

BRANDT upgrade at Melbourne cabinet maker

When the business is growing and quality finishes become more and more important, it is time to consider a change. Understanding the importance of this, the Melbourne-based company MJ Cabinets have recently upgraded installing a new BRANDT edgebander from HOMAG Australia. The German manufactured BRANDT is not only a world leader in edgebanding machines but also an edgebanding specialist in the world-wide HOMAG Group.

MJ Cabinets

Having had an older BRANDT model for 12 years, MJ Cabinets has now moved to a new BRANDT Ambition 1220 FC. Featuring pre-milling, pneumatic controlled trimmers, corner rounding and glue joint scrapers the Ambition 1220 FC has improved not only the product quality but also the efficiency for MJ Cabinets. As owner Michael Freeman says, "I can now speed things up".

Saving wages: pre-milling and corner rounding

Despite being very happy with his old BRANDT machine, Michael is certain of the value the new machine has added to his business. "It's a lot quicker and the finish coming off the machine is much better". While the older BRANDT model has a square shaped glue pot, the new Ambition 1220 FC comes with an oval glue pot. "It uses less glue and is much easier to clean now," Michael says, "Before I spent more time cleaning up the machine".

Furthermore, Michael has realised the real benefits of pre-milling, which saves time and requires no further cleaning of the edges. "I had three blokes before scraping the edges while now none is needed. It saves me a wage." Prior to the edge tape being applied, the edge is re-trimmed immediately. If the pre-milling unit is not needed, it can simply be turned off.

MJ Cabinets also went for the corner rounding unit because they didn't want to have an additional machinery process after the edgebanding. "I'm getting everything in one machine now," Michael says and is happy the results are meeting his expectations. Another great feature is the hinge-hole bridging capability as HOMAG Australia's salesman Sam Indovino explains: "The BRANDT comes with a nesting package for bridging hinge holes or processing acute angled work pieces. It enables edging of nested doors and prevents door damage and machine damage."

Domestic work from the outer edge of Melbourne

Having up to three jobs underway at the same time requires an efficient workflow to keep up with the competition. "There's always a fear", says Michael when he thinks about his biggest challenge as a business owner. "It's easy to lose work and to have no ongoing contracts" – although with his current machinery, Michael does not need to worry at all. With a team of nine in the workshop, MJ Cabinets specialises in domestic work for building companies and some commercial work.



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Producing on a workshop site consisting of 375 square metres in the south-eastern Melbourne suburb of Tooradin, MJ Cabinets is located off the beaten track. Set back from the main road and surrounded by fields and meadows, Michael chose to set up his company on his father's property. His dad lives opposite, and Michael owns a house just five minutes down the road. When the company began back in 2003, Michael – a cabinet maker by trade – purchased a panel saw, and secondly, a BRANDT edgebander.

Upgrade comes with new control system

In order to make the machine operation easier, BRANDT offers a new control system. All small machines – including the 1100 Ambition series – come standard with the **easyControl EC 10+** that features a clear 7" graphic display for fast access to all unit functions through dedicated control buttons.

When looking back and comparing the old with the new BRANDT edgebander MJ Cabinets have made an important step to move forward in regards to product quality and efficiency.



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Key facts of the BRANDT Ambition 1220 FC and 1220 C:

- Edge thickness (mm): 0,4 - 3
- Work piece thickness (mm): 8 - 60
- Feed speed (m/min): 11
- Machine length (mm): 4153

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