

“Exceptional performance”

TDC are a leading supplier of Kitchen Components, distributing their products NZ wide through Retail agents and directly to Cabinet making trades people.

From their modern factory with 50 employees in the Auckland suburb of Airport Oaks they produce modular Cabinet and Door components in a wide range of styles for Kitchens and Bathroom vanities. Their customers then build TDC's modules into finished products, often adding their own personalised touches.



TDC owner John Pilcher says this allows their customers to apply their skills where they can best add value describing TDC's role as ***“The rational way to source the basic modules of carcass construction because we're geared up to produce these with great consistency and quality for a price that's difficult to match without our streamlined approach”***

NZ is a tough market to approach this way as volumes are relatively low, quality demands high, styles preferences vary considerably and price competition is fierce. For TDC to succeed they need to be highly responsive and flexible while at the same time producing these components with significantly lower labour input than conventional methods. To do so requires the very best production equipment available and this is the approach TDC took when recently upgrading their Cut to Size and Edgebanding capabilities.

Selecting a new Edgebander was a relatively easy decision for John.

“We've had two Homag's for the past 18 years that have run exceptionally well. More often than not these run double shifts so they have done a tremendous amount of work yet still produce high quality results. You could hardly look for something better”

What has changed over the years is an increase in the need for flexibility.

“Often we run 20 or more different types of finish a day and often will need to slot a small run in amongst a long run to meet a clients tight delivery requirements”

So flexibility and quick changeovers were vital and certainly a strong point for the new Homag KAL 310. The 6 station auto edge change, auto rotary tool change and fully PC controlled changeovers are examples of Homag technology that ensure TDC's changeovers are the fastest in the business.

Another huge timesaver is Homag's 'anti adhesive' and glue scraping system, which delivers perfectly cleaned and finished edges.

"We start with diamond cutter premilling for a perfect clean edge and finish with heated reactivation of the PVC colour. We don't need to retouch or clean the edges and the results are fantastic. We also really like Homag's 'I tool' system which extracts much cleaner than conventional designs"

Finishing off the productivity boost is a high level 'ZHR16' from Ligmatech, the automation specialist of the Homag Group. Panels are 'turned and returned' automatically to the Edgebander infeed.

"We're edging at up to 24 metres per minute. Not only does the Ligmatech save an operator but we also eliminate the handling damage that can happen with manual systems"

TDC had always had the efficiency of an Automatic Beamsaw but were faced with adding another one to keep up with demand.

"Our existing Homag Beamsaw was running 24 hours a day even though it was a fast machine with good stack cutting capability. I liked the idea of significantly increasing our cutting capacity without taking up a lot more factory space"

The answer was a new HKL11 Angular plant from Beamsaw specialist 'Holzma', incorporating twin saws and fully automated panel loading and transfers systems all wrapped into a very compact package. TDC's is the first of these to be installed in Australasia and has delivered dramatic results.

"We average at least 4 times faster on our big jobs and even on small jobs with complex patterns we're twice as quick. The machines very solid and stable so we're regularly cutting full height stacks at higher speeds with great results"

TDC's Holzma includes their unique 'book turning device', which makes short work of head cut delays. With everything optimised through Holzma 'CutRite' software waste is absolutely minimal. The off cuts that are produced are conveyed automatically into Holzma's waste 'muncher' and the resultant ground waste extracted away.

"The Edgebander has been quite exceptional, achieving its operating potential very quickly and with the perfect results we were promised. The Angular plant has only been running a couple of weeks but we're already seeing a huge productivity boost and we will increase this even further. With this new Homag gear on board I feel TDC is even more efficient and flexible which is good news for our existing customers. The increased capacity means we are ready to take on whatever new opportunities come our way"