



Quentin Evans in his Wigram workshop - his new AscentPro means he is in charge of his workload.

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revolutionise your production

Nine years ago Quentin and Raewyn Evans took over the Christchurch franchise of Wardrobe Systems, and six years later took the company independent under the name of 'Christchurch Wardrobes'.

Going independent meant Quentin had to make new arrangements to get his board cut, and for a period he used a local joiner for contract cutting. But soon things changed. "I called into the Jacks showroom to sort out some extraction stuff, and I left knowing I needed a CNC!" says Quentin. It wasn't long before he took delivery of his first CNC machine – an AscentPro E3.

Based in Wigram in Christchurch, Christchurch Wardrobes has several building companies as clients, and carries out a lot of repeat clients – especially given how many people have moved around since the Canterbury earthquakes. In addition to wardrobes they make study nooks,

overhead cupboards, bookshelves and some aluminium & bi-fold doors. The company's point of difference is a quality service using locally made board in an entirely customisable product range, complete with local service and support.

Raewyn and Quentin have an effective team technique. Raewyn visits the customer and measures up, then uses PRO100 Design software to draw up a to-scale illustration for the customer. Once the order is confirmed Quentin takes the PRO100 file, edits it as necessary and then processes it through Aspan and to the E3 CNC in the workshop.

It's a big step from a small table saw to a CNC set up – complete with a Brandt 1120C edgebander as well. The AscentPro E3 features a 9.5kW spindle, 8-slot rotary tool change magazine and 5 + 4 station drilling head, and is well proven in workshops around the country. "With the E3 we are in control of our workload. As good as our local supplier

was, he had his own production to think about. Urgent jobs or small fix-ups are always more complicated when you're reliant on someone else. They're more expensive too. Moving production in-house made sense. It's helpful to have production in-house when a builder rings to confirm a job you quoted six months ago – and he always wants it urgently."

"Having the E3 has given us the flexibility to work faster and smarter" says Quentin. "Moving to CNC production has certainly been a steep learning curve, especially given we were only using a saw for small fix ups before this. Small things like the frequency of skimming or how well really small parts are held down on the sheet are things you learn with experience. But we've got the hang of it now. And compared to our old way of cutting we are really enjoying the benefit of a smooth accurate cut with no chipping out. The parts are all square. The holes are in the right place. It's revolutionised our production."

The E3 CNC has also given Quentin the confidence to take on another member of staff, rather than rely on part-timers. "It's hard to get good, consistent part-time help" he says. "But with the E3 we now have enough work that we've committed to a full-time worker. This adds stability to our production, and he can also go out and help our installer when required."

Quentin is clearly proud of the products they sell and the quality of their production, and the company is busy, despite an increase in local competition and a slow-down in the residential construction industry. With a strong reputation and quality-driven, flexible and fast in-house production, the team at Christchurch Wardrobes have every reason to be proud – and excited about their future.



For more info on the AscentPro visit www.jacks.co.nz