



Casestudy

HOMAG UK smoothes the manufacturing flow process for Bluespot Furniture



sales@bluespotfurniture.co.uk

www.bluespotfurniture.com

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Dr Andrew Cooper
Operations Director,
Bluespot Furniture

Dewsbury based Bluespot Furniture Limited provides a full range of office furniture from functional cantilever desking to the most complex designs, all manufactured in-house to the highest quality standards at competitive prices. Long-term investment in machinery and systems has enabled Bluespot to offer industry-leading delivery times from a ‘Next Day’ service on e-commerce ranges and 7-10 working days on Bluespot branded furniture from receipt of order.

The company has over 7500 product lines available from stock, all produced in its new 37,000sq.ft. manufacturing facility which it moved into in December 2013. Established in 2001, Bluespot has been a HOMAG advocate since the early days; the business made its first investment into a HOMAG machine in 2003 and since then has become progressively dependent on HOMAG equipment.

Bluespot operations director, Dr Andrew Cooper, takes up the story, “Our entire manufacturing system has been built around HOMAG Group equipment because it is the most reliable and technically advanced on the market.

A reputation to protect

“Our business is built on reputation and we cannot afford to let quality or delivery issues tarnish that reputation. We have to be absolutely certain that we can deliver product on time, whether that is a large contract order or a bespoke piece of office furniture; we owe it to our customers to deliver on time at a competitive price.

“In 2013, with business expanding and our existing beam saw in need of replacement, we made the decision to invest in a new manufacturing facility. This gave us the opportunity to look carefully at our manufacturing flow process and where possible, automate the system to minimise materials handling and forklift truck movements around the facility.



BARGSTEDT Store 'n Saw
featuring the HOLZMA HPP 300 beam saw

The BARGSTEDT/HOLZMA Store 'n Saw – an automated storage and retrieval system

"We undertook a comprehensive evaluation of equipment and systems that would help us achieve our goals and it soon became clear that integrated control software would be a pivotal factor in our decision making.

"For Bluespot, cutting of sheet material is the cornerstone of the manufacturing processes. It feeds the rest of the production cycle and whilst our previous saw had been very reliable, we wanted the new saw to integrate into the whole system. A couple of years earlier we had visited the HOLZMA factory in Germany and were extremely impressed with the performance of its range of beam saws.

"We first saw the BARGSTEDT Store 'n Saw system at a HOMAG UK Open House and because it is designed to feed the HOLZMA beam saw it was a particularly attractive combination. The clincher for us though was the software which provided a totally integrated control system.

The software for the saw is Cut Rite which is very easy to use and we also purchased the HOMAG e-solutions software which was specifically developed for furniture manufacturers. With e-solutions it is easy for us to optimise production processes from initial design concept through to completed product.



Edgebanding section of Bluespot's impressive new facility

A smooth transition to our new premises

"Once the decision was made to go with HOMAG they were heavily involved with the moving process. Our sales contact at HOMAG UK, John Shepherd, and John Brittan did a sterling job planning and orchestrating the move with our senior management team.

"The plan was to start moving machinery over to the new facility in September 2013 in such a way that we could maintain uninterrupted production. Given the layout we knew that the last items to be installed in the new factory had to be the HOLZMA HPP 300 saw and the BARGSTEDT storage system.

"Thanks to the Homag Group's ability to hit delivery dates spot on and the hard work of both our own people and HOMAG UK, we were able to successfully complete the final piece of our move the week before Christmas, with no loss of production.

**"As for HOMAG UK,
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Dr Andrew Cooper
Operations Director, Bluespot Furniture



HOMAG KFL 526
double-sided edgebander

One of two WEEKE BHX 500 CNCs
for drilling and routing

Finished shaped desk top on
HOMAG Optimat BAZ 722

LIGMATECH
carcass clamp

“The system has enabled us to completely eliminate the movement of forklift trucks around the production area.”

Dr Andrew Cooper
Operations Director,
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Clean, efficient work flow process

“The new system is excellent; it has made a huge difference to our manufacturing performance. Now, when sheet material is delivered, it is simply a case of using the forklift truck to load it into the BARGSTEDT storage system input bay. All the operator has to do is scan the boards in and the system does the rest.

“The storage system gets the right boards ready and automatically loads them onto the back of the saw as and when they are needed. This ensures a constant flow of work even with one off items. The system knows exactly what’s in stock at any given point in time and also manages the off-cuts, using them whenever it is feasible to do so. This minimises waste and ensures we maximise the use of our stock.

“The system has enabled us to completely eliminate the movement of forklift trucks around the production area, making it far safer for our employees and customers alike. It has also eliminated the need for employees to manually handle the large heavy boards which has therefore eradicated board damage from miss-handling and created a happier, healthier workforce.

Both machinery and company are totally reliable

“All the HOMAG Group machinery is totally reliable. The modern link for fault finding gives us real peace of mind and on the odd occasions when parts need replacing, HOMAG UK’s 24hr turn round on parts usually gets us back up and running very quickly.

“There is no doubt that the equipment we have installed has given us an increase in manpower productivity. Our ability to respond to orders has improved and we are able to deliver first class products at value for money prices exactly when the customer wants them.

“As for HOMAG UK, they are a straightforward company to work with; you know exactly where you stand and you can rely on them one hundred percent. They always provide a detailed specification of what you have ordered and if there are issues, it is just a case of sitting down with them and discussing what needs to be done to achieve a satisfactory result,” concludes Dr Cooper.

If you would like more information or a demonstration of HOMAG products including the HOLZMA saws and BARGSTEDT storage systems, contact Adele Dixon on 01332 856424.

HOMAG U.K. Ltd.
10C Sills Road
Willow Farm Business Park
Castle Donington
Derby DE74 2US

Tel
+44 (0)1332 856500

Fax
+44 (0)1332 856400

Email
info@homag-uk.co.uk

Online
www.homag-uk.co.uk



Bluespot 'Dark Olive' range