

"A HOLZMA saw is like driving a Mercedes":

Oliver Hunger is committed to honeycomb panels and high speed in cutting

He is now known just about everywhere in the industry: Oliver Hunger has specialised in honeycomb panels and is one of the few who use and process this relatively new material very intensively. And interest in his work is on the increase everywhere: On the one hand with his customers, and on the other hand with colleagues, manufacturers and the press, who are interested in the processing method and his machinery: How does this man manage to use this material so successfully in abundance and process it with such high quality?

Initially, "hunger möbelproduktions gmbH" from Bünde was a regional business. Oliver Hunger took the company over from his father a few years ago and specialised in supply work for larger manufacturers. He primarily produces fitted furniture parts and elements for the kitchen and interior furnishings industry using just-in-time production processes.

"Three years ago, just when I wanted to invest in a new machinery line, I heard that Egger was in the process of constructing the honeycomb panel," says Oliver Hunger. "It was immediately clear to me that this type of panel had a future. I took the opportunity and configured all the machinery so that I could process this new material easily."

Looking back, it was a wise decision: The now highly specialised machinery and the expert knowledge gained on all aspects of processing honeycomb panels meant demand started to increase. Of course, this process was also supported by the high media interest. Today, Hunger's company does business far beyond the regional borders and has

expanded its supply services to the office furniture sector and interior furniture production.

For Oliver Hunger it is perfectly clear that the honeycomb panel is facing a bright future. Although he does still see a lot of explanatory work ahead – especially in Germany: "This is where there is most scepticism. Because it is so light, the German buyer fears that he is not getting anything substantial for his money. But the advantages are obvious: that's why they've been using lightweight panels in Italy for years and rate the significantly lower transport damage and easy assembly very highly," says Hunger. The honeycomb panel is also especially well suited for export in circumstances when the weight influences the transport costs, such as in air freight. The new panel is also collecting plus points in Holland, where an energy balance has to be proven for imported products.

Hunger's particular speciality is not only the honeycomb panel in itself, but also processing of especially thick materials, such as in cleat production: "Around six years ago we made this one of our focuses. Material thicknesses between 38 mm and 100 mm are part of our core product range."

Of course, the invention of the honeycomb panel played into his hands, for it saved Oliver Hunger the enormously complex, time-consuming and cost-intensive framework constructions. Today, he is one of the few specialists who can achieve industrial processing of frameless honeycomb panels up to 100 mm.

With the changed and increased demands on his services, Oliver Hunger also required greater performance and quality in cutting. When he finally wanted to buy a new panel-sizing saw in 2007, he decided relatively quickly on a HOLZMA HPP 510. "We had various requirements of the new saw," says Oliver Hunger, "and we wanted to have achieved as many as

possible of them." And anyone who has ever spoken to the businessman from Bünde knows that he doesn't settle for half measures. He is a cool calculator and you get the impression he is constantly and tirelessly on the look out for optimisation possibilities within his company.

Requirement 1: speed, performance, quality

It's clear that for someone like Oliver Hunger the performance and speed of a saw and the high output are three very important criteria for a decision to buy. Ultimately, he was convinced by such HOLZMA features as the high saw blade projection of the HPP 510, the tremendous speed – achieved by the integrated "Speed Package" amongst other things – and the simultaneously high cutting quality.

"You know," says Hunger casually, "a HOLZMA saw is like driving a Mercedes. But I'm not too concerned with this type of thing and was always of the opinion that if a VW also works - then why not use it? But we have now quite simply arrived at a level at which our requirements can only be met by HOLZMA saw."

Requirement 2: material variety

The next important criterion: the new saw must be able to process the many, in part very thick materials without problems – including the lightweight panels, of course. The HOLZMA HPP 510 was equipped with the new "Soft Touch" equipment package specifically for these honeycomb panels, providing automatic pressure control for the clamps and the pressure beam. With this function, you reduce the dead weight of the pressure beam and clamps purposefully so that the clamping forces act efficiently without damaging the material. It is controlled using the CADmatic operating software: with the additional "material-dependent parameters" option you save the individual machine settings for each material in a material library, including the pressures, and they can then be retrieved fully automatically at the push of a button.

Requirement 3: storage connection

The next important requirement: the new panel-sizing saw had to be integrated in the existing storage system. HOLZMA was able to achieve this. The saw today stands with the rear machine table in a 450 m² horizontal panel storage facility and is fed via an X-Y traverse with vacuum suction cups.

But Oliver Hunger wouldn't be Oliver Hunger if he hadn't already discovered possible improvements since the installation and commissioning of the saw at the start of 2008: "Recently, we further optimised the data and signal exchange between saw and storage system together with HOLZMA, in order to reduce the time required for material transport to the saw. This saves us at least one more hour per day, for the distances in such a big storage facility are long – and if preparation is performed in the storage facility, you can easily save a lot of time."

Is anyone still wondering why Oliver Hunger has two men at the front of the saw to label and transfer the high output quickly and without waiting times?

Requirement 4: optimisation

Cut optimisation was also to be improved with the purchase of the saw. "We wanted the optimisation software and the saw to come from one source, if possible. We believe that this will improve communication between the two components." The old optimisation program had reached its limits. The new optimisation software should optimise according to time and cutting criteria and at the same time enable offcut management. "The HOLZMA Cut Rite program fulfilled all criteria. Despite many years of experience, we realised that we really had no idea of what is actually possible in this field."

The Cut Rite optimisation software not only communicates with the storage system and the saw, but also with the operating data acquisition software programmed by Hunger in-house. In addition, Cut Rite takes care of labelling and therefore enables correct downstream processing of the parts after the saw – for example edging, CNC processing or packaging.

Requirement 5: availability

"You know," says Oliver Hunger, "things like the saw carriage guide and all that don't interest me – although of course I realise that at HOLZMA everything has its place. You can see that in the details. Including the metal, the design of the beams and much more. Not to mention the good appearance. Nonetheless: I am interested in other things entirely. For example, I wanted good service. HOLZMA can deliver spare parts for the saw by 8am the next morning. For the technicians too no distance is too far – if there isn't a technician in the area, then one drives here from Frankfurt. This also guarantees the high availability I require of the saw, which I need quite simply for our extremely high output in two-shift operation."

The result?

From three shifts with one employee, Oliver Hunger reduced work at the panel-sizing saw to just two shifts with two employees. With the new saw, HOLZMA was able to reduce the average cutting time by around 30 to 40%. The saw has an output of around 2000 to 2500 fitted parts per day. Previously, this meant processing 180 to 200 cutting patterns, but today this target is achieved with around 140 cutting patterns. In addition, the amount of wasted material has been reduced by around three to five percent.

And is Oliver Hunger proud of this result? Perhaps. But one thing is certain: the end is far from near for him. The capable entrepreneur will do everything to find further optimisation potential and in doing so further challenge manufacturers and production partners. We should wait eagerly to see what we hear from Bünde in future.

Information box

The panel-sizing saw at Hunger in Bünde

HOLZMA HPP 510

Model	HPP 510/43/43
Cutting length	4300 mm
Saw blade projection	125 mm
Saw carriage speed	up to 150 m/min
Details (abstract):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Automatic pressure beam height control- Adjustable pressure beam contact pressure- Adjustable clamp contact pressure- Separate feed carriage for feeding and positioning of the next book during the ongoing cutting process- Tilttable air table- Automatic clamp activation- Labelling program- Data transfer online- Cut Rite PROFESSIONAL optimisation- 19" TFT flat screen monitor with touch functionality

Pictures



Picture 1:
Oliver Hunger, Managing Director of "hunger möbelproduktions gmbh"



Picture 2:
Striking: piles of lightweight panels at Hunger



Picture 3:

The saw's rear machine table is located directly in the storage area. Feeding is performed by a vacuum conveyor. Communication between storage system and saw is smooth – compatibility with the HOLZMA panel-sizing saw is given, even if the storage system is not from the HOMAG Group.



Picture 4:

A view of the rear machine table during the cutting process.



Pictures 5, 6, 7:

Full speed ahead: at Hunger there are 2 people working at the saw: One feeds, the other labels and stacks. The panel-sizing saw runs almost without interruption in two-shift operation – with full speed ahead.



Picture 7:
Parts of a lightweight panel

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