

Kitchen business is hot for this inventive Hobart couple

Holz-Her edgebander sets production pace

The kitchen business is hot and designer Adrian McKenna likes it that way. Adrian and his wife Kiri are cooking up a storm at their Ezikit factory and showing it off at their new showroom in Hobart thanks to German ingenuity and precision in the shape of a new Holz-Her Lumina 1375 edgebander that has carved away man hours and raised production to record levels.

‘It’s the hub of our manufacturing process’

Since they established Ezikit 13 years ago, Adrian and Kiri have built more than 3500 kitchens and are at the next stage - the opening this month of a 200 square metre design and selection centre in the heart of Hobart with eight main kitchen displays as well as bathroom, wardrobe and laundry displays ... and the Lumina 1375 is there to show how it was done.

“We’re working well together - a balanced team,” said Adrian. Sharing ideas and playing to their strengths, they have become leaders in their field as they continue to innovate and expand. A former draftsman and building designer specialising in 3D visualisation, Adrian says the Lumina 1375 edgebander - launched at Ligna Hannover last year - has stepped up Ezikit’s production on many levels, enabling their current expansion.

Innovative Hobart kitchen builders Kiri and Adrian McKenna beside the “beating heart” of their Ezikit factory... the Holz-Her Lumina 1375 edgebander.



“It’s a set-and-forget machine,” he says. “It’s the hub of our manufacturing process.” That means simple handling and high productivity and 100% repetition accuracy. “Edge work in the past - we’ve used three different edgebanders - absorbed a lot of time, post-edging to achieve acceptable levels. With the Lumina we’re saving two to three man hours a day, production is ‘clean’ and we don’t have to attend to anything.”

“Do the maths - with a staff of 13, that’s a substantial saving every week. “Working in tandem with state-of-the-art CNC machinery, the Lumina 1375 takes everything that is thrown at it with precision and accuracy. A big feature is that the machine has two units, which are interchanged by way of a trolley in under three minutes.

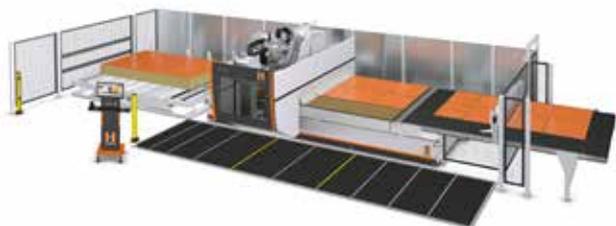
The patented GluJet unit for waterproof PUR gluing can be easily pulled out to insert Holz-Her’s unique LTronic unit for invisible joints. Program selection and 12 NC servo-axes ensure rapid and reproducible setup operations without even opening the hood.

“We marvel that six months after commissioning we’ve barely touched or changed anything - we’ve never had this experience with any of our machines,” Adrian said. “Finishes are flawless with the PUR zero joint gluing. Besides complete processing of all common edges, the zero joint method is out front when it comes to repetition accuracy and automation levels. Also, the Lumina can master zero joint finishes with all edge types.”

Production cycles start early in the week focusing on MDF for vinyl wrap doors, a substantial part of the business. Melamine and other decorative products follow from Laminex and Borg Industries and meet E0 and E1 Australian standards for emissions. Returning to the Holz-Her gluing process, Adrian says the laser functionality of the machine was a key part of the reason he chose the Lumina 1375.

“For us, laser edging was about future proofing our business,” he said. “It’s big in Europe and quite unique.”

Ezikit purchases edging pre-applied with adhesives specifically designed for laser treatment. “There is no application of glue in the factory; the laser simply activates the glue on the edge, which gives a discreet glue-line,” Adrian said. “In the near future, this method will grow and architects and specifiers will demand it.”



Since they established Ezikit 13 years ago, Adrian and Kiri have built more than 3500 kitchens and are at the next stage – the opening this month of a 200 sq m design and selection centre in Hobart city.

Ezikit prefers to work in its own backyard servicing mainly the flat-pack DIY and trade market in Tasmania. "It's more about custom-building a premier flat-pack option for the industry," Adrian said. Adrian and Kiri are happy and content in their business, always looking to the horizon for new ways to hone their skills and improve product.

Holz-Her has been part of the Weing Group since 2010 when Michael Weing AG announced an investment of \$5.29 million in Holz-Her's production plant in Voitsberg, Austria. "Since then growth has been enormous," Holz-Her Voitsberg CEO Harald Steiner said. "We have grown by 100 employees and sales have increased by 40% percent. Holz-Her's product line includes edgebanders, CNC machining centres, beam saws and vertical panel saws.

Adrian summed up: "Tasmania may be removed from the mainland, but we can't fault the back-up from Weing. In the past with some machinery suppliers it has felt like deliver and forget. With the Holz-Her unit, Weing has delivered the goods and the service."

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