



Hardeep Bains and Lovepreet Singh.

## Start up success

***Daljit Kaur and Hardeep Bains started SLEEK Kitchens NZ in October 2020. With just over 6 months under their belt and no previous experience in joinery or manufacturing, they're already in a position whereby they can pick and choose the jobs they take on.***

Daljit came from a background as a Business Analyst while Hardeep is experienced as a Business Intelligence Specialist. You could say they have a good handle on how to run a business. However, it's one thing to collect and analyze data, but quite another to start up and run a manufacturing business in an industry you know very little about.

As if starting a kitchen and cabinetry business wasn't challenging enough, Daljit and Hardeep also had an interest in manufacturing stone benchtops. When an opportunity to purchase an existing stone benchtop business became available, they jumped in. As it happened the 500m<sup>2</sup> unit next door to the stone benchtop business was available to lease, providing the perfect location for the kitchen and cabinetry business. Unlike the stone benchtop business which came fully set up and operational, Daljit and Hardeep were starting from scratch with their kitchen & cabinetry business.

After much research, visiting potential suppliers and talking with friends in the industry, Daljit and Hardeep decided to put their faith in advice and machinery supplied by Jacks. Hardeep reflects on those early days. "We did a lot of research because we were new to the industry. We looked at all the options. The team at Jacks are in a league of their own and had the experience and know-how we needed." Daljit and Hardeep decided a CNC

and good quality Edgebander were the two most important pieces of machinery to ensure they'd be efficient and competitive from the outset. They settled on a Format-4 profit H08 CNC and a Homag 1440 Edition Edgebander with lasertape processing capability. They also invested in 3rd party design-to-machine software, Polyboard.

While waiting for the CNC to be installed, the first few kitchens were cut on a panel saw. Hardeep says the panel saw is hardly used at all now with their cutting and drilling being processed on the Format-4 CNC. They construct their cabinets with a mortice and tenon joint which speeds up assembly and results in a strong cabinet. Together with the quality of edgbanding coming off the Homag 1440, these advantages have quickly become selling points to their customers. "The Homag has definitely met our expectations" says Hardeep. "Our staff are big fans. Parts come off the edgebander finished and ready for assembly. We do next to no manual cleaning of the parts after the edgebander." As well as the laser capability the Homag 1440, it's fast and easy to set-up with all processing units adjustable from the control panel. The multi-profile tooling enables a very high quality finish across a wide range of materials.

Daljit & Hardeep started conservatively with one or two kitchens per week. They now average three or four kitchens per week. They're also manufacturing flat pack cabinetry and undertaking some cutting & clashing jobs for other cabinetry businesses. Not bad after just six months and no previous industry experience!



## Mafell Laser tape processing for curved and bevelled workpieces

Made in Germany by portable tooling specialists Mafell, HIT-M is the first and only mobile edgebander capable of processing laser tape to achieve a zero-join between tape and board. The HIT-M hot-air system can process all commercially available pre-coated or post-coated laser edge tape without the need for glue.

The HIT-M can be used for both straight and curved workpieces, as well as edging of bevelled edges up to a 50° when used freehand and 55° when used in the machine stand. The working temperature is reached within a couple of minutes after switching the unit on and as there is no gluepot, there is no need for time-consuming glue colour changes.

Included with the HIT-M package is a machining table for stationary work of larger workpieces, meaning you get the perfect entry-level option to get you started in the zero-join laser edging revolution.



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