

# New Czech window system makes big impact

Ian Brown of IWM (International Woodworking Machines) reports that Crafter, the new window design and manufacturing workstation from the Czech Republic was a show stealer. "Window manufacturing solutions like Crafter have simply not existed before; and Crafter is a testament to the true genius of Jaroslav Soukup who, as a craftsman joiner himself, has developed an engineering and software package that meets his own very exacting specifications; in so doing he has met head-on the needs of pretty much everybody else who is striving to achieve the same goals."



A new moulding unit at W10 enabled the stille horns of heritage windows to be produced as part of the same machining package; no need for an additional out-of-sequence back-up station.

Crafter is a machining system with the flexibility and software muscle to meet the needs of window manufacturers at all levels of the market from individual bespoke joiners to factory production situations. The stand display at W10 is now on its way to a new owner, bespoke joiner Adam King, at Wood & Wisdom in West Sussex, where his compact new machine will occupy a 2mtrs x 2mtrs footprint and will, at a modest level of investment, be producing an estimated 15 to 20 completed windows a day which will address the broad spectrum of style demands of the region.

It is, according to Ian Brown, Jaroslav Soukup's development of new software for incorporation within the Crafter package and which eliminates the most costly extra on most, if not all, other systems. It is broad enough in its scope to encompass the wide range of window styles commonly encountered across the UK marketplace. Having written new software powerful enough to meet his engineering specifications, he worked for a decade with Italian makers on existing machinery brands across the Euro marketplace to meet the standards he had set.

Having not found any able to meet his own pre-set standards he embarked, in the middle years of the current decade, on the development of his own Crafter, Wizard and Wizard-Drillex machinery platforms. Flexibility sufficient to meet any and all window design requirements to high standards of precision, in any quantity and at a range of output speeds that met market demands at all levels were all parts of that minimum standard.

Ian Brown reports that from W10 he now has a portfolio of 'at least 40 serious enquiries' from existing bespoke and branded joinery product manufacturers and sees a very bright future indeed for this new solution from the Czech Republic where, according to Jaroslav Soukup, demand is if anything more diverse than in the UK.

"Since I started," says Jaroslav, "demand has been growing at the higher quality end of the market for wooden windows. Czechs don't want plastic windows", he says, and adds that the market here indicates trends going the same way ... "The UK is catching on to Czech standards!" he says.

The new software platform of Soukup's system is fully PC compatible and demands no in-depth interpretation skills. Adam King, the new owner of the W10 exhibit has a strong history in servicing heritage sites and dealing with



... right up to really quite complex ones!



... but there are much larger configurations - like Wizard-Drillex.



Working in conjunction with Soukup from the Czech Republic, IWM showed their new Crafter window manufacturing automat at W10.



The compact Crafter machines shown by Jaroslav Soukup at W10 sits on a 2mtrs x 2mtrs footprint ...



WindowTec5 from EChain - A sliding table movement is supported by an optional table movement that can be automatic with feed speeds of 5 to 20mtrs/min.



Jaroslav Soukup is described by Ian Brown at IWM as nothing less than a genius for his development of so advanced a software and engineering package as the Crafter series represents.



IWM showed Crafter at W10 producing relatively simple profiles.

conservation committees at country estates; his business is both public and trade and Soukup has designed a special new moulding unit to enable the stille horns of heritage windows to be produced as part of the same machining package, avoiding a need for the work to be conducted out of sequence on a back-up station.

Crafter at W10 also featured newly developed

capacity of around 10 to 15 single-leaf sash windows per shift.

Ian Brown at IWM also introduced a new single-end tenoner called WindowTec5 by a company called EChain. A sliding table movement on linear bearings is supported by an optional table movement that can be automatic with feed speeds of 5 to 20mtrs/min.

Standard horizontal and vertical auto pneumatic clamps ensure components are positioned accurately and secure against the bed and fence. Top and bottom horizontal tenon heads are capable of producing a 150mm length of tenons plus a vertical 180mm length spindle to take stacked tooling for production of male and female window component tenons.

The machine feeds from right to left but can also be supplied in the opposite configuration at no extra cost. And it can be fitted with electronic positioning for all spindle movements complete with memory for accuracy and precision.

The latest C21 model by Busellato made a UK debut and was particularly well received, according to IWM support dealer Kelvin Wilkins of Kelwood Machinery, for its small footprint and for its sheer versatility. "I took lots of enquiries on the Busellato," he says, "which, with its 12 vertical spindles plus 2 x 2 in the X axis and another 1 x 1 in Y, together with its unusually extensive reach, generated a lot of interest.

"All of the working units on the latest Busellato C21 that we took to W10 are effective across the full length and breadth of the machine bed so that work can be planned either for ease of reach by the operator or for maximum output - unusual flexibility which was well received by visitors. And quite a number of orders were also taken on new models by Casadei, including their F255A spindle moulder, the latest tilting spindle on which (10° + 45°) makes this an extremely flexible and versatile working option."

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