a pancake unit. All five units have carry handles and feet rather than wheels for stability. The PC1131 has oil splash lubrication and the rest of the line is oil-free. The PC1010N is a lightweight 1/2-hp model with a 1-gallon tank and ultra-quiet operation.

Rolair Systems (rolair.com) offers a dozen hand-carry air compressors, 10 wheeled electric models, and nine wheeled gas units. Among them is the clever VT25BIG, which boasts the highest air output of any direct drive air compressor in the line. Its pump delivers an impressive 6.5 CFM at 90 PSI, but woodworkers hauling airpower to the jobsite will also appreciate the simple foot-actuated folding handle and heavy-duty flat-free tires. The compressor has two large wheels in back and two feet in front, and a handle that unfolds for pulling the unit through the shop or jobsite. There's no lifting and no bending involved, and the single stage VT25BIG supports two hoses simultaneously.

Craftsman (craftsman.com) has a 6-gallon pancake unit that can be ordered with basic accessories, or as a kit with an 18-gauge brad nailer. The company also offers 30- and 33-gallon vertical tank mobile units with wheels.

For shops with higher compression needs, the new AKHL1320E from **Max USA Corp.** (maxusacorp.com) is a dual tank, 2.64-gallon unit. The company's patent pending Outer Rotor Motor design generates more torque at slower speed, which enables the compressor to have more CFM at higher pressure (3.0 CFM at 300 PSI). This unit can actually compress air to 500 PSI and also perform in low-voltage scenarios (a circuit inverter manages and monitors the electrical current). Plus, it can be upgraded with three easy-connect extra tanks to deliver a lot more capacity.

VACUUM PUMPS

Compressing air can be done in two ways. The most obvious is to pump it into an enclosed space (a reinforced tank, as in the compressors above) and then release it slowly through a tool. But air can also be pumped out of an enclosed space (such as a flexible bag) to create a vacuum. That process can be used to hold work in place on a CNC, shrink a bag to keep glued veneer in place, or even as a way to bend wooden parts.

Vacuum tables and spoil boards with holes or pods can hold sheet goods in place on a CNC, and that can be a significant upgrade from mechanical fixturing. There are no metal clamps for the bit to contact, and vacuum devices can be placed away from edges that are being machined.

The biggest challenge with vacuum clamping is generating enough negative airflow to do the job. A good rule of thumb is to size a pump, so it draws 5.5 CFM for every square foot of surface. That doesn't refer to the area of the sheet being held, but rather to the area of the spoil-board that will be encased within the vacuum.

Another aspect of vacuum clamping is the pump's strength. Larger pumps are rated for continuous duty,

but smaller ones usually come with an intermittent rating too. Ask the salesperson about that rating: it tells a woodworker when to rest the pump, and for how long. Ignore the recommendations and the pump will overheat. An oil-free dry claw pump may not be as strong as an oil-sealed rotary vane model, but keep in mind that the volume of air (called the flow rate) is usually more important than the strength. That's because, even with the best tape or pod, there's going to be some leakage. CNC beds with vacuum hold-down can require more than 5.5 CFM per foot on large areas, where both seals and the MDF itself can be a bit porous. 150 to 300 CFM may be required, which is a lot of air for a pump to process. But vacuum pumps are more efficient than air compressors, so the CFM numbers are not quite as dramatic as they sound.

As in most woodworking operations, dust is the enemy when it comes to vacuum pumps. Filters must be constantly maintained.

For smaller CNCs, the **Axiom Precision Vacuum Hold Down Kit** (axiomprecision.com) includes a venturi pump that's powered by pressure from the woodshop's air compressor. It uses a hold-down mat to securely anchor workpieces to the CNC table, eliminating the need for traditional clamps.

Busch Vacuum Pumps and Systems (buschvacuum.com) is an industry leader in the use of vacuum technology in woodworking, and that includes work-holding on CNCs. For new CNC owners, it's well worth a website visit.

Quality Vacuum Products (qualityvak.com) offers the PED-Vak system that is a foot-controlled vacuum hold-down system that comes in three strengths. This company also offers a wide range of solutions for pressing, veneering, and laminating.

VacuumTables.com (vacuumtables.com) draws on more than 30 years of experience designing and manufacturing vacuum/blowback systems to produce solutions for any application requiring precision hold down and/or gentle floatation, including vacuum tables for CNCs.

Better Vacuum Cups, also known as Green BVC (bettervacuumcups.com), makes small, hollow, sealed cups that can be strategically placed to provide superior holding. Its rubber tops are sectional so, for example, 2" parts are no problem on a 6" cup. The woodworker just uses gasket material to section the vacuum area. BVC's rubber tops are also thicker, providing more than 10mm of error room before a tool hits plastic. And the cup design means no more clogged ports or dust in the vacuum system, because BVC has a simple ball valve to keep the dust out. Even if a cup does come in contact with a cutter, an incorporated groove can accept foam gasket material to make a new seal.

VacuDog is the brand name of a product made by **TrackTubes** (tracktubes.com) and it lets a woodshop easily add powerful vacuum clamping to a multi-function or other drilled worktop. The woodworker just pushes one of the vacuum dogs into a bench-dog hole, adds a seal to the surrounding worktop, and the result is a low-profile vacuum clamp for routing, sanding, assembly, and other tasks. It eliminates the need for mechanical clamps that can often get in the way. VacuDogs are available from **Taylor Toolworks** (taytools.com) and the TrackTubes websites, among others. **W**



Fisch Tools has a new twist on Forstner bits.

A sharper focus

Tool manufacturers introduce innovations in drill bits, router bits, shapers and CNC tooling to boost efficiency and cut quality

By Ralph Bagnall

Being around this business of woodworking for any amount of time and you might think that the world of wood cutting tools hasn't really changed. But there are quite a few new ideas these days from suppliers, so follow along as we explore what manufacturers have been up to.

Let's begin with drill bits for CNC machines. Drill banks aside, there are no real options for straight drilling of holes using the main spindle without burning the tool, material or both. Many router bits have plunging capabilities but are designed with a focus on general routing. **Whiteside Machine Tools** (whitesiderouterbits.com) offers the Brad Point Drill Bits, engineered specifically for drilling holes using a standard 1/4" collet. Manufactured from solid carbide for additional strength and durability, these drill bits quickly eject chips from deep holes without the burning that plunge router bits can cause.

The brad-point design prevents the bit from 'walking' as it enters the material while the outer spurs eliminate fraying. Although designed only for plunging, not routing, these bits can also be used on any boring machine that accepts a 1/4" round shank. Whiteside's selection includes diameters of 5/32", 3/16", 5mm, and 1/4", with all sizes having a

maximum cut depth of 1". Used with standard toolholders, these can greatly speed the drilling of common hole sizes on machines that do not have drill banks onboard.

Forstner bits have been the standard for drilling splinter-free, true-to-size blind holes for a long time. **Fisch Tools** (fisch-tools.com) keeps improving the breed with its Black



PCD insert tooling from Vortex Tool Co.

(Clockwise from bottom) Carbide-tipped groovers from Vexor Custom Woodworking Tools, multi-profile cutter from Charles G.G. Schmidt & Co., and DFC Turbine from Leitz Tooling.



Shark Forstner bits. Fisch has optimized the cutting edges to allow the bits to be turned at higher RPM in softwoods and hardwoods, resulting in faster and cleaner cuts.

ROUTER BITS

Reversible glue joint bits have been around for some time and yet **MicroJig** (microjig.com) has created a new version that is easier to set up, uses less material per joint, and makes a pleasing wave profile where the ends of the joints are visible.

The Wave Reversible Glue Joint Bit uses a 2.5mm wave pattern rather than the traditional tongue-and-groove design to provide the alignment and extra glue surface in a form that is decorative. The wave cut only removes 2.5mm from each half of the joint, making the overall material loss 5mm per joint to save waste. The bit features MicroJig's patented Center Platform that works with its FitFinder 1/2" Gauge to set the proper bit height the first time, making setup fast and accurate. Specifically designed for cutting boards and serving trays, the Wave bit comes in two sizes to handle stock from 1/4" to 1-1/4" thick. Curved part up to 3/4" thick can be made using templates.

Amana Tool's online catalog (amanatool.com) features hundreds of CNC tools with ZrN coating. The gold-colored zirconium nitride treatment is a ceramic material applied through physical vapor deposition (PVD) to reduce heat and friction. Several of Amana's newest ZrN-coated tools feature a reduced shank design — a smaller-diameter shaft between the cutter and the standard-diameter base that locks into the toolholder. These router bits use the extra-long reduced shank for deeper reach and improved chip clearance.

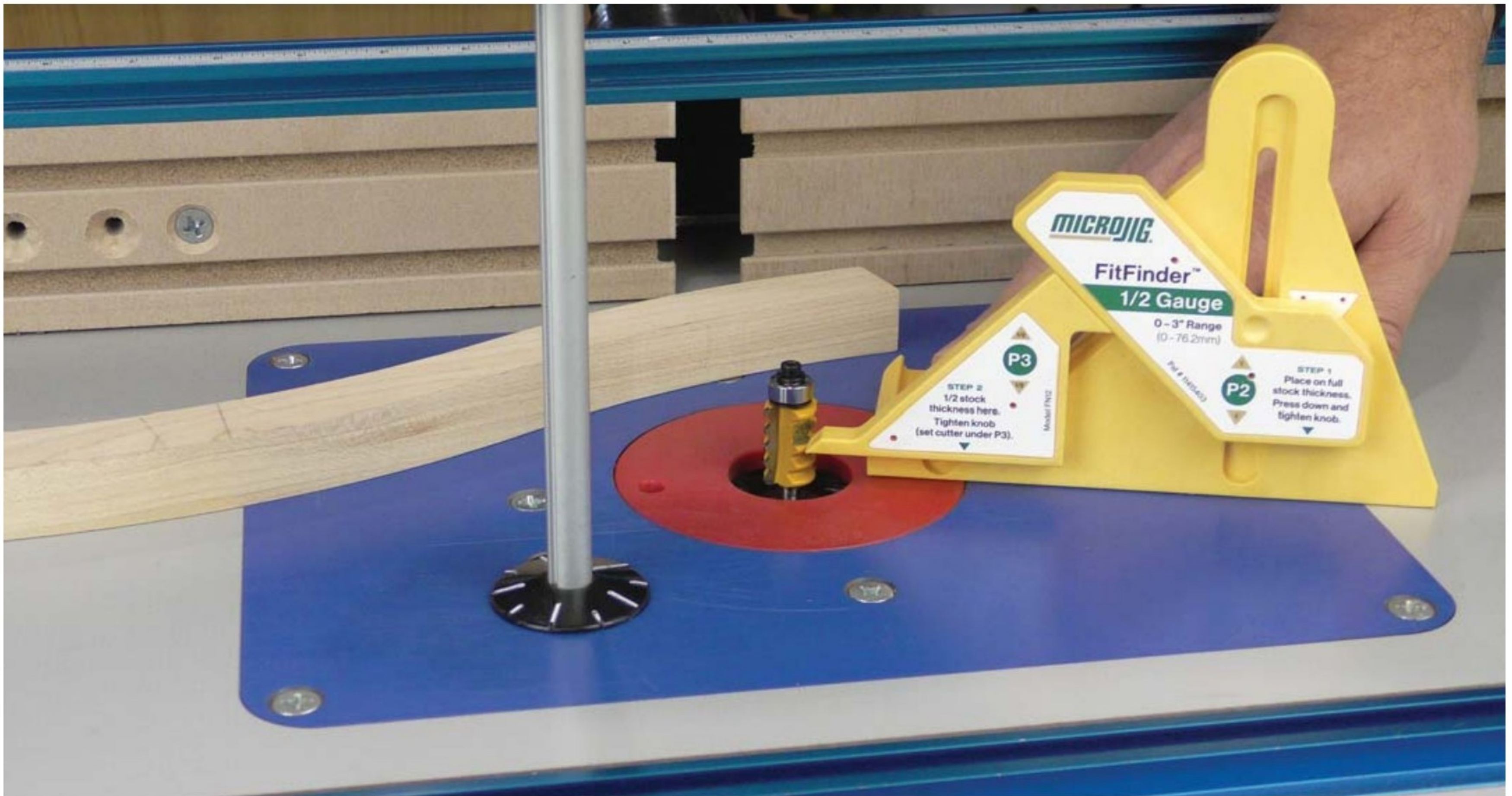
Quadra-Cut from **Freud America** (freudtools.com) is a system for profile router bits that includes four cutting faces — two up-shear and two down-shear. It's designed to avoid fuzz, splinters and extra work, and minimize tear-out. The reviews by woodworkers are very positive. And the familiar Black I.C.E. coating from Freud is featured on its new 77-604 mortising bit, among others. The company notes that this coating facilitates "a cool cutting edge and superior chip evacuation."

SHAPER CUTTERS

Vexor Custom Woodworking Tools (vexorcwt.com) is introducing a line of carbide-tipped groovers for demanding woodworking applications. Available in hard-to-find widths from 1/2 inch to 1 1/4 inches, these tools come in 4-, 6- and 8-inch diameters with six, eight and 12 wing configurations.

Each groover is manufactured in Denver using CNC tech-





nology, including 5-axis profile grinding, according to the company. Tools are precision-balanced to 2.5 grams or less. Vexor also makes custom cutters.

While shaper heads with replaceable knives are common, **Infinity Tools** (infinitytools.com) offers multiple knives that work with a single head. Its Insert-Pro system comes in Joinery and Door, General Purpose and Master Molding sets.

All three sets include a 40mm head and 13 pairs of knives, allowing 37 different knife profiles. The knives and gibs locate on alignment posts and lock with an Allen key.

The Insert-Pro head has a 1 1/4-inch bore and can use reducing bushings and rub collars from Infinity.

CNC TOOLING

As carbide prices rise, diamond tooling may become more cost-effective.



Freud offers router bit sets for specific operations.



The FitFinder 1/2" Gauge from MicroJig and a brad point drill bit from Whiteside.

Vortex Tool Co. (vortextool.com) offers Laser Edge Diamond PCD insert tooling designed for longer life and consistent finishes, according to the company.

The laser-cut diamond edges extend tool life, while the geometry promotes smooth chip flow and overall cut quality. Insert changes are quick and straightforward, reducing downtime. The PCD profiles are compatible with select Vortex insert tool bodies, allowing shops to integrate the tooling into existing inventory.

Charles G.G. Schmidt & Co. (cggschmidt.com), marking its 100th anniversary, has introduced multi-profile tools with corrugated backer plates and carbide inserts for shapers, molders and routers. The tools work with larger CNC spindles. The company has invested more than \$1 million in new equipment.

Leitz Tooling (leitz.org), celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2026, has developed the DFC (Dust Flow Control) Turbine to direct chips and dust from the machining area toward extraction systems.

The tool reduces dust exposure for operators and equipment while extending tool life by reducing double cutting, according to the company. The DFC Turbine mounts to the company's ThermoGrip shrink fit chuck and removes up to 90 percent of chips and dust during cutting, the company says.

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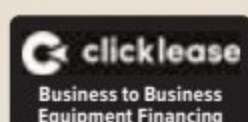
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Built-in cabinetry and mantel by
4 Chicks Furniture and Cabinets.

BUILDING MOMENTUM IN THE ROCKIES

Colorado cabinet shop blends custom furniture with production runs

By Jennifer Hicks



Inside a busy shop in the foothills of Colorado's Rocky Mountains, the team at 4 Chicks Furniture and Cabinets moves steadily between cabinetry and furniture projects. One day may involve producing components for a custom kitchen, while the next centers on assembling a hand-crafted dining table or built-in bar for a mountain home.

That range has become a defining feature of the operation. By combining cabinetry and furniture under one roof, owner and founder Carrie Nelson has built a shop in Conifer that can flex between production-style cabinet runs and highly customized one-off pieces.

"We're a combination shop, which I love so things don't get boring," Nelson says. "We'll make furniture and we'll make cabinets. That means doing kitchens and closets and entire houses of cabinets, but also on the furniture end we can do tables, Murphy beds, nightstands — all kinds of different furniture pieces which is really fun. It breaks up the monotony."

The company name often draws attention from first-time

clients. It reflects Nelson and her three daughters, who became both inspiration and motivation during a difficult personal transition that led to the business's formation.

Today, the operation includes Nelson, two full-time employees — Colin Jones and Andy Marrone, dubbed "the roosters" — and part-time helper Susan Everet, working out of a 2,800-sq.-ft. shop outfitted with modern equipment. But the company began far more modestly, operating with limited tools and a growing need to rebuild both household essentials and financial stability.

FROM NECESSITY TO OPPORTUNITY

Originally from the Midwest, Nelson grew up outside Chicago helping her father maintain the family's 200-year-old farmhouse. That early exposure to repairs, remodeling and problem-solving shaped her comfort with tools long before woodworking became a profession.

As an adult, she continued taking on hands-on projects, including home renovations and building playsets for her



Matching kitchen and bath (below) cabinetry for a residential customer.

children. In 2006, the family relocated to Colorado due to her then-husband's job transfer. A few years later, following a divorce, Nelson found herself rebuilding both her household and her sense of direction.

"I got divorced and he left with half the furniture. That's what happens in divorce," says Nelson, whose daughters were 14, 12 and 6 at the time. "My three daughters and I stayed here in Colorado, and he went back to the Midwest. So, I was building furniture to replace the things I needed.

"It was pretty cathartic. I had a history just growing up knowing how to do that sort of thing. I started working on a mudroom setup for the entryway — a cubby unit on the wall and a cubby unit on the floor with a bench on it. While I was working in the basement, I said if anybody wants to buy anything that I make, we should just call it 4 Chicks Furniture, because that's what we are now."

What began as necessity quickly turned into informal production. Friends began requesting pieces, then referrals followed. By the time Nelson formalized the business around 2014, she had a growing customer base built largely through word-of-mouth and early online exposure.

"I decided to see what would happen if I put all my eggs in one basket with the furniture. I was just working out of my garage and jumped all in," Nelson says. "It was scary, but word of mouth spread. It wasn't just traditional cabinets or kitchen cabinets — more casework with mudrooms, cubbies, things like bookshelves and lots of tables. Then I got a project for a client who found my website. They were in the middle of a remodel and needed five different pieces."

Early production relied on a minimal toolset, including a DeWalt compound miter saw and her grandfather's GE belt-drive table saw.

BUILDING A BUSINESS BACKGROUND

Before transitioning fully into woodworking, Nelson spent about seven years in hospitality management as a food service director. While unrelated to woodworking, she says the experience provided critical business fundamentals.

"The one thing I'm really thankful for now is that it

taught me how to run a business, and I kept those skills."

Those skills proved essential as she navigated scheduling, customer communication, budgeting, and employee management in a growing custom shop.

Today, 4 Chicks primarily serves the Denver metro area and surrounding mountain communities, including Thornton, Aurora and Westcliffe, with occasional projects extending into neighboring states such as Kansas. About 90 percent of work is residential, though the company takes on commercial projects when they align with production capacity.

"When we have some of the big projects, it's about 50-50. It ebbs and flows," Nelson says. "We're working on a project with a local bar right now doing a combination of furniture and bar cabinets."

DESIGN TRENDS AND MATERIAL SHIFTS

Operating in Colorado's mountain regions has shaped material preferences and design expectations. Nelson notes that alder remains the dominant species requested by homeowners looking to match existing architecture.

"The prevalent thing that we see here is alder — alder cabinets, alder trim, and even more so in the mountain area," Nelson says. "We're matching that for clients, because they'll move into a home and want something matched. We're also seeing other people who are tired of the wood look and are going to either painted cabinets or a laminate product, a tactile surface veneer. But when you look at the wood portion, we see a lot of knotty alder and clear alder."

Staying current with both aesthetic and manufacturing trends has become part of the company's long-term strategy.

"It's very important to stay up with manufacturing tech-





Andy Marrone, Colin Jones and Carrie Nelson (right) in the shop.

niques and learn how to do things better," Nelson says. "While I came from a background of knowing how to use equipment and having been taught by my dad and my grandfather, there's still a pretty steep learning curve in how you make a good cabinet. There's continuous learning that has to happen."

GROWTH AND OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

As demand increased, so did the complexity of managing both production and business operations. One of Nelson's biggest challenges has been stepping away from the shop floor to focus on estimating and client development.

"We've been consistently busy throughout all the years I've been in business. What I see as the bottleneck is actually what I'm doing in the business," Nelson says. "If I'm spending all my time in the shop, which I love to do because I love that hands-on work, I'm not getting out my estimates or my revisions, drawings to clients, and then we're waiting for a contract because I've been in the shop."

Delegation has become essential. "If I've got everybody in the shop and we're all humming, then I'm able to spend 80 percent of my time networking, working on estimates, working on drawings, getting revisions, talking to contractors," Nelson says.

Hiring remains an ongoing challenge, but Nelson emphasizes training over experience.

"When you get good people, you treat them well and be sure you can keep them on board," she says. "We're not afraid to have people come in who don't have any skills. When I started out, I had people work for me who didn't have much skill, but skills are transferable. It's about teaching them how to safely use the machinery and how we do our processes."

TECHNOLOGY AND EXPANSION

Equipment upgrades have transformed production ca-



WHAT'S IN THE SHOP

Biesse Rover K 1531 CNC • Cantek MX350 edge bander • Festool Kapex 120EB compound miter saw • Hammer K4 Winner sliding table saw & A-34 planer/ jointer • Powermatic 24" wide belt sander • Nederman 5-hp dust collector • North American PL-20 and Phoenix 100amp phase converters

pabilities. What began with basic machinery has evolved into a CNC-driven workflow.

"I never dreamed we'd have a CNC machine or an automated edge bander. But our needs increased, and as time goes on, I have less tolerance for inaccuracies in machinery," Nelson says. "We upgraded table saws and now we have a Biesse CNC machine and a Cantek edge bander."

The shift has improved efficiency but created space constraints, particularly during large residential projects requiring staging and storage.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nelson's long-term goal is continuing growth toward \$1 million in annual sales, though she acknowledges that physical space is becoming a limiting factor.

"What I see right now is our shop is not big enough to do that," she says.

Despite constraints, she remains focused on problem-solving and incremental expansion.

"We say woodworking is just a problem-solving industry," Nelson says.

From basement beginnings to a fully equipped custom shop, 4 Chicks Furniture and Cabinets has grown through necessity, adaptation and persistence — qualities that continue to define its next chapter.

Learn more at 4chicksfurniture.com. **W**



This closet in Shinnoki Burley Oak is an example of what can be done with prefinished panels from Hardwoods Specialty Products.

Prefinished panels come of age

Factory-coated materials reduce labor costs while improving uniformity

By John English

Older woodworkers often remember paneled walls with a slight shudder.

There were a couple of decades back in the nineteen's when virtually every dark basement had even darker solid wood or wood lookalike paneling that extended from floor to ceiling. It significantly added to the creepiness of those underground spaces. And upstairs in those same homes, countless rooms were treated to half-walls of cheap paneling that was optimistically called wainscoting.

Now we're seeing a resurgence in paneled walls, but the materials are far superior, and the designers are getting both the style and color right. In a February 2026 article in *Vogue*, Angela Tafoya summed it up perfectly by describing the trend as "a renewed appetite for permanence within character-rich spaces."

A trend toward prefinished paneling on walls is one thing, while a woodshop buying in coated panels to cut up and create cabinet interiors is something completely

different. Or is it? Both have come a long way, riding as they have upon advances in both waterborne and UV finishes. So, it may be time to look at having a sheet goods supplier handle the coating process.

Buying prefinished panels can save a lot of time in the spray booth, increase job flow efficiency throughout the shop, reduce in-house labor costs, and bring a higher degree of uniformity to casework through better color, grain, and sheen matches. Prefinishing also reduces the need to sand. Plus, when UV-coated panels arrive on the loading dock, they're immediately available for cutting and assembly. And they also don't need to dry/cure during processing, which eliminates a lot of downtime. Another advantage is that they reduce the need to spray coatings inside assembled casework, which can get a bit tricky and time-consuming because of sanding between coats.

Here's something else to consider: A factory coating will usually be applied in a very controlled environment, using robotic and AI-managed line equipment. The result

is a very even, error-free surface that simply outperforms most hand-sprayed work.

The newest generation of coatings offer impressive resistance to scratching, which has often been associated with stacked finished panels. It used to be a problem to remove one sheet from a stack without micro-scratching and leaving dull spots. Today's cured coats also have high resistance to chemicals and moisture, which continues after they have been installed in a customer's home or office.

Admittedly, a prefinished panel comes with a higher price tag. But that increase is quickly subsumed by the cost savings that are generated through reduced handling, coating, sanding and so on.

And one less obvious advantage to outsourcing coated panels is that, because they reduce spray booth time, they allow the woodshop to have a lower environmental impact. A shop owner can also let customers know that UV coatings being applied at the factory produce very low or even zero volatile organic compounds (VOCs).



New reeded panels and cabinet door inserts from Dura Supreme Cabinetry echo a current trend toward textural architectural elements.

PREFINISHED PANELS

Some of the more popular prefinished panel suppliers offer some pretty strong arguments for going this route.

Prefinished panels from **States Industries** (statesind.com) come in several options, including the original NOVA UV-cured flatline finish, NOVA SI antimicrobial finish with silver ions and the chemical-resistant NOVA LAB certified by the Scientific Equipment and Furniture Association for labora-



The new X-Panel Overlay and Island End Panel from Castlewood can be used together or separately to add depth to a kitchen.

tory use. The company says it can match most colors. Options include clear, translucent, opaque, and printed finishes in satin, medium, high or custom gloss levels.

Brown Wood Inc. (brownwoodinc.com) not only offers custom-sized, prefinished panels but also provides custom finished parts over a wide spectrum of shapes and sizes. The company's Made-to-Spec program can help a woodshop produce virtually any item at any quantity, in multiple wood species, materials and finishes.

Hardwoods Specialty Products (hardwoods-inc.com) has evolved into one of the largest architectural decor material suppliers in North America, with almost two dozen regional locations across the U.S. Among its lines are Shinnoki prefinished wood panels, which the catalog currently offers in 18 species. The panels are manufactured by Decospan, a European company based in Belgium that specializes in veneer processing. Each panel is brushed, stained, and lacquered, requiring no additional finishing. The outside skins are sheets of wood veneer, expertly crafted using a mix-match technique. The coating is a soft touch acrylate urethane lacquer that provides "the perfect balance between protection, a natural feel, and the timeless elegance of wood," according to the company.

Prefinished, UV-coated 4x8 plywood sheets are available from **L. L. Johnson Lumber Mfg. Co.** (theworkbench.com). Established in 1909, its yard offers prefinished hard maple and white birch panels in bunk quantities. These can be ordered with a finish on one or both faces, and in thicknesses that include 1/4", 1/2" and 3/4". This supplier also offers solid wood, edge-glued panels in 55 different species and widths up to 42", and orders for panels 8' and shorter are usually available in just three days.

The thermal-lacquering, anti-fingerprint technology of **Uniboard's** Eclipse line offers exceptional scratch resistance, and it is available on particleboard, MDF, and the proprietary NuGreen MR50, a moisture resistant MDF. The manufacturer (uniboard.com) also offers an on-de-



Various applications of Eclipse prefinished panels from UniBoard showcase the versatility of its thermal lacquered surfaces.

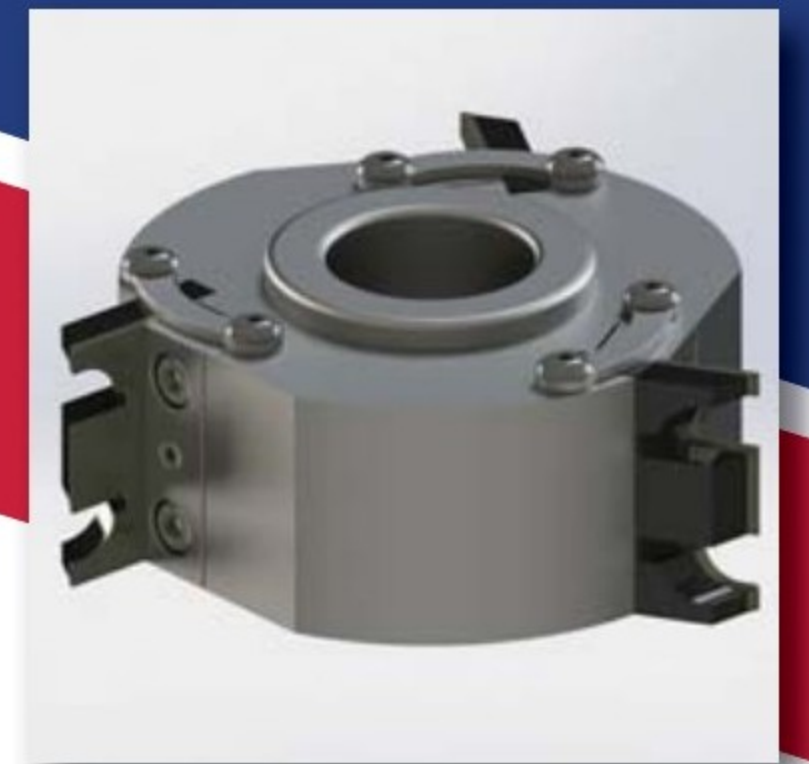
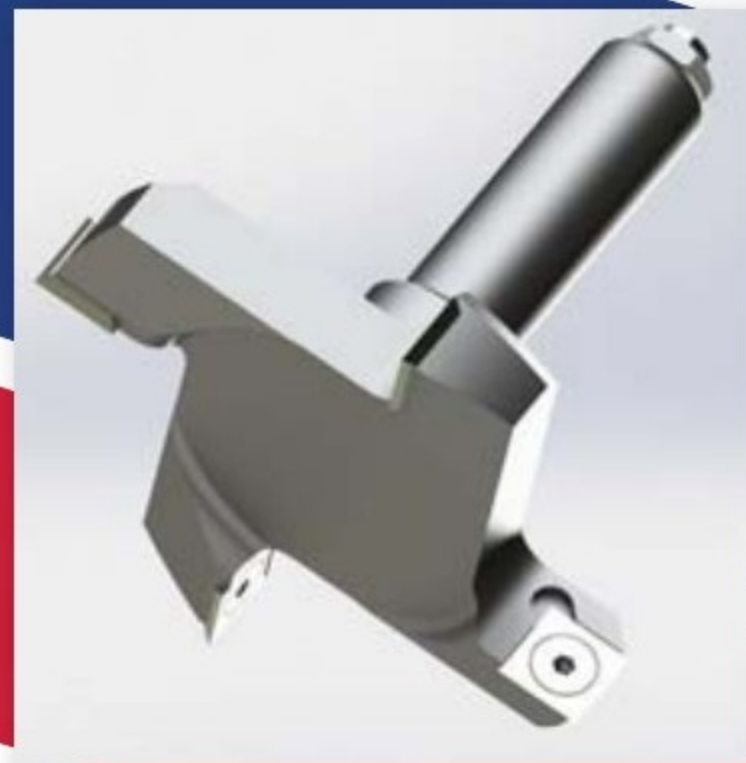
mand program.

UV-coated maple veneer-core plywood from **WalzCraft** (walzcraft.com) is available in 1/4" thickness with a clear-coated B-grade face and an uncoated No. 4 grade back. In 1/2" and 3/4" thicknesses, the back is No. 2 and both faces are clear-coated. All thicknesses are available in rough cut to stock sizes (RCSS) or ripped to rough width (RTRW) where the sheet sizes can be trimmed to suit a shop's application requirements. Precision cut to size (PCTS) is also an option, where no trimming of the edges is needed. The actual size of standard sheets is 49" x 97", and the sizes of RCSS sheets are 4' x 8', 2' x 8', 4' x 4', 2' x 4' and 24" x 32".

Frank Paxton Lumber (paxtonwood.com) supplies prefinished panels that include high-quality wood-veneered options. In addition to the Shinnoki line, Paxton also offers RhinoCoat prefinished hardwood plywood panels through a partnership with Timber Products Co. The inventory includes options that are coated on one or two faces, and in a variety of cores including veneer, MDF, and particleboard.

NEW PANEL TRENDS AND PRODUCTS

Flexible tambour panels are very popular with designers this year, as they explore curves and bows that chal-



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Osborne Wood products has introduced a new collection of flexible wood panels in five species that can be used flat, or on curves.

lenge rectangular conformity. Among the latest options are 12 patterns in five different wood species from **Osborne Wood Products** (osbornewood.com). They include beads, square flutes, coves and ripples, and while most of these 12"-wide panels are offered in 48" lengths, there are a couple 93" versions. Osborne offers a sample box.

Castlewood (castlewood.com) has added new decorative wood elements to its product line. Two of these, the X-Panel Overlay and Island End Panel, can be used together or separately to enhance and add depth to kitchen island designs.

Art for Everyday (artforeveryday.com), a designer and manufacturer of architectural woodcarving in Toronto, recently introduced flexible tambour panels that are available in seven standard profiles, four different sizes, and a wide range of wood species. Panels can be made to size with two to three weeks of lead time, according to the company. Among the options is the very stylish FTP 307, where each section of the panel features a 1" wide x 1/2" deep cove that is let into a 1-1/4" wide hardwood strip. The finished

look is quite dramatic.

Dura Supreme Cabinetry (durasupreme.com) has introduced a new collection of reeded panels and cabinet door inserts. The company's designers note that the reeded look is gaining traction in the kitchen and bath scene. They're not alone in that opinion: Industry observers such as Kim Berndtson of Kitchen & Bath Design News are also taking note of this trend. In February, Berndtson wrote that "incorporating texture elevates a space and gives it soul," and the article features several photos showing reeding as a prominent textural element.

Illinois-based **Designs of Distinction** (dod.brownwood-inc.com) is also taking note of the trend with the introduction of its new 96" x 48" x 3/4" full-size rigid beaded panels (note that the long dimension listed first indicates the direction of the grooves). Crafted in the U.S. from North American hardwoods, each panel features a tambour face, 1/2" plywood core, and a cross-grain hardwood veneer backer. Also available in a 48" x 48" size, the panels

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New from Designs of Distinction are full size (96" x 48") rigid beaded panels with a 1/2" plywood core for structural integrity.

can be ordered in alder, cherry, hard maple, quartersawn or plain sawn white oak, red oak, or walnut. There's a paint-grade MDF option, too. These new products offer a stylish, textured surface for doors, end panels, islands, and more.

For woodshops that want the look of wood panels without the task of finishing them, **EGGER** (egger.com) offers decorative thermally fused laminate (TFL) panels that present a novel way to avoid downtime in the spray booth. These prefabricated panels have resin-infused decorative paper permanently bonded onto both faces, and they can be easily cut and edge banded.

GREAT RESOURCES

KenCraft Co. (kencraftcompany.com) in Toledo, Ohio supplies prefinished 1/2"-thick maple plywood panels with a veneer core for local pickup. Woodworkers purchasing a full sheet can have it cut into quarters or halves for easier transport.

Lenderink Technologies (lenderink.com) in Belmont, Mich. offers wood veneer panels in a variety of cores, including aluminum and honeycomb, that can be used in ceilings and walls as well as in casework. They can be ordered prefinished and can cater to specific needs such as fire retarding or water resistance.

Keystone Wood Specialties (keystonewood.com) has a fully equipped and staffed finishing department and offers more than 50 stains, glazes, and paint colors, as well as the ability to produce professional distressing effects. The company can custom color match for any panel or part

order, and ships nationwide.

In Connecticut, **Parkerville Wood Products** (parker-villewoodproducts.com) sells prefinished maple plywood that comes in a C2 grade and has a durable UV finish on both faces. The company notes that it is ideal for cabinet box interiors.

Rugby Architectural Building Products (rugbyabp.com) is strategically located in 26 cities covering 41 states, and the company distributes Shinnoki prefinished wood panels.

Talbert Architectural Panels & Doors (talbertusa.com) supplies premier veneer to the Western U.S., Canada, and Mexico with species suppliers on six continents. The company has embraced controlled and certified woods and was the first veneer company in California to be FSC certified. Talbert opened its Perfecta U.V. cured finishing division in 2018 and offers value-added options such as cut-to-size panels.

Cabinotch (cabinotch.us) is an award-winning company that developed an innovative system for assembling face-framed and full-access cabinet boxes that feature American-made, formaldehyde-free PureBond hardwood plywood.

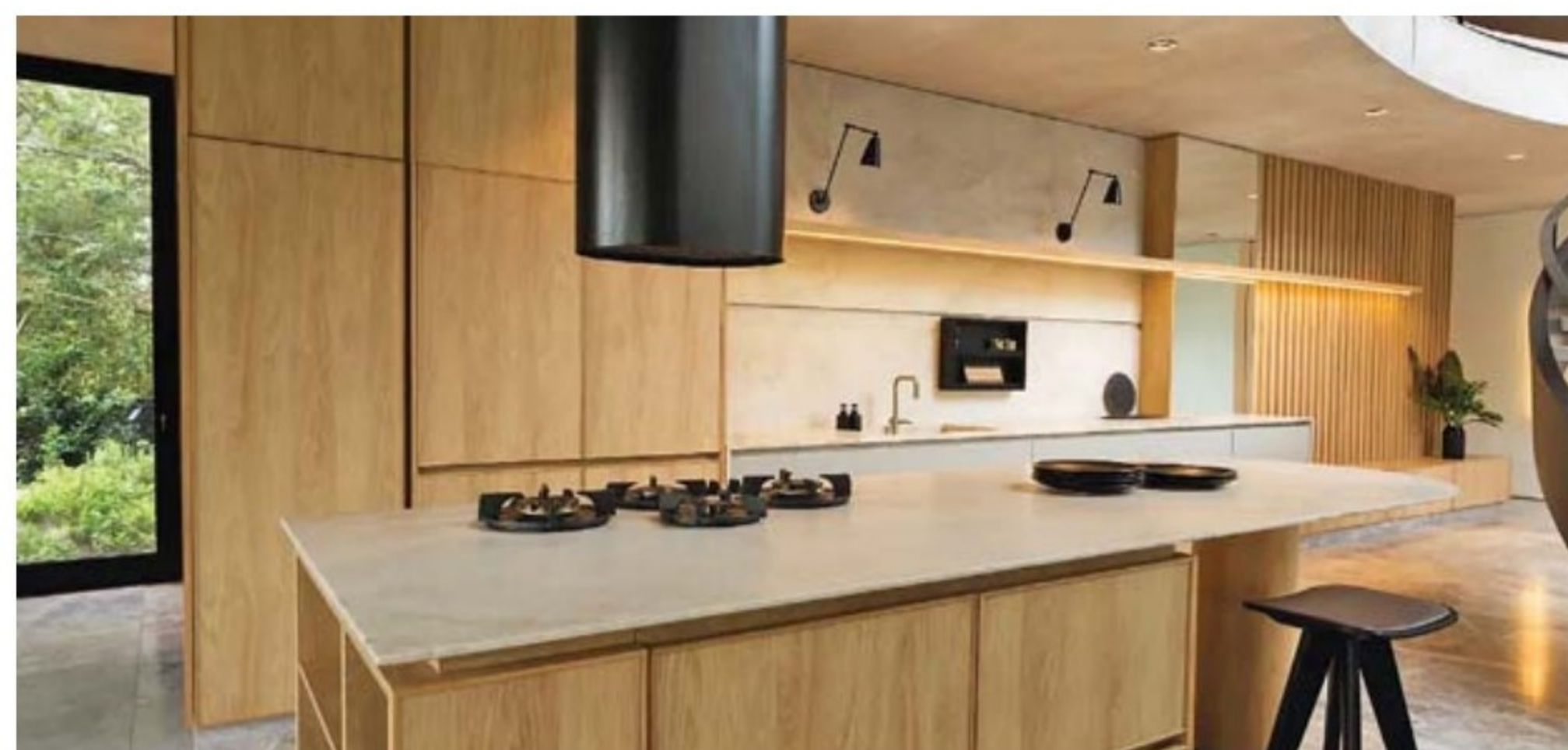
Elias Woodwork (eliaswoodwork.com) offers sheet goods that can be cut to size and finished to match doors, molding and accessories. The company uses these materials in its own manufacturing and makes them available to customers as custom-sized pieces. They can be ordered with stains and clear coatings.

The decorative surfaces section of the **Richelieu Hardware** (richelieu.com) catalog shows a wide array of sculpted, art, tambour and mesh panel options. The company also supplies grooved decorative panels, textured and vinyl panels, birch veneer panels, and more.

The PurePanel line from **Havwoods** (havwoods.com) consists of prefinished wood veneer panels measuring approximately 10' x 4'. The panels can be used for wall cladding, cabinet doors, drawer fronts, and custom joinery, according to the company.

With all those options, exploring the possibility of outsourcing prefinished panels and other parts may be a handy way to save time, lower costs and ensure a more consistent, durable finish that brings out the natural warmth and beauty of real wood grain surfaces.

Find suppliers of prefinished panels through our online Resource Guide at woodshopnews.com. **W**



An alternative to prefinished panels is EGGER's Decorative Boards that have a resin-infused decorative paper on both faces.

THE 2026
FINISHING TOUCH

Icing on the cake. A crowning glory. The coup de grace...

There are lots of ways to describe one element that brings a project together while setting it apart. The ‘wow’ factor is another good one, and that’s exactly what a new line of modern range hoods from Elias Woodwork delivers. Available in both wood and thermofoil finishes, the new collection is clean, contemporary, and available in standard widths that can also be customized to suit specific kitchen layouts and design preferences.

When woodworkers think about finishing touches, their thoughts often visit the spray booth. Guffey System hold work vertically instead of filling up floorspace with doors laid flat, and that lets a woodworker spray both faces at once, and then scuff sand in place. Customers have reported reductions of up to 80% in material handling time.

The booth is also where one finds MAGNA-TEK Clear Pre-Cat Tint Base & Topcoat. This is a high-solid, HAPs-free, fast drying, self-sealing pre-catalyzed lacquer that provides a post-cat’s high durability and performance. With excellent sanding properties, adhesion, stain blocking, and moisture resistance, its high-solids formula helps to maximize the filling of open-pore wood species more efficiently for a perfect finish.

Surface feel is important, and clients like a tactile finishing touch. Richelieu has teamed up with the innovative Italian manufacturer Cleaf to bring Nature+ to the North American market. Added layers of kraft paper sit between the particleboard core and décor paper, and this allows for a much deeper and more realistic texture. The surface truly emulates real wood to the visual and tactile senses.

Another Italian product that brings an elegant finishing touch to casework is the Sayerlack line of coatings that includes both solvent-borne and waterborne coatings rooted in decades of industry-leading experience and innovation.

But before those gorgeous coatings can be sprayed, the work needs to be dust-free. SandMan Products supplies American-made, self-contained downdraft stations that use a powerful internal filtration system to pull microscopic dust straight down at the point of origin.

And once the work is ready for coating, SATA’s new jet K pressure-fed spray gun delivers the control, consistency, and efficiency that professionals need across a wide range of coatings to deliver the ultimate finishing touch.

		
Eliaswoodwork.com 42	Guffeysystems.com 43	MLCampbell.com 41
		
Richelieu.com 44	Sandmanproducts.com 45	Satausa.com 40

New Pressure-fed Spray Gun from SATA

Jet K - Built for Large Surfaces. Ready for Demanding Jobs.

SATA's new jet K is a pressure-fed spray gun that's purpose-built for modern industrial and wood applications. Designed with large surface areas in mind, it delivers the control, consistency, and efficiency that professionals need across a wide range of coatings, including wood finishing applications.



Featuring the proven labyrinth airflow system from the iconic jet X, the new jet K uses this advanced nozzle technology to produce near turbulence-free airflow for smooth, even atomization. The result is consistent coating application with less overspray, reduced mottling, smoother topcoats, more uniform stain application, and clearer finishes with less milky appearance in clears.

Available in a variety of nozzle sizes and configurations, the jet K is designed to bring out the best in today's wood coatings. Standard nozzles support low to medium viscosity materials, while new MaxLayer nozzles are engineered for high-build functional coatings. This allows thicker film builds with fewer passes, to help improve efficiency without sacrificing finish quality.



Designed for productivity and comfort, the jet K features a taller spray pattern than the SATAjet 3000 K, which increases surface coverage and speeds up application. Optimized material distribution across the entire spray pattern helps ensure consistent results from edge to edge.

Weighing only 430 grams, the jet K offers a 25% weight reduction from the 3000 K. This lightweight design helps improve comfort during larger jobs, or extended spraying sessions.

To better fit user preferences, every jet K includes both a standard trigger and a second Med-Large trigger set, allowing woodworkers to customize the fit and feel.

The jet K can be used with pressure tanks, double diaphragm pumps, plural component systems, and other low-pressure delivery systems, making it adaptable across a wide range of finishing setups. Users also have the option to add an air micrometer and swivel joint to the air inlet as an accessory.

The new jet K

Providing Ultimate Productivity

SATA



The jet K is SATA's answer for pressure-fed hand spray wood applications.

Using our labyrinth airflow system to deliver consistent coating atomization throughout the spray pattern resulting in smoother topcoats, more uniform spray stains, and less milky clear.

Available in a variety of nozzle sizes and options to bring out the best from the various wood coatings available today. Let us show you what it can do for you.

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MAGNA-TEK™ Pre-Cat Tint Base & Topcoat

Clear and White Options

MAGNA-TEK Clear Pre-Cat Tint Base & Topcoat is a high-solid, hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) free, fast drying, self-sealing pre-catalyzed lacquer. This high performance, pre-catalyzed tint base is ready-to-use with a built-in catalyst for better durability and faster drying times than traditional lacquers, but without the need for on-site mixing.

User-friendly, it also provides a post-cat's high durability and performance. MAGNA-TEK white has excellent sanding properties, and it's formulated to provide an improvement over conventional lacquer white topcoats where excellent adhesion, stain blocking, and superior moisture resistance are required. Its high-solids formulation helps to maximize the filling of open-pore wood species more efficiently.

MAGNA-TEK Clear improves productivity by increasing curing speed and reducing cycle time. It's ideal for use on kitchen and bathroom cabinets, furniture, paneling and commercial fixtures. These next generation coatings are part of a board offering of outstanding pre-cata-



lyzed lacquers from M.L. Campbell®. Engineered to achieve high-quality performance, productivity and appearance, its alkyd-amino hybrid formulation ensures that natural beauty, clarity and durability are evident on every sprayed piece.

This self-sealing pre-catalyzed lacquer coating is formulated to transform the way that conventional lacquer coatings operate. With performance characteristics similar to that of a conversion varnish, MAGNA-TEK provides excellent adhesion, outstanding durability, and superior moisture resistance. In addition, MAGNA-TEK is formulated to provide a high film thickness per coat, which results in outstanding film build. This allows maximum coverage of

open-pore wood species while consuming less material. Its high-quality formulation delivers a 60-day shelf life, and improved color stability that results in an elegant final finish. It is PFAS/Phthalate-Free which avoids 'forever chemicals' and shows outstanding longevity in testing against KCMA / AWI requirements.

For fantastic slip and feel while reducing the need for unnecessary sanding, MAGNA-TEK Pre-Cat Tint Base & Topcoat offers the perfect finishing touch.



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A Range Hood is the Ultimate Finishing Touch

Modern Style from Elias Woodwork

In today's kitchen designs, few features command more attention than the range hood. This eye-level feature is the centerpiece in most great layouts, and it just got a significant boost. Elias Woodwork, known to professionals as THE one-stop resource for frameless cabinetry and premium refacing products, has added modern range hoods to their expanding product lines.

Available in both wood and thermofoil finishes, the new collection blends contemporary styling with practical functionality and manufacturing flexibility. These range hoods are available in a curated selection of modern styles designed to meet cabinet customers' growing demand for clean, contemporary kitchen aesthetics. Each design is available in four standard widths that can also be customized to suit specific kitchen layouts and design preferences.

Customization is central to the program. Designers and woodshops can specify wood

stain, painted wood, or rigid thermofoil finishes, while also mixing materials and colors for truly distinctive combinations. The bottom skirt section and body can each feature different finishes, allowing for added visual contrast and personalization that complements surrounding cabinetry and millwork.

Beyond aesthetics, the collection was engineered with installation efficiency in mind. Every hood includes a customized wall-mounted frame system that allows the hood to slide securely into place for faster, more reliable installation. Each frame can accommodate multiple Broan NuTone blower options, providing dependable ventilation performance from one of North America's most recognized ventilation manufacturers. The hoods can also be configured for either exterior venting or optional ductless recirculation applications.

The launch of the range hood collection reflects Elias Woodwork's broader



commitment to helping kitchen builders and woodshops simplify sourcing while expanding their design capabilities. Known throughout the industry for their vast product selection and commitment to quality, the company supplies cabinet doors and drawer fronts in wood, thermofoil, and laminate, along with custom cabinet boxes, drawer boxes, pullouts, moldings, accessories, and finishing services.

Supporting this continued growth is Elias Woodwork's new manufacturing facility dedicated to AOS Elite (Assemble On Site) custom cabinets. Equipped with advanced manufacturing technology and energy-efficient systems, the facility enhances production capacity while supporting the company's focus on precision, efficiency, and sustainability.

For more than forty years, Elias Woodwork has helped industry professionals across North America deliver high-quality cabinetry that balance craftsmanship, functionality, and style. With the addition of its new modern range hood collection, the company is giving kitchen builders and designers another way to create complete, coordinated kitchen environments that stand out in today's market.



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IWF Booth C2463

PivotLine

Busting Myths about Vertical Spraying

Nathan Guffey is a custom cabinetmaker who built and finished cabinets for 24 years. That experience gave him a superb foundation for creating the industrial strength, engineered, patented elements of Guffey Systems' innovative vertical spraying system.

One thing that has become very clear to him is that cabinetmakers and furniture builders often love the fabrication process but aren't so keen on finishing. For years, he too dreaded the booth. But that quickly dissipated once he started spraying vertically. Gone were the issues that came with flat finishing such as doors sticking to racks, debris landing on a wet coating, bugs walking through an uncured finish, those 'forever' dry times, and endless material handling.

Together, those stumbling blocks become a recipe for the most time-consuming, bottleneck-creating, profit hindering process in the woodworking industry.

Finishing doesn't have to be like that. It can actually be a fun and rewarding process that helps drive production and increases revenue. But before that happens, shop owners may want to think about some of the myths and misconceptions that get in the way of progress.

For example, why is flat finishing cabinet doors still viewed as a 'professional' technique? In most cases, it's just because "we've always done it that way". Which, of course isn't true: woodworkers spray verti-



cal cabinet sides, interiors, vent hoods, end panels and so on all the time. But the fact that a shop can choose from hundreds of different versions of flat racking and spray tables reinforces the myth, because there are only a handful of solutions for manually spraying in a vertical orientation.

Using a Guffey System, the shop can spray both faces at once, and scuff sanding can be done without removing the parts. Customers have reported reductions of up to 80% in material handling.

And when there's a constant supply of finish, the gun doesn't have to be set down until the last part is sprayed.

Nathan often hears from flat finishers that they don't believe they'll get the same quality when spraying vertically. But his experience is that hands down, the quality is better – and there's virtually no rework. Debris, bugs, even perspiration and other contaminants can land in wet finish, and a horizontal part offers a much larger target than a vertical one. Doors frequently stick



to flat racks too, which means even more handling and rework.

And it can save on material, too.

"Spraying vertically," Nathan notes, "just makes you more mindful of the amount of product you're spraying, as well as the technique being used, which in return leads to using less coating."

One reason shop owners are slow to go vertical is the perception that they will need to invest heavily in a new system. But small or medium size shops quickly discover that Guffey Systems cost a small percentage of the price of a large automated flat line. Nathan often hears back from new customers that they're experiencing the productivity they were hoping for, with a reasonably sized investment that has a sensible ROI. The company designs systems to meet individual shops' needs, and that can impact the budget in a very positive way.

And scale isn't an issue. Guffey Systems equipment is also used by 200,000 square-foot shops that began by finishing around 60 parts at a time on PivotLine, and have grown their system to a capacity of around a thousand parts. Thanks to the modular nature of 100% American made Guffey Systems, clients repeatedly return to expand their capacity as their shops' bottlenecks disappear and production levels increase.



Guffey Systems

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IWF Booth C2762

Richelieu

Designers know Cleaf. The Milan manufacturer leads the industry when it comes to new colors and textures, and is known to set trends rather than follow them. Now Richelieu has teamed up with the innovative Italian manufacturer to bring Nature+ by Cleaf to the North American market. The unique finishing touch is added layers of kraft paper that sit between the particleboard core and décor paper which allows for a much deeper and more realistic texture. The surface truly emulates real wood to the visual and tactile senses. Nature+ panels are scratch and impact resistant. When paired with Richelieu’s PUR edge banding, they’re also moisture-resistant, making them as durable as they are beautiful. The collection includes a variety of textures



and designs including woodgrains, linens, natural stone, and abstract geometric designs. The versatile color palette ranges from cool to warm tones, so they pair beautifully with other solids, metallics, or high-gloss options in the Richelieu catalog. For example, designers often use Nature+ on cabinet bottoms where durability is key and then contrast it with a different finish on the uppers for a more dynamic look. Richelieu has curated a selection of Nature+ design preferences that stay ahead of trends, and for 2026 the company has added twelve new colors inspired by European

trends. These include lighter white oak and blonde woods, rich greens, warm terracotta tones and trending fluted linear textures, all available in matching laminates, edge banding, and doors. Among its notable finishing touches for closet and home organizing, Richelieu also offers the cohesive and elegant Satin Brass collection, where finishes are carefully coordinated across hardware, storage, and fixtures. This creates a visual rhythm that elevates the entire environment, and makes each individual element feel more intentional. The Satin Brass Collection, viewable at Richelieu.com, offers exactly this kind of unifying force.



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Unlike central vac systems that lose static pressure across long duct runs, these units use a powerful internal filtration system to pull microscopic dust straight down at the point of origin, trapping particulates before they ever enter the breathing zone – or migrate to a shop's finishing areas.

Designed for high-productivity environments, Sand Pro downdraft sanding tables feature a rubberized grid top and easy access filters that can be replaced in 30 seconds. Integrated storage ensures essential tools remain organized and accessible.

For oversized or fully assembled pieces that exceed the capacity of a standard table, SandMan Products provides the SBP108 Sanding Booth. This portable, resizable unit uses a high-performance backdraft system to draw dust away from the worker, ensuring a safer and more efficient environment for large-scale manufacturing.

Beyond its hallmark dust collection, SandMan Products offers SandPro Inspection Lighting which is specifically designed to eliminate costly rework. Engineered to

expose subtle cross-grain scratches, dips and machine marks, these low-angle lights allow operators to catch surface imperfections directly at the sanding table, wide belt sander, or quality control station before stain or topcoat is applied.

It's time to stop fighting dust and upgrade the workspace with the ultimate finishing touch.

SandPro lets a woodworker focus on what truly matters: craft.



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Work by 2026 WARP fellows (left to right): "Two Houses and a Space" by Anders Nienstaedt, "Wood Chair in Fir" by Joyce Lin, "Battle Milk (Door)" by Niv Tishbi, "Never Again II" by Christian Burchard, and "Flower Box" by Marcus DiMaggio.

Six artists selected for Philadelphia wood arts residency

By Jennifer Hicks

JULY 2026
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WOODSHOPNEWS

The Museum for Art in Wood in Philadelphia announces the fellows of its 2026 Windgate Arts Residency Program (WARP) in Wood, an annual international residency supporting artistic exploration in wood. The two-month residency brings artists together in a collaborative environment from June 8 through Aug. 7.

"The Museum for Art in Wood is proud to welcome an exceptional cohort of artists whose work reflects the expansive possibilities of wood," Jennifer-Navva Milliken, the museum's executive director and chief curator, said in a statement.

"This year's residents span practices from sculpture and furniture to performance and social engagement. As they convene in Philadelphia, they will deepen their work while building meaningful connections. Now in its 29th year, the Windgate Arts Residency Program in Wood remains a career-defining experience, fostering new ideas, ambitious work, and lasting artistic relationships."

Since 1995, the museum has annually awarded fellowships to a cohort consisting of artists, a student artist, a documentary artist, and a scholar.

This year's fellows are Adam Atkinson, a sculptor and metalsmith based in Austin, Texas; Joyce Lin, an artist and sculptural furniture designer from Bellaire, Texas; Mark Tan, a Canadian sculptor; Niv Tishbi, an Israeli multidisciplinary artist; Anders Nienstaedt, a sculptor and filmmaker from Northfield, Minnesota; and Liza Stout, a student and interdisciplinary artist from Phoenix, Arizona.

The fellows will live and work in Philadelphia, with studio facilities at NextFab, a membership-based makerspace, and participate in activities connecting them with the region's art community. The residency will conclude with a public exhibition at the museum showcasing works produced during the program.

The museum notes that for the 2025 and 2026 residency sessions, it received a record number of applications, with greater international response than ever before.

Learn more at museumforartinwood.org.

WEM LAUNCHES 'BREAKING GROUND' EXHIBITION

The Wharton Esherick Museum in Malvern, Pennsylvania, opened *Breaking Ground* on June 18, an exhibition marking the 100th anniversary of woodworker Wharton Esherick's 1926 groundbreaking for his studio. The exhibition runs through Sept. 20 and features works by 26 contemporary artists building on Esherick's (1887-1970) legacy.

To mark the centennial, the museum invited contemporary artists to take inspiration from what they consider groundbreaking.

"Together, the 26 artists featured in 'Breaking Ground' remind us that groundbreaking moments rarely end with the ceremonial turning of soil," Emily Zilber, the museum's director of curatorial affairs and strategic partnerships, said in a statement. "Instead, they mark the beginning of a longer process in which imagination, skill, and persistence come together to build something enduring."

Exhibiting artists include Robert Aiosa, Christian Burchard, Rick Cannon, Fred Chase, Lewis Colburn, Marcus DiMaggio, Mia Donalson, Joshua Enck, Terry Evans, Russ Fogle, David Gootnick, Sonja Hackenmueller, Josh Johnson, Danny Kamerath, Mark Kobasz, Cole Messinger, Ana Neifeld, Anders Nienstaedt, George Sawyer, Wyatt Severs, Mark Sfirri, Janice Smith, Bill Stewart, Christina Vincent, Janine Wang and Haniel Wides.

Prize winners are Christian Burchard of Ashland, Oregon; Haniel Wides of Somerville, Massachusetts; Terry Evans of Overland Park, Kansas; and Robert Aiosa of Orlando, Florida. Their works will be on view in the museum's Visitor Center during the exhibition.

Finalists were selected from an international pool of applicants by jurors Tom Loeser, a furniture maker and educator; Joyce Lin, artist and sculptural furniture designer; and Zilber.

Learn more at whartonesherickmuseum.org. **W**



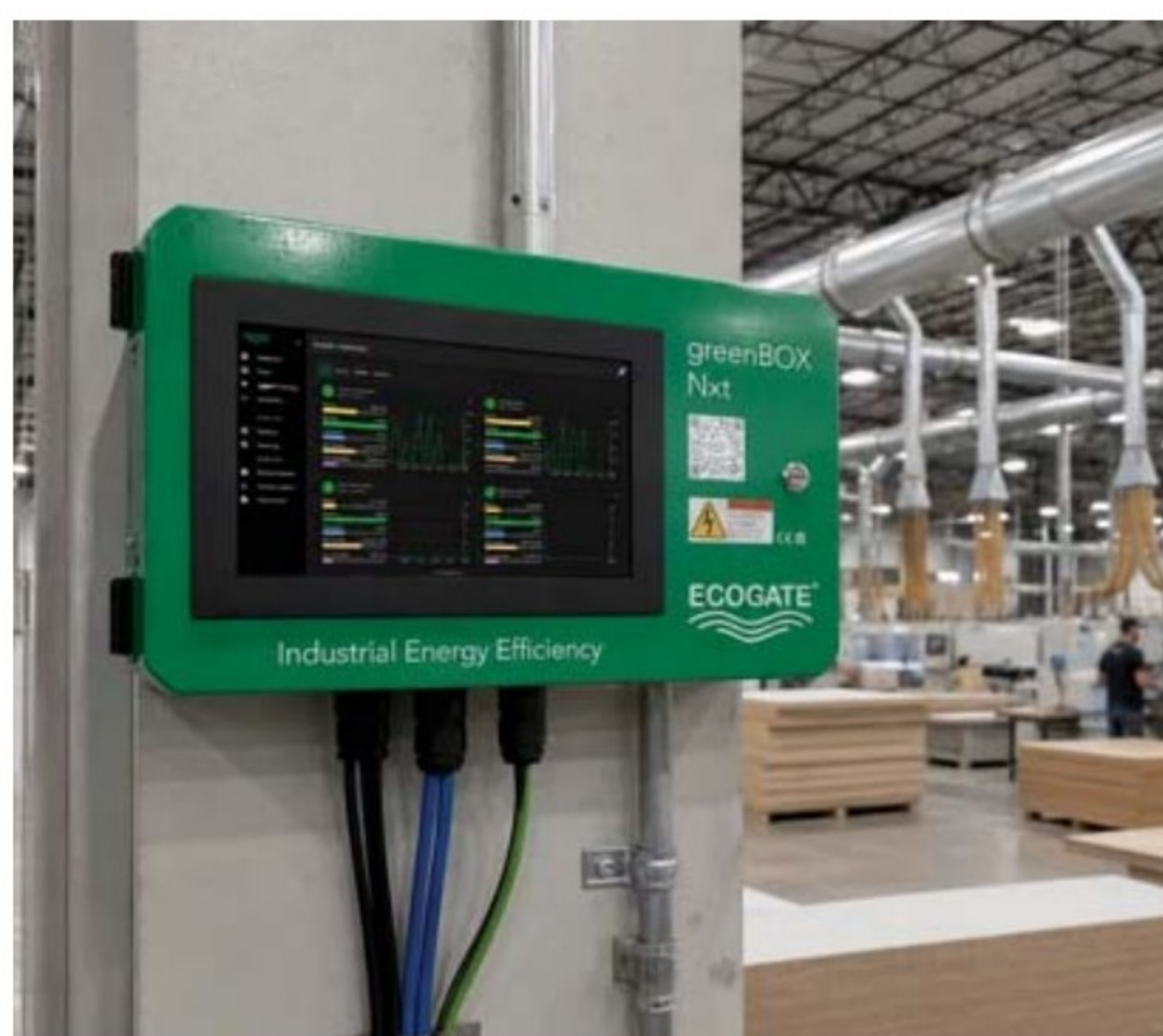
NORTHPOINT CABINETRY, a cabinet brand from Hardware Resources, has introduced Shell White to its Catalina Shaker-style line. The soft-white finish draws inspiration from weathered seashells, offering warmth while maintaining the brightness associated with white cabinets, according to the company. NorthPoint Cabinetry is available fully assembled or as QuickBuild ready-to-assemble cabinets. Learn more at northpointcabinetry.com.



RIDGID is expanding its NXT accessory line with new dual-locking vacuum attachments designed to fit multiple hose sizes without adapters. The NXT Dual Locking Accessories line includes six vacuum attachments and a shoe attachment kit that work with both 1-7/8-inch and 2-1/2-inch diameter RIDGID wet/dry vacuums. The accessories also work with RIDGID's existing NXT shoes and the NXT Locking Accessories introduced in 2024. The company also added a shoe kit for its new Claw Nozzle attachment. Learn more at ridgid.com.

LAGUNA

introduces the DX 20 drill press that builds on the performance of the Laguna DP 20, delivering the same intelligent features and precision controls with the added benefit of a more powerful 2.5-hp motor, according to the company. Key features include a touch screen Smart Panel with blue LCD digital readout; 2.5-hp motor; auto-start function, and electronic depth setting. It sells for \$2,599. Learn more at lagunatools.com.

**ECOGATE,**

a provider of industrial dust collection and ventilation systems, has introduced the greenBOX Nxt Block #6 controller. Designed for on-demand industrial ventilation, it automatically monitors and manages the company's Smart Gates (which measure air volume, velocity and pressure), Workstation Activity Sensors, Variable Frequency Drives, Dust Collector Interfaces, and other system devices so the ventilation system delivers airflow only where it is needed in real-time. This new version includes a Linux-powered operating system, faster hardware, improved touchscreen performance, expanded monitoring tools, automatic airflow calibration features, and support for Precision Airflow Gates, according to the company. Learn more at ecogate.com.

KREG TOOL

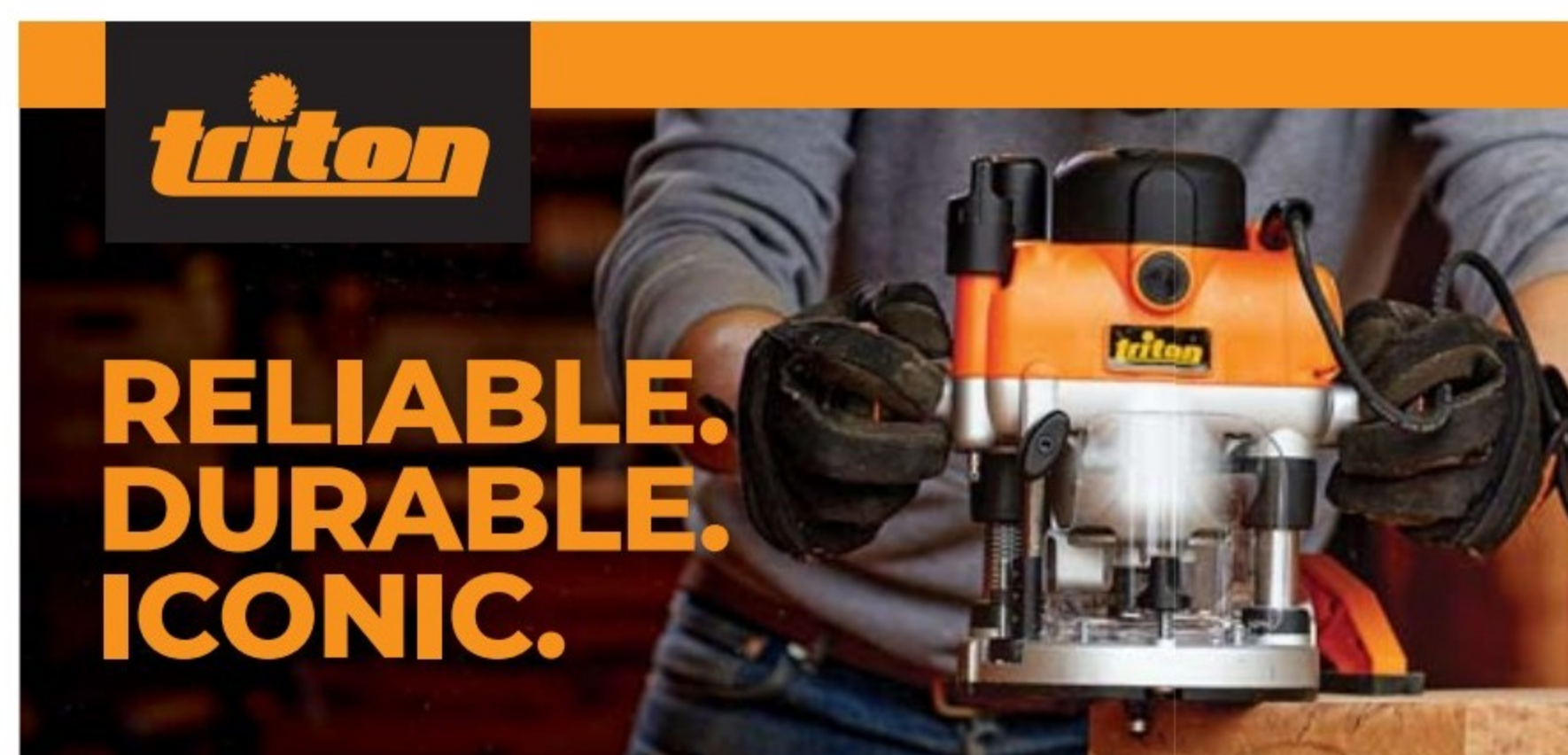
has introduced the Kreg Edge, a loose tenon joiner, to its 20-volt Ionic Drive cordless power tool system. The Kreg Edge offers multiple alignment and configuration features, including an auto-centering narrow stock guide, adjustable edge stops, One-Touch mortise width adjustment, and micro-adjustment for the fence height. Learn more at kregtool.com.



TASK LIGHTING & POWER,
a division of Hardware Resources, presents Pop-Up Power outlets to add electrical access to kitchen islands and workstations. The product line includes a four-outlet version and an eight-outlet model that includes two USB-A and two USB-C ports. Learn more at tasklighting.com.



GRIPEDGE TOOLS
offers a new 9-piece Rounding Prevention Technology (RPT) Long Metric Hex Key Set, designed for technicians who work with hex fasteners in tight, angled or obstructed spaces. The set combines the company's patented RPT and ball-hex geometry with extra-long bars, S2 tool steel construction, Color-Eye-D coding, and a locking wallet-style holder. The set carries a suggested retail price of \$79.99. Learn more at gripedgetools.com.



Triton has been making specialist woodworking tools since 1976. For the last 20 years, our routers have been trusted by woodworkers around the world.

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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

CALIFORNIA

Monthly — San Fernando Valley Woodworkers meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Balboa Sports Center in Encino. 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 are open to all experience levels at members' shops. For locations and dates, visit sjfwa.com.

Nov. 15-17 — STAFDA's 50th annual convention and trade show for members to convene with manufacturers and distributors in the industry and take part in educational programs and seminars. Location: Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim. stafda.org

FLORIDA

Monthly — Woodcrafters Club of Tampa meets every third Thursday evening at 3809 W. Broad St. in Tampa. tampa-woodcrafters.org

Oct 7-8 — Wood Products Manufacturers Association's 96th annual meeting with an agenda of presentations, networking opportunities and local plant tours. Location: Hilton Lake Buena Vista in Orlando. wpma.org

Oct 21-23 — Architectural Woodwork Institute's annual convention. Location: Hyatt Coconut Point Resort in Bonita Springs. awinet.org

GEORGIA

Aug. 25-28 — International Woodworking Fair, North America's largest woodworking technology and design trade show. Location: Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. iwfatlanta.com

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IOWA

Oct. 9-10 — Woodworking in America, hosted by Woodsmith, Popular Woodworking and Fine Woodworking magazines, offering workshops, demonstrations and camaraderie for woodworkers of all skill levels. Location: 4-H Exhibits Building, Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. woodworkinginamerica.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 October; 12-week Furniture Intensives; a nine-month Comprehensive; eight-week Turning Intensives, and Fellowships. woodschoo.org

Aug. 8-9 — The Maine Woodworking Event. A two-day, community-driven gathering dedicated to the craft of woodworking and those who make it possible. Location: Scarborough. themainewoodworkingevent.com

MINNESOTA

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

Monthly — The Minnesota Woodturners Association

meets on the first Saturday of each month (except July) in Plymouth. They also offer a wide range of classes for beginners and advanced turners. mnwoodturners.com

Oct. 16-17 — Minnesota Woodworkers Expo, presented by the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild. Location: Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. mnwwg.org

MONTANA

Aug. 7-9 — Western Design Conference Exhibit & Sale featuring unique creations in furniture, fashion, jewelry, home and lifestyle accessories. Location: Brick Breeden Fieldhouse in Bozeman. westerndesignconference.com

NEW JERSEY

Monthly — The North Jersey Woodworkers Association meets the third Monday of every month. 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 holds meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department in Baldwinsville. woodcny.org



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

Monthly — Charlotte Woodworkers Association meets the third Tuesday of each month, except December, at 6:15 p.m. Location: 8801 Park Road in Charlotte. charlottewoodworkers.org

Oct. 17-21 — Fall High Point Market. Home furnishings trade show attracting over 70,000 industry professionals across 11.5 million sq. ft. of showroom space. Open exclusively to trade professionals. Location: High Point. highpointmarket.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 in Reading. cincinnatiwoodworkingclub.org

PENNSYLVANIA

Monthly — Lehigh Valley Woodworkers Guild meets at 6:30 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month at the Woodcraft in Allentown. Various craftspeople provide presentations on their woodworking techniques. lvwwg.com

RHODE ISLAND

Nov. 7-8 — 31st annual Fine Furnishings Show, offering handcrafted furniture, accessories, home decor and fine art, as well as student work from students in the furniture making program at North Bennet Street School. Location: WaterFire Arts Center in Providence. finefurnishingsshows.com

TEXAS

Sept. 25-27 — Texas Woodworking Festival produced by the Austin School of Furniture. A combination of an industry trade show, educational symposium, and festival for makers. Location: Palmer Events Center in Austin. texaswoodworkingfestival.com **W**

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Automation in action

Hansen & Co. Woodworks, a commercial interiors manufacturer based in St. Joseph, Minnesota, will host a national manufacturing event July 22 in partnership with machinery manufacturer Biesse. The event at Hansen's 100,000-sq.-ft. facility will showcase the company's HCo 2.0 cabinet production lines and demonstrate system integration and digital workflow components designed and delivered by Biesse Technic.

"Automation was not just about increasing output," says Adam Hansen, founder and CEO of Hansen & Co. "It was about designing a smarter operation. With Biesse's expertise and support, we built a system that handles the repetitive work so our people can focus on what actually takes skill. That's how you give people a real opportunity to achieve their potential and that's always been the mission."

The event will welcome manufacturers, partners, contractors and industry leaders for demonstrations of the automated production line, material storage and retrieval systems, high-speed CNC machining, connected digital workflows, and how automation supports skilled manufacturing jobs.

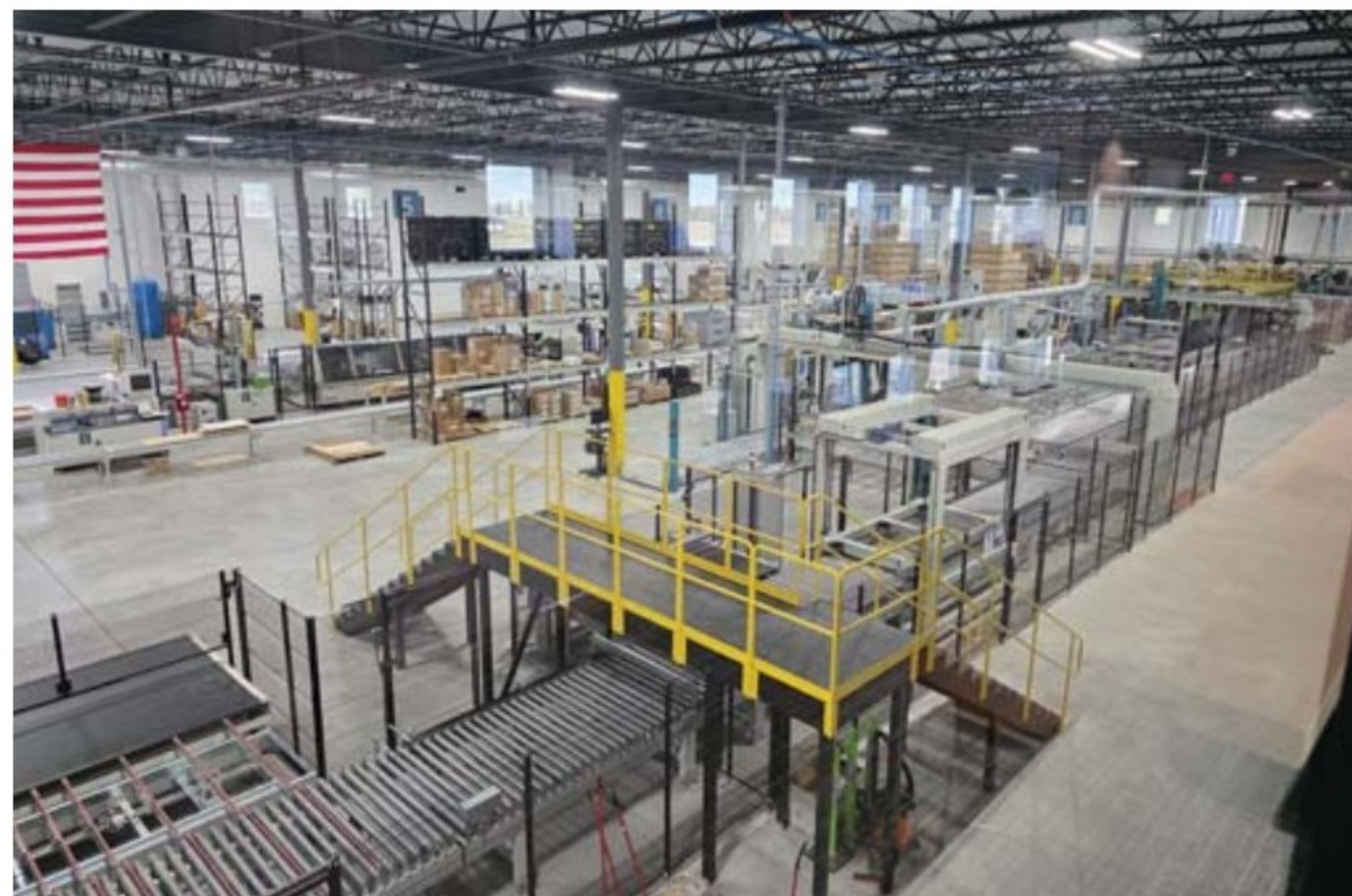
As the exclusive technology and integration partner for HCo 2.0, Biesse Technic participated in every stage of the project from initial concept through final commissioning. The collaboration included automated material storage, high-speed CNC routing technology, integrated material flow engineering, intelligent sequencing and digital workflow systems, facility layout optimization, and ongoing technical support.

The integrated system enables real-time coordination between storage, machining and assembly, creating a streamlined ecosystem built for scalability.

"From our very first meetings with Adam both here in the United States and across Europe we made it our priority to truly listen. To understand not just the operational requirements, but the vision behind them," Jason Varelli, lines director for Biesse Technic Wood, said in a statement. "That process is what allowed the Biesse Technic team to design a fully integrated facility we are both proud to stand behind. HCo 2.0 is the first of its kind in the United States, and we are honored to have been the partner that helped bring it to life. We look forward to celebrating this achievement together at the event."

Founded in 2004, Hansen & Co. produces casework for multi-unit environments, architectural millwork and metalwork, and operates a surfaces division covering granite, quartz and solid surface fabrication. Introduced earlier this year, the HCo 2.0 cabinet production line represents a \$25 million investment and increases production capacity more than 400 percent. The lines feature three collections: Urbanesque 2.0 thermally fused laminate, Modine 2.0 painted, and Urban 61 2.0 combining thermally fused laminate cases with painted doors.

"We're super excited to host Biesse's national event here



The Hansen & Co. Woodworks facility in St. Joseph, Minnesota.

on the 22nd, and the next day we're having an open house for the general public," Hansen said.

"I've been given the opportunity to tour a significant number of shops over my 22 years doing this. It's about opportunity, whether you're a small shop or large shop. There's definitely something everybody can learn from visiting shops and visiting other companies."

Interested attendees can contact Hansen & Co. or its partners for registration details and event updates. Learn more at hcowoodworks.com. **W**

—Jennifer Hicks

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