



Tony Hewetson and Lance Barnes - parts now come off the edgebander with very minimal manual post-processing or cleaning required

## Minimal pre or post processing

*Tony and Craig Hewetson are brothers and co-owners of Hewe Kitchens & Interiors. Craig started the business out of his parents' garage back in 2002 and shortly thereafter moved to a workshop in Glenfield employing two staff. One of which is Glen Ingham who is still with the business today.*

After eight years living in London, Tony and his wife returned to New Zealand in 2009 to raise a family. Tony had been working in the building and cabinet making industry in the U.K. and as such was an ideal addition to the Hewe Kitchens & Interiors team. Working with family can be challenging. However, Craig and Tony have forged a productive working relationship that combines their respective strengths and experience. "As brothers we can be very honest with each other" says Tony with a grin. Craig is a trained cabinetmaker and as such looks after design and detailing.

Tony focuses on running the business and as a mechanic by trade, identifying the business's machinery requirements.

One of their first big steps towards automation and efficiency came in 2012 with the purchase of a CNC and their first hot-melt edgebander. While these machines have served them well, about 18 months ago they decided the edgebander needed upgrading. Tony could see they weren't getting the quality of finish from their old edgebander and the process was slow, with many hours spent manually cleaning panels after edging.

With Tony's background as an automotive engineer, he was very thorough when assessing the options. Tony explains: "We take our time – we want to know what we're getting". Much research and background checking ensued – including tapping into the local network of industry colleagues to fact-check the information and after sales service claims made by potential suppliers. Feedback was

positive regarding the German made Homag 1440 Edition edgebander, supported locally by Jacks. Tony explored using PUR glue and processing with laser-edged tape, but eventually decided they would stick with standard EVA glue, safe in the knowledge that if the trend in laser tape continues to grow the Homag 1440 is prepared to enable the retrofit of an AirTeclaser tape processing unit in the future.

Pre-milling and corner rounding were also on the shopping list. These units eliminate the need to buzz workpieces prior to edging and automatically round the corners. Tony explains "parts now come off the edgebander with very minimal manual post-processing or cleaning required. Although the Homag is faster, speed wasn't critical, but it's also appreciated. And even though we process a wide range of materials, everyone in the factory can use the Homag due to the capability to save and recall programs and easily adjust the processing units through the control panel."

The top end of the market is where Hewe concentrate their efforts. So much so that there is a name change in the wind to "Hewe Architectural Cabinetry". With 95% of their business going into high-end residential fit-outs, the quality of the edging finish is critical to satisfying customers with high expectations.

The Homag 1440 is certainly delivering. Walking through their impressively clean and intelligently laid-out factory, it's easy to appreciate the level of professionalism and craftsmanship on display. With highly trained and dedicated staff such as Gunnar Friese their German designer and Lance Barnes their operations manager who came from the Super Yacht industry in 2010, they have a combination of talented staff and modern machinery to satisfy the most discerning customers.



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