

Czech company Soukup has developed a new CNC machining centre, named Crafter, for the production of windows that will be shown at W10 by Ian Brown of International Woodworking Machines Ltd. The W10 exhibit will be en-route to a new UK customer after the show and IWM has been appointed exclusive distributor in the UK and Ireland for this important new range.

IWM set to launch window crafter from the Czech Republic at W10

The Crafter machine exhibit for W10 features newly developed tooling for stiles and rails, including bevelling, and carries stacks of cutters that will bring more versatility for either frames or sash window production.

This new layout will be labelled Crafter in the UK marketplace, and features a new tooling system to accommodate a wide range of timber thicknesses and single or double tenons, traditional flush casements, storm-proof windows, doors and sliding sashes.

Crafter can be overseen by a single individual and will be available in the UK marketplace with an optional 12in touch-screen operating in the Windows CE environment. It is designed for medium-scale production applications with a capacity of around 10 to 15 single-leaf sash windows per shift.

The Czech parent company says Crafter has been designed for smaller workshops and is focused on bespoke window, door and conservatory production. A special moulding unit for the stile horns of heritage windows has been designed for and fitted to the W10 exhibit as part of the specification of the UK buyer.



The new Crafter window system by Czech company Soukup will be launched at W10 by new UK distributor IWM, part of RW Machines



Wizard 4L is an automatic machine that is fully PC controlled and designed for large-scale production of window frames; it was launched in 2007



Wizard-Drillex was designed for manufacturing knock-down window components in a flow line and was launched at Ligna in 2009



Crafter from Soukup revealing tooling, some developed for UK user Wood & Wisdom which will be taking delivery after the show

The new Crafter that will be shown at W10 is destined for Wood & Wisdom (Bespoke Joinery). Managing director, Adam Smith, states that his company specialises in commissioned bespoke joinery and says there is many years of experience, knowledge and expertise in carpentry and joinery at the Balcombe joinery shop in West Sussex.

"The majority of our work," says Adam, "is for heritage sites and conservation committees at country estates and is both public and trade. All of our projects are designed in close consultation with the client and are carried out by our very skilled team here with competence, efficiency and enthusiasm."

Soukup worked through the initial development phase of its window production technology in conjunction with Italian machinery makers from 1996 and in 2007 launched its own very flexible Wizard concept comprising two linked working elements.

Each of these, one tenoning and the other milling and profiling, is PC controlled and linked using operating software on a work-centre that has a stated output potential of between 30 and 40 single leaf sashes per shift and up to 70 window kits in component form.

Wizard is a flexible concept that is currently available in two working formats: Wizard 4L – an automatic machine that is fully PC controlled and designed for large-scale production of window frames; and Wizard 3S – a semi-automatic machine for hand-craft production in smaller joineries and workshops.

At Ligna in 2009, Soukup launched its new machining centre Wizard-Drillex, which has been designed for manufacturing of knock-down window compo-

ponents in a flow line environment. The line comprises three machines for tenoning, drilling and profiling, all controlled by a single operator who can oversee the entire machining process from the front of the machine.

This range of specialist machines from Soukup is compatible with a range of joinery software companies including, in the UK, JoinerySoft and each will control the component machines as a single working line or to operate each machine individually.

Capacity will depend on the complexity of the window components involved, of course, but is expected to be around 400 to 500 workpieces per shift making 50 to 60 individual windows; each will be fully machined with holes for hinges, olives and dowels.

Wizard and Crafter machines by Soukup are heavily built using ribbed steel for a compact but solid machine that is rigid and able to handle heavy loads and stresses. All working units move on top quality linear bearings and precision ball screws, and all are driven by brushless motors sharing a central lubricating system. The heavy construction principles make for machines that are stable, powerful, vibration-free and therefore reliable at all production levels from craftsman workshop to heavy industrial usage.

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Crafter set up for tenoning



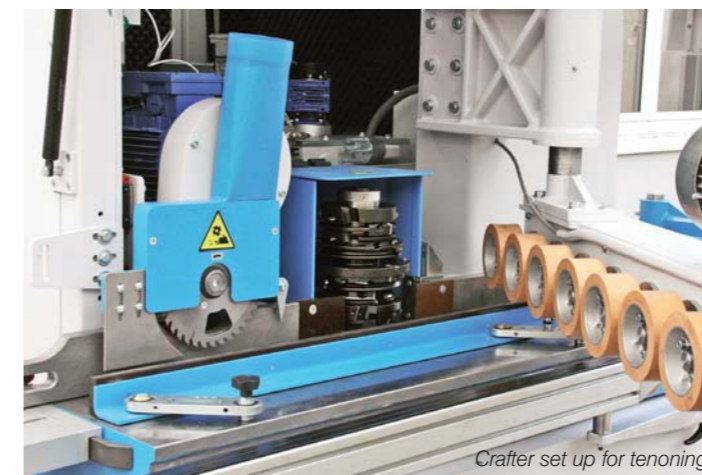
Simple profiles by Wizard ...



Changing tooling on Crafter – and the whole Wizard range – is easy



... and also complex ones!



Crafter set up for tenoning



Crafter, a new sensation in window manufacturing now available from International Woodworking Machines Ltd showing with RW Machines at W10 in 2010