



John and Ainslie Titterton with their new AscentPro E3.

Cut-It needed more speed

The origins of Cut-It Joinery lie in a chance meeting at a local Wanaka Bar, where joiner John Titterton met his wife and business partner Ainslie. Originally a builder from Dunedin, John had recently returned from Los Angeles and was following his father's footsteps into joinery. Together he and Ainslie established Cut-It Joinery in a shed from home, having since moved to an industrial area in Wanaka where they've recently doubled the size of the unit they manufacture from. Today the business employs four staff, two on the floor and two in the office. Working mainly from referrals and repeat clients they provide panel-based joinery throughout the Southern Lakes area – focusing on residential kitchens and custom-made cabinetry, along with some commercial work.

Cut-It Joinery's production began based around an old flatbed CNC. Although very slow, the CNC's speed wasn't a problem, as it suited their workload. "It used to take 30 or 40 minutes to cut up a sheet" says John. "But given we were only making a kitchen or so a month back then the speed

wasn't a problem." While the age of the machine meant it had its limitations, it still established for John the most efficient way of manufacturing a kitchen.

John is a CNC native: a CNC machine has always been at the centre of his joinery work. "Why would I use a saw? Why have a human cutting out a kitchen when a CNC will do it without making mistakes, or taking too long?" asks John. "With our Cabinet Vision software I can prepare a whole kitchen, or just re-cut a single part from an offcut, when I need it."

As Cut-It's reputation grew, so did their need for faster manufacturing. In 2013 they invested in a Brandt 1110 edgebander, and at the beginning of this year they upgraded to an AscentPro E3 CNC. With a 9.5kW spindle, 8-slot rotary tool change magazine and 5 + 4 station drilling head, the E3 was the obvious step up in speed, power and quality.

"Rather than waiting more than half an hour we can now process a sheet in around 7 minutes" says John. "I can cut and edge a kitchen in a day if I need to."

Since installation John has given the E3 a name: 'Nathan'. "We've named it Nathan because it's like another staff member, but doesn't take breaks, require holiday pay and is far more reliable" says John, with broad grin. He explains there is a downside: "Nathan's not so good at sweeping the workshop though."

Factors in the decision to buy the E3 were affordability, the two year warranty and their experience of back-up service from Jacks. "Nick [a technician at Jacks' Christchurch branch] certainly knows his stuff. He trained me on operating the machine, and has been a great help over the phone when we've needed it."

With the AscentProE3 and their Brandt, John and Ainslie know they have plenty of potential to increase their rate of production. As the team has become more experienced with the versatility of the E3 it's become clear the next investment should be on the design side - another Cabinet Vision licence to keep 'Nathan' busy.

"We're already booked out til the end of the year" says John, and a forthcoming housing development nearby offers potential for even more work. But with the workshop busy and the orderbook full, for now John and Ainslie are happy with the current situation at Cut-It Joinery.

Looking out at the snow-capped peaks, with Lake Wanaka glistening in the sun, and knowing their home is just a couple of minutes away, it's easy to see why.

CUT-IT kitchens & joinery



AscentPro is sold and serviced in NZ by Jacks
www.jacks.co.nz