

investment in Felder allows new work

On a quiet back section sits the large premises of Christchurch's Claim to Frame joinery. Established in 1994 the company is well-known for their hospitality, retail and pharmaceutical fit-outs across the country. With 18 staff, including 12 working in the factory or installing, they're a busy team. Claim to Frame is led by Owner Rob Barlass and Operations Manager Brent Drake.

Earlier in the year a large contract came up that Brent and Rob knew would require investment in extra plant. An opportunity not to be missed, they realised they needed another CNC machine to undertake the extra work, and soon settled on the Format-4 HO8 Pro with a pusher, from the Felder Group.

With an older Weeke on the factory floor they were already familiar with CNC, so had a good idea of what they required in a new machine.

Brent explains: "factors we considered were operating speed and reliability. Also, because of our limited space we were aware the machine would be encroaching on our assembly area, so we wanted it to be quiet – so those working nearby would have the best possible working environment."

Made in Austria and featuring the type of componentry and performance you'd expect from a European CNC, the HO8 Pro has performed exactly as expected. "The machine's reliability is key" says Brent. "The contract we purchased the machine for is irregular, but when we get the order then we have just a couple of days to process between 200 and 300 sheets of 12mm ply, machined to exacting tolerances. To get this done we have to run the machine fast and for long runs, so we needed dependability and stability to avoid vibration. Having the pusher increases our throughput as does the bed vacuuming feature. If we'd had more room we'd have incorporated a more efficient loading system too, but space means we have to load the machine from the front".

When they're not rushing to meet an urgent order, Claim to Frame now use the Format-4 HO8 Pro for their regular workload as well.



CNC operator Harjot Singh 'Gill in front of the HO8,

"We hadn't planned to" says Brent, "but the machine links seamlessly to our existing software, and we're getting an excellent finish, so we are pushing more and more across it."

Another new asset helping productivity in the factory is the HO8's operator: Harjot Singh, known as Gill. "Gill came to us straight out of tech, and he's picked up the CNC operation a lot faster than we expected," says Brent, "and he's very quickly become a key part of our team."

With many years of experience of the specialist nature and quirks of commercial and hospitality fit-outs, Claim to Frame have built up a reputation for quality and efficiency. Their network of key clients and strong relations in

the construction industry keeps the workshop busy, and regular referrals only help expand their customer-base. With the benefits flowing from the two new members of the team - the HO8 Pro and Gill as operator – the future looks positive at Claim to Frame.



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