

## Reliable right up to the edge

During the 15 years of its existence, HanseYachts AG has without doubt pushed itself forward to the international cutting edge of sailing and motor boat manufacture. As Germany's second biggest producer of pleasure craft and the third biggest series producer of sailing yachts in the world, its achievements are certainly impressive. Right from the start, the concept of this shipyard based in Greifswald (in the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) has been to produce privately owned yachts featuring an innovative design concept and ensuring easy sailing at an outstanding cost-to-performance ratio.

Another important criterion of the HanseYachts AG philosophy is to afford future owners the possibility to customize their yacht to their own personal needs. A product portfolio of this complexity naturally calls for a highly complex infrastructure down to the smallest detail, firstly in terms of planning and even more so when it comes to the manufacturing processes used.

To prevent anything from standing in the way of its path to success, the company recently commissioned a highly efficient production facility designed to ensure not only extreme flexibility and efficiency but also an exemplary standard of quality in the fitting out of its boats. The technology it needed to fulfil this complex remit was supplied by the HOMAG Group, and encompasses all the components essential for efficient cell production with storage technology as well as nesting. This ensured a seamless, concerted processing sequence for the storage for handling and panel dividing operations as well as for individual component processing.

To ensure that as many of the switchpoints involved in the production process were merged to create one standardized integral concept from a single source, the last “gap” in the process – edge improvement – was also closed using technological components from the HOMAG Group. It is here that Production Director Nils Leinker, wood engineering graduate in charge of furniture manufacture, placed his trust in HOMAG’s extensive fund of expertise and experience in the field of edge improvement for flooring, and commissioned the Group with harmonizing the various plant components used in the processing of edges.

To produce lacquered edges of outstanding quality was an essential requirement criterion, alongside ensuring extreme flexibility and reliable availability of the production plant at all times. “The exclusive look of our boat interior fittings using such top quality materials as mahogany or cherry wood has to be reflected equally from every angle – in other words on the edges just as much as the surfaces”, comments Production Director Leinker, explaining the reason for his painstaking attention to even this apparently minor detail. Consequently he opted to use a vacuum lacquering technique which ensured not only application accurate to the millimetre but also ecologically responsible processing.

Lacquering on the narrow surfaces of the boat fitting components takes place in throughfeed. Sized to precisely the right dimension and angle, the components are edged off the coil and then sanded along their narrow surfaces by a belt sanding unit. The edges of the fitting components are broken by a chamfer sanding unit, and then transported on to the vacuum lacquering station for edge improvement. This method achieves a high standard of surface quality, ensuring edges which are impact and shock proof: A quality characteristic of particular importance in boat fittings, and one which helps to maintain value even after years of use.

The plant capacity is configured for the two-shift operation customary at HanseYacht. The fact that this machine unit is not in operation “round the clock” has also been taken into consideration in designing the production outfit. This makes reliability after extended standstill periods an essential requirement, particularly as the tightly coordinated production schedule and process planning means that interruptions must be avoided at all costs.

Generally speaking, edge improvement provides an interesting solution in many areas of furniture front production – both from the material processing and economical perspectives. The edge improvement process using lacquer, particularly in the case of chipboard to eliminate the porous central core, not only improves the static stability of the panel, but also prevents possible swelling due to the effects of contact with water or humidity.

In keeping with the consistent prize-winning performance of yachts and boats produced by the Greifswalder HanseYachts shipyard in races and regattas held year after year, production “skipper” Nils Leinker aims to steer his team – in other words his production outfit – right on course to keep the company that all-important edge ahead of the field.



**Fig. 1:**  
Boat models from HanseYachts



**Fig. 2:**  
The HanseYachts AG shipyard, showing the production hall and boat hulls for customer orders waiting for fitting out over the next three weeks.



**Fig. 3:**  
Production Director Nils Leinker (left) discusses the processing orders for the next shift with his production foreman.



**Fig. 4:**  
View of the production facilities for boat fitting out and furnishing



**Fig. 5:**

Project management was performed on site by HOMAG Sales Manager Peter Chr. Nass (left), seen here with Production Director Nils Leinker, wood engineering graduate in charge of wood production and fitting out as well as assembly

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