

# PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

*Issue No. 157/158*

*June/July 2021*

## Latest CNC routing and cutting machines from AAG

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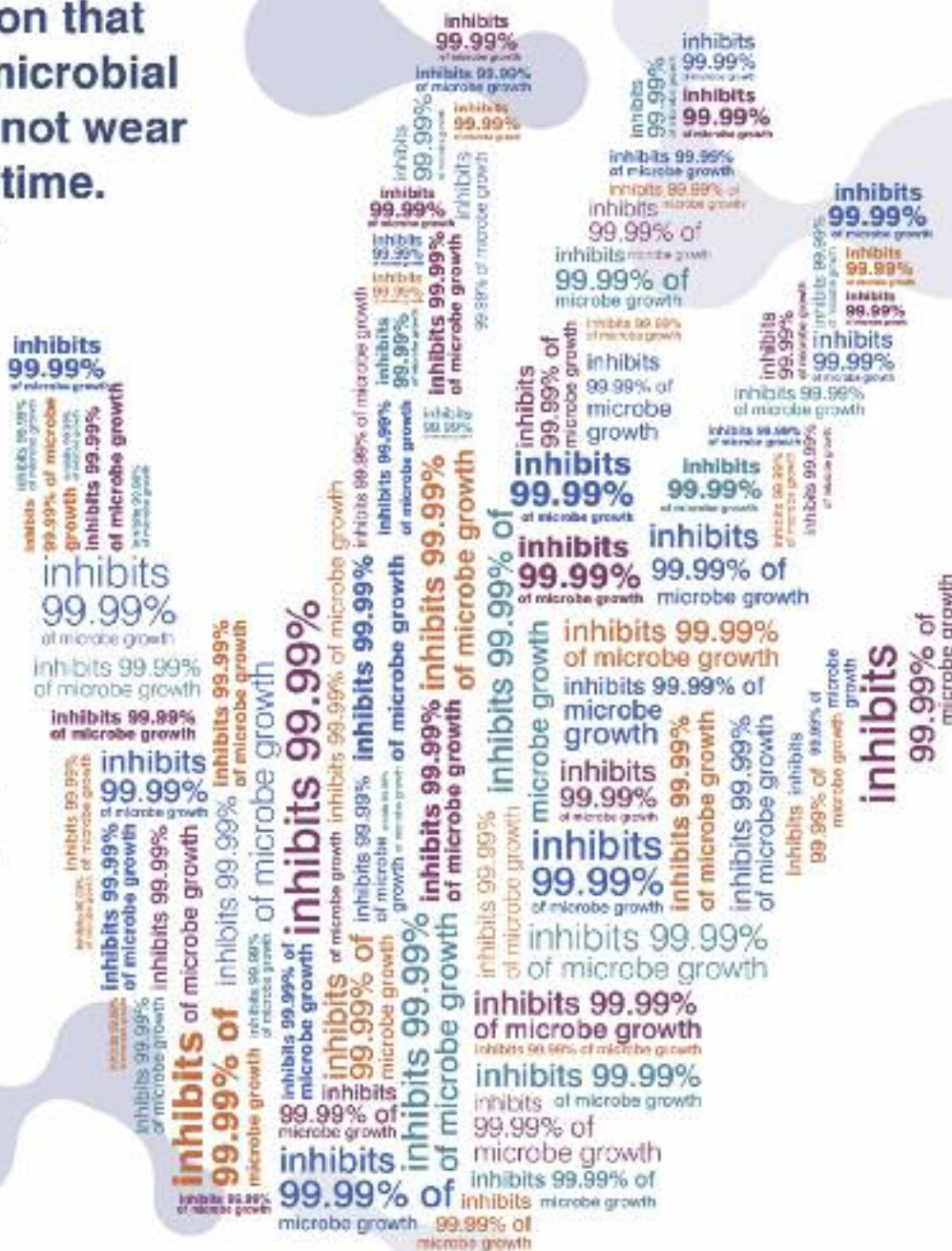
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# Mirka introduces new robotic sanders and polishers to meet demand for automation

**INDUSTRY automation is a growing trend in many sectors, from wood to automotive and transportation, with customers requiring a complete package for automated manufacturing processes.**

To meet this demand, Mirka is introducing a range of new robotic sanding solutions, including the Mirka® AIOS sanding heads and the Mirka® AIROP polishing

head, which will join the Mirka® AIROS, believed to be the first smart electric sander designed for robotic sanding applications. The products are engineered for robotic sanding, ensuring consistent quality while saving time.

For industrial processes such as furniture, doors and windows manufacturing where a rectangular sanding solution is required, the AIOS 353CV with its 81 x 133

mm pad is suitable for surfaces and corners alike. It can be used to drive up productivity and finishing quality with robotic precision. For sanding, the Mirka AIOS 130NV is aimed at spot repair work in an automated process such as in car and transport manufacturing.

The Mirka AIROS 150NV is the smallest AIROS sanding head, ideal for more confined spaces, detailed work and sanding of

small areas where deflashing or deburring is required.

The Mirka AIROP 312NV is a random orbital polisher with an advanced electric polishing head for robot usage. Featuring a 77 mm pad, it provides a robotic alternative to Mirka's cordless polishers, and is compatible with Mirka's polishing pads and compounds.

Ian Deery, business sector manager transport and industry for Mirka UK, says, "More businesses are investing in automated manufacturing processes and tools are key to delivering effective results. The addition of the AIOS sanding heads and AIROP polishing head alongside the AIROS ensures we can provide our customers with a complete solution that is suitable for use across multiple applications and sectors."

**Mirka UK**  
[www.mirka.com/uk/uk/](http://www.mirka.com/uk/uk/)



## A fresh approach from Weinig UK

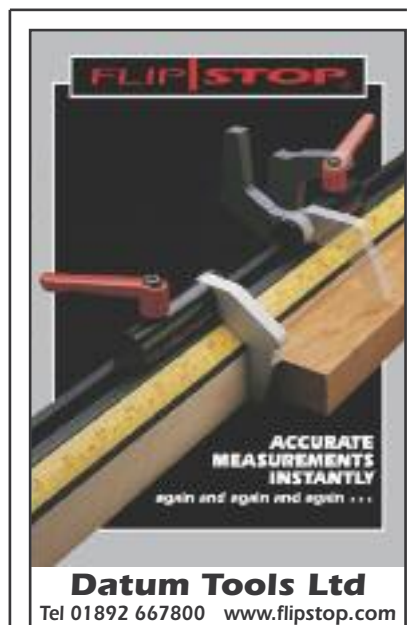
**FOLLOWING a year of record-breaking order inflow and the recent expansion of its UK sales force, leading woodworking machinery manufacturer, Weinig UK, has launched its very own in-house event timetable, with the first event kicking off on 13-15 July.**

"We believe the pandemic has led to a massive shift in how our industry will approach events in the years to come," says Malcolm Cuthbertson, managing director of Michael Weinig (UK) Ltd. "The past 14 months have been challenging for the industry and a timescale of when we will be able to freely attend large-scale exhibitions again has yet to become clear. This is why we've taken the decision to cancel our stand at the W Exhibition — a show we have exhibited at since it began over 30 years ago — and approach today's changing market in an altogether different way."

The result is the launch of Connect — Weinig UK's very own series of hybrid events which will take place throughout the year at the company's showroom in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Malcolm explains, "The beauty of Connect is that each event will be tailored to meet the needs of the customers. We will adapt our topics to reflect changing market conditions, key production trends and the launch of exclusive products from both Weinig and Holz-Her in the UK. Our event calendar will focus on what is important to our industry and as a result, we will deliver meaningful experiences to our customers that hold true value."

Malcolm adds, "We believe investing in our facilities and providing informative in-house events are the best ways to showcase our innovations, educate the industry and build lasting relationships. By offering a series of hybrid events and continuing to offer digital interactive machinery demonstrations to those customers who are unable to travel to the showroom due to local restrictions, geographical location or simply a lack of time, we will be able to help our customers embrace change and stay ahead. We are excited to be releasing more information about our Connect series in the coming weeks and look forward to welcoming new and existing customers to Connect with Weinig UK."

2021's Connect calendar is available on the company's website.  
**Weinig UK ● Tel 01235 557600 ● [www.weinig.co.uk](http://www.weinig.co.uk)**



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# High productivity integrated line for the

**THE WORLD** of windows and doors is evolving in order to keep pace with the latest market trends and the new intelligent domotics systems, where domotics is the control of domestic appliances by electronically controlled systems. The windows are enhanced with ever more advanced technical solutions and specifications to make our homes even more attractive, safe and comfortable. Technological innovation is once again the key to the success of industry manufacturers.

Internorm knows something about this. It is a leading Austrian company at European level in the production of windows and doors, for whom SCM developed a full line of throughfeed moulding, tenoning, drilling-routing and profiling machines.

In practical terms, a complete high performance system for the production of high-tech wood/aluminium windows, like the ones responsible for placing this company at the top of the market over the past few decades.

SCM has been a partner to Internorm for over 20 years.

Following an initial integrated line installed in 1995 to deal with the growing production in the standard wooden window sector



and, after numerous other investments aimed at the production of special windows, in 2011, the company invested in an even more advanced, integrated and high performance line, a "System 8", to anticipate quantity and quality market trends.

From the outset, the SCM Engineering team aimed to satisfy the

need for a line dedicated to the production of doors and frames, capable of achieving maximum levels of productivity that were above standard (eight door elements and six frames a minute) and to simultaneously guarantee excellent flexibility in the case of "batch 1" machining of elements with varying lengths: from 220

right up to 3,500 millimetres.

All the SCM technology supplied guarantees fully automatic set-up with times of less than a minute.

In addition, the work is further optimised and simplified by the Maestro active watch line supervisor software that allows for the entire production process to be managed, the status of each individual machine and the entire line to be monitored in real time and a two-way interconnection with factory IT systems.

Higher productivity is already being achieved at this early stage of the process., thanks to the "superset tx" automatic through-feed moulder, with innovative set-up system which, when using tools of different diameters, reduces the machine's set-up time by up to 20 times.

A connection transfer conveyor with buffer function and 180° tip-over function of the pieces, allows for the temporary accumulation and dispatch of pieces to the next machines as soon as they are free, thus balancing production based on their machining times and keeping them constantly powered.

Once the pieces have been moulded, they are transferred by



# machining of windows from SCM Group

The line is completed by a number of other SCM technological solutions designated to special functions or other stages of the process.

This is the case — to mention just one example — of the “dmc system t7” wide belt sander with seven operating units; thanks to its modular structure, it can provide a solution for every calibrating, sanding and structuring production requirement. Thanks to the planetary unit’s multi-directionally, excellent finishing results can be achieved that are structured and closed-pore even on window shutters.

**SCM Group**  
**Tel 0115 977 0044**  
**scmuk@scmgroup.com**  
**www.scmwood.com**



the transfer conveyor to the “celaschi tlv” tenoning area with two single-sided, symmetrical and complementary tenoning machines. These allow for tenoning on the head of the piece to be carried out, and then on the tail, after the piece has been properly positioned to guarantee the perfect length.

Thanks to the use of single-sided tenoning machines, pieces of differing lengths can be machined, just as is done in “batch 1” production.

Once tenoned, the pieces are loaded onto another connecting and buffering table and then rotated 90° for the next stage in the drilling-routing centres.

The “fleximat” passing through drilling and routing centre takes centre stage in the drilling-routing process, performing all the accessory machinings such as routing for the lock and holes for the handle, meeting and connection positions, required for the next assembly stage of the window.

Designed around the customer’s production requirements, “fleximat” can take on different configurations, based on the number and position of the machining units, to the point that it permits simultaneous machining of the units to be drilled and routed, thus drastically reducing cycle times.

Another transporter with buffer function, essential for balancing the flow frequencies, conveys the

piece to a “profitech” profiling machine to externally profile door and frame elements.

Numerous advantages of this SCM solution include the 12-position tool storage and highly versatile electro-spindles that allow you to move from one profile to another without the intervention of an operator.

Subsequently, another two “profitech” profiling machines deal with the internal profiling of the door and frame.

The frames and doors are, therefore, completed on each side and transported on a connecting bench as far as the unloading station where they will be subject to a visual and quality inspection by the operator.



# Renolit 3D Thermolaminates: woodgrains, solid colours &

**RENOLIT has modernised and rebranded its 3D Thermolaminates Stock Range for 2021 and launched it with a new fresh and up to date look.**

Based on current trends, new introductions will be announced twice a year in season **RENOLIT** Trend Collections which bring the most sought-after designs and colours to the forefront, in stock and ready for you to order. The first Spring/Summer collection now available comprises of 15 exciting new décors.

## Woodgrains

A timeless material that can still come up with fresh looks every year. **RENOLIT's** design experts have collected a host of new and exciting

wood décors for your next interior design project. Be inspired by the new Harbor Oak with its subtle weather cracks and pores, available in three shades: Gold, Vintage and Espresso. Or for a new twist on a popular design, take a look at Halifax Oak Gold Brown Synchro. Alternatively, Vicenza Oak is an elegant linear version of a rift cut oak offering an alternative to existing classic oaks. While finely structured pores and strong contrasting details characterise the image of the lively wild beech Crenata Natural.

## Solid Colours

Colour denotes an ambiance, creating a room's atmosphere. Smoothing the way to exciting design with its superior robust smooth surface incorporating PST (Physical Surface Technology) two new Premier Matt colours for 2021 are Indigo Blue and Onyx Grey. Indigo Blue is an almost black midnight blue. Its deep, rich hues create drama and a striking statement. Onyx Grey is a well-balanced sophisticated shade of grey that resembles the colour of dark concrete that reflects modern styling whilst creating a calming serenity within a room.

## Stones

Stone can be many things — smooth or rough, simple or complex. A material so versatile that it is a staple in interior design.

From the deep Garnet Slate Dark Grey to the light and textured Harley Elegant Oxide, the **RENOLIT** design experts have created a variety of beautiful and functional stone décors. Just as the stone designs are endless, so too is their potential for combinations with a variety of colours — pairing them with strong red tones is especially liked.

**RENOLIT Cramlington**

**Tel 01670 718222**

**[www.interiorcollection.renolit.com](http://www.interiorcollection.renolit.com)**



# stones for the Trend Collection 2021 — Spring/Summer



Above, Vicenza Oak; below, Onyx Grey Matt Stone; bottom of opposite page, Indigo Blue Premier Matt.



# Makita launches latest promotion for end users with a free XGT 40VMax radio

**MAKITA UK has announced a new redemption scheme for end-users to claim a free XGT Bluetooth Jobsite Radio with the purchase of qualifying XGT products. Tough and durable, the radio is considered a perfect addition to the job site and is redeemable on purchases of qualifying XGT 40VMax or 80VMax products (two-battery models) with the suffix GD201, GD202, GD203, GD204 and GD209 from 1st May 2021 through to the 30th September 2021.**

The Makita 40VMax XGT Bluetooth Radio is considered an excellent job site companion that is compatible with Makita XGT, LXT and CXT batteries making it easy to slot into an existing family of Makita tools.

The radio can access both AM and FM radio as well as Bluetooth that can play audio from a mobile device up to 10 metres away.

The radio is built to withstand the demands of site work, and features elastomer bumpers to protect the radio from knocks and rough handling and the robust IP65-rated design protects it from dust and showers.



To claim the free 40VMax XGT Bluetooth Radio (MR002GZ01) via a dedicated microsite, customers will need to provide an invoice or receipt within 28 days of purchasing any of the qualifying products between 1st May and 30th September 2021. Once the application is confirmed, the free gift will arrive within 30 days.

“Our radios are the perfect accompaniment to any workplace and are especially appealing as they utilise batteries that many Makita users will already own,” says Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita UK. “We are delighted to offer this exciting promotion to professionals who want an entertaining backdrop to their working day.”

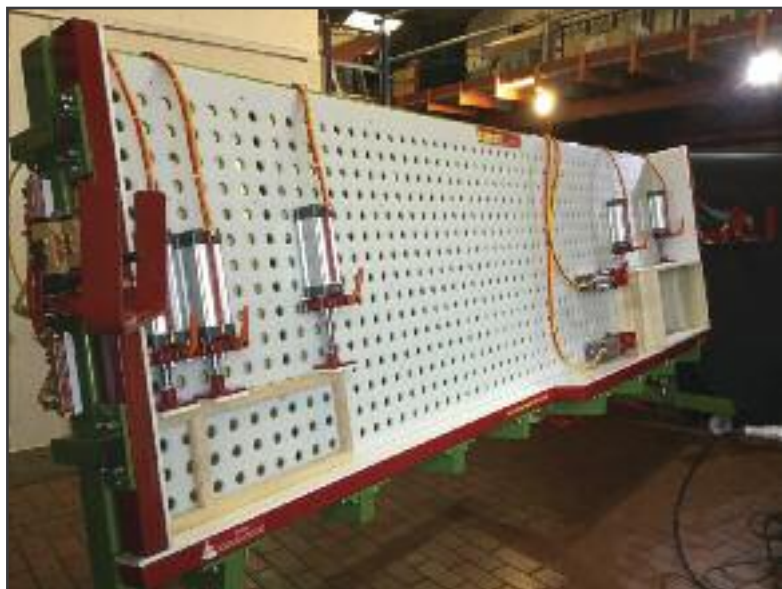
Makita is a global manufacturer of power tools and related accessories with over 100 years of experience. Its range of 40VMax and 80VMax XGT products combine innovative tool design with higher output batteries to offer professionals a genuine solution for high demand and industrial applications.

**Makita**  
<https://makitauk.com/freexgtradio>

# Bespoke Lamont clamp “value for money”

**STEPHEN Anthony Design Ltd was established in May 2002 with a view to making the finest handmade furniture and providing the highest level of service whilst delivering value for money. To this end, the company has purchased a pneumatic matrix table assembly clamp from Alan Lamont of Lamont Clamping.**

“For the previous 15 years we had been using a manual cramping system. It had its problems in ensuring items we were cramping were flat and was also labour intensive in setting up,” the company’s Ian Moore told PW&SS.



“Lamont is pretty much the only company out there that will bespoke make what you want. We had some fairly unique requirements. The clamp is positioned underneath a fairly low mezzanine floor: a lot of other off-the-shelf versions on the market were too tall. With Alan’s product he makes them to order so they can be made to measure.

“We made allowances for the height it had to fit under. We had it built to the length we wanted, and there were other specific specifications. For example, although clamps can be built for a specific purpose and a lot of what we do is door and frame assembly, he also made clamps that press dovetail drawer boxes together. Also, as the press is 4 m in length, we can clamp up in 4 m plank worktops together. We have combined all the uses we would need and built in the flexibility to achieve all of these in one machine, saving space and money.”

Ian continues, “It is a great deal more accurate than our previous clamp. We are able to press up our doors, etc, and we can ensure they are flat with no twist in them when they are taken out. It is easier and quicker to use than our old system. It is a time saving, money saving device.”

When asked if he would recommend it, Ian replied, “Yeah, all of it, the whole thing. Alan is very good, a nice chap, who understands all of our requirements. We worked together on designing it and he included some design features to complement and achieve what we needed. The quality of the clamp, its robustness, is possibly over-engineered but therefore it is extremely good value for money. I would highly recommend Alan and what he makes, it is very good.”

**Lamont Clamping**  
 Tel 01461 40017  
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# JOINERYSOFT NEWS

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*James Selby, James Selby Joinery*

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DESKTOP SYSTEM

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DESKTOP SYSTEM



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*"I've used JMS for a number of years and like their quoting and production software; other software can't offer the continuity and support across my business that Joinerysoft can."*  
James Tanner, James Tanner Joinery

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# Custom cabinetry and millwork specialist wins jobs

**JEREMIAH** Halla needed to quickly become productive when he opened the doors of his custom cabinetry and millwork company, **Elegant Wood Creations**.

Making the leap to entrepreneurship was daunting, but he hit the ground running by investing in the machinery and software necessary to ensure he would be in full production by the time his first customer walked through the door.

"I got Cabinet Vision a few months before opening the business and now I can't even imagine doing everything that we do here by hand," he says. "It just wouldn't work without the software; I feel like you're much more accurate with a CNC machine."

Located in Turlock, California, Elegant Wood Creations produces a range of custom cabinetry and millwork, including kitchens, entertainment centres, vanities, cupboards, home offices, bookcases, mantels and floating shelves, and meets a diverse array of one-of-a-kind demands.

Jeremiah Halla uses Cabinet Vision's Screen-to-Machine (S2M) Centre to perform all the company's design work, manage job details and generate NC code that is sent to CNC machinery on the shop floor. The software — part of



Hexagon's Smart Manufacturing portfolio — has helped the small company win jobs and produce a large volume of products, with just two employees.

He uses Cabinet Vision's realistic rendering capabilities to help customers understand and visualise design details. "I've had people tell me they went with my company

because I was able to show them a 3D picture," he says. "There are businesses that come to potential customers with drawings on graph paper, and that isn't a strong selling point. Most people want to see something to help them visualise — and I've had people think that the Cabinet Vision renderings are actual photographs."

The solution's graphics capabilities are an advantage when working with contractors, as well. "Sometimes contractors want me to render projects to help sell a job. I can take plan views and elevation views and give them to a contractor to lay out all their plumbing and electrical work. With Cabinet Vision, what you see is what you get, and contractors love that."

In addition to its strong visual capabilities, Cabinet Vision simplifies the process of making design changes, as the software automatically resizes all affected parts when adjustments to size are made.

"Unlike doing everything by hand, if I want to change the width of a cabinet, the system will do it for me. I don't have to go in by hand and calculate changes to all of the parts, so it takes out a lot of the margin for human error."

Before sending projects to the shop floor, Jeremiah Halla takes advantage of Cabinet Vision's powerful nesting engine to boost efficiency and maximise material yield. "I only have little pieces of scrap wood now, whereas before the CNC machine and Cabinet Vision, there was a lot more," he said. "It's awesome."

While he typically nests the parts automatically, the software allows him to edit automatically-generated nests if needed. This



# with software's graphics and automation tools

combined programming flexibility and power enables him to automate as many tasks as possible while retaining control over the entire production process. "Cabinet Vision drills our holes, cuts our dados, and, if we have a special hole or other special feature, it will take care of that for us,

too," he says. "It's nice to be able to draw something and have it cut exactly the way I drew it. I draw it and the guys cut it, paint it and send it out. It makes everything a lot easier."

Cut lists, material lists and assembly sheets are generated with information derived from project designs. In addition to reducing error, these detailed lists and instructions help everyone to understand jobs at a glance.

"The elevation view is great to send out to the guys on the shop floor. If there are variations in the CAD part, I can simply type notes into it. It makes it a lot easier to communicate important job details, which helps us avoid making mistakes."

Cabinet Vision and CNC machinery ensure that shop time at Elegant Wood Creations is optimised, as time that would otherwise be devoted to cutting projects by hand can be devoted to other tasks. "The guys can be doing something else while the router is cutting a sheet, so it's really like having another employee or even two," concludes Jeremiah Halla. "This is a small shop, but investing in the machinery and Cabinet Vision was still less than I would pay a monthly employee."

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# A good mitre joint is recognised as quality!

**THE ATTRACTIVENESS of wood has a lot to do with its market price when compared with other materials. Therefore, efficient and cost-effective manufacturing is required. With processing techniques from Hoffmann, this objective can be easily achieved.**

High quality items made of wood and at attractive prices. Frames, cassettes and architraves, the focus is on the classic mitre joint, which is secured with the highly structural and durable connecting element, the Hoffmann Key. For safe woodworking you need safe machinery. This means maximum security for the operator of the machine and safe design for the future. You can rely on safe working with the Hoffmann MS-35 and MS-35-SF.

The workpiece is laid on the table and positioned for cutting. The start button is pressed to begin the machine cycle and the profile is clamped. Both saw units cycle from above to make the mitre cuts.

The parts remain clamped whilst the tables open to allow the router units to rout one or two dovetail slots for jointing with Hoffmann Keys, sizes W-1/2/3. The machine table closes and the finished workpiece is removed. The next machine cycle begins. The machine safety guard closes automatically after starting the processing cycle and re-opens when complete. A clear vision panel retains the dust and scrap end, for better operator comfort.

A fence stop system is also available for longer profiles up to 4,000 mm.

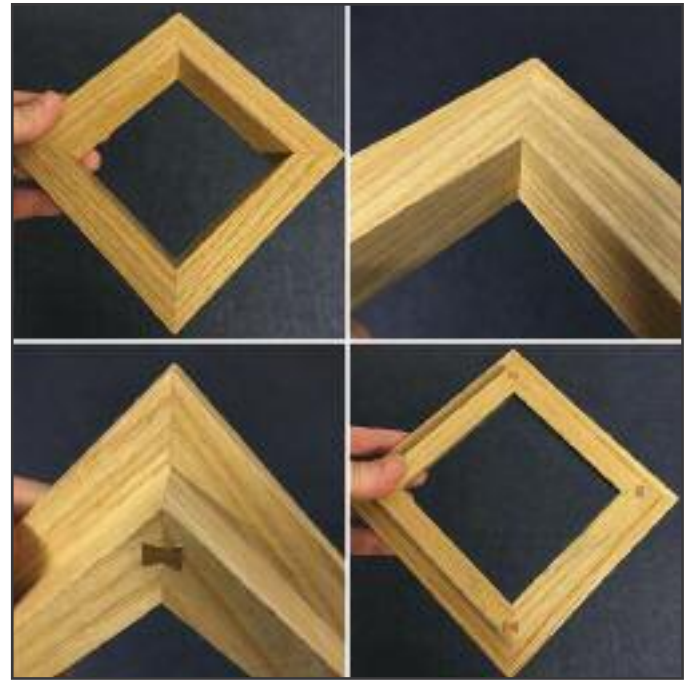


The machine can also be used solely as a double mitre saw, to cut to length profiles such as glazing beads, cornices, plinths etc in wood, aluminium and plastic at 45° angles.

Further special improvements were made to the Double Mitre Combination machine MS 35-SF. The Hoffmann design team developed technology which reduced the vibrations created on the saw blades. This resulted in an increase in the precision and accuracy of both mitre cuts so that no further work was required prior to joining. This uncompromising accuracy is particularly important when the finished surface joint is visible. This high-quality cut as well as high quality routing is achieved by almost vibration-free running of the machine, the body of which is extremely robust and weighs about 700 kg. A chip breaker provides a chip-free cut. Another feature is the extremely low noise level which is immediately noticeable. The range has now evolved to include the MS40-SF. With a larger saw blade (400 mm), the cutting width increases to 105 mm and a new waste ejector automatically removes off cuts at the front of the unit. Automatic router positioning is also available via NC axis and touch screen adjustment.

Managing director of Ahmarra Door Solutions, Tim, Doran, comments: "Over the many years of manufacturing, many of our machines have required replacing and updated as expected, but the Hoffmann MS 35-SF has continued to manufacture a precision product with only routine maintenance required, and we see no reason to replace it in the near future. This combination machine not only cuts the perfect mitres but simultaneously routers the dovetail slots for the Hoffmann Keys. Ahmarra has a long relationship with Hoffmann, and our current Hoffmann MS 35-SF has been in operation for over 20 years, and still performs with the expected accuracy and precision that it did the day it was installed."

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# Cutting a path to profit with the latest CNC routing/cutting machines from AAG

**WITH THE EASING of lockdown caused by the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with a gradual return to normality and early signs of an economic recovery, companies in the industrial wood-working and furniture & joinery production sectors, in common with other industries, will be reviewing their future production requirements.**

In particular, they will be assessing how best these can be met by judicious investment in new capital equipment that will help accelerate business growth and prosperity. Leading supplier of CNC routing/cutting systems, AAG highlights important developments that have taken place at its main UK facility in Telford, Shropshire, that will enable these objectives to be achieved.

By introducing the latest large-format XYZ Infinite and smaller-format Innovator CNC routing/cutting systems, AAG claims to have comprehensively accommodated the requirements of two distinct but complementary sectors of the market, in terms of machine size and price-to-performance capability.

Both machines again demonstrate AAG's known propensity for empowering customers with the means of increasing industrial-grade output in the most cost-effective manner available, reinforced by AAG's compelling machine trade-in discounts provided to its customers.

With the XYZ Infinite, AAG has delivered arguably the most powerful and technically advanced CNC routing/cutting system so far developed.

Apart from the familiar solid steel frame construction that will withstand the most vigorous machine operation likely to be encountered, key design features include an aluminium T-slot vacuum material hold-down processing bed, a new carriage design that enables easier and faster routine maintenance and the installation of machine upgrades and performance-enhancing dust extraction and cooling/lubricating systems.

The more recently launched smaller-format XYZ Innovator incorporates many of the attributes of the XYZ Infinite and other similarly positioned large-format machines but at a commensurately lower cost and in



a size that will better accommodate installation in workshops where available space is at a premium.

Significantly, and for the first time on any machine in its class, the XYZ Innovator incorporates an optional three-station ATC (Automatic Tool Change) system for increased machine functionality.

Both machines provide a raft of optional production-enhancing tools. These include the latest A2MC machine control system with integrated AVS (XYZ Vision System) for optimum routing/cutting accuracy, supplemented with the innovative helical rack and pinion drive system. This incorporates a multiple gear teeth configuration that helps spread the workload more evenly and enables faster throughput speeds, reduced machine wear and material wastage and ultimately a longer than normal machine life.

Contemporaneous with these latest CNC machine incarnations, AAG has introduced a redesigned and radically upgraded CNCShop online division.

This now incorporates a more streamlined page navigation facility that will provide owners of both XYZ and WARDJet waterjet cutting systems (now part of AAG's expanding solutions portfolio) with 24/7 access to a much wider range of essential spare parts, accessories and consumables.

It also allows live interaction with specially trained AAG application engineers that ensures only the most appropriate product(s) are specified for specific applications. Bespoke product training courses and maintenance programs complete the AAG CNC machining offering.

**AAG**

**Tel 01952 291600**

**[www.axyz.co.uk](http://www.axyz.co.uk)**



# Extractly how it used to be!

**AS WE REPORTED** on our website back in early June, dust extraction specialists Extractly Ltd are now operating from premises on Shaw Cross Business Park in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. The office, workshop and warehousing space, which until 2019 was occupied by Dust Control Systems Ltd (DCS), presents this ambitious company with an ideal base and opportunity for growth in the dust and woodwaste extraction business.

Situated between Leeds and Huddersfield on the M62 corridor, and within three miles of the M1, the company's location offers easy access to customers' sites across the length and breadth of the UK, and is a perfect base for storage and distribution of extraction-related products ordered via the online shop. For Extractly's directors and key management personnel, the move to this building is also something of a homecoming, as they all worked from this building whilst employed by DCS. Between them, the team bring some 90 years' extraction industry experience to the table; with many of those years spent working alongside each other for DCS group companies.

To satisfy demand from both professional extraction engineers and self-installers, Extractly Ltd was initially established in 2019, by sales director Jake Oldfield, as an online provider of specialist equipment and parts for all aspects of Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV). Jake is now joined on the board by former colleagues William Kenyon, as technical director, and Graham Day, who takes on the role of operations director. "DCS was always very much a family affair," says Jake Oldfield, son and nephew respectively to former DCS directors Chris and Philip Oldfield, "and employees were always made to feel like they belonged to the DCS family". Extractly seems to be set on continuing the tradition in a similar vein: fellow director William Kenyon's father, Mark Kenyon, was also a director at DCS, and when Graham Day joined DCS in 1996 he was originally apprenticed to his uncles, Bob Day and Peter Day, and later went on to spend a further 20 years at DCS working alongside his cousin, Shane Day.

Prior to the company's acquisition in 2019, Graham's remit as Installation Manager for DCS included management of multiple teams of installation engineers for DCS, Ecogate, Cades and Gallito; ensuring safe working practices were adhered to on-site, dealing with all aspects of cranes and access equipment requirements, as well as having responsibility for training and certification. "After more than 20 years with DCS, I must admit the prospect of working for a much larger organisation was a little unnerving, and I thought it might be out of my comfort zone, but my initial fears were unfounded and, in the first year with Filtermist, I was very

gratified to receive recognition from colleagues as runner-up in the 'Peoples' Choice Award' and to be presented with the company's 'Positive Approach Award'. Although Extractly's not quite in the same league yet, the role I undertake here is very similar to my previous experience with DCS," says Graham, "and we all believe there's a bright future ahead of us."

William (Will) Kenyon's career at DCS began in 2002. Initially employed as a service engineer, Will went on to establish himself as the company's electronics guru and, as well as installing and maintaining electrical control gear at customers' premises, he managed the set up and operation of the company's control panel and instrumentation business. Will has also been instrumental in the successful integration of Ecogate® energy-saving systems into many of the UK's leading woodworking facilities, and his capability in this technology has enabled Extractly Ltd to secure 'Approved Ecogate® Installer' status. "It's actually quite emotional walking back in here!" Will admits; spotting his own handwritten directives on the workshop wall.



*A section of Omega's extensive manufacturing site in South Yorkshire. / Photo: Omega PLC*

"Having put so much of me into this place over the years, it's a really good feeling to know it's also going to play a big part in my future once again."

A significant volume of the sales derived from Extractly's online shop are for Nordfab's QF® ductwork components. "We've developed a great working relationship with Nordfab," says Jake Oldfield, and Extractly has been rewarded by being appointed the official 'Authorised Nordfab Dealer' for Quick-Fit® ducting equipment in the North of England. "As one of the UK's leading suppliers, we are able to offer our customers highly competitive prices on Nordfab® products," Jake added, "and we're able to provide Quick-Fit ductwork from stock, in a wide selection of diameters and lengths, as well as a range of popular QF ducting components."

The senior management team also includes former DCS colleagues: Tom Firth takes up the position of contracts manager; Kieran Redmond is projects manager; and Jordan Rickett is Extractly's service manager. Tom Firth had worked alongside Jake at Cades and, when he discovered Extractly was in the market for a contracts engineer, he jumped at the opportunity to renew the working relationship. "When Jake first set up Extractly I asked him to let me know if he ever needed a contracts engineer ... but I didn't think we'd be working together again so soon!" In his role as contracts manager, Tom oversees extraction system installations from receipt of order through to completion. "I generally discuss project goals with the customer," Tom explains, "survey the site, create system designs using AutoCAD, ensure all orders for parts are placed, and schedule the work to meet the customer's needs."

In 2007, Tom started working for Cades Ltd as a contracts engineer and, when the company was acquired by DCS in 2015, he continued to work on Cades' accounts. In the following year his commitment was acknowledged with a promotion to contracts manager. "It was definitely a strange feeling walking back into the old building again," Tom commented, "but I've got good memories



*Extraction ductwork installed in Omega's paint shop. / Photo: Omega PLC*



*Left to right: Extractly's directors: Graham Day, Jake Oldfield and William Kenyon.*



from my time here with Cades and DCS. I'm sure we can recreate that again and I would like to think I have a long future ahead of me with Extractly; I see the move to these premises as a statement of intent about where we want to be as a company in the future and, with the industry experience and knowledge we have between us, we can be a real force going forward."

As projects manager for Extractly, Kieran Redmond also makes a return to the fold after a brief spell as a technical estimator in the health sector. Having only joined DCS in 2015, Kieran is, relatively speaking, still the newbie of the group, but he's just as keen as everyone else to be part of a growing team: "Extractly was expanding rapidly, and there was an obvious need for someone with the right industry experience to manage the production of quotations for large scale extraction projects," says Kieran, "and when the directors asked me if I was interested in coming back to take up my old role, it didn't take too much persuasion!"

"Customers' quotations are being turned around much more quickly now we've got Kieran back onboard," adds Jake Oldfield, "which obviously benefits our customers, but also allows the rest of the team to concentrate on their individual roles." In addition to preparing quotations for installation projects, Kieran also manages the online shop, as well as keeping Extractly's social media accounts up to date with the latest news. "It's great to be back working with colleagues that I can also call friends," concludes Kieran, "and I'm looking forward to playing my part in what I believe will be a successful future for Extractly."

Back in 2008 Jordan Rickett was studying 'Sport and Exercise Science' but, after completing a three-year BTEC course, he switched his sights towards a more hand-on career in automotive mechanics technology. In 2014, and now a qualified mechanic, Jordan commenced work at DCS as

a service engineer, and in 2018 was promoted to the position of Service Manager. Fast forward another three years and Jordan is now eager to pursue his career as service manager with the rest of the team at Extractly. "I'm really looking forward to renewing working relationships with some former customers in the woodworking industry," says Jordan, "as well as forging new connections with future customers who are looking for the more personal, bespoke service that we're able to provide at Extractly."

Extractly has secured ongoing arrangements as the 'preferred supplier' to a number of high profile clients, including South Yorkshire-based kitchen manufacturer Omega PLC. With a 400,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility, comprising factory, warehousing and offices, Omega has an almost ongoing requirement for extraction system modifications and maintenance. As an approved Ecogate® installer, Extractly is able to monitor and maintain the energy-saving extraction control system previously installed by DCS and, in addition, Extractly's service team ensures the extraction system remains compliant with COSHH regulations, and that all LEV testing is carried out in line with HSE guidelines.

"We've been operating on this site for the best part of 25 years, and the plant has undergone several phases of expansion over that time," explains Omega's engineering manager, Mick Bye. "The extraction system has had to keep pace with these developments, and we enjoyed a great working relationship with DCS in the past. We were always assured by the competent, comprehensive service they provided; the attention to detail, and the quality of work undertaken in our factory ... it's nice to know we can now rely on that same commitment, from the same team, at Extractly."

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## How to keep garden decking looking its best for longer

**WE ALL KNOW** how lovely decking is when it is new. It provides a great focal point in the garden, and can be a perfect space for entertaining. However, over time decking can fade and begin to look 'tired'. Weathering caused by sun and rain will not only ruin its look, but weaken it.

What your decking needs is 'decking oil', a type of oil that has been developed specifically to withstand the demands that sun and rain can make on wood.

Liberon Decking Oil is formulated to penetrate deep into the wood. It is highly water-resistant with UV filters to prevent fading, and will help to restore colour and beauty to decking that has already weathered.

Liberon's marketing manager, Richard Bradley, comments: "We'd recommend applying one or two coats of decking oil once a year as routine maintenance. On high traffic areas re-apply one or two coats as and when required. As oil brings out the natural colours of timber, it is a good idea to try the decking oil on a separate piece of

wood before you begin the job so that you can see what the finished effect will look like. Another tip is to select one, such as Liberon's,

that you can also use on fences, garden sheds or gates."

Liberon Decking Oil is available in a choice of Clear, Medium Oak

and Teak finishes and comes in two tin sizes: 2.5 litre or 5 litre.

**Liberon**  
[www.liberon.co.uk](http://www.liberon.co.uk)



## "Burning waste instead of burning money for heating just made good business sense!"



**A UK BUSINESS** which makes washroom cubicles and lockers has purchased a wood waste heater from Wood Waste Technology.

Total Cubicle Solutions has an 18,000 ft<sup>2</sup> manufacturing base in Liverpool. Managing director, Paul Ledsham started to look into purchasing a new wood waste heater for the manufacturing workshop to save the company money on heating and waste disposal.

Paul says: "We were spending a fortune running oil fired heaters in the cold winter months, so it made sense to investigate how we could utilise some of the waste wood generated from manufacture to feed a wood waste heater. As well as saving us money on heating bills, we'd also benefit financially from reduced waste removal costs by burning our waste wood instead of paying to have it taken away in skips. Burning waste instead of burning money on heating just made good business sense!"

Total Cubicle Solutions purchased a WT15 heater from Wood Waste Technology last year, which was installed by Wood Waste Technology's professional team.

Paul says: "We are delighted that all our waste wood can be used to create free heating for the workshop. The investment in the heater has definitely been money well spent — I'd recommend any company in a similar situation to speak to Kurt and the team at Wood Waste Technology, as they really helped us find the best solution for our business."

Wood Waste Technology's managing director, Kurt Cockroft, says: "We've been delighted to help Total Cubicle Solutions save money on its operational costs and help make the workshop a warmer place for its 20 employees. Companies are often amazed how much money they can save by investing in a wood waste heater, and impressed by the return on investment which can take less than 12 months."

Wood Waste Technology's years of expertise in wood waste solutions have helped many companies reduce their waste disposal and heating costs.

**Wood Waste Technology** ● Tel 01785 250400  
[www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk](http://www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk) ● [www.grossuk.co.uk](http://www.grossuk.co.uk)

## Combilift gives Monaghan Ladies Gaelic Football Team a lift

**COMBILIFT, a leading global player in the field of materials handling, is also now getting involved on the sports field at a more local level.**

The company has committed to a new three-year sponsorship deal with the Monaghan Ladies Gaelic football team as well as sponsor-

ing the Monaghan senior club championship. The Combilift logo will be prominent on both home and away jerseys, as well as all items of the team's training gear.

Combilift will support the Monaghan LGFA (Ladies Gaelic Football Association) teams both on and off the field, and at all levels

from juveniles through to seniors.

The GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) is Ireland's largest sporting organisation and is at the heart of Irish culture. It is focused on promoting indigenous Gaelic sports such as hurling, camogie and Gaelic football. Combilift's sponsorship intends to help promote

ladies Gaelic games locally by increasing media coverage, participation, and match attendance.

Fixtures kicked off on 23rd May following the lifting of some restrictions — when Monaghan hosted Cavan in the first round of the Lidl National League. Monaghan senior manager Ciaran Murphy said: "We are delighted that Combilift has agreed to be our new sponsor. It is great to see such a prominent local company investing in the Monaghan Ladies team and we hope to do them proud on the pitch."

Combilift CEO Martin McVicar said: "Although Combilift operates as a business on worldwide scale, we are firmly and proudly rooted in Monaghan and are committed to our local community and its activities. We are extremely proud to support the Monaghan Ladies team at all levels as they strive for continued success. We wish them all the best for the coming season and we are looking forward to seeing them lifting some silverware!"

**Combilift**  
[www.combilift.com](http://www.combilift.com)



## West Fraser knows that from little acorns big trees grow!

**WEST FRASER, formerly known as Norbord UK, is a company with a proud history of investing in its workforce and a commitment to providing employment and training opportunities for young people is an integral part of this ethos. For over 40 years, West Fraser has been giving local 16+ year old school leavers the opportunity to complete apprenticeships at the Inverness, Cowie and South Molton sites.**

As is common with apprenticeships, the new starters can expect on-the-job training combined with day release to a local college. At West Fraser, apprentices train for mechanical and electrical engineering roles.

At Cowie, West Fraser's apprentices complete a 26-week programme of intensive hands-on practical training at MetTECH in Grangemouth. This is designed to give them solid broad-based engineering skills in preparation to embark on planned periods of on-the-job training at West Fraser. The apprentices also attend Forth Valley College one day a week to complete National Certificate (NC) in mechanical or electrical engineering before going on to gaining their HNC in third and fourth years.

Gordon McArthur, engineering manager at Cowie, recognises the value of the apprenticeship programme, having started in the company as an apprentice, and now overseeing the latest recruits. "The programme has served us incredibly well over the years," said Gordon. "Apprentices who have come through the system now make up over 50% of the maintenance/engineering workforce and many go on to supervisory roles. In fact, three of our four maintenance supervisors at Cowie served their apprenticeships here."

Gordon explained that the programme provides the opportunity to train apprentices to work with confidence on the complex systems and processes on site and is considered the ideal answer to the challenge of recruiting staff with the exacting skill set and experience required in such a

specialist industry. For Gordon "the best part of the programme is seeing the change in the apprentices as they grow in confidence and skill level over the four years."

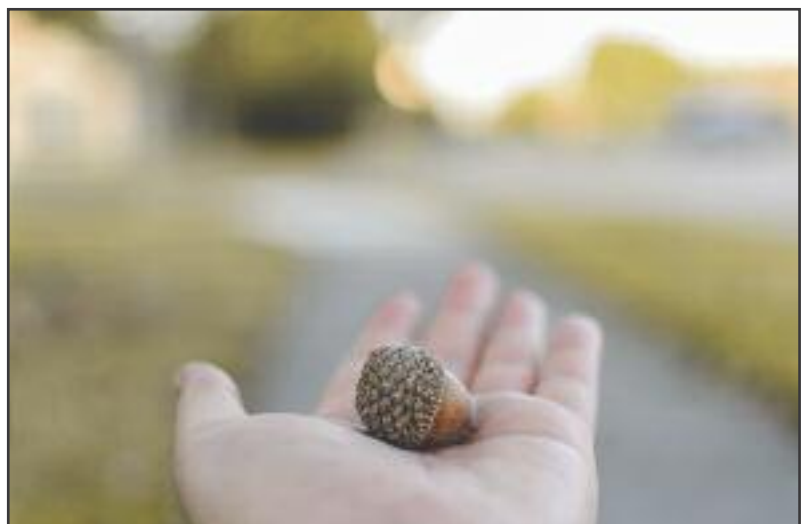
Inverness also started nine new apprentices in November.

After completing the four-year apprenticeship and obtaining satisfactory examination results, the majority are employed on permanent contracts. In fact, 11% of the current workforce at the Cowie facility started their careers as a West Fraser apprentice.

**West Fraser** ● [www.norbord.co.uk](http://www.norbord.co.uk)

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South Molton: [tess.cleaver@norbord.net](mailto:tess.cleaver@norbord.net)





# SMART & HUMAN FACTORY

## OUR WOODWORKING TECHNOLOGIES, YOUR VISION

Simplify work and improve performance with the widest range of woodworking solutions. Flexible and modular machines and cells, integrated with state-of-the-art systems and automation, such as anthropomorphic robots, cobots and autonomous mobile shuttles. Smart technologies to increase efficiency and flexibility, reduce scraps and waste, optimize the quality of your products with the latest software and digital services.

A human approach to help you achieve your vision, with a team of specialists always ready to support you, even from afar.

SCM: your Smart and Human Factory.