

Perfect equipment for the leather processing



At a time when energy costs are the bugbear of every company, whether in the trades or in industry, the most innovative technology can provide a solution. It makes it possible to increase production without putting too much impact on energy costs. How is this possible? In this interview, Luigi Catalano, production manager at CBC Srl, explains how the RAS 79.22-2 ECO multibend bending center brought energy savings on the one hand, and flexibility on the other. The company based in the Italian town of Prato now no longer has to produce to stock, but can manufacture purely to order.

CUSTOMIZED EQUIPMENT

Productivity at a lower cost, or even better, with less consumption

Prato-based CBC Srl manufactures customized equipment for leather goods and footwear factories specializing in cutting and leather processing. „We want to create order and efficiency in all leather processing operations,“ says Luigi Catalano, production manager of the Tuscan company. „In our Prato plant, we process steel sheets into finished products. We design, develop and implement solutions for specialized leather companies with the target of making their work and the space they need more efficient, reducing processing times and increasing safety in the workplace. We were the first to build the „ABC“ brand. Under this brand, we produce all

the equipment that is essentially designed to make work easier, more flexible and ergonomic. „Perseo“, on the other hand, is a further development of this concept. It aims to use automatic storage systems to reduce the amount of work involved in managing lasts for shoe production and the space they take up during storage. Customers benefit from the time saved in picking, neat management



Praktischer Schubladenwagen als Werkzeugmagazin für die Lederverarbeitung

and reduced employee workload. We are now marketing these unique advantages of the products throughout Italy and have also already started worldwide distribution.

Product range is created through individualization

Es sind Kreativität und Gespür, die uns Italiener auszeichnen. Eigenheiten, die uns einzigartig und praktisch

It is creativity and intuition that distinguish us Italians. Quirks that make us unique and practically unbeatable when it comes to developing and customizing products. Luigi Catalano has turned these talents into a business and created a recipe for success that combines process and technological expertise with experience and foresight. Catalano himself explains, „It’s always an unsatisfied need from a customer that prompts us to develop a new product. Most of our solutions are developed based on customer requests. We are always looking to capture and query the needs of potential customers, even if they are very specific. This is because a single case often gives rise to suggestions and ideas, and consequently to products that we can apply to many similar tasks all over



Das RAS Multibend-Center ECO zeichnet sich durch seine hohe Produktivität aus.



Elemente für ein Materiallager -maßhaltig gefertigt- stellen die einfache Montage von komplexen Konstruktionen, sicher.

the world. Customization gives us the opportunity to develop new products. These can then, provided there are no particular restrictions or obstacles, become part of our standard product range.“

From production for the warehouse to the just-in-time model

Customized manufacturing is a key feature at CBC. Over the years, this has made CBC develop the ability to be flexible in the broadest sense of the word, from the design phase to the machines installed in production. „The integration of the RAS Multibend-Center ECO panel bender clearly underlines our desire to be versatile, flexible and open,“ says Catalano. „Thanks to the absolute speed, both in setting up the tools and in machining the parts to be bent, and to the complete automation of the bending sequence, we can not only produce complex geometries that were previously impossible or only possible with great effort, but also bend them extremely quickly. In fact, it is no coincidence that since installing the RAS Multibend Center ECO, we have also completely changed our pro-

duction concept in favor of a narrower model. Previously, we mostly produced to stock. Since the introduction of the panel bender, we have been able to drastically reduce stock levels thanks to the fast programming and production of parts. Almost every order is processed just in time with the purchase orders, regardless of whether they are standard or made-to-measure. This is what flexibility means to us“.

The productivity is doubled with the same energy consumption

However, flexibility is not the only convincing feature of the RAS panel bender, as Catalano explains in his presentation: „With the Multibend-Center ECO, we take ad-



Schnelles Rüsten mit dem automatischem Werkzeugwechsler steigert die Produktionsabläufe.



Der große Freibereich in der Biegezone ermöglicht das Biegen von großen Teilen.

advantage of fast setup, high production speed, and the ability to bend parts that we otherwise would not have been able to produce. Unlike bending centers from other manufacturers, the Multibend Center has an open system. The free space in the bending cell allows us to produce bends where the parts to be bent extend far beyond the bending line. The Multibend Center therefore knows no limitations. This special feature enables the production of parts and geometries that would not be feasible with other systems.



Wenn es auf maßhaltig gefertigte Komponenten ankommt, ist die Fertigung mit dem RAS Multibend-Center ECO die erste Wahl.

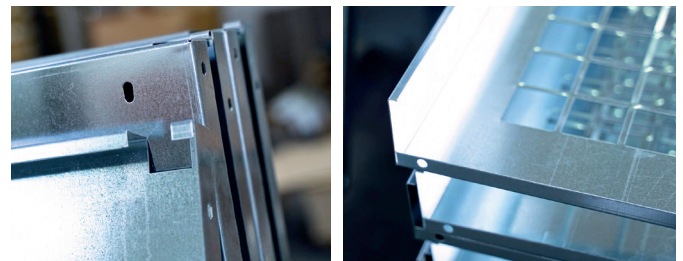
„But that’s not all,“ continues Catalano, „the Multibend Center 79.22-2 ECO stands out for its very high productivity. In the comparisons we made while projecting the technology that was right for us, we found amazing things. We found productivity differences of almost 30 percent in

comparison with the swivel bending systems of other manufacturers. The RAS Multibend Center emerged from this comparison as the very clear winner. Another important aspect that we were able to convince ourselves of is the very low energy consumption of the machine. Energy efficiency is the order of the day in any production environment today. I emphasize this because, after a careful evaluation of consumption, we did not notice any particular increase compared to last year. This is in contrast to



Präzise ausgeformten Kanten und Rundungen für perfekte Metall Möbel.

what you hear everywhere and every day. And it is all the more impressive because we more than doubled sales this year. So I wondered if I had done something wrong in my analysis and asked for another review. It turned out that since the installation of the RAS panel bender, our consumption has been the same as last year, although we have produced exactly twice as much. The energy savings are therefore considerable, and this is another point in favor of swing bending technology. Daily practice



Ein standardisierter Fertigungsprozess wird mit in Serie maßhaltig gefertigten Komponenten möglich.

shows more and more that this technology is ideal for a production environment like ours.“ The multibend center is electromechanically driven and requires less than half the power of hydraulic systems.

Combined laser processing for sheet metal and pipes to close the circle

„I have nothing but compliments for Alpemac and the relationships I have built. Starting with their owner Dieter Niederfriniger, through Giulio and the knowledgeable and always helpful Max, to all the other staff I have dealt with so far,“ Luigi continues. „So far, it has been a wonderful relationship. CBC is a company that works even on Saturdays and Sundays when we need to develop a prototype or sample in a hurry. The constant availability of Alpemac’s staff gives us the security we need. Max in particular is always available, even at absurd hours, and is extremely friendly, helpful and competent. After the short training, we were already able to operate and program the machine almost independently. This experience has led us to continue the development path of our company with Alpemac also with regard to a fiber laser. We have purchased a laser cutting machine that allows us to cut both metal tubes and sheets.

This is also an important, forward-thinking investment. It allows us to maintain autonomy and flexibility even in a period of supply chain problems and unfulfilled commitments from our suppliers. I mention foresight because we don’t want to rest on our laurels and are always looking ahead to improve. It is no coincidence that I identify strongly with this quote: „Never look back or stop at what has already been done, but always keep an eye on what still needs to be done“. We are therefore convinced that



Luigi Catalano, Produktionsleiter bei CBC Srl in Prato.