I flew in specially for the occasion from visiting woodworking companies in Almeria Province in southern Spain, via France and some rather unexpected problems.

And what did you give me to mark the occasion? A lump of blockboard – even if had had been professionally machined on one of Biesse’s technologically advanced edge-banding machines. You didn’t even bother to sign it for me. So there you, as readers can see for themselves in the picture right, I promptly gave it back to you, duly signed and presented to you with a firm handshake and a rather leery smile.

What did I get for lunch? A bottle of sparkling mineral water and a sticky bun and I even had to help myself to that! OK, so I had a plane to catch and had to leave before the proper lunch was being served.

What was the main attraction? It was difficult to say really, because each one of up to a couple of dozen machines, which were on display at Biesse’s bright and airy show room premises was pulling in the potential punters.

At Biesse’s recent two-day open house event there was a highly innovative selection of all the very latest machines and the crowds who flocked to this event had the chance to see them all in action before making that all-important purchase decision.

Very seldom do events of this type tick all the boxes, but Biesse UK certainly pulled out all the stops in the early part of July when the Italian-based manufacturing giant tried to persuade visitors to “Think Biesse”.

I am sure that when they finally left the event, many of those who were in attendance had come to the conclusion that there weren’t many other options when it came to the purchase of a world class piece of woodworking machinery.

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THE AXYZ 6010 ACHIEVES CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS

FOLLOWING the installation of an AXYZ 6010 CNC router in February of this year, the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon is said to have achieved considerable savings in terms of production time and on outsourcing costs.

‘Having been impressed by the performance and reliability of the AXYZ 6010 CNC router installed at other scenic workshops, coupled with the quality of the on-site operator training provided by AXYZ International’s technical engineers, it was decided to purchase the same machine for the RSC carpentry department,’ says the head of scenic resources at the RSC, Rebecca Cubitt.

This has enabled us to bring in-house all of our routing and cutting requirements and removed the previous need to use outside suppliers for the more intricate stage sets and scenic designs required for RSC's many and varied productions,’ she adds. The AXYZ router is employed primarily to process plywood and polycarbonate sheets used to create the floors of the stage sets and for making components that are built into other scenic elements. According to Rebecca Cubitt, the installation of the router has also helped resolve issues on manual handling and employee safety.

‘In the past, it was necessary to hand-cut, or use a wall-mounted panel saw to cut shaped floor panels. ‘This proved to be very time consuming, as well as presenting handling problems for staff when lifting heavy sheets of polycarbonate on to the saw,’ explains Rebecca.

‘Since its installation, the router has been working non-stop, enabling a much faster turnaround on work to better accommodate critical deadlines on the various RSC productions,’ says Rebecca. The AXYZ 6010 router installed at the RSC scenic workshop has a processing area of 2199mm (width) x 3048mm (length). It also incorporates a seven-station AXYZ Automatic Tool Changer (ATC) facility to accommodate multiple tooling requirements.

‘As this was the first CNC machine installed in the carpentry department, it was a matter of choosing a router which was easy to operate and trustworthy and which would enable our employees to learn how to use quickly and integrate into their working practices,’ adds Rebecca.

As with all AXYZ routers, the AXYZ 6010 can be supplied with a host of optional production tool enhancements. These include the AXYZ Auto Zone Management facility, which ensures that the material being processed is always held securely during the routing/cutting process and the AXYZ machine controller with integrated AXYZ Vision System (AVS) for optimum accuracy and quality of cut. These are supplemented with the latest helical rack and pinion drive system.

This features a multiple gear tooth configuration, which helps spread the workload more evenly, leading to faster throughput times, reduced material wastage, quieter operation and, ultimately, a longer than normal machine life.

‘In addition to the performance and reliability of the AXYZ 6010 router, I was pleased with the on-site operator training provided by AXYZ International and to the support demonstrated throughout the entire installation process,’ concludes Rebecca.

— For further information tel AXYZ on 01952 291600. Visit www.ayz.com

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THE INSTITUTE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE defines continuous improvement, “as a gradual never-ending change...” It’s a tough, but necessary, ask of any business and the manufacture and supply of fitted furniture is no exception.

Competition and the fight for business just becomes fiercer every year and no business, large or small, can afford to withdraw from the search to find new armaments. The quest to win the battle for business, existing and new, has to be ongoing. Fall short or sit idle while competitors march on with new ideas and demise is inevitable.

Business academics and industry leaders alike, all recognise that innovation and new product development are key to both a successful strategy and a profitable operation. However, in a world where progress and technical advance seem to evolve daily, how do you know which to adopt?

When is it right to grab an idea and when is it just marketing overload to be ignored? How do we ensure, “continuous improvement” and not drown our colleagues and customers in “continual improvement”?

Simple Continuous Improvement From Space Plug

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Many believe that the source of an idea can be a key indicator as to its validity. There has been much written about Continuous Improvement Programmes and, surprisingly, it’s not all about huge leaps from the research and development department. Many devises and place large emphasis on, the need to identify small, effective changes from within one’s own, or industry based, operational workforce.

Listening to the operational staff can not only benefit them with a sense of empowerment, but can also be of great benefit to the organisation. Those with, “hands on” knowledge can often be the most alert and the most imaginative when it comes to finding small step solutions to not necessarily insurmountable problems.

Hence, a fitting that’s been designed by a fitter… is worth more than just taking note of. Its elegance and efficiency is in its simplicity… as is its business case; “Space-Plug works better than anything else on the market... for less money.” It doesn’t get much simpler than that.

We can’t all be John Harvey Jones. On the other hand we’re open to the right clues, especially, coming from the right people, we don’t have to be in order to spot the right opportunity.

— For further information tel Space Plug on 07901 552290. Visit www.spacplug.com

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A SHOFFITTING company is saying “Goodbye” to unnecessary heating and waste disposal bills after purchasing a new wood waste heater from Wood Waste Technology.

Edge Interiors has offered showroom and bespoke cabine making services for over 15 years from its 7,000sq ft workshop in Leicestershire.

Generating a substantial amount of waste wood during manufacture, the business was spending between £200 and £600/month on skips to dispose of the wood offcuts and other waste and around £1,500/month on running a gas boiler to keep the workshop warm during the colder months of the year.

Hearing about the benefits of purchasing a wood waste heater to reduce waste disposal costs and provide free heating, managing director of Edge Interiors, Nigel Barratt searched the Internet to find out how such an investment could help the business and discovered the range of heaters on offer from Wood Waste Technology.

Following more information and a site survey, Wood Waste Technology’s specialist engineers installed a WTI15 wood waste heater into the factory earlier this year.

“We’re so pleased we found Wood Waste Technology,” says Nigel Barratt.

“On the day the wood waste heater was installed, the workshop went from freezing cold to beautifully warm and the team now works in shorts and T-shirts instead of layers of warm clothing.

“I’m delighted that we no longer have to pay for heating, or hire a skip to dispose of our waste wood and also with the service received from Wood Waste Technology. The purchase of the wood waste heater is definitely one of the best investments we’ve ever made in our business,” continues Mr Barratt.

“It’s been a pleasure helping Edge Interiors, and, with the money savings on waste disposal and heating bills, the company should achieve a pay-back on its investment in less than two years,” says managing director of Wood Waste Technology, Kurt Cockcroft.

Wood Waste Technology offers a full range of wood waste heaters, from small hand-fired units to larger fully automatic systems and offers site survey and design, as well as manufacture, installation and on-going maintenance.

The company also services all types of wood waste heaters and supplies genuine spares up to 60% cheaper than other suppliers.

In addition, Wood Waste Technology is the UK’s official distributor for Groos Apparatebau GmbH, a German manufacturer of dependable, precision engineered wood waste shredders and briquetters.

The company is also a distributor for Putmanus boiler tube cleaning systems – a powerful, but gentle routine maintenance solution that is quick and easy to use and helps to increase boiler efficiency and lower operating costs.

For further information tel Wood Waste Technology on 01785 250400, Visit www.woodwaste.co.uk or www.putmanus.co.uk.

VISIT any corporate website and you’ll read the usual platitudes about the organisations’ commitment to sustainability and the Environment.

Why then, do many of these same organisations commission old fashioned “custom-built” exhibition stands, which represent a shameful waste of materials and resources?

Why are these traditional exhibition stands so wasteful?

These stands, built by traditional carpentry, represent weeks of workshop labour and resources, using materials, such as compressed timber products, plastics and metals and using glues, screws, laminates and solvents.

Not only are these building materials bad for the Environment, but the resulting exhibition structures are extremely heavy, often requiring polluting diesel HGV transport to get them to the exhibition venue.

Once at the venue, these stands are then re-built by carpenters and decorators; sawing timber, screwing panels together, cutting materials, creating dust, debris, fumes and hazards to themselves and their co-workers.

Anyone visiting a show build-up, where numbers of traditional custom-builds are taking place, will notice the aisles full of rubbish, sawdust and debris - the unfortunate results of these old fashioned building methods.

What makes the situation even worse is that these exhibition stands are disposable – anything left behind is trashed once the show is over (“Build and Burn” as the Americans call it!). It all represents a shocking waste of labour and materials.

One alternative to traditional stands are re-usable, modular display systems – a powerful, but gentle routine maintenance solution that is quick and easy to use and helps to increase boiler efficiency and lower operating costs.

For further information tel Quadrant2Design on 01202 723 700, or email us at: bill.willowe@gmail.com • Tel: 01797 208059

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Alphacam Macros provides a step up for Stairplan

PURPOSE – written macros in Alphacam software slashed programming time of bespoke projects from a day down to an hour, for one particular staircase specialist.

‘Every staircase we make is individual,’ says Stairplan managing director, Graham Thomas.

‘Alphacam also takes the awkward machining we need to do in its stride,’ he adds.

The Telford-based company averages around 100 staircases/week, from space savers through recessed, to high-end £60,000 staircases.

‘We never make two the same and we don’t produce the same type in any order. However, whatever we need to manufacture, we can do it with Alphacam. Without it, we simply couldn’t provide the service we offer,’ says Graham.

Many of the company’s products have a standard core, which is designed with specialist staircase software, but Alphacam is used to add the bespoke elements and the macros enable them to produce items extremely quickly.

‘For example, when we make bolted treads, a macro creates all the drilling, where everything has to line up with the strings.

Another macro manages our special fixings,’ says Graham.

The latest macro means that we get drawings and tool-paths with just one click. It cuts the programming time by 90 per cent.

‘Programming the internal aspect of a staircase used to take a day – now it only takes an hour,’ adds Graham.

‘We import a DXF file of the core staircase into Alphacam and the macros apply all the alterations with one click. It fits in all the connections, the drilling, the dowels and the tool-paths,’ he adds.

He says automating their processes in this way with Alphacam (part of the Vero Software suite) makes long, laborious tasks very simple and enables them to adhere rigidly to their maximum 10-day turnaround promise, even on the most complex shapes and curved handrails.

Graham Thomas began his career as a carpenter and joiner with a five-year apprenticeship, then decided that his future lay in making the parts and he focused on staircases and roofs.

He started manufacturing in his garage before moving into a workshop and then his first factory. Expansion soon followed, eventually moving into his current 50,000 sq ft factory – which has room for further growth – where he now employs around 30 people.

Customers include joiners and both domestic and commercial sectors with developers, high-end builders and the general public, including self-build.

‘Our biggest single market are joiners, who appreciate the high quality we’re able to provide,’ says Graham.

Describing Stairplan as ‘engineers in wood,” they use all the main species of timber, including pine, oak, beech, ash and walnut. Everything is now manufactured on their CNC machine tools: a total of five-axis MAKA machines and three twin-headed five-axis and four-axis Homag machines with automatic tables.

‘We went down the automatic table route, because of the time it saves with loading and the accuracy. It now takes us 20 seconds to set up a table and it’s far more reliable.

‘Pre-automation it could take up to 15 minutes to position the pods and then they weren’t always in the right place,’ says Graham.

Another aid to accuracy is the SL-Laser system that is used on all the company’s CNC machine tools where every set-up is simplified using laser projection for the exact positioning and alignment of machines and workpieces.

Once the components come off the machines, they are thoroughly checked and assembled before being despatched around the world.

We send staircases to a wide variety of countries, including Sierra Leone, Australia, Gibraltar, France, Cyprus and the USA,’ says Graham.

‘We can now make difficult components very quickly and that’s because Alphacam’s engineers looked at what we needed to know and produced a bespoke automated solution for us. It’s tailored machining,’ concludes Graham.

• For further information tel Alphacam on 01189 557600. Visit www.alphacam.com.
JAKE Philp is a British designer of beautiful, made-to-order fine furniture, which has been sold all over the globe. In 2003 he set up his own studio in London and began designing production pieces for a wide range of European manufacturers with his work being displayed in two galleries one in London and the other in New York.

Since 2010 he has specialised in designing and making his own unique and highly engineered pieces to order, his award-winning work is often characterised by energetic and elegant metallic forms that are not only purposeful, but exude a luxurious and precious quality to them. In 2015 Jake decided to move his workshop from London to the North of England and invest in brand new machinery to continue to create his wonderful works of art.

He purchased a K 500 S sliding table saw from the FELDER range and an A3-41 planer/thicknesser.

"I have used lots of other machines from a variety of manufacturers that did not live up to the price tag. FELDER has proven to be more industrial, with a better quality of finish and offers a great cut each and every time," says Jake. "I needed a panel saw that could handle large sheet work. The FELDER K 500 S is very accurate and more than capable of handling everything I throw at it," says Jake.

"The benefit of having the Silent Power Spiral cutterblock on the planer/thicknesser is amazing! It is so quiet, I cannot hear it running," he adds.

For further information tel FELDER on 01908 635 000. Visit www.felder-group.co.uk.

BRITISH DESIGNER INVESTS IN FELDER

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Environmental Standards

BUNTING Magnetics Europe has successfully transitioned to the new ISO9001:2015 Quality and ISO 14001:2015

The certification covers the manufacture and supply of magnetic separators, metal detectors and magnets and magnetic assemblies from the company’s European manufacturing headquarters in Berkhamsted.

Bunting has held the ISO9001 quality standard since May 2005. The quality of our products, manufacturing processes and business management is of the utmost importance to us and our customers,’ says Bunting Magnetics Europe’s Quality Assurance Manager, Denis Elkins explained the importance of transitioning to the ISO9001:2015 Quality standard.

‘We believe that it is one of the primary reasons for our continued success,’ he adds.

The ISO 9001:2015 Quality Standard was revised in 2015 and now has a definitive focus on business performance.

The process approach has been combined with risk-based thinking, promoting the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle at all levels in the organisation.

The new standard acknowledges that modern organisations will have several management standards in place and the 2015 version has been designed to be easily integrated with other management systems.

The new version also provides a solid base for sector-quality standards (automotive, aerospace, medical industries, etc) and takes into account the needs of regulators.

Bunting also recognises the importance of adopting good working practices in accordance with international Environmental Standards and originally attained the ISO14001 standard in February 2002.

The ISO14001:2015 Environmental Standard sets out the criteria for a certifiable environmental management system.

It maps out a framework that a company, or organisation can follow to set up an effective environmental management system, regardless of its activity, or sector.

‘We have been actively involved in the environmental sector, supplying metal recycling equipment for many years,’ explains Denis.

GAST – a leading designer and manufacturer of precision air products and a member of the IDEX Corporation – is introducing a new range of vacuum pumps and compressors to its extensive portfolio.

These new products are simple in operation, robust and an effective source of compressed air. The three pump and compressor ranges include a total of sixteen oil-free and oil-lubricated rotary vane models and, as a first for the organisation, four claw pump models.

Announcing the new ranges, GAST Group’s Andrew Lidington explains that the company has extensive knowledge of the pneumatic industry and its customers’ needs continually drive the development and introduction of new and innovative products.

‘GAST is already renowned as a world-class manufacturer of vacuum pumps and compressors. These additions to our portfolio will provide customers with products that, compared to our traditional offering, can deliver even greater flow and deeper vacuum,’ says Andrew.

‘The addition of claw pumps also perfectly complements our portfolio and opens up new industries and sectors that we haven’t been able to participate in previously,’ he adds.

‘Using simulation software and the latest manufacturing techniques, we believe that the performance of our new rotary vane and claw pump models are class-leading,’ he continues.

‘The range is also more environmentally-friendly than ever, thanks to extended maintenance schedules, the total cost of ownership is also significantly improved,’ he explains.

GAST Claw Pumps

Claw pumps are an often-overlooked technology, due to a slightly higher initial cost. However, compared to oil-free rotary vane, claw pumps use significantly less horsepower to provide similar vacuum capability.

They also provide 100% per cent duty cycle and, with no carbon vanes and significantly less gear lubricant to replace, are quicker, easier and cheaper to maintain.

With only moderate energy consumption and very high efficiency, GAST’s four new claw pump models – PA.115, PA.115S, PA.115S and PA.115 – use contactless rotors that are synchronised by gears without any lubrication in the pumping chamber.

This frictionless operation avoids any residue (generated by rubbing during rotation) from contaminating the air supply and means lower maintenance and operating costs, longer lasting performance and improved total cost of ownership.

With nominal capacities ranging from 1.55 to 2.50 m³/h at 50Hz, vacuum capability to 160 mbar(abs) and pressures up to 2bar, the GAST claw pump range is ideal for numerous vacuum, compression, aeration, extraction and drying applications in sectors, including printing, environmental, medical, bulk material handling, CNC machining and vacuum hold-down.

GAST Oil-Free Rotary Vane Pumps

Adding to an already impressive portfolio of rotary vane pumps, two new oil-free models – SB.16 and SB.40 – being introduced feature an industrial Monobloc design with the rotor assembled directly on the motor shaft.

This direct-drive design means fewer moving parts, making these new dry vacuum pumps extremely compact, reliable and easy to maintain.

Additionally, a rear centrifugal fan ensures optimal cooling of the pump and each model is equipped with protective filters at the inlet and silencers at the outlet. Both models are also suitable for use as compressors.

A third model, the SC.100, has the rotor installed on the shaft and fixed by two bearings, with the motor being connected by a flexible coupling. The fan is installed between the pump housing and motor to ensure optimal cooling. A robust and compact housing provides protection and keeps noise levels extremely low.

GAST’s new oil-free rotary vane models offer nominal capacities from 16 to 100 m³/h at 50Hz. All models provide vacuum in excess of 1.6 mbar(abs) and are ideal for applications including printing, conveying, wood/plastic presses, automated packaging and pick and place operations.

GAST Oil-Lubricated Rotary Vane Pumps

Ideal for applications as diverse as laboratory conditioning/refrigeration appliances, mass spectrometry, packaging, medical equipment, thermo-forming machines and glass and marble machining, GAST’s new ten-model range of oil-lubricated rotary vane pumps – including the LB.8, LC.12, LC.20, LC.25, LC.40, LC60, LC150, LC151, LC.205 and LC.305 – are ideal where the intake flow may require higher flow and deeper vacuum.

Additionally, and for applications where intake vapour is considerable, a WR version features an insulated system. This separates oil and water condensate, which is then expelled when the pump is stopped.

All six oil-lubricated models offer nominal capacities from 8 to 305 m³/h at 50Hz and total final pressures between 2 and 0.1 mbar(abs).

GAST announces new greener GAST pump ranges provide greater flow and deeper vacuum performance, durability and ease of maintenance and serviceability.

GAST products are trusted globally to operate in critical applications.

The introduction of these new pumps now provides us with a comprehensive product line, which will allow OEMs to minimise their product development timeline and investment and get to market faster than their competitors,’ he concludes.

Summarising, Andrew Lidington says that, thanks to their advanced performance, durability and ease of maintenance and serviceability, GAST products are trusted globally to operate in critical applications.

‘The introduction of these new pumps now provides us with a comprehensive product line, which will allow OEMs to minimise their product development timeline and investment and get to market faster than their competitors,’ he concludes.

GAST – a leading designer and manufacturer of precision air products and a member of the IDEX Corporation – is introducing a new range of vacuum pumps and compressors to its extensive portfolio.

These new products are simple in operation, robust and an effective source of compressed air. The three pump and compressor ranges include a total of sixteen oil-free and oil-lubricated rotary vane models and, as a first for the organisation, four claw pump models.

Announcing the new ranges, GAST Group’s Andrew Lidington explains that the company has extensive knowledge of the pneumatic industry and its customers’ needs continually drive the development and introduction of new and innovative products.

‘GAST is already renowned as a world-class manufacturer of vacuum pumps and compressors. These additions to our portfolio will provide customers with products that, compared to our traditional offering, can deliver even greater flow and deeper vacuum,’ says Andrew.

‘The addition of claw pumps also perfectly complements our portfolio and opens up new industries and sectors that we haven’t been able to participate in previously,’ he adds.

‘Using simulation software and the latest manufacturing techniques, we believe that the performance of our new rotary vane and claw pump models are class-leading,’ he continues.

‘The range is also more environmentally-friendly than ever, thanks to extended maintenance schedules, the total cost of ownership is also significantly improved,’ he explains.

GAST Claw Pumps

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I HAVE attended a great many open days over the period of nearly 30 years that I have now served as the editor and publisher of a woodworking trade magazine (writes John Emslie).

Inevitably, some are better attended than others; some draw in a larger number of orders, some attract more of the woodworking trade press than others and some give visitors an immediate impression of being a professional event and one which has been organised to perfection.

Naturally, the objective of these shows is to allow trade visitors to have the opportunity to select from a wide range of machinery on offer. At Biesse’s recent two-day open house event there was a highly innovative selection of all the very latest machines. Here the crowds who flocked to this event had the chance to see them all in action before making that all-important purchase decision.

Very seldom do events of this type tick all the boxes, but this event had the characteristic of being a professional event and one which has been organised to perfection.

I am sure that when they finally leave the event, many of those who were in attendance had come to the conclusion that there weren’t many other options when it came to the purchase of world class woodworking machinery.

By the time that I arrived at the event in Daventry at a few minutes past nine o’clock in the morning, the show was already quite busy. By the time that I left at Noon (unfortunately, I had a late afternoon flight to catch out of London’s Stanstead Airport), it was a zig-zag course that I was forced to take to make my way to the door, as I negotiated my way around the crowds towards the exit and my awaiting cab.

What was the main attraction? It was difficult to say really, because each one of up a couple of dozen machines, which were on display at Biesse’s bright and airy showroom premises, was pulling in the potential punters.

Akron edge-bander, the Brema EKO 2.2 vertical boring machine, the Jade 240 edge-bander, the Klever 2236 G FT CNC nesting machine, the Rover A CNC machining centre, the Selco VN2 cutting centre, the Skipper V31 boring and inserting machine, the Stream A edge-bander, the Viet Opera 5 and the Viet S1 wide-belt sanders – every one of these machines and more was being demonstrated to a eager crowd.

The Akron 1300 edge-bander:
The Akron 1300 is automatic single-sided edge-banding machine – part of a range purposefully created for craftsmen and companies looking for user-friendly customised production, combined with flexible solutions all housed within a limited space.

Providing ground-breaking technology and a top quality performance, this edge-bander offers reliability and cutting accuracy, on account of the Desmo end trimmer, which removes any excess edging at the front and rear of the panel.

The Flex system, which is standard on the end trim, automatically adjusts the excess edge whether the corner rounding unit is being used, or not.

The end trimmer on the Akron 1300 is claimed to be the most competitive and high performance solution of its type. The high range technology is ideal for delicate and high gloss surfaces, due to the copying and tracing system, which does not involve any form of rubbing, or scraping. It ensures an extremely reduced gap between panels (something which is claimed to be unique to the market) to increase productivity.

The Akron 1400 is another single-sided edge-bander, which is especially designed for the application of edgings – either in rolls, or strips.

Compact working units are designed in order to simplify preparation and are available in different configurations to suit specific production requirements.

Biesse edge-banders are built in accordance with the customer’s individual machining needs and they can be subsequently reconfigured to meet specific production requirements. The automatic axis of the working units features a reading system, which allows the machine to know if the setting is correct.

These working units are fitted with motors with a positioning tolerance of 0.01mm for optimum machining accuracy. It is also worth noting that their limited dimensions considerably extend the range of applications to which they are suited.

The gluing unit is designed for the automatic application of edging in rolls, or strips measuring from 0.4mm to 1.2mm. There is a device for setting the gluing unit automatically in order to best suit the edging thickness.

Fitted with the Airforce System a large amount of glue remains available – the flow of which can be easily controlled.

This edge-bander features a multi-purpose corner rounding station with dual motors, which assist in forming a radius on both the front/rear and the top/bottom edges.

A modern, intuitive graphic interface makes the...
The Jade 240 is a low-investment, automatic single-sided edge-bander, offering long term reliability, combined with ease of use.

The control panel on the Brem a EKO 2.2.

The Brem a EKO 2.2 vertical boring machine has a reduced foot-print, which allows for work pieces of varying thicknesses and sizes to be machined with ease.

The vertical positioning of the panel and the work-table fitted with rubber rollers ensures that work pieces are discharged into the ground, thus avoiding any imperfections in the finished panel.

The Rover A CNC machining centre:

- The Rover A is a NC processing centre for the manufacturing of furniture, as well as door and window frames. Thanks to its comprehensive range of sizes and configurations, it is ideally suited to both small and large joinery workshops, where there is a need to manufacture either odd-size products, or standard products in small batches.

- This model is available in four- or five-axis configurations: in the case of the four-axis model, a full configuration of the working unit supports the execution of different types of machining operations, whilst ensuring a high finished product quality.

- Meanwhile, with the five-axis model, the cutting-edge five-axis working group supports the machining of work pieces with complex shapes, ensuring both quality and precision.

- There is no need for operator intervention for tool changing purposes, thanks to the large number of tools and aggregates available. The pick-up station supports automatic tool-holder rack tooling.

- Facilitated access during tool changing operations is thanks to the openable front cowl and, likewise, the changing of the boring head is quick and easy, due to the exclusive spindle snap-on coupling system.

- In addition, the electronic positioning system supports the automatic reconfiguration of the entire working area in less than 10 seconds.

- The Rover A model has a new C Torque axis, which is claimed to be more precise, quicker in operation and which offers increased rigidity.

- The new BH30 JL boring head is equipped with automatic lubrication and a metal dust extraction cover to guarantee a longer lift-span and features liquid cooling to ensure maximum precision.

- There is an adjustable suction hood with six different settings (for the four-axis model) and 13 different settings for the five-axis model.
The electronic positioning system supports the automatic, rapid re-configuration of the entire working area. It positions the work-tables and carriages by means of separate engines, i.e., without engaging the operating section.

The positioning of an area’s work-tables and carriages is performed during the machining operation, whilst the machine is operating in the opposite area.

The Rover A can house up to 98 aggregates and tools. It is possible to switch from one machining operation to the next with no need for operator intervention for tool changing purposes, thanks to the large number of tools and aggregates available.

The open front cowling supports the loading of very large sizes (up to 2,100mm in the Y axis) on to the machine, thus enabling the pre-sectioning phase to be skipped, or machining operations to be performed for non-standard production.

With the Rover A, a manufacturer can accept orders for thicker panels thanks to the 245mm working height. A comprehensive range of sizes may be specified to machine panels of all sizes.

Users can choose the most suitable one – Rover A 1443, Rover A 1459, Rover A 1625, Rover A 1632, Rover A 1643 and Rover A 1659.

The full functionality and quality of a true pantograph table is guaranteed by the convertible flat table, which allows for the machining of thin panels.

Safety and flexibility is enhanced thanks to the inclusion of new bumpers combined with photocells with no foot-print and dynamic tandem loading. Pressure-sensitive floor mats enable the machine to operate at constant maximum speed.

The transparent polycarbonate re-inforced protection door is designed to guarantee maximum visibility for the operator. Fitted with five different coloured LEDs indicating the machine’s status in real time ensures that the processing phases can be easily and safely monitored.

The multi-function unit, which can be continuously positioned over 160 deg by NC, can house aggregates used to carry out specific machining operations (such as pocketing for locks, hinge housings, deep horizontal bores, edge trimming etc).

There is a horizontal motor with one, or two outlets for the routing of locks and horizontal machine operations. There is also a fixed motor dedicated to additional milling machine operations (slot and anti-splintering). The cross-head thickness tracer enables operators to measure panel dimensions with absolute accuracy.

Synchron can also machine stacks of differently sized panels, thanks to the inclusion of a stack reference device and the panel pre-alignment cycle, which is performed whilst the machine is running and whilst the machine processes the previous panel.

Synchron can be positioned to the left, or the right of the machining centre, thus ensuring that the flow of materials is consistent with the customer’s facility production cycle.

The Selco WN2 2 cutting centre: The Selco WN2 cutting centre is especially designed for artisan producers looking to make an initial investment to improve production, whilst ensuring maximum machining quality.

It is especially designed for the smaller business and is ideal for those wishing to make an initial investment in order to improve their production facilities and machining quality.

This can be achieved by moving from more conventional manual-type machinery to real cutting technology, which is both reliable and easy to use and all at a low cost.

Any experience gained with the superior Selco WN2 ranges has been deployed on the new NC cutting centre for precise quality cutting without compromising the ease of use. With its OSI numerical control and simple, quick adjustment and tooling, the Selco WN2 guarantees optimised machining at all times. It offers reliable technology for all requirements.

The Skipper V31 boring and inserting machine: The Skipper V31 is an innovative boring and inserting machine, which allows for the processing of panels of various dimensions.

It is tailor-made edge-banding at its very best! Here the clamp is positioned automatically, regardless of the size of the individual panel. It is fixed into position quickly, thanks to the photocell pre-positioning and re-setting system.

The Skipper V31 delivers flexibility and increased production at an attractive price. When competitiveness means optimum performance and flexibility, the Skipper V31 delivers the goods.

The Stream A edge-bander: Stream A offers personalised solutions, which enable a reduction of set-up and machining times. This is tailor-made edge-banding at its very best! A wide selection of units is available to configure the machine based on individual machining requirements. These include a pre-milling unit, gluing unit, end trimmer (two different versions are available), a rough trimmer, a fine trimmer (two different versions are available), a corner rounding unit (again, two different versions are available) an edge scraper (three versions available), a glue scraper, a grooving unit, a buffing unit, a hot air blower and a sanding unit.

The rough trimmer reduces the excess edge on the top and bottom of the panel. It guarantees a perfect finish for solid wood, in a single movement.

Meanwhile, there is a trimmer for the fine trimming of top and bottom edges. It is complete with two high-frequency motors, together with horizontal/vertical copiers fitted with rotating discs.

The RF300 unit permits the manual management of machining settings, with four automatic tool profile settings; this results in a greater setting speed to move from one machining operation to the next.

The RF400 provides full machining setting autonomy. It offers the ideal solution to users who require absolute machining flexibility, thanks to the full adjustment of the machine to the required edge thickness.

The multi-function corner rounding unit forms a radius on both the front/rear and top/bottom edges. The AR3NC unit is equipped with two engines for standard machining operations.

The AR34NC unit has four engines to process even different materials, such as rounded wooden edges.

The controlled axis, fitted as standard on both versions of the three-axis corner rounding unit, supports the management of infinite machining settings. The machine is therefore perfectly suited to manufacturing needs.

The edge scraper eliminates the imperfections resulting from previous machining operation on the top and bottom of the edge.

The RB02 is designed for compact working with the
management of two controlled-axis profiles for infinite settings.

Duo system is a device for the automatic changeover between rough shaping and finishing functions.

The Rubber 100 is positioned on the column; it allows the management of four automatic blade settings.

The RB400 is positioned on the column for the complete absorption of any vibration generated on the structure, with the management of two controlled-axis profiles for infinite settings.

The glue scraper removes excess glue on the top and bottom of the panel. This is claimed to be the only model on the market fitted with four pneumatic cylinders for a top quality finish.

The grooving unit supports the performance of grooves and milling on the bottom surface of the panel. Finally, there is a sanding unit to sand wooden edges, a hot air blower for re-activating the colour of the edges and a buffing unit to clean and polish the edge and the panel.

The new Smart Touch 21 control provides an edge-banding machine management system, which is 100 per cent touch operated with no need for external devices of any kind. It boasts maximum usability, thanks to the deployment of a 21.5in full HD screen, which guarantees optimal visibility.

In short, the Stream A offers easy programme management and usability, rapid transition from one machining operation to the next and an intelligent language management system.

The Viet S1 wide-belt sander: VIEt S1

The Viet S1 featured is one of three models of wide-belt sander from the Biesse stable (its sister models are the smaller Viet S2 and the Viet S211), providing top quality sanding, with models aimed at meeting the needs of both small artisan workshops and large scale businesses.

The Viet S1 is an ideal entry level wide-belt sander. It is perfectly designed for the smaller workshop and is ideal for any joinery workshop seeking an efficient wide-belt sander, which meets the requirements of low to medium volume calibration and sanding applications.

The popular S1 is an ideal option for use where high levels of throughput are required at an affordable price. It is a heavy duty, twin-head machine, which combines high precision functionality and build quality.

Its twin sanding heads make it a perfect choice for both calibrating and fine sanding. A thick, anti-wear steel work bed guarantees precision for any task, with a wide range of sanding units available to allow individual customisation to suit a wide range of different applications.

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AUGUST 2017 INDUSTRIAL WOODWORKING AND PANEL PROCESSING 11
WEINIG ORDERS TOP 47 MILLION EUROS AT LIGNA

At LIGNA Weing had an order inflow amounting to 47 million euros, with the result that the German machinery manufacturing giant was one of the winners at the event.

Under the motto “THINK WEINIG,” the renowned manufacturer of woodworking machines and systems for solid wood and panel processing presented a new trade fair concept, sharing a 4,000m² stand with group company and panel specialists, Holz-Her for the first time.

The impressive line-up packed with innovations, premières and a comprehensive offering for all performance classes and sizes of operation proved a magnet for professional visitors.

Customers and interested parties from 90 countries filled the trade fair stand on all five days of the event. New customers accounted for 8 per cent of visitors.

The new W 4.0 digital standard, via which the Weing Group provides forward-looking responses to the challenges of networked production, met with particular demand from the international audience.

Weing used linked production lines to demonstrate solutions for the entire value chain. Customer benefits and practicality were at the heart of the hugely popular live demonstrations.

In addition to the constantly besieged 40 exhibits, another Weing trade fair highlight drew the attention of professional visitors: the prize draw for the Cube Plus four-sider.

The spectacular competition was a “thank you” from Weing to its customers for their loyalty over the past year. More than 2,500 prize draw cards were completed. And the winner has since been announced as Tom asthma from Tauberbischofsheim.

In keeping with another LIGNA tradition, the Supervisory Board also held a meeting. They announced the extremely positive growth of the Weing Group at the end of the 2016 financial year.

Order inflow rose by 16 per cent compared with the previous year and this gratifying trend has continued into 2017.

Orders to the end of April showed a 17 per cent growth, while revenues rose by as much as 21 per cent.

With the excellent LIGNA sales of 47 million euros, the Weing Group is very confident of achieving the order inflow total of 471 million euros targeted for 2017.

In view of the recent positive figures, the Supervisory Board passed a series of forward-looking measures and an investment budget of more than 30 million euros.

Plans include a new administrative building and showroom at the Holz-Her site in Nürtingen at a cost of 10 million euros.

There was also a focus on growing the group’s personnel, with plans to increase the number of employees to 2,100.

‘The personnel at Tauberbischofsheim alone is expected to grow by 6 per cent to a total of 900 employees.

Following the meeting, chairman of the Supervisory Board, Thomas Bach visited the Weing Group stand in Hall 27.

After the excellent results in 2016 and the extremely successful start to the 2017 financial year, the Supervisory Board has made investment decisions that lay the foundations to further strengthen the Weing Group’s leading position,’ says Herr Bach.

‘Bolstered by our success at LIGNA and our innovations in the area of “Industry 4.0”, we expect further dynamic growth,’ says Herr Bach.

‘After the excellent results in 2016 and the extremely successful start to the 2017 financial year, the Supervisory Board has made investment decisions that lay the foundations to further strengthen the Weing Group’s leading position,’ says Herr Bach.

TigerStop Angle Saws

The incredible response to the LIGNA prize draw is no surprise. The Cube is a machine that would suit any operation. Its qualities are claimed to be univalled in the market.

Thanks to its intuitive operation, the Cube makes planing easier than ever... and 10 times faster than using a traditional jointer and thicknesser/plainer. All that is required is to enter the planing width and depth on the touchscreen.

“Moulder Preview” allows the operator to make any adjustments and correct chip removal where necessary. This ensures optimal wood recovery even before the workpiece is processed.

The Cube achieves planing results that are often only possible with a jointer and planer after time-consuming reworking and correcting. Other benefits of the four-sider include rapid dimension changes, while the machine is running.

The Cube Plus can only be extended with an automatic stacker, whilst the compact dimensions of the Cube Plus make it extremely flexible. A fork-lift is sufficient to transport the machine from one location to another.

The Cube Plus is a machine that can be used by anybody who processes solid wood. Even for panel specialists who process solid wood as a sideline, the Cube is an interesting addition to their equipment.

And let’s not forget, a machine such as the Cube can only be offered by Weing. Cube – it’s magic! When will you join the Cube revolution?

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SHAKER 2 GO is a specialist manufacturer of Shaker doors, specialising in doors for wardrobes and kitchens.

Based in a medium-sized workshop in Kent and working with Medite moisture-resistant MDF, the company offers Shaker doors in any size up to a maximum of 2.4m x 0.8m and has, through liaising with its clients, been able to manufacture doors up to 1.06 high.

Managing director, Phil Temple, recently invested in a matrix table and Woodwelder from Lamont, to speed up production and to further improve the quality of the product.

“We manufacture doors in batches and before we used 30 minute polyurethane glue with sash clamps, stacking them while they dried. We were running out of space and clamps and the process was a bit lengthy,” says Phil.

When asked “Why Lamont?” Phil replied:

‘There wasn’t really any other choice for us. Lamont kept popping up on the second-hand market, so I thought I would take a look.

I didn’t want a second hand machine and there was also the question of the Woodwelder, which all came as part of one solution for us.

‘Now, we have no need to stack clamps and there is no need to tidy up clamps after use. It has sped up our production tremendously and, in combination with the Woodwelder, has made us a more professional workshop.

‘We can turn orders around much more quickly and the quality of the work is much better. We know the doors are straight when they are clamped, equal pressure is applied to all sides and every single joint is solid.

‘We use the matrix table and Woodwelder on every single door that we produce: it is a tremendous time saver,” says Phil.

Asked if he would recommend the matrix table and Woodwelder, Phil replied:

‘Yes, I would definitely recommend it. When we first took it on I was somewhat sceptical, as I looked at the machine and thought about how much we had spent on it but, within a week, I knew it was a right choice. We had never used a Woodwelder before but it worked perfectly.

‘Alan Lamont has been really good from start to finish, guiding us and showing us how things

If we were to expand further, perhaps take on contract work, we would probably take on another matrix table and Woodwelder, because, if you have two joiners doing the work, you need two machines.

‘It has changed everything.’

WEINIG OFFERS MORE

EnVision it, the theme for this year’s AWFS Fair, offers Weinig’s customers a true definition of what Industry 4.0 is all about.

Come visit the German machinery manufacturing giant’s Technology Centre in the centre and see what you can do with our simple and powerful manufacturing solutions that fully span both solid wood and panel processing applications.

EnVision sending multiple jobs to multiple machines from one workstation – and using no route sheets, or unnecessary inventories.

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• No problem.
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HOMAG's woodworking machinery range – offering "Everything from a single source"

HOMAG believes in the importance of promoting its range of entry level machinery, the purchase of which often helps a start-up company to grow into the compact fully networked workshop of tomorrow, with all the technology software and services available from HOMAG, including handling systems, panel dividing technology, drilling systems, sanding technology and automation systems.

In the UK HOMAG employs a total of 73 staff, including those who are office based in Castle Donington, its nationwide sales team, who are constantly "on the road" and a team of servicing engineers ranging right across the country, whose "outstanding abilities" are highly prized by customers old and new.

As I was able to see for myself, the showroom facilities at Castle Donington offer a good representative selection of HOMAG machines, although with such a wide range available, it is impossible for the UK-based outlet to hold a comprehensive selection of what amounts to dozens of different machine configurations.

Nowadays, the majority of the HOMAG machinery produced point out, one of the German company's abiding philosophies is to offer "Everything from a single source". Such repeat acquisitions certainly point to the fact that previous purchasers have the confidence to return to HOMAG time and time again.

HOMAG is heavily promoting its slogan "Everything from a single source" offering the complete process from a single source from the point of sale to the planning and from the complete production to the service of each machine sold.

In addressing the members of the woodworking trade press, Simon Brooks pointed to other attractions of buying from HOMAG, such as the fact that the service team in Castle Donington (a short distance from the M1 Motorway and, of course, offering good road links) who are constantly "on the road" and a team of servicing engineers ranging right across the country, whose "outstanding abilities" are highly prized by customers old and new.

In the past HOMAG Group machines have been offered under a variety of brands such as BARTENSTEIN, BENZ, BRANNT, BUTTERING, FRIZ, BIELZMA, LIGMATEC and WIEKE. Now in a concerted drive aimed at future-proofing the continued success of the HOMAG Group, following LIGNA, all these machines will simply be branded as "HOMAG".

One fact which Mr Brooks did confess to was that the biggest challenge is selling the very first machine to a customer given, the fact that woodworking machinery from the HOMAG stable is not the cheapest on the market, the quality is seldom available at bargain prices.
aimed at allowing anyone to gain access to the world of sophisticated horizontal CNC processing.

HOMAG’s BMG Venture 115 M is a CNC processing centre at the top end of a model range. With the cleaned and serviced.. A t Castillo Donington there is a small remains buoyant. Enquiry levels are strong, orders are positive and

Venture 115. The new BMG 110 Series provides compact which comprises the Venture 113, the Venture 114 and the

convenience. With the BMG 110 Series, nine configurations are

features, the five-axis applications of the Venture 115 (as

over the past two years the HOMAG group has increased its

Recently HOMAG won the “Top Seal 100” award for being one of Germany’s most innovative companies and, in 2014, the company was awarded first prize in the Innovation sector at Xylexpro.

The last three years have witnessed solid growth for HOMAG in the UK market at all levels of industry. HOMAG’s customer base, while being cautious at Brexit unfolds over the next month, still remains buoyant. Enquiry levels are strong, orders are positive and with the introduction of an even wider portfolio, more and more customers are likely to turn to HOMAG as the provider of “everything from a single source”. During the woodworking trade press visit to Castle Donington, Industrial Woodworking & Panel Processing’s Editor, John Emile was able to take a more detailed look at four different HOMAG machines demonstrated by HOMAG’s sales and marketing director, Simon Brooks and showroom technician, Jimmy Dean.

Here is a brief overview of what is currently on display at HOMAG’s bright and airy showroom premises:

HOMAG BHX 050 Optimat: This is a vertical CNC processing centre offering fast panel processing operations and what it is claimed to be “the technology of the future today”. It is highly compact and, according to the most recent operating philosophy of the HOMAG Group. Claimed to be easy to operate, ergonomically organised and equipped with a touch screen operating concept unite design and function to create a totally new control concept.

At the focus of this solution is a large multi-touch monitor in widescreen format, which is used to control machine functions by directly touching the screen. The entire user interface has been optimised for touch operation and offers an array of help and assistance functions designed to radically simplify the work environment. Standardised control elements and software modules ensure that all HOMAG Group machines can be operated in the same way using a touch screen. This not only reduces the training time needed for new employees, but also makes it easier for customers to adapt to new developments. As standard both models already comprise elementary technologies, ensuring a processing quality of the highest level, helping to prove that sustainability pays off!

In addition, both models feature an automatic clamping system which ensures the highest possible processing accuracy, ensuring that the cutting point is at the correct position at any time and when using any number of different materials. Meanwhile, the workplace clamping device offers easy adjustment of the clamping device (manually) to the workplace thickness (clamping device stroke 10mm). For differences in the workplace thickness of up to 10mm, it is necessary to manually adjust the clamping device position separately.

The featured mechanical load and work piece removal area has moveable via a hydraulic system and the removal area of the machine. An extension of the working length to 3,050mm is possible. Another feature is automatic work piece thickness measurement, ensuring the best cutting depth at any time and when using any number of different materials. Meanwhile, the workplace clamping device offers easy adjustment of the clamping device (manually) to the workplace thickness (clamping device stroke 10mm). For differences in the workplace thickness of up to 10mm, it is necessary to manually adjust the clamping device position separately.

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