

Montage Kitchens & Joinery



Jared Monk now runs the company his father started and like Ken has a keen eye for anything that can increase quality or efficiency.

Innovation in the blood

In every region of New Zealand you'll find joinery businesses that stand out not just for their workmanship, but for the values, innovation and leadership woven into their DNA. Montage Kitchens & Joinery in Hamilton is one of those businesses - a company shaped by a remarkable founder and now carried forward by the next generation with the same drive and determination.

The late Ken Monk, founder and long time leader of Montage Kitchens & Joinery was well known throughout the NZ joinery sector. His influence reached far beyond the walls of the business he built. Ken held multiple leadership roles nationally, contributing to training standards, industry development and professionalisation of the trade. Although his passing eight years ago was sudden, the business he shaped didn't lose momentum - because his passion and philosophy didn't leave with him.

Today, Montage is led by Ken's son Jared, a builder by trade who stepped up to run the company with the same commitment to quality, and forward-thinking attitude. Jared's brother Michael also joined 18 months ago, strengthening the family leadership and helping carry the business into its next chapter.

Just like his father, Jared has a keen eye for any advantage that can improve quality or efficiency. That mindset traces back to Ken's early adoption of CNC technology - including the purchase of an

ICAM CNC almost 30 years ago, long before CNC became the industry norm.

Laser edgebanding the next leap forward

That same drive for smarter technology led Jared to explore laser edgebanding. The result was an investment in a KDT KE 710BT Laser edgebander, supplied and supported by Jacks. The KE-710BT is a machine that replaces the traditional glue-pot with a laser unit that activates a 0.2 mm functional layer on the back of laser tape. When heated, the layer

melts and bonds the tape directly to the workpiece edge - creating a seamless, welded finish with outstanding strength.

The journey to the purchase began when Jacks Sales Consultant John Walton introduced Jared to KDT laser technology. One of the initial concerns was the supply of laser tape in New Zealand, but after some research - including calls to suppliers - Jared found that local supply was strong, and some suppliers can even coat any non stocked laser tape with a laser polymer.

The KE-710BT is a machine that replaces the traditional glue-pot with a laser unit that activates a 0.2 mm functional layer on the back of laser tape. When heated, the layer melts and bonds the tape directly to the workpiece edge - creating a seamless, welded nish with outstanding strength.

The next step was assessing the machines themselves. After comparing options across all the usual brands, KDT stood out. "KDT were the only brand offering a true laser. Others were using hot-air or other technologies that came with compromises." Price, build quality, spare parts costs and performance all lined up. While there was some internal apprehension to buying a Chinese-made edgebander, Jared wasn't concerned; "There's good Chinese and bad Chinese — just like there's good European and bad European."

A visit to the Jacks Auckland showroom for a demo sealed the decision. The KDT's finish quality, sturdy construction and the simplicity of running a true laser made the choice easy.

The KE 710BT Laser was installed and producing jobs within just a few days. The machine's 10 servo motors allow quick, repeatable adjustment and the servo controlled scraper is especially valuable for acrylics with protective foil - ensuring no tape lip remains after the film is removed. With no warm up time required for the laser, productivity has increased noticeably. The notching feature has also been a game changer for shadow-handle cabinetry. Previously, gaps had to be blocked out or taped to "fool" a traditional edgebander. Now the notch dimensions are simply entered, and the KDT handles it automatically. Equally

as important, after 4-5 months of operation, the team at Montage has noticed how consistently the machine holds its settings.

While laser tape is roughly twice the cost of standard tape, Montage quickly discovered the maths still works in their favour. With no glue to clean off panels and the machine, no wait times for glue to heat-up - and then cool again when making a colour change, overall, the numbers stack-up in favour of using laser tape.

Under Jared and Michael's leadership, Montage has continued to expand. They have recently added a pre-hung door and wardrobe division, with further development already in the pipeline. Their late father Ken would no doubt be proud - not only of the business his sons are running, but also of the values they're carrying forward: craftsmanship, innovation and a commitment to doing things properly.



KDT are sold and serviced in NZ by Jacks