

**FOR ALL
YOUR
CLAMPING
NEEDS**

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INDUSTRIAL WOODWORKING & PANEL PROCESSING

Distributed throughout the UK and Ireland

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STILL STANDING STRONG



IT hardly seems like yesterday, but it was exactly 30 years ago this month that this magazine produced its very first issue.

We have witnessed good times and bad, two major economic recessions and now a global pandemic, but nothing has stood in the way of our monthly efforts to bring our readers up to date on all the latest news and technological advances in the woodworking trade sector.

Industrial Woodworking & Panel Processing acts as a mouthpiece for both the joinery manufacturing trade and panel processors and has done so since July 1991.

When we started the independent magazine all those years ago, we were told that we

wouldn't last more than 3 months. Wrong! 360 months later and we're still standing!

With 12 issues a year and 30 years of continuously updating our readers on a monthly basis, it all adds up to an awfully large number of words!

Constantly reflecting ever changing industry trends and innovations, Industrial Woodworking & Panel Processing brings its readers up-to the minute news covering the whole of Europe, as well as the UK and Ireland.

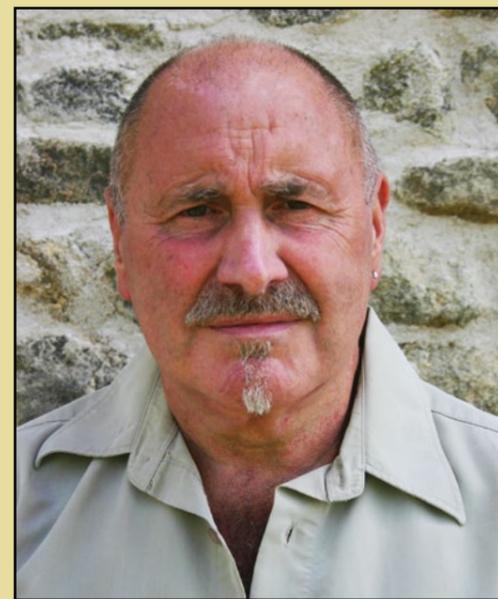
We may not be here in another 30 years time, but let's raise a glass to ourselves, our readers and our advertisers - without whom we simply would not have existed for all these years.

A NEW APPROACH - PROVED TO BE RIGHT

AS long ago as 1991 he started it all! Now officially retired, but still actively taking an interest in this magazine every month, Bill Lowe will be 77 years old later this year.

It could have all gone wrong, but it didn't and Bill's vision for a magazine that breathed fresh air into the woodworking industry, proved that a new approach was the right way to go.

Nowadays, Bill devotes most of his time to a menagerie of pets and his garden, but still maintains an interest in the woodworking trade and some of its stalwarts who have likewise been involved in the industry for, perhaps, more time than they care to remember.



GET HANDS ON WITH MAKITA

MAKITA has re-launched its popular product demonstrations of its 40VMax and 80VMax XGT power tool range.

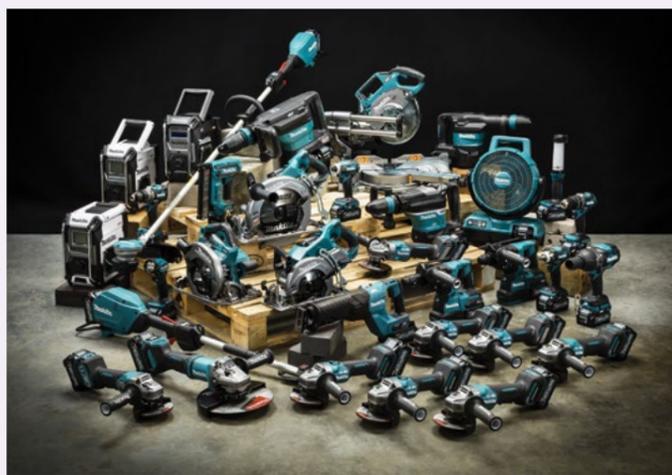
Professionals are now able to arrange COVID-Secure appointments locally with an experienced Makita team member to get the most out of its wide range of cordless power equipment.

Demonstrations are available for either its 40VMax or 80VMax XGT ranges, with both offering guidance on tool and accessory selection, as well as hands-on testing.

With many people considering the change from petrol engine machines to cordless equivalents, this is a perfect opportunity for contractors to see first-hand how the range performs.

XGT

Launched in 2020, the 40VMax and 80VMax XGT system of cordless tools have been designed to offer the power and performance needed to



tackle high-demand applications without compromising battery run times.

With extensions to the range coming in 2021, these cordless tools are the most durable and powerful of the Makita line-up that are available to test.

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MAKA SETS THE BENCHMARK FOR FIVE-AXIS MACHINES WITH THE LAUNCH OF A BRAND NEW VERSION OF THE MK7

MAKA's latest version of the MK7 represents another step forward for the market leading specialist in five-axis machinery.

The MK7 is now available with a very useful 8ft capacity, featured here with a complete five-sided noise enclosure and wide access power doors.

The five-axis head is also paired with the new 37,000rpm spindle for very high speed machining, carving, detailing and engraving.

More down-to-earth versions are available with the massively robust and reliable POWER-MAKA spindle.

Speed, precision and reliability are the hallmarks of MAKA machines, which are also highly flexible.

The MK7 is equally adept at producing high volume car components for Mercedes and bespoke

furniture and joinery items.

The inherent flexibility is, in large part, due to the precision and power, enabling the user to set-up quickly and correctly first time, go direct from screen-to-machine with confidence and produce bespoke parts at mass production rates.

For further information tel MAKA on 01952 607700. Visit www.maka.com



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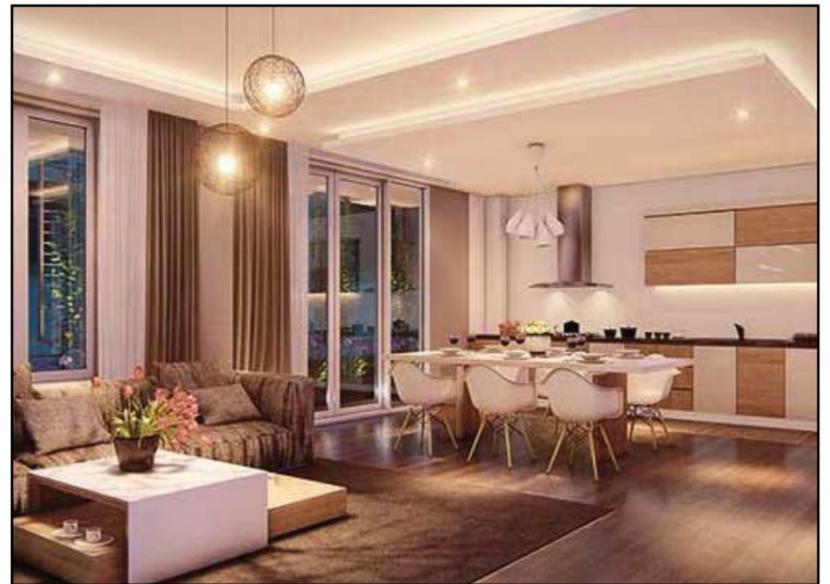
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CAD+T's FIRST CLOUD- BASED SOFTWARE

IMAGINE a piece of software that has been tailored to a business' complete production requirements. A software solution that can be worked and reworked easily and conveniently for special designs, one-off orders, or ongoing changes to existing manufacturing methods.

Now imagine that this software could be controlled remotely via the Cloud, or used on the factory floor when required.

This is a reality for Austrian CAD/CAM software specialist, CAD+T, thanks to its innovative Configurator Professional (Configurator Pro).

The new software – which is CAD+T's first Cloud-based software system for the kitchen furniture design and manufacturing industry – offers a wealth of flexibility and different levels to its intelligence.

As well as offering the fast creation and maintenance of products, the Configurator Professional is able to scale up (vertical scaling), allowing the user to add to an existing system and boost performance, whilst the system's ability to scale out (horizontal scaling) means that there are no limits to the number of servers that can work in tandem with the configurator.

This offers great scope to both small and large production companies, allowing each company to create system parameters that meet the individual requirements of their planning and production stages.

This vast flexibility is further increased through the ability of the configurator to generate graphical data and organise it into the correct fields, using both rule-based and code-based options, with data completed by parametric, or adaptive construction.

The bespoke system also benefits from a configurable user interface, which allows the user to receive CAD/CAM data, optimised part lists, BOMs and user-defined work plans in just a few simple steps.

'Our new Configurator Professional software opens a lot of doors for our customers. There are no boundaries to design and it gives users the opportunity to combine design software and integrated servers to create bespoke, one-off pieces without any manual intervention,' says head of development at CAD+T, Thomas Schwarz.

'The configurator can manipulate data and rules independently to calculate the necessary geometry needed to create a bespoke item, or special order quickly and efficiently.

The functionality of this software, together its sheer flexibility, separates us from other software developers and it is a key area of growth for CAD+T going forward,' concludes Mr Schwarz.

For further information tel CAD+T
Solutions on 028 9045 5355.
Visit www.cadt-solutions.com



A powerful piece

With the T65 MARTIN has redefined the Premium Compact Class. As the T65 combines traditional operation with state-of-the-art electronic support. So it offers you quick, precise and therefore rational operation. The tried and tested 5.7" touchscreen controller sits at eye level and supports you in situations giving you an overview of all your operations and work processes. Robust mechanics and sophisticated control technology combine to create a greater whole. As MARTIN is not just setting standards in technology, but in operation as well.

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SPECIALIST IN THE PROVISION OF BIOMASS BOILERS & POWER PLANTS

THE global energy situation is characterised by limited natural Viessmann wood combustion systems – innovative wood-firing systems up to 8,000kW gas and oil reserves as consumption increases. In addition, increasing CO2 emissions heat the earth's atmosphere and thus lead to climate change.

This forces a responsible use of existing resources and requires more efficiency and the increased use of renewable energies.

Biomass plays a special role here. It provides most of the renewable energy, is steadily available and can be stored as needed, unlike wind and solar energy.

Wood as a fuel remains cost-effective in times of unpredictable energy prices, burns CO2 neutral and, in conjunction with sustainable forestry, helps to implement environmental and economic goals.

As a specialist for biomass boilers and power plants in the power range up to 8,000kW, Viessmann Holzfeuerungsanlagen GmbH is one of the leading full-service providers in this industry. Viessmann Holzfeuerungsanlagen focuses on the conception and implementation of biomass plants for industrial,

commercial and municipal customers.

With an export share of around 88 per cent of sales, the company is internationally orientated, with more than 4,000 plants in operation in Europe alone. Viessmann

Holzfeuerungsanlagen (Mawera) was founded in 1975 as Mawera and currently employs around 120 people at its location in Austria.

From boilers through to fuel delivery systems and exhaust gas cleaning the products are suitable for all wood fuels.

Essential features include the different firing systems, which are individually planned for each project and tailored to the needs of the customer.

Depending on the heat demand, hot water, steam or thermal boilers are used. Viessmann supplies the tailor-made systems turnkey and also provides the necessary accessories.

Services such as conception, service and assembly organisation emission measurements and the renovation of old plants complete the offer.

As the leading international supplier of heating technology systems, the Viessmann Group offers a complete program for all energy source and performance ranges.

Founder in 1917, the family owned company employs 12,000 people worldwide. With 23 production companies, sales organisations in 49 countries and 120 sales offices worldwide, Viessmann is internationally orientated.



For further information tel Mawera on 01543 258844. Visit www.mawera.co.uk



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FELDER GROUP HAS REVOLUTIONISED PUR EDGE-BANDING WITH LAUNCH OF GLUEBOX

THE Felder Group has developed and patented a completely glue pot-free system for PUR edge-banding, which is set to take the market by storm.

Users will no longer have to grapple with the issues of glue pot maintenance and PUR storage, as the PUR is provided on a tape - exactly the same as the edging itself. The GlueBox attaches a thin PUR tape between edge and work piece and fuses the two components together almost invisibly.

The GlueBox system is initially available on the Format

4 Tempora F600 edge-bander and offers an impressive specification to suit every customer's requirement. Edge-banding material from 0.4mm - 3mm can be applied to work piece heights of 8mm - 40mm with a feed speed of 10m/min.

The PUR tape is initially available in a number of different lengths and for various workpiece heights and, used with the Format 4 Tempora F600, is ready to go in 90 seconds.

No tools are needed and no messy maintenance procedures are required. Actual user comparisons show cost savings of

up to 70 per cent against systems using PUR cartridge glue jet, as opposed to the more conventional and standard use of glue pot PUR granules.

The Felder Group is currently performing live on-line demonstrations for customers.

For further information tel Felder on 01908 635000. Visit www.felder-group.com.



The Felder Group has developed and patented a completely glue pot-free system for PUR edge-banding, which is set to take the market by storm and the GlueBox system is initially being made available on the Format 4 Tempora F600 edge-bander as seen here.

PALAMATIC - THE OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR WULF PROTECTIVE'S VACUUM LIFTERS

PALAMATIC is a leading supplier in the UK of vacuum lifters to the woodworking industry. Palamatic's aim is always to use its expertise to provide user-friendly equipment that aids the work process and eliminates Health and Safety risks to operators when handling wood product.

A Palamatic vacuum tube lifter uses a single power medium - vacuum - to grip and lift heavy or awkward loads. An electrical vacuum pump (or vacuum ejector pump) creates a vacuum level when a suction pad, or gripping device is placed on an object load. The resulting low pressure makes the tube contract vertically and the object load is lifted.

The operator controls the vacuum flow using a simple, finger-touch operating valve, making the work physically easier and

safer. Increasing the vacuum draws air out of the tube and the load is lifted.

Palamatic recently supplied two door blank lifting systems to Wulf Protective, based in Bradford. The company's management team boasts 30 years' experience within the fire door and construction industries.

'Established during the Covid-19 pandemic, Wulf is made up of a diverse bunch. We pull together the very best of our range of experience to deliver the highest standard of end-to-end service possible. We are committed to becoming the leading

manufacturer of both high-quality doors and door sets,' says managing director, Sohan Panesar.

Palamatic was contacted by fire door process and fabrication manager, Mark Dunn, whose role also includes looking after Wulf's shop floor personnel. The equipment was required to load more than 50 door blanks weighing up to a maximum of 80kg daily on to a beam saw and CNC system.

'Used by many leading manufacturers, Palamatic was the obvious choice when it came to building our workshop fit to manufacture high-quality doors and fire doors. The decision to purchase the lifting systems was based on several factors,' explains Mark.

'The safety of our employees is our priority and the lifting equipment removes the physical lifting strain of every day processes. The equipment also allowed for increased production quantity. The operators are very happy with the improvement they have witnessed since the lifters have arrived,' says Mark.

The Palamatic team works hard to form strong relationships with its customers within the woodworking and construction industries.

'Palamatic has been very helpful, reactive and any questions have been answered promptly,' says Mark.

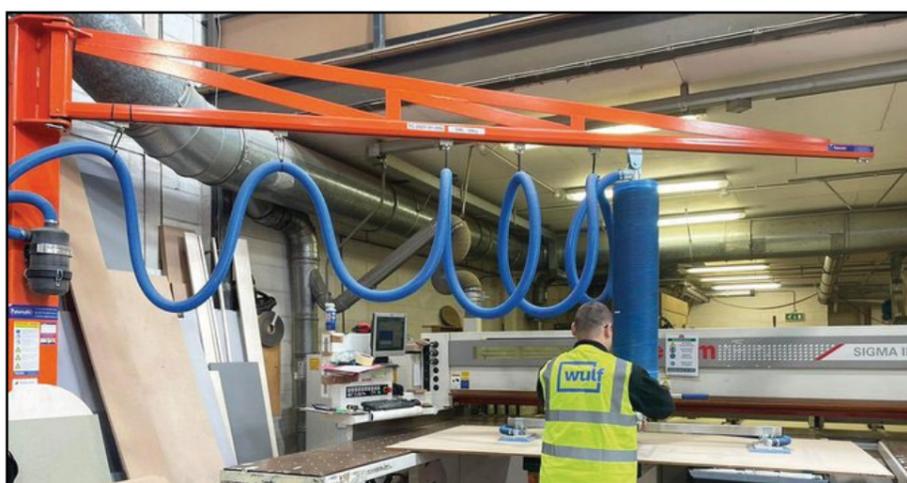
'We now have a great working relationship with Palamatic - our purchased lifting equipment has made light work of the materials we process daily at our production facility,' he adds.

Palamatic has a 22,000ft² factory based in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, so is well placed to visit customer sites and for customers to send samples to test prior to having a vacuum tube lifter manufactured. The company also has a skilled field engineering team to install the system and makes visits to train operators.

Systems supplied can be designed to handle fire doors, panel doors, furniture, staircases, planks, timber sections, laminate surfaces and cabinets. Customers often require rotation of boards through 90 deg, or 180 deg for loading and unloading purposes.

Due to the high demand on lifting systems in the woodworking industry, customers are recommended to take up a service contract to ensure that their systems are kept in good working order.

For further information tel Palamatic on 01246 452054. Visit www.palamatic.com



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HOW TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN YOUR SEALS DURING THOSE PERIODS OF LITTLE OR NO USE

IT IS vital to check your seals constantly whether the machinery is being used, or not, especially during periods of inactivity. This is the perfect time to check your seals for any signs of damage and wear that you may need to address.

It is important to do this, as seal failures can lead to equipment problems, which may be detrimental to your equipment and business.

Whether you deal with hydraulic, or pneumatic seals, such as wiper seals, they must be able to withstand a range of environments and practices, such as extreme temperatures, high pressures, chemicals and contamination.

In this article, Industrial Woodworking & Panel Processing offers some tips on what to watch out for when looking for problems in your seals and how to maintain them during a period when they are not being used.

Proper storage

If the seals are in a period of no use, storing them properly can prevent future failure. Properly storing seals includes placing them and their hardware in a cool environment.

You must also disassemble the seals and sort each part individually, making sure not to store seal faces together, as they could end up losing their flatness.

Lubrication

Lubrication is a must in seals and most machinery, as it can prolong the life of seals, due to the motion that they are usually

under. When looking at the seals, check that lube is present. If there is none present, or only a small amount, place some grease around the seal. Checking for grease is important to prolong the life of your seal.

Contamination

Just because the machinery is not being used, does not mean that contamination is not still present in the seal. If the seal has not been checked after its last use, then contamination may still be present.

Contamination may come from metallic shavings, powder, dirt, mud, grit and other solid particles. These may be picked up during operation and can damage the seal when passing through.

High temperatures

If the seal has been stored somewhere that has a high temperature, the heat can damage it. If the seal has been stored at the incorrect temperature, the heat can cause the seal to harden and degrade quickly.

The material of the seal can break off when hardened, causing more contamination along the whole machinery, or pipe network.

Pressure

The pressure that your seal has been under could cause the seal to fail. This might have been because it is over pressurised.

Check for pressure strikes in seals. If you can see any, then

you may need to replace the seal with one that is made to be under higher pressure.

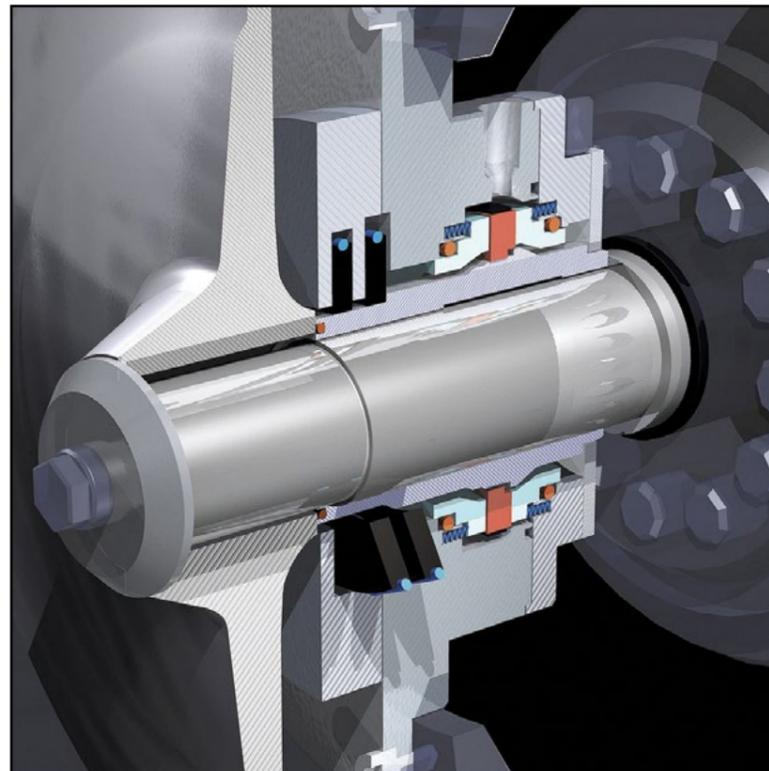
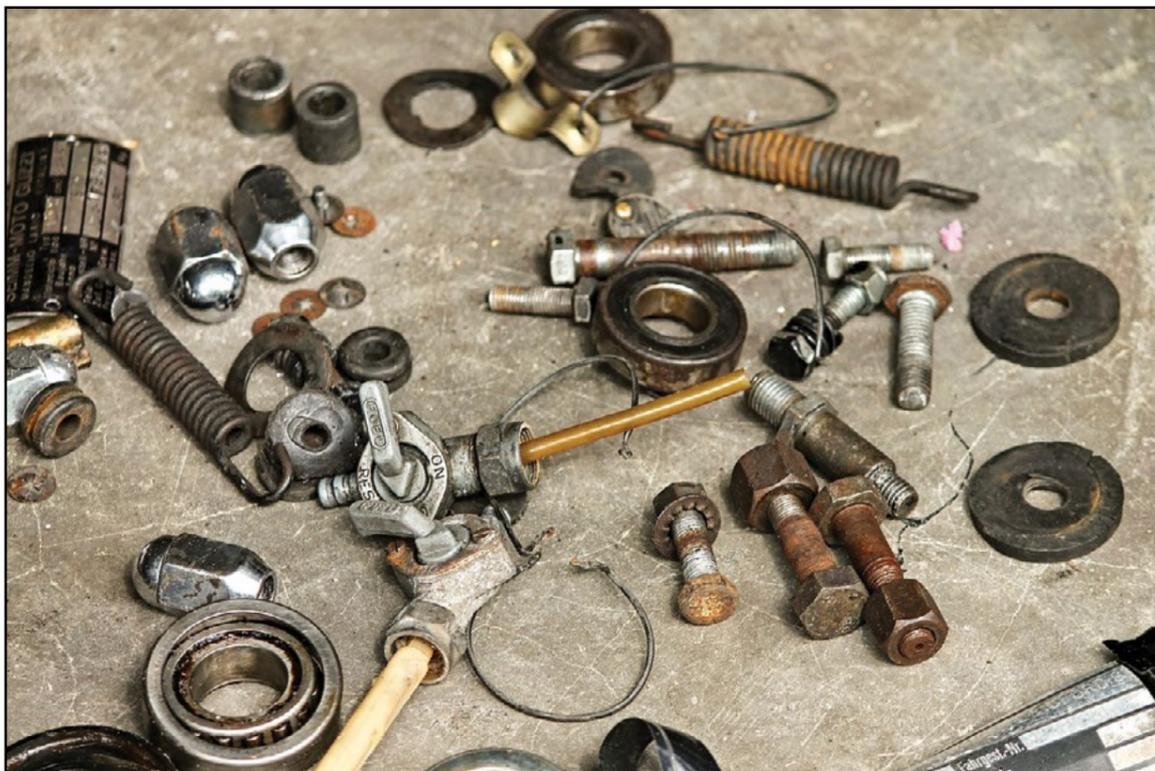
Chemical deterioration

If there has been a corrosive fluid used, then this may cause a breakdown in the seals' material. You need to have made sure that the material the seal is made out of is right for the fluid passing through it.

Especially when connecting a seal to a hydraulic system using chemical fluid, this may create fractures in a material. The chemical deterioration can cause swelling or shrinking of the seal.

Hopefully, this article has helped you understand seals more and how you can look after them after periods of no use.

Whether your seals are being used, or are in storage, maintenance is important to keep them in good condition for present and future use to make sure they don't fail.



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NEW OVVO V-1230 RANGE DELIVERS SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS ON ASSEMBLY TIME FOR WHITTLE INTERIORS

THE new range of Ovvo V-1230 connectors that are suitable for nesting and drilling promise to “make furniture assembly simple”. Ovvo products are a range of cleverly engineered, award-winning connectors that make joining wood simple.

The connectors are installed during the manufacturing process, so the end-user can click together furniture without the need for tools, screws, or glue and save significant amounts of assembly time as a result.

The new Ovvo V-1230 connectors for nesting and drilling retain the patented, innovative dovetail design, which featured in the Interzum 2019 “Best of the Best” award-winning V-0930 connector, which delivers increased intrinsic tolerance, enhancing the shear and tensile strength of the joint created.

Whittle Interiors, based in Christchurch, is a joinery and fit-out company with a heritage of manufacturing high-end interior joinery. With over 50 years’ experience in the industry, its team of dedicated craftsmen has created beautiful bespoke joinery projects for some of the most luxurious brands in the commercial fit-out, hospitality and leisure sectors.

Whittle prides itself on combining traditional craftsmanship with the latest technological advances and has been using the Ovvo connector range for some time to construct joinery items that require invisible fixing – as well as to deliver a quicker way to assemble joinery items, as there is no need for screws, glue, or clamps.

‘Ovvo for drilling is our most used in the range, as they are easy to machine and easy to assemble in the joiners’ shop and give a strong fixing, which is not visible,’ says joinery foreman, Ricky Bumstead, outlining the benefits that using Ovvo has delivered for Whittle.

‘We have used the new Ovvo for nesting, which is great for a larger production line of units where machining and assembly needs to be as quick as possible. Units can be nested on our CNC machines, ready to be edged on our edge-bander and then ready for assembly cutting processes in the machine shop – down to two operations instead of three and saving significant time as a result.

‘It also works very well with our Alphacam CNC software, which reduces programming time. The wide range of different connectors available suit many different applications within our joinery. In addition, we have a good relationship with the team at Ovvo and find their connectors very cost effective,’ adds Ricky.

‘We have used Ovvo connectors on several very high-profile installations recently, including the recent refurbishment of the Hilton at Heathrow T4, where we worked with Kilker Projects and Elements Real Estate.

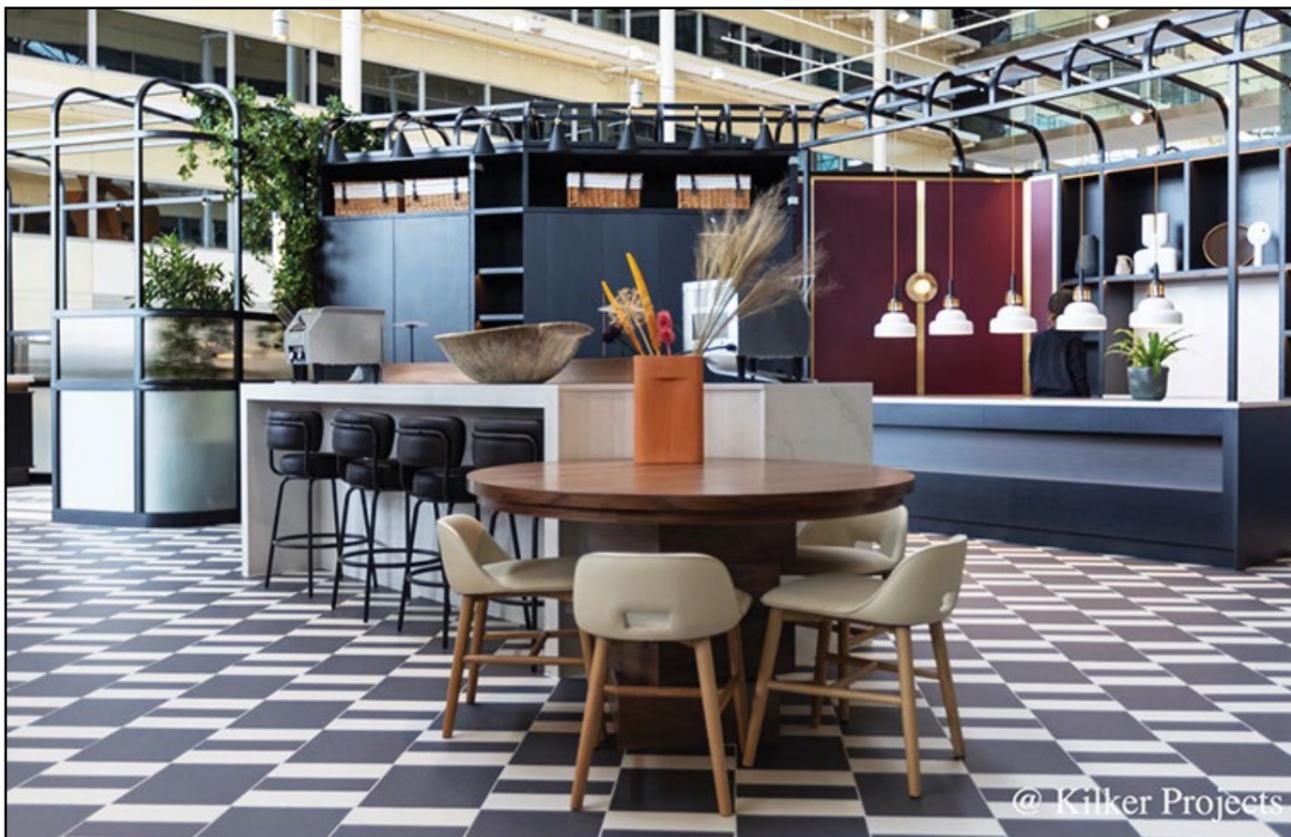
‘We were also appointed to deliver the extensive specialist joinery package that features throughout the hospitality scheme designed by Hirsch Bedner Associates.

‘Using Ovvo connectors on the free-standing joinery items in the scheme delivered significant efficiencies for us – not only during production in the joinery workshop, but also during assembly and fit-out on-site,’ says Ricky.

Ovvo continues to develop its range of invisible furniture connectors with the clear vision of “making furniture assembly simple” and bringing the benefits of this to manufacturers across the industry.

The new V-1230 range for nesting and drilling is easily integrated into manufacturers’ existing processes and is supported by all leading CNC software providers.

For further information visit www.ovvotech.com or www.whittleinteriors.com



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THE INTRODUCING OF DIGITAL IS HELPING BOOST BOTH

INCREASING and accelerating the adoption of technology in manufacturing, especially among SMEs, was one of the key recommendations of the Made Smarter Review, a study by the UK Government exploring why the UK was falling behind in terms of productivity and international competitiveness.

It became the foundation of the Made Smarter adoption programme in the North West. Since 2019 it has worked with more than 1,200 businesses supporting them to introduce digital tools and technologies to help boost productivity and growth and navigate the impact of Covid-19.

More than 600 manufacturers have received intensive support including expert, impartial technology advice, digital transformation workshops to help manufacturers take their first steps to transform their business, a leadership programme and funded digital technology internships.

A total of 154 businesses have secured £3.82m matched funding for 192 projects, leveraging £10.2m of private sector investment.

These projects are forecast to deliver an additional £150m in gross value added (GVA) for the North West economy over the next three years, create over 920 new jobs and upskill 1764 existing roles.

Some manufacturers are developing projects using technologies which enable them to integrate systems, capture and analyse data and even create simulations of their plants and processes. Others are using 3D-printing, automation and robotics to solve business challenges and meet increased demand.

Over 80 per cent of SMEs working with Made Smarter to adopt cutting-edge technologies have witnessed a boost in productivity and more than 25 per cent reduced their carbon emissions. Businesses are also benefitting from increased revenue, profits and exports and lower energy bills.

Manufacturers that have engaged with Made Smarter recognise that digital tools and technology are essential to remain competitive and efficient. However, there is uncertainty as to where to start and a struggle to find the time to capitalise on opportunities.

It is clear that the SMEs need specialist advice and insight to help them select the right approach for their business, how much to invest and which technologies will bring about the greatest benefits.

This is why Made Smarter developed a Digital Transformation Workshop - an innovative, streamlined process which uses a diagnostic of a manufacturer's products, services, processes and people to find practical solutions in order to overcome business challenges.

The bespoke process cuts through the jargon to provide an honest and holistic view and demonstrates the steps required in order to achieve digitalisation.

It has been designed in a way that requires minimal time investment for manufacturers to turn the actions into results, while still allowing participants to focus on the day-to-day operations of the business.

The result is an easy-to-use guide for decision-makers with recommended first steps, a technology roadmap and information about how to gain further support from the Made Smarter programme.

Multiwood Products - a distributor and producer of kitchen doors and components based in Bury, has benefited from the process and is now investing in new ERP technology to support its new manufacturing requirements.

'The digital transformation workshop helped identify systems and processes that could be improved to help drive the success of the business,' explains creative director, Ben Allen.

'These ranged from continuous improvement methods through to reviewing and introducing new management processes,' says Mr Allen.

'Made Smarter also helped create a roadmap that will guide the company towards achieving some of its goals, specifically associated with digitalisation,' he adds.

Armed with a digital roadmap, manufacturers can grow progressively and sustainably, avoiding the wasted time, effort and money that comes from adopting the wrong technology.

Handrail Creations, a specialist hand-rail manufacturer based in Bolton, was supported by Made Smarter to invest in 3D scanning and design software to aid its surveying process.

The business, which has created one-off pieces for clients, such as the US Embassy and the Houses of Parliament, believes that the adoption of the new technology will accelerate its process by 25 per cent.

'While the new equipment will speed up the scanning process and reduce survey time, the real benefit will be in the processing speed, converting the data into something that is usable for our design team,' says managing director, Kenny Macfarlane.



Left to right, Kenny and Martin Macfarlane from Handrail Creations.

'With more than 100 live projects being managed at any one time and 75 per cent of surveys undertaken using a 3D scanner, we are looking at saving a great deal in terms of man hours.

'It will increase our efficiency but, more importantly, it will reduce the chance of error, ensuring that our bespoke products are right, first time,' concludes Mr Macfarlane.

James Tanner Joinery, a manufacturer of hardwood and softwood products used in the commercial and private sectors, including bespoke sash windows, doors and staircases, engaged with Made Smarter to overcome a major challenge, which was restricting production capacity.

The Kendal-based business adopted an Industry 4.0-ready, five axis CNC machine and software to remove labour-intensive processes and link to a new Cloud-based design software, which tracks the life journey of the product from customer enquiry, design and prototype, using fully rendered 3D imaging, material management, to manufacture and delivery.

With the new technology, a window that took 60 minutes to machine, now takes four and a half minutes - over 13 times quicker - with a higher level of accuracy. If you take into account the new design process and software programming, job time is expected to reduce by 50 per cent.

The solution offers predictive maintenance, live and historical data analysis, downtime analysis and Cloud-based data storage with remote access.

'Having a complete

overview - which can be monitored remotely - is game-changing for us. Having time management for jobs will show gaps in production and enable the most efficient use of the machine and staff,' says James Tanner.

By doubling its production capacity, the business can then take on that extra commercial work.

However, beyond the profit, James is as excited by the benefits in terms of accuracy:

'Our motto has always been "precision-made joinery". Accuracy is really important to me and to the reputation of this company. There is no such thing as "good enough" as far as I am concerned.

'Our work must be an engineering standard, which is very difficult using wood. This new solution takes our ability to achieve that accuracy to the next level. Now we have taken this first step, I can see the possibilities. And that is very exciting,' concludes James.

Before implementing any game-changing technologies and solutions, manufacturers need to consider whether they have a culture of innovation, the right skill sets, good digital leadership and the buy-in and support of the team.

The Made Smarter Leadership Programme was designed to equip SME managers and directors with the strategic view and the skills needed to pursue smarter manufacturing.

Using a hybrid model of classroom learning and site visits, executives are readied to start their business transformation.

The programme allows leaders to take time out of their business to reflect on the bigger picture and share ideas and experiences alongside their peers in manufacturing. This will help them return to their business and develop a digital strategy - which has been identified as something many businesses lack, yet it is essential to create growth and efficiency.

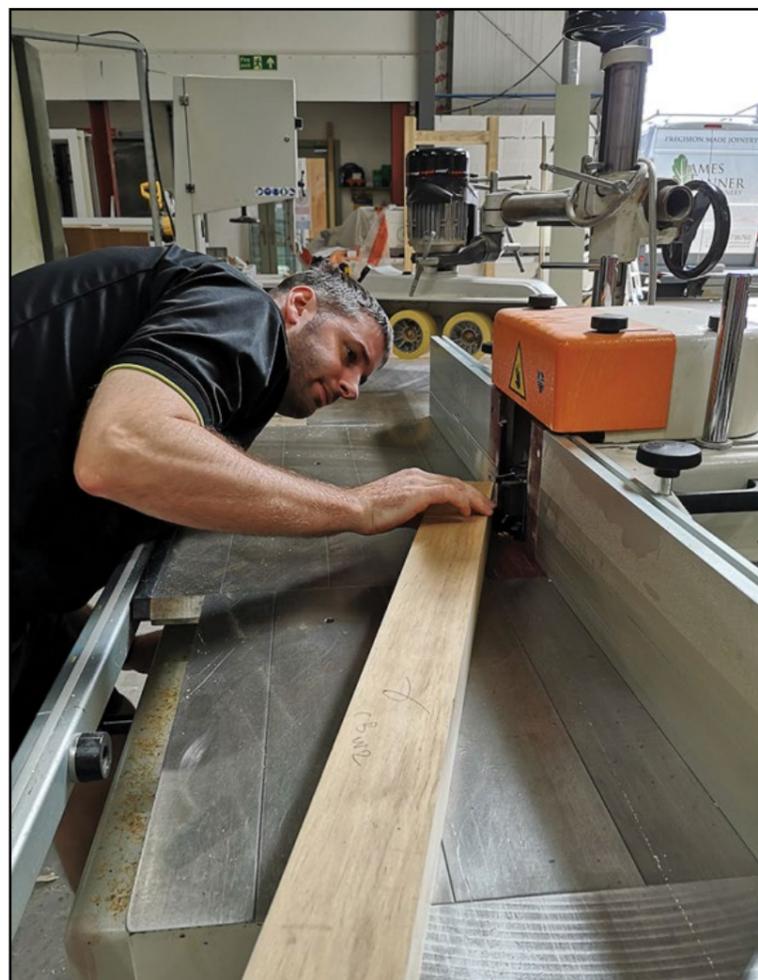
Made Smarter is also supporting manufacturers with organisational and workforce development - an essential tool when it comes to successfully implementing emerging technologies into a business.

Fully-funded, specialist advice focuses on getting a business ready for industrial digital technologies by analysing the structure, identifying if departments could work better together and if there are any gaps in knowledge where upskilling could help, before supporting with the practical planning, developing people, engaging with employees and producing materials that can be used to develop a highly skilled, flexible and productive workforces needed to capitalise on digital transformation.

Made Smarter has also helped SME manufacturers tap into digital talent. These fully funded Digital Technology Internships enable undergraduates, masters and PhD students and graduates the chance to work on live projects, which may



Handrail Creations is a specialist hand-rail manufacturer based in Bolton, The company was supported by Made Smarter to invest in 3D scanning and design software to aid its surveying process.



James Tanner of James Tanner Joinery.

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TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

involve implementing technology projects, upskilling staff, or helping develop the business's digital road map to support its digital transformation.

Crystal Doors, a manufacturer of bespoke vinyl-wrapped furniture components based in Rochdale, tapped into this element of the programme taking on Lewis Cookson, a graduate in BSc Computer Science & Digital Forensics from Northumbria University.

Lewis has been supporting the implementation of a data and systems integration project which will establish a network of sensors connecting their machines through the Cloud on to a dashboard. This will enable Crystal Doors to gain insights into how its machines are performing and identify potential efficiencies.

'Our digitalisation plans are ambitious and will introduce

technologies and concepts that are brand new to the workforce,' says digital transformation programme manager, Ben Horn.

'The cultural change has to be handled properly. We don't want anyone left behind, so the training and transition needs to be as easy and intuitive as possible. Upskilling our staff is key to its success.

'By bringing on Lewis through Made Smarter we have doubled the pace of the transformation. His input has been incredible,' enthuses Mr Horn.

'Crystal Doors has some very exciting plans for the future and it is fantastic to be part of that journey, capturing and displaying real time data analysis for the first time, supporting the betterment of the company and playing a role in reducing carbon emissions,' says Lewis Cookson.

'It is exciting for me to be able to take my specialism and skills and apply them to a real life situation and see the results. The progress we have made so far ellipses everything that has been achieved in recent years,' adds Mr Cookson.

These examples show just how important emerging technologies, such as data and systems integration, robotics and 3D printing are to the future of furniture

manufacturing and how a holistic approach to digitalisation is helping businesses move forward with confidence.

Such has the been the success of the North West programme, it has been expanded to the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber and West Midlands regions, with the result that more manufacturers can access support to adopt digital tools, which will increase their growth, productivity, efficiency and create the high value, well-paid jobs of the future.

For further information visit www.madesmarter.uk



Digital transformation programme manager at Crystal Doors, Ben Horn.



Crystal Doors is a manufacturer of bespoke vinyl-wrapped furniture components based in Rochdale

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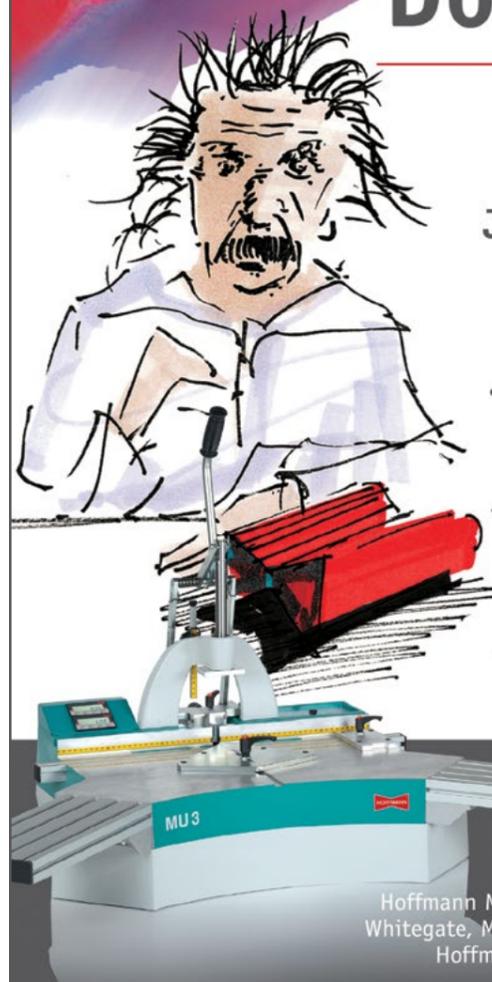
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BROADENING HORIZONS - TITUS HAS EXCITING POSSIBILITIES FOR FURNITURE FUNCTIONALITY

IN RECENT years there has been a growing trend towards interior design furniture elements in darker and matte colour tones. This has led to a demand for cabinet hardware that blends in seamlessly with the sleek matte designs.

Thanks to its new TeraBlack, Titus is able to deliver an extremely attractive black matte hardware finish that not only enhances the appeal of cabinets, but also lasts a life-time.

TeraBlack products have a light absorbing micro-structure that provides a unique black, non-reflective, matte finish and a smooth, even surface with a velvety feel. These new products provide increased corrosion resistance and durability throughout the life cycle of the product.

The flagship product in the TeraBlack finish range is the innovative, award-winning T-type hinge with integrated damping. Its key feature is the simplicity and tolerance during installation. T-type is designed to provide ConfidentClose – the consumer-preferred way of the soft closing of doors.

Soft closing assures above-average consistency of performance with no bounce effect and reliable closing at all closing speeds.

Its three-way snap-on intuitive hinge-to-plate mounting (top, front and back) makes installation a breeze, especially on tall doors, as it significantly reduces the time and effort it takes to assemble a kitchen.

Cutting cabinet assembly time in half

Titus offers one of the largest and most comprehensive ranges of quick-assembly solutions for series furniture manufacturers. The 50 per cent reduction in assembly time is possible by pre-inserting the Quickfit dowels and cams into the panel during factory production prior to shipping the cabinet.

Consumers get all the connectors already fitted in the right place – all they have to do is to put two panels together and tighten the joint.

Titus Quickfit dowels with Quickfit TL5 “Full Metal Jacket” are one of the fastest fittings on the market, developed to make cabinet assembly easy and without the need for tools.

Thanks to its steel sleeve, the Quickfit TL5 dowel is the only

dowel on the market that reliably engages in a 5mm dowel hole, enabling the use of the tool-less Quickfit dowel insertion technology across a wide range of applications where 5mm drilling is the standard.

Furthermore, Quickfit dowels also protect cabinet quality – as there is no need to use hammers and screwdrivers to insert them, there will be no damage to the carcass during insertion.

Titus enriches its portfolio

Titus has been delivering damping solutions for sliding doors for years. After acquiring Simon Kinetics from Germany, Titus formed its own Kinetics division and now combines Kinetics' expertise in sliding door soft closing with Titus' expertise in hydraulic damping.

Slidix Centro is one of the most recent innovations from Titus' Kinetics Division. It is ideal for controlling the motion and the centring of middle doors in the composition of three, or more sliding doors.

PushPlus is another innovative solution from Titus for pocket doors. Typically, a pocket sliding door in a fully open position stops slightly before the wall hole, protruding and obstructing the area available for moving.

The PushPlus system allows the door to be used without a handle and to retreat entirely into the wall. To close, it can be activated with a push.

Effortless touch-opening system on drawers

Tekform Slimline thin wall drawers have now been upgraded with Tacto touch opening for the effortless opening of drawers without the need for handles.

Tekform Slimline Tacto has the activator integrated into the drawer runner, whilst all other components remain the same as for the “standard” Slimline version, as do the drilling and fixing positions.

The Tacto mechanism follows the “One-for-All” principle, meaning that one item provides a push-open feature for all metal and glass drawers from 400mm in length and up to 40kg in weight.

Tekform Slimline Tacto is fast and easy to mount, as it fits the industry-standard drilling patterns and allows furniture producers to streamline their operations.

The future of damping solutions

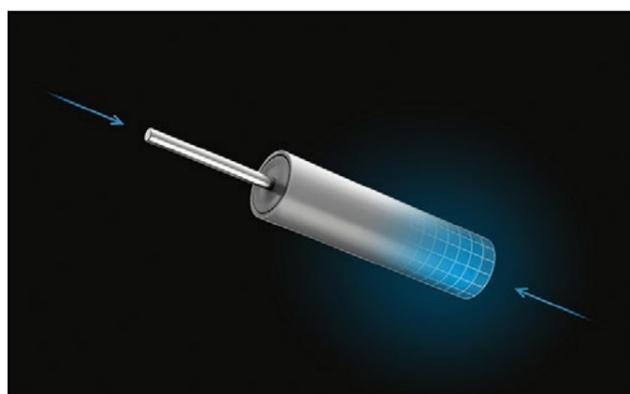
Titus Damper is a proprietary multi-purpose hydraulic damping technology for a wide range of applications in furniture, interior doors, etc.

The temperature spectrum for these dampers is being further extended to provide operational efficiency in cooler temperatures, as well as hotter ones. This is an especially useful feature in ovens, coolers and refrigerators.

Titus' newly launched damper S-Series Evolut has been developed for effective deceleration of objects up to 900N in temperatures up to 150 deg C. It maintains consistent damping in all conditions, even when the temperature in the application reaches the upper limit.

The possibilities for application extend over a wide range of industries, from consumer appliances, such as ovens with heavy doors, to heavy lids in waste bins, plus glass doors and interior doors in both residential and commercial environments.

For further information tel Titus on 01977 682582.
Visit www.titusplus.com



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EUROTECH eT-GRIPPER SUCTION BOXES HELPING TO SOLVE SLOVAKIAN CLIENT'S PROBLEM

WITH the help of multiple eT-Gripper suction boxes, vacuum specialist, Eurotech has helped to solve the material handling problems of Rettenmeier Tatra Timber, the Slovak branch of Rettenmeier Holding.

Rettenmeier is a leading, innovative, market-oriented company in the wood-processing industry.

When the Rettenmeier plant in Slovakia encountered problems in handling its glued panels with multiple portals, the company decided to upgrade its existing vacuum components to products by Eurotech Vertriebs.

Before the upgrade, the panels were transported by steel vacuum-lifting frame with suction plates, but this set-up no longer met the requirements of the new Rettenmeier products.

Jaroslav Pudiš, plant manager at Rettenmeier, contacted Eurotech. The German-based company offered Jaroslav its eT-Gripper suction boxes with aluminium vacuum-lifting frames, instead of the previously used suction plates, for two portals.

'Our offer seemed to meet our client's requirements exactly,' recalls Eurotech area sales manager, Michal Mikláš, who is

responsible for Rettenmeier in Slovakia.

'After we proposed to supply suction boxes for two portals, Rettenmeier promptly increased the order to three portals. The vacuum-lifting frames with our suction boxes were delivered soon after,' says Michal Mikláš.

Rettenmeier carried out the conversion of the portals to support the new vacuum-lifting frame.

'We have been very satisfied with the new vacuum-lifting frame, so we recommended the solution to our other branches, too,' comments Jaroslav.

'Not long afterwards, we received the order for additional portals to be equipped with our eT-Grippers on complete vacuum-lifting frames. This could be a solid basis for a continued collaboration over the course of the coming years,' recounts Michal.

The Eurotech eT-Gripper suction boxes are used to process panels made of wood, metal, ceramics and other materials whose surface tends to be covered in dust, sawdust, packaging supports, or bark residues, which is beyond the capacities of suction plates.

The eT-Gripper suction boxes have an adaptable suction mat, making them ideal for such cases.

The suction mat creates a vacuum-tight connection between the load and the suction box by sealing the rough surface of the load while offsetting its level differences. This makes the devices particularly suitable for use in sawmills and the timber and furniture industry.

Thanks to the modular design of the low-maintenance eT-Grippers, all components are easily accessible.

The suction boxes, which are built from material-efficient light metal profiles, can be opened and cleaned with little effort. This increases their service life and ensures hygienic, clean lifting.

High-quality materials, workmanship and technology ensure reliability and a long service life – and the Eurotech suction boxes are particularly efficient when handling tools, thanks to their clear, modular structure, low wear rates and small number of individual components.

For further information tel the company on 0049 7433 904 680. Visit www.etvac.com



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XYLEXPO CO-LOCATES WITH BI-MU

A new exhibition concept dedicated to manufacturing technology will be launched at FieraMilano-Rho from October 12-15 2022.



A NEW exhibition concept dedicated to manufacturing technology will be launched at FieraMilano-Rho from October 12-15 2022, resulting from a partnership between BI-MU and Xylexpo, respectively organised by Ucima-Sistemi Per Produrre – the association of Italian manufacturers of machine tools, robots and automation – and Acimall, the association of Italian woodworking machinery manufacturers.

In times of unprecedented challenges the two events will offer a new scenario whereby operators will have the opportunity to find expertise, solutions and ideas for a common goal: producing with increasingly sustainable and efficient methods, according to Industry 4.0 principles.

As reference events in their respective industries, 33.BI-MU (biennial exhibition of machine tools, robotics and automation, additive manufacturing, digital and auxiliary technologies) and Xylexpo (biennial exhibition of woodworking technology and furniture industry components) will be presented as distinct, but complementary events, highlighting their respective peculiarities, whilst leveraging every possible synergy.

This decision will expand the audience of potential visitors for exhibitors on one side (unified access to the fairgrounds will provide access to both exhibitions) and on the other it will help the visitors from the sectors of furniture, design, industrial plants, machinery for aluminium, composites and next-generation materials, interested in both events, to make the most of their trip to Milan.

Besides a wider technology line-up, visitors will have access to a rich agenda of additional events, in-depth debates on technical, technological and economic topics relevant for both sectors, through presentations, seminars and conferences.

Special attention will be dedicated to the big topics of digital and sustainability, - two key concepts for the future development of the industry and the global economy.

In this scenario, the two worlds that will meet in Milan in October 2022 have been experiencing a momentous evolution that will be visible during the joint event.

'This project is much more than the sum of two historical and popular exhibitions. We believe that the merger of BI-MU and Xylexpo will help the industry represented in both exhibitions to show the best of its contents and potential,' says president of Ucima-Sistemi Per Produrre, Barbara Colombo.

'Under these premises, we believe that the event will be a point of attraction for the global manufacturing industry, with strong visibility in Italy and abroad, to the benefit of all companies that will choose to participate,' she adds

According to president of Acimall, Luigi De Vito '...a more and more crowded exhibition calendar, now complicated by the rescheduling of many events, due to the pandemic, the new technologies and the stronger international competition require a deep and accurate revision of the exhibition concept, which cannot be merely a place where demand and supply meet.

'The collaboration between Xylexpo and BI-MU will develop into an innovative platform that will be focused on high-end technology and the many profitable interactions that such technology can generate, offering an involving and successful experiential event to operators, exhibitors, institutions and all stake-holders,' adds Mr De Vito.

'We are proud that BI-MU and Xylexpo – both reference events in Italy and all over the world in their respective industries – have been featured in our calendar for over 50 years, as evidence of the appreciation of our premises and the services offered by Fiera Milano.

'I believe that the decision to put together these events will bring further benefits to the organisers and exhibitors of both exhibitions; on our part, we are ready to check all the details of the new project together,' he concludes.



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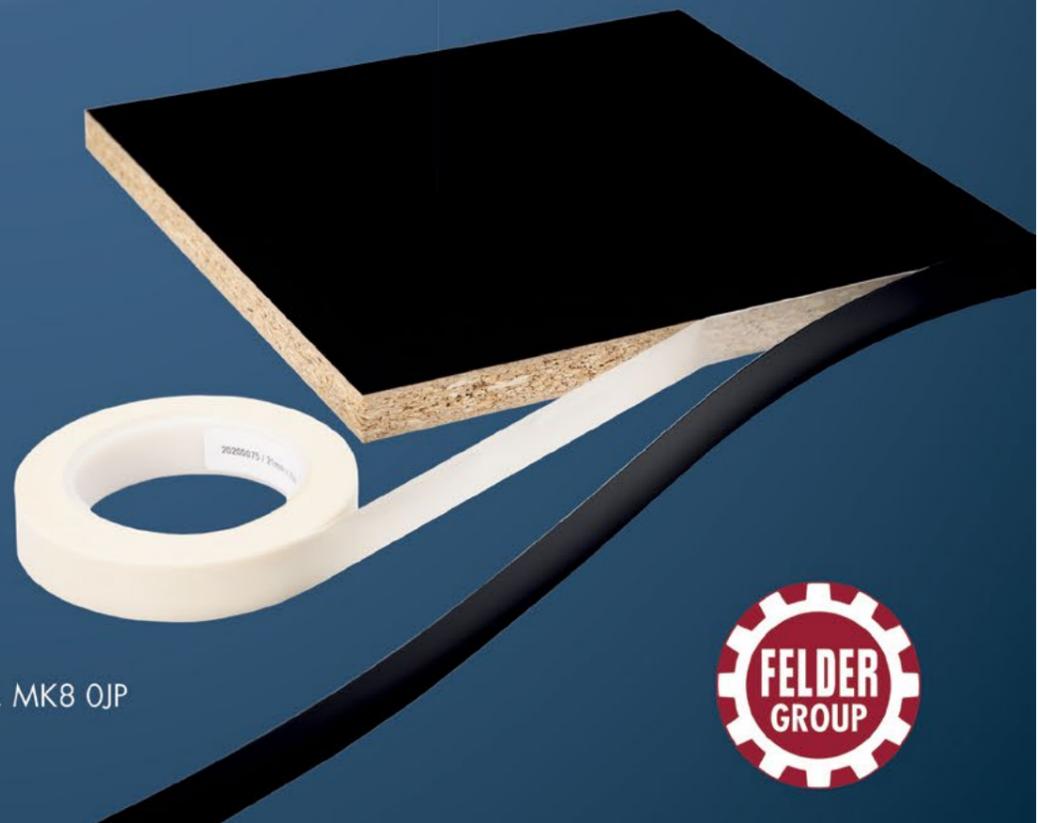


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NORBORD AUTOMATES THE LABELLING OF HUNDREDS OF PALLETS EACH DAY WITH THE AID OF ZETESATLAS

NORBORD, one of the world's largest manufacturers of wood-based panels, produces more than 1,200m² of OSB panels per day at its Genk location.

Every day the logistics employees apply 1,400 labels to pallets in order to manage the panels and stock. This process was recently automated at Norbord's Belgian location with a Zetes industrial labelling machine and Zetes Atlas Identification software.

After the manufacturing process, the Norbord panels are placed on pallets and wrapped in protective film. Information about the pallets, the OSB panels and their location in the warehouse is stored in the ERP system.

It also prints the labels that are applied to the respective pallets and scanned. Until recently, these labels were printed in advance, so the fork-lift operators had to leave their cab each time to label and scan a pallet.



In order to automate the process, Norbord opted for ZetesAtlas, an integrated solution for identification and serialisation. After pallet wrapping, the machine applies the label – always in the same place – and automatically scans the barcode with the stock location and batch number. Then ZetesAtlas ensures that the pallet is shown correctly in Norbord's warehouse management software.



The fork-lift operator enters the stock locations only once at the start of their shift. Once the pallet has been scanned, the operator takes it to the designated place in the warehouse with an area of approximately 40,000m².

With the help of the automated solution, the fork-lift operators no longer have to leave their cabs to apply and scan the labels. This also dramatically improves safety, since there's always a risk of falling every time a fork-lift operator exits, or enters the cab.



'The difference since our project with Zetes is enormous,' says department manager finishing end operations at Norbord, Steven Brouillard.

'We save time and we are more efficient, with

fewer scan errors. We were just about to start up a second production line. Thanks to ZetesAtlas, we are now working with an additional line, but with the same team. The new

solution came at the right time,' adds Steven.

'It's not easy to link industrial machines to ERP or WMS software,' says systems developer at Norbord, Stefan Nysen.

'For us this worked out very well with smooth co-operation between

our engineering and IT teams on the one hand and Zetes on the other hand,' adds Stefan Nysen, speaking on behalf of Norbord.

'Instead of running on its own in a remote corner of the warehouse, our machine is fully integrated into our operations thanks to the ZetesAtlas identification software,' concludes Stefan.

'Zetes impressed us with their very professional approach. We started in March 2019 with the first contact and six months later our two machines were already running at full speed. We also appreciate that we can call Zetes whenever we want to. Looking back, we could ask ourselves why we waited so long,' says Steven Brouillard.

For further information tel Mathilde Alves Nunes on 00 32 2 728 37 03.





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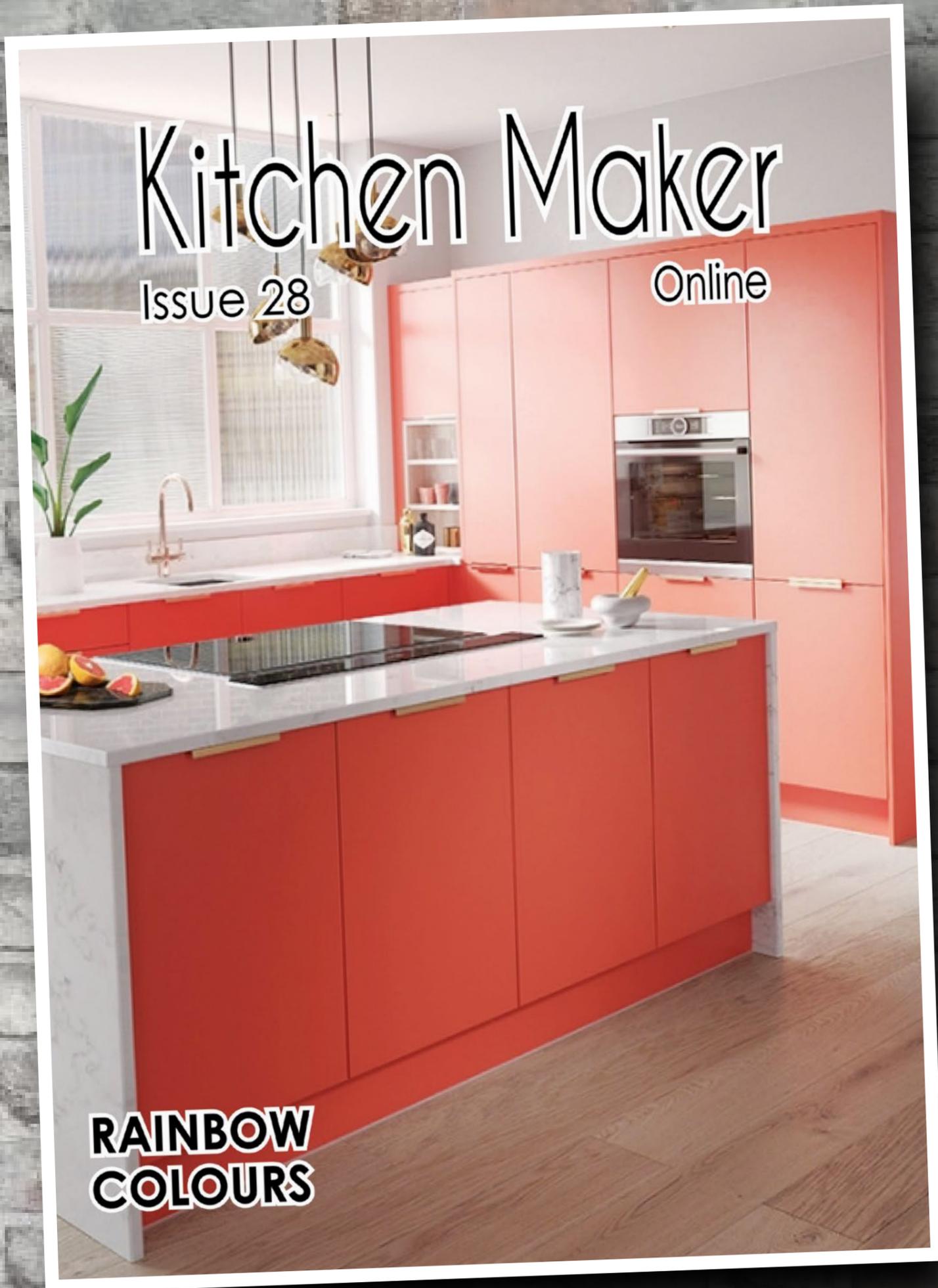
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