

5000 good reasons

High-performance finger jointing line sets new standards

Whether it is KVH, glulam or CLT – high-performance finger jointing machines play a crucial role in every modern laminated timber plant. Gregor Ledinek knew this already 25 years ago and has launched several trend-setting machines on the market ever since, the most recent one having an output of up to 5,000 meters per hour.

Gregor Ledinek recognized the potential of modern glued timber constructions already a few decades ago. The mechanical engineering specialist concluded that there was a great need for customized system solutions and made a far-reaching decision: He wanted to become the market leader in glued timber machines.

For this purpose, Ledinek established an excellent engineering office with numerous experts, which he still manages personally to this day. One application engineer, for example, is responsible exclusively for the application technology and machine optimization of finger jointing machines and lines.

Up to 40,000 meters per shift

For Ledinek, two of the first big projects in the finger jointing segment were installations at Mayr-Melnhof in Gaishorn and Nordlam (now Hasslacher) in Magdeburg. Since then, Ledinek and his team have continuously further developed the finger jointing machines and lines. In recent years, one key figure has become particularly important: the output in meters. “For this reason, we renamed our entire range of finger jointing machines and now, their respective output in meters is visible right away,” Ledinek sales manager Robert Mlinaric explains, giving the Kontizink 5000 with an output of 5,000 meters per hour as an example. With the right quality of the wood and optimal dimensions, 40,000 meters per shift are said to be easily possible with

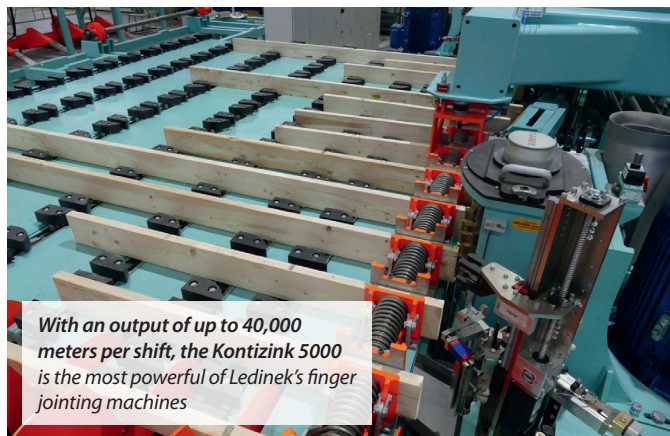
this machine. Thanks to its special structure, the machine can finger-joint a wide range of lengths.

Numerous new developments

In the finger jointing segment, Ledinek offers four groups of machines: the compact machines Eurozink 800, 1000 and 1500 for smaller production volumes, the Kontizink 2000 and 2500 with a medium output and the high-performance machines Kontizink 3000, 4000 and 5000. On the company website, Ledinek offers a calculation tool with which performance calculations can be made for the entire range of machines, thereby allowing customers to get a first impression of the right machine or line. “We deliberately kept the results rather conservative because we want to give our customers realistic information right from the start,” Mlinaric emphasizes.

In the past few years, Ledinek focused on further developing the Kontizink machines in particular. The 3000, 4000 and 5000 models were equipped with a new infeed chain, an improved outfeed rotor and additional chain arms for input material of up to 5.5 meters in length. Another new feature is a flying cross-cut saw for up to 22 cuts per minute, with a newly developed length sensor which ensures the required precision. For the 5000 model, Ledinek implemented a threading unit from the conveyor to the machine. “Overhead chains, which are centered by a motor, thread even misaligned boards gently and align them perfectly,” Mlinaric says regarding the advantages. Furthermore, Ledinek replaced the materials of the sliding surfaces with improved bronze alloys on all machines, which are also lubricated even better than before. The emitted heat is dissipated by powerful cooling systems.

“The future certainly lies in high-performance machines for CLT production. More narrow widths and the widespread use of 20- or 30-mm laminations require high throughput rates in order to achieve the necessary cubic meters,” Mlinaric says, giving a sneak peek at the company’s current development work. The numerous machines and lines which are in use around the world are proof that Ledinek made the right decision more than 25 years ago. So far, the Slovenian company has delivered over 40 finger jointing machines and lines – and eleven more are in the order book. //



With an output of up to 40,000 meters per shift, the Kontizink 5000 is the most powerful of Ledinek's finger jointing machines



Over the past 25 years, Ledinek has continuously further developed the finger jointing technology