



Tiffany and Vincent Huang.

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## Boxmakers by Vikon

*Trained as an architect at the University of Auckland, Vincent Huang and his wife Tiffany started Vikon Ltd, an architectural design and construction company, in 2011. To get control over product quality and leadtimes, just over a year ago they purchased a cabinet-making business in West Auckland. And so, Boxmakers by Vikon was born.*

Despite having very little experience running a cabinetry business, Vincent picked up the manufacturing side very quickly. With New Zealand experiencing the lowest unemployment rate in decades, the main challenge has been recruiting staff. As well as office staff, the new business employs a couple of workshop staff but could do with at least two more to meet current demand and prepare for the future growth.

The business came with a beamsaw, an old point-to-point CNC and an edgebander. The CNC was getting on in years, having being manufactured in

1989. After using the existing equipment to manufacture a couple of kitchens, Vincent was satisfied with his own ability and confident enough to invest in new technology.

Vincent and Tiffany identified the CNC and edgebander as the machines that would take their new business forward. For the CNC, Vincent invested in a new Kitap K2. The K2 offers more flexibility than a typical flatbed nesting CNC. Compact in size, the K2 can rout and drill on all four edges and one surface in a single process. “When I made the decision to purchase the K2, I was looking for a CNC that offers versatility. Because I’m a designer and I want to explore the potential of the K2 to create different designs,” says Vincent. “We’ve made quite a few different things already, not just cabinets. We made our own Christmas gift boxes and I’ve also made things for our home. Another job was a half round reception desk for a dental clinic. We used the K2 to carve out the carcass.”

Vincent also created a spread sheet with various types of cabinets that –with the help of the Jacks service team – links directly through to the Vitap K2. This means Vincent can change the dimensions of cabinets in the spreadsheet and quickly create machining files for his K2. Printed labels with barcodes are stuck onto parts as they’re cut on the beamsaw. The barcode is then scanned at the K2 and the part fed into the machine. The CNC operator doesn’t need to create or look-up any files on the CNC, and the process is efficient and error free.

The old edgebander was also due an upgrade. Vincent chose the Homag 1240FC with airTec for processing laser tape. The 1240FC features automatic set-up of most units, including multi-profile tooling on the scraper unit with adjustment accuracy to 0.01mm. “The old edgebander was high maintenance,” explains Vincent. “The Homag is much better. I would say 80% of the time we don’t need to do any manual cleaning of parts after

they’ve come off the machine. I also like that I don’t hear any complaints about the Homag from my workers. We have already done quite a few jobs using the airTec system with laser tape. We’re very happy with the result - especially with white board. The finish is virtually seamless.”

With the investment in new technology already paying huge benefits, the future for Boxmakers by Vikon is bright. Vincent and Tiffany plan to continue concentrating on high quality cabinetry and creative designs. They’re already looking to move to larger premises so they can offer their design and manufacturing expertise to other businesses and end customers. With the benefit of the machinery the capacity and efficiency has been improved and they are hoping to see more opportunity in the future.



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