

## Front production: The agony of choice

On a small stand at the Hanover Industrial Trade Fair in 1962, the company HOMAG exhibited the world's first edge banding machine. Used in conjunction with a new adhesive, the hot-cold method was hailed as a revolution which was to become established on a worldwide basis, changing the entire market for decades – up until the recent development of what is now known as the zero joint.

The search for even better machines and technologies for woodworking is a never ending one – and this includes both the optimization of existing products and also whole new departures. The focus here is on the customer, and the issue of how far any new development will provide tangible customer benefits.

At a time when individual furniture design is on the up and customers have become increasingly discerning, aspects such as appearance, design and styling are continuously gaining in importance. For the manufacturer, alongside the aim to supply top quality, cost aspects also play a decisive role. HOMAG has the right solution to offer no matter what the requirements.

### Processes to suit every need

Whether edge banding with a wafer-thin glue joint or the perfect zero joint with **airTec** and **laserTec**: using HOMAG technology, furniture producers can rely on the perfect visual appeal when it comes to processing corners and edges, benefitting at the same time from the flexibility afforded by a vast selection of materials and colors. Using the postforming technique, in contrast, users gain not only a perfect optical result but also optimum functionality – particularly where protection is required from mechanical, thermal or chemical stress. The benefit: The surface and edge of the panel are wrapped by a single continuous laminate.

Anyone processing MDF panels, whether for laminate floor manufacturing, furniture and kitchen fronts or shopfitting applications, will find wide-ranging application possibilities at HOMAG – such as scope for high-grade profile decor effects. MDF can be individually treated with paints and lacquers, creating a smooth, clean surface with profiled edges or trimmed recesses.

### **Edge improvement instead of MDF panels**

Any manufacturer aiming to produce this type of profiled edge or trimmed recess is certain to have already debated the issue of rising cost pressure in terms of raw materials. To address this growing problem, HOMAG offers a method of edge improvement when working with chipboard. Here too, the aim is to achieve perfect top quality edges which are resistant to external influences.

The aim here is to eliminate the “weak spot” of the chipboard panel, its central core. Here, HOMAG uses a special filler applied to the narrow edge, which brings about a hardening effect. Thanks to the high-quality filler material and the innovative application method used, this edge improvement process is a highly interesting solution also in terms of economy.

Fields of application include:

- The improvement of solid wood edges, making them more impactproof and shockproof.
- Edge improvement in the manufacture of softforming profiles, which can then be produced to a higher standard of quality without the need for finish processing. In this case, the decor finish is applied in the form of decor lacquer or transfer foil.
- Savings through the use of lower-cost, statically improved chipboard instead of MDF panels.
- Improvement of edges for furniture used in wet areas, as the water-tight closure created by edge improvement prevents the chipboard edge from swelling under the influence of moisture.

- Manufacture of membrane press components: Improvement of edges in shaped components coated using membrane presses.

Pictures courtesy of: HOMAG Holzbearbeitungssysteme GmbH



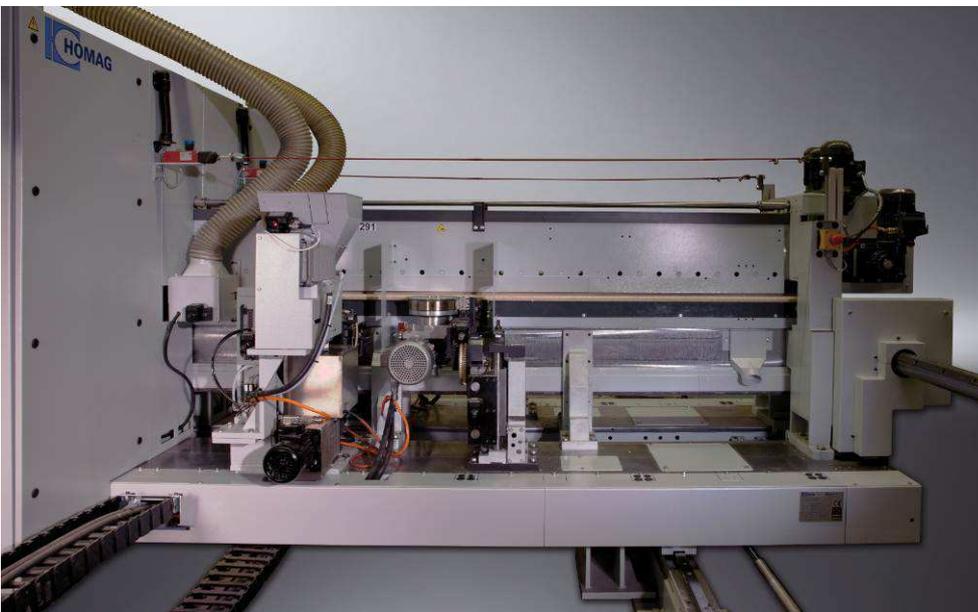
**Fig. 1:** Sample workpieces



**Fig. 2:** Panels profiled using the edge improvement method



**Fig. 3:** Edge improvement production steps



**Fig. 4:** The innovative application method makes this a highly interesting solution also in terms of economy

**For more information, contact**

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