



Press on to success

A custom architectural woodwork manufacturer has found increased output and productivity with a hot press from Joos USA Inc.

By Ryan Olson

A custom architectural woodwork manufacturer, in a suburb of Milwaukee, Wis., has been using a Joos USA Inc. hot press that has increased efficiency and productivity within the company.

With an emphasis on institutional casework including hospitals, schools, banks and office buildings, Gary A. Heinitz, president of Precision Woodwork, in Butler, Wis., couldn't be happier with the Joos USA Inc. Junior hot press. Situated in a 23,000-sq.-ft. facility, Heinitz says the Junior hot press compared to other hot presses by other manufacturers was the best for him because of the amount of space it occupied.

"I chose the Junior press because Joos has the best hot press on the market right now," says Heinitz. "In addition, it's small and by using the hot cycle, we can laminate a 4' x 8' board in four minutes. Man can't work faster than four minutes."

He also notes that the Junior is situated on wheels which allows the machine to be mobile if needed and the fact that it uses PVA glue rather than contact adhesive.

"We used to use contact adhesive when laminating a board, but we found it to be messy and it contained a lot of VOCs," comments Heinitz. "In the southeastern Wisconsin area, environmental restrictions are clamping down on the use of VOCs."

Heinitz notes that switching to a PVA glue was a quick economical way to bond laminates to a substrate.

According to Heinitz, once the board is through the press, approximately 75 percent of the glue is cured; the board is stacked and allowed to cool before it is moved to the next phase of construction which includes, cutting and assembly.

INCREASED OUTPUT AND PRODUCTIVITY

With an employee base of 25, Heinitz says his company was producing 40 to 50 sheets before using the Joos Junior. Now he says they can produce 60 to 80 sheets a day and sometimes more if there is a time crunch.


"For what it's designed to do, it's a great machine."



Joos Junior hot press

Heinitz says. "I can't see anyway in which Joos can improve on it."

However, Heinitz suggests that using the Jumbo Ergo 85 Vacuum Tube Lifting System from Schmalz has also helped increase the company's productivity. He says there aren't a lot of companies that are using the system, but "it takes the wear and tear of lifting and moving boards off my guys, making them more efficient."

Precision Woodwork is planning to build a new 42,000-sq.-ft. facility to keep up with competition, increase its market share and do more for its customers. Heinitz says that if after the expansion, and if there were a need to purchase another hot press, he wouldn't hesitate to purchase another Junior. Precision Woodwork Inc. also offers laminate collections from the four major laminate suppliers for customers to choose from. 

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