

MSL supplies Ashcraft Furniture

Machine Sales Ltd ● Tel 0113 256 8883

Ashcraft Furniture at Toddington, near Cheltenham, makes beds and occasional furniture and 18 months ago, the company installed a Morbidelli Author 660 throughfeed point-to-point machine from UK distributor, Machine Sales, for drilling, routing and grooving in a single pass.

Among the benefits that works manager, Colin Cook, had been seeking was reliable technical back-up.

By drilling, routing and grooving panels point-to-point on a throughfeed system, he has increased his panel volume by around 75 per cent, he estimates.

'Matt Long at Machine Sales promised us that they would respond to technical support calls within 24 hours, which was a prospect I found most interesting,' says Mr Cook.

Although the company's original throughfeed drill was faster for drilling only operations, by getting drilling, routing and grooving all computer controlled or point-to-point operation in a single pass, Colin Cook has also eliminated the logistical headaches of moving drilled panels to other dedicated machines to achieve what the Morbidelli Author 660 does automatically in a single pass.

Drilling, routing and grooving is a specification common to many Ashcraft furniture bed panel components.

With the Morbidelli Author 660, as well as greatly reducing logistical problems on the shop floor, Colin Cook has virtually eliminated the hour long set up breaks that Ashcraft were increasingly seeking to change drilling patterns in order to stay abreast of larger numbers of diminishing batch sizes.

'The fact that the Machine Sales technical support promise holding good as it has, has encouraged us to return to Italy in November 2006 to see the lat-



Shown point-to-point drilling, routing and grooving narrow rails in a single pass is the Morbidelli Author 660 from Machine Sales at Ashcraft Furniture.

est technology on offer from Morbidelli. We were very impressed and we would look in the future to buy more when the need arises,' says Mr Cook.

Colin Cook and company founder at Ashcraft Furniture, Martin Bowell, first spotted the Morbidelli Author 660 package at Woodmex in 2004. At the W6 exhibition, the Ashcraft team went to the Hi-Tech Panels Division stand of SCM Group and saw the latest technology from Morbidelli there.

For a production team newly switched over to the benefits of multi-function point-to-point working, Morbidelli's latest Planet technology, which also introduces edge-banding for shaped components into the mix, has provided Colin Cook with all the pointers he needs for 2007, he says.

As a visit to the Ashcraft Furniture website shows, the bed range is nothing if not smart, trendy and eminently practical. All beds go out in flat pack form.



Since supplying the Morbidelli Author 660, Machine Sales has also supplied the Mahros Runner panel stacker on the end of the line at the Ashcraft Furniture factory.