



Bo Young has been quick to learn how the Format-4 HO8 Pro CNC operates.

Redstone self reliance

Phillip Lee established Redstone Kitchens to provide kitchens, wardrobes and vanities for the properties he's developing in Auckland's Flatbush area. Phillip's main reason for starting a kitchen-making business was to take control of production speed, and quality.

"I can't build houses fast enough in Auckland at present, so this is one way of reducing our reliance on sub-contractors," explains Phillip from Redstone Kitchen's offices in East Tamaki. "And due to the growing demand for kitchens I might as well provide my services to other builders and developers in addition to building for my own developments."

Redstone's set-up comprises of high quality European manufactured machinery - a Format-4 'profit HO8 pro' CNC, a Brandt 1120C edgebander, and a Felder K540S panel saw, all sourced from Jacks.

Despite being a start-up, the decision to move straight to CNC production was an easy one for Phillip. "With fewer people there are usually fewer mistakes" he says. "CNC isn't the cheapest way to start-up, especially given the most experienced member of our team comes from a panel-saw background. But with CNC we get more automation, we get more accuracy and therefore simpler assembly, and we get excellent safety. We also have the potential to scale up our production quickly."

The Format-4 HO8 – made in Austria by the Felder Group - not only ticked the 'quality'

and 'long-lasting' boxes for Phillip but also incorporates many features that provide a clean and safe working environment, such as the centralised dust extraction system, monitored pneumatic pop-up stops and light barrier safety zone system.

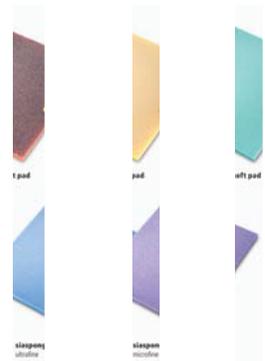
Redstone Kitchens have been up and running for several months now, and are already getting the results you'd expect with such a modern, efficient set up. In addition to Phillip there are just four staff – and just two on the workshop floor. Operating the HO8 CNC is Bo Young. Initially hired as a labourer, Bo has been quick to learn how the HO8 works. The Windows operating system interface is familiar and intuitive, and features such as the dynamic performance gantry and automatic lubrication of all axes add to the sense that the HO8 is well designed for fast and efficient production. With Bo's growing confidence he's already training Redstone's kitchen designer to take the designs she creates in PRO100 through Aspan, and onto the CNC.

"With our plans for growth we need reliable quality" says Phillip. "Everything we do is volume based, so repeatability is crucial - to satisfy our own strict requirements, and to attract work from other developers. We simply can't afford downtime, so while we looked at several other options there wasn't much of a price difference for the European machine so we went for quality in the end." There's no doubt that Redstone's investment in quality is already paying off.



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