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C&T MATRIX is delighted to announce that S&W Cutting Formes of Nottingham have recently purchased the ClearTech X-PRO 1311 which was installed in August, the first within the UK Market.

The ClearTech X-PRO 1311 is a high performance, state of the art CAD machine which utilises the latest developments in cutting technology.

The ClearTech X-PRO 1311 is a 3 in 1 machine which produces:

- Drawings, layouts, traces, patch up sheets.
- Sample making in both solid carton and corrugated substrates.
- Precision cut ejection rubber and printing blankets.

S&W Cutting Formes are a modern family run business with a lot of history. They are based in Nottingham providing a fast and reliable service in all formats of quality die formes.

Marc Beastall, Managing Director of S&W said "We have made several important key investments, with our people, premises, and latest technology machinery. This enables us to continue to provide an up to date, speedy and reliable service meeting the ever-increasing technical requirements of end user convertors".

S&W Cutting Formes have all areas covered, with their high-speed laser cutting equipment, several automatic rule bending machines, rubber cutting and CAD table for drawing/sample making.

Recent changes in global supplies of old generation ejection rubbers and the move to higher technical grades that offer increased production performance left S&W Cutting Formes encountering some difficulties when cutting certain products. They were using a dated Zund M800 machine, which had begun to struggle to cut precision parts needed in firm density ejection rubbers.

After a consultation to understand their requirements, C&T Matrix recognised that the ClearTech X-PRO 1311 would meet all of their requirements and more and arranged the installation for demonstration/testing.

With a quick and simple installation requirement of single-phase power, air pressure and network connection to their CAD system, the ClearTech X-PRO 1311 was ready to go, all within 30 minutes.

Marc commented "I was amazed and impressed that C&T Matrix had delivered and installed within 2 weeks from consultation. With the easy-to-use interface, we were up and running within minutes."

Marc continued "This machine, not only cut the new ejection rubbers we were struggling with, but it also cut our normal rubbers with greater speed and accuracy. Allowing us to cover the whole range of ejection rubbers in the marketplace up to a height of 20mm"



The ClearTech X-PRO 1311 has a working area of 1300 x 1100, with the ability to cut all solid and cellular rubbers up to 65 shore. With zoned control of the vacuum bed, it allows the machine to maximise the powerful vacuum to any area of the table surface to suit the rubber being cut.

After several test files/products had been cut, Marc consulted with his colleagues and the decision to purchase was quickly made.

Marc said "This was an easy decision to make after the machine performed above and beyond our expectations. The quality, accuracy and speed of cutting was exactly what we needed, and the machine was priced very competitively. In fact, as this is a 3 in 1 machine, it provides with more capacity and back up to the other table we have for drawing/plotting and sample making. It's the perfect fit for our business needs."

The acquisition of Clear Group, Spain by C&T Matrix, continues to see the company rapidly grow its range of die making products, machines and services, within the UK and worldwide markets. With many years of supplying these machines within Europe and America, C&T Matrix believe they offer the UK market a modern, powerful, state of the art range of well proven machine technologies to cater for the needs of all die makers and design areas, large or small.

Andy Osborn - Chief Engineer



In recent years, C&T have made significant personnel appointments in key areas that have greatly enhanced our customer service, production and chain supply. However, we also recognise that there are team members and stakeholders that have been loyal to C&T for many years that rarely get a mention.

There is no person more worthy of this recognition than Andrew (Andy) Osborn our Chief Engineer.

Andy joined C&T (formerly Channel, under the tenure of Ken Robinson) on 01st August 1989 as a maintenance Engineer. This appointment coincided with the factory move (from Finsbury Park) to Rixon Road in Wellingborough.

Still in its infancy, Channel was still only manufacturing metal base

matrix (Original) and limited profile rubbers. This was about to change in no small part by the arrival of Andy. A year later, Andy formed a good relationship with the new Factory Manager, Mike Fielding. Between them, they sourced a polyester material which was then being used as 'flights' for darts that equally could be used as a carrier for creasing matrix instead of metal.

Within the space of only a few years, Andy was joined by Matt Sheppard and Pete Houghton. Between them, they pursued the development of a synthetic matrix utilising the polyester base. Whether the speed of this development was stemmed from dogged determination or the promise of a good single malt whisky from Ken, the results speak for themselves as XTC was born and to this day remains the worlds' most

popular synthetic creasing matrix. Obviously, machinery has been regularly updated to ensure quality, consistency and efficiency and at every step, Andy has been there.

Andy is a mild mannered man who goes about his every day business with diligence and professionalism. However, as most people will testify, Andy doesn't suffer fools gladly! If you want to help and cannot offer anything of substance then Andy will simply point to the broom in the corner and enquire "Can you use that?"

Put simply, without Andy's innovative thinking and engineering knowledge, C&T would not be where it is today – the world's leading creasing matrix supplier.

Here's to another 33 years Andy!

Lean Manufacturing at the Heart of C&T

C&T Matrix implement Lean Manufacturing principles to mitigate inflationary pressure on customers.

Simon Shenton, Managing Director at C&T explores ways to improve efficiency as costs continue to rise across the sector.

Inflation has had a significant impact on all our everyday business – from material costs, energy increases, fuel costs to manufacturing costs, we've all felt the effects of the recent growth in prices. C&T is aware of this pressure that die makers and carton converters are facing and is invested in implementing and exploring new ways to keep cost increases either away from customers, or reduced wherever possible. One of the things C&T is implementing in response to inflation are the principles of Lean Manufacturing.

Lean Manufacturing is a method that focuses on minimising waste and maximising productivity within the manufacturing process. The five principles are value, the value stream, flow, pull and perfection. C&T is focussing primarily on the flow principle, with the biggest area of change being the layout of C&T's factory. There have been great improvements made to the flow of the factory by reconfiguring the shop layout, moving machines and people to reduce the non-value activity – this includes things such as changing elements around and even monitoring and adjusting walking times from machine to machine, for example.

To help C&T to mitigate the increasing cost of manufacturing



we are working particularly hard on reducing machine downtime by accelerating changeovers on machines from one product to another. We have introduced 6S, a system that aims to promote and sustain a high level of productivity and safety, across all sections of the factory. We have retrained 'setters', whose job it is to ensure that tools and raw materials are ready and assist the machine operators in change over between product profiles. Having dedicated people to set up machines has reduced the time taken to set up from 45 to 15 minutes, providing an increase in production efficiency.



We have also introduced a new routing technology which has enabled C&T to reduce the amount of PVC scrap produced in the factory. Specifically, the routing technology allows us to reduce the trim produced in PVC manufacturing. Not only does this have an economic advantage, but also an environmental one. In addition, C&T is now fully recycling all the EVA scrap that we produce internally. EVA scrap is put back into our manufacturing process and reused.

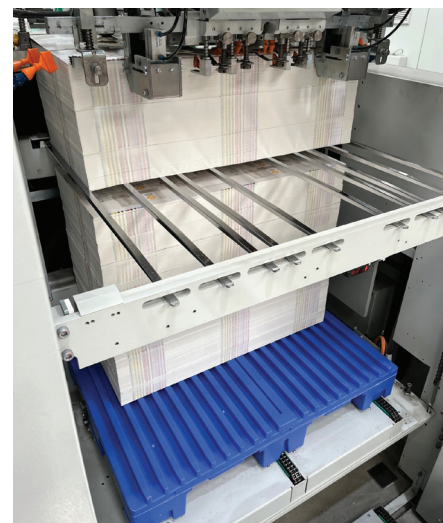
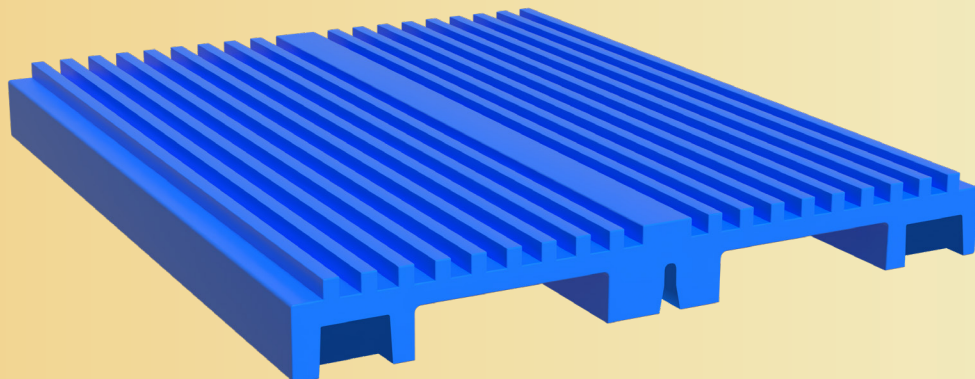
In addition to changes on the shop floor, C&T has implemented a new ERP system across the whole C&T Group. This went live in June in the UK, and July in the US, with our other sites in Italy, China and India to follow. The ERP system has improved communication across the group, and has resulted in much improved visibility, giving real time key information such as sales, financials, inventory and manufacturing. Good software is at the heart of any modern and efficient operation and this new system will enable us to make more informed decisions as a business.

As a company C&T is constantly adapting and evolving, keeping manufacturing efficiency paramount in our everyday activity. For example, since putting these improvements into place, we have seen an increase in our daily output. Lean Manufacturing is helping C&T to improve our practices and increase efficiency which has a knock-on effect for our customers in terms of stock holding, product range availability and critically keeping abreast of any cost rises so we do not have to pass unavoidable expense onto our customers.

For further details regarding C&T Channel Matrix and its innovative creasing matrix solutions visit www.candtmatrix.co.uk



Plastic Pallets - Food Safe



C&T Matrix help improve customer production with new plastic pallets.

To complement their vast range of creasing matrix and associated accessories and products, C&T Matrix is pleased to offer a new plastic pallets to customers, designed with the specific demands of the packaging industry in mind.

C&T has taken into consideration the bespoke requirements for customers in the packaging

industry. For instance, customers specific hygiene and BRC accreditation requirements have been accounted for by exclusively using polymers that are food safe in the plastic pallets.

The new pallets are easy for manual handling, with a lightweight construction that will not splinter or cause damage within a working environment. Additionally, they are very easy to keep clean – simply wipe away dust or spray powder. These features make the pallets excellent in terms of health and

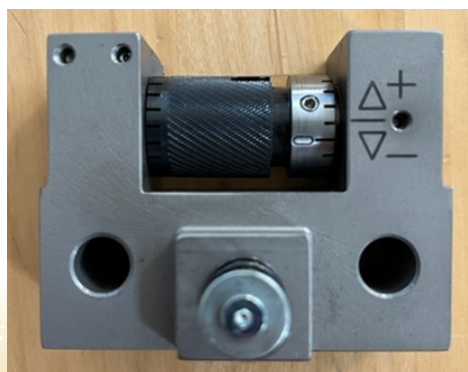
safety requirements.

Furthermore, C&T's pallets can be used throughout the whole production process. Printing and die cutting can benefit from 'non-stop' feeding of the board/paper/corrugated using swords on the feeder. A variety of sizes of pallet are available to suit different customer's production format.

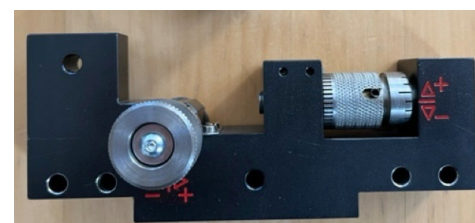
For further details regarding C&T Channel Matrix and its innovative creasing matrix solutions visit www.candtmatrix.co.uk

C&T increase product range for die cutting machines

NEW



Optimising your die cutter performance is essential. Being able to maximise your up time by adjusting the thin plate for the exact fit in relation to the cutting die for perfect creasing and embossing on repeat orders, is a key component of make ready speed. C&T are pleased to announce the addition of micro metric blocks for thin plate systems. We offer both operator and drive side, that fit all die cutting formats

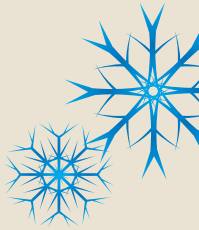


across the full range of carton die cutters including the following formats 76,102, 103, 104, 106, 1300, 142, 145 these blocks will fit any existing equipment. Available from stock for many machines.

Next year's must have accessories.....



The NEW 2023 Calendar - email sales@candtmatrix.co.uk to get hold of your copy



Christmas Competition Word Search



X M Z M V K Q E S A X H S T J S Y S U W I Z J B O
V C O Z I F M V Y V R X I R A M P F Q H N J X C H
U P B E N D I N G T O O L U K I T B E A C C U Q N
J N T L V N Y O Q Y V K X A D Z N R W S G C Y L R
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V Y U Y L N W Q Z E M A X R I T F G J X E U I Z R
R U O M O W I D J S I A U A D Z H U X I W L K P A
O E S M C D I A M O N D G R I N D I N G D I S C M
G K Q D K T E L E S C O P I C B A R C L A M P Z E
O U F R L R A B E Z A R X I W I C B O O S F M K T
R D R A K R W O Q F B T H E F N W U M D P S A U Q

Win a £100 M&S voucher

Find the hidden words and email becky.spencer@candtmatrix.co.uk or kirsten.bell@candtmatrix.co.uk to be entered into a prize draw to win £100 M&S voucher which will be posted to you in time for Christmas.

Entries must be received by Tuesday 13th December 2022

**Open to UK & Ireland customers only*

C&T Matrix will close on Thursday 22nd December 2022 and re-open Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – UK orders will need to be received by Monday 19th December 2022, to ensure delivery before Christmas! – Don't forget to add any extra stock to cover you over the festive season and all orders over £300.00 will qualify for a free Christmas gift. *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

Diamond grinding disc
Quick lock system
Clamping block
Anvil covers
Blanking frame
Cover plate

Telescopic bar clamp
Cylinder jacket
Stripping pins
Cutting plates
Chase clamps
Adhesive

Pneumatic stapler
Stripping frame
Bending tool
Pin holder
Bench press



FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT on orders of £300 and over

