

WOODSHOP NEWS

November 2008

The News Magazine For Professional Woodworkers

www.woodshopnews.com

Taking the 'hard' out of hardware

The latest draw slides, hinges and more shown at IWF 2008

CNC: Is it right for your shop?

What to consider before buying; tips from a savvy shop owner

Students shine at IWF 2008

Design Emphasis finalists show furniture that got them to Atlanta

NEW TOOLS



- ▶ ShopBot Buddy
- ▶ Polhemus FastSCAN
- ▶ Grizzly jointer/planer
- ▶ JET drum sander

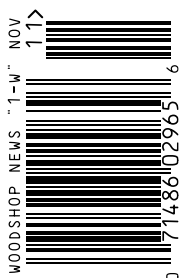
\$3.95 (Canada, \$5.95)



JOHN STEADY

According to plan

Rob Levy (left), with his father, Mike, has the cabinet shop he always dreamed of. Now it's a matter of taking Hudson River Woodworks of Garnerville, N.Y., to the next level in the high-end residential market.



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The ShopBot Buddy CNC features a new rail system that extends up to 12', allowing for large work pieces to be passed through the machine.



ShopBot adds "Buddy" to compact CNC line

New rail system accommodates larger sheet goods; cutting surface can be extended up to 12' long

By Jennifer Hicks STAFF WRITER

ShopBot recently launched its newly designed compact and mobile CNC,

the Buddy, which can handle larger pieces of sheet goods than its predecessor, the ShopBot BenchTop. The Buddy models come in either 32 or 48 PRSalpha or PRSstandard versions, depending on motor and drive system.

The PRS stands for Personal Robotic System, designed for industrial, commercial or residential applications in wood, acrylic and non-ferrous metals. These smaller PRS CNCs incorporate many of the same features as ShopBot's full-size systems, yet weigh less than 600 lbs. and occupy less than 22-sq.-ft. of floor space.

The PRSalpha provides the speed and accuracy necessary for precise cutting and milling applications and detailed 3D carving, while the PRSstandard offers an affordable opportunity for the hobbyist and serious do-it-yourselfer to incorporate the advantages of CNC into home-improvement projects, according to ShopBot.

Gordon Bergfors, the company's vice president of development, says the major highlight of the Buddy is its innovative PowerStick system of rack-style gear and its extruded aluminum rail system from Bishop-Wisecarver. The PowerStick is available in four sizes to extend Buddy's cutting surface to 2, 4, 8 or 12' long.

"The previous generation [BenchTop] had fixed rails and the wheels were on a carriage that moved back and forth," says Bergfors. "We've inverted that, so now the wheels are on the fixed part of the tool and the rails move back and forth with the material, allowing us to make the travel range for the work pieces virtually any length that we want that's practical for the machine."

Ideal applications for the Buddy include any type of cutting operations, anywhere from small-piece parts type of operations, carvings and signs, to stair stringers.

Bergfors says that for the custom woodworker, the major advantage of the tool is flexibility, being able to adapt the machine for particular products and use space more efficiently. For larger companies, it allows for a machine that fits into a lean manufacturing work cell.

"For a small shop that does lots of one-offs, or small runs of certain parts, they could set up the PowerStick with a fixture for those parts, take it off when they're done with that run, put another [PowerStick] on that might be configured for something else, and minimize setup time."

The PRSstandard 32 — featuring a *continued on facing page*



- 4 models available
- Starting around \$3,000.00
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Bessey's K Body REVO is bigger, stronger

Clamp comes with more comfortable grip handle, produces more force with less effort and also converts to a spreader

By Jennifer Hicks
STAFF WRITER

Bessey Tools introduced its new K Body Revo at IWF 2008, a new and improved version of the company's original K Body woodworking clamp. The Revo offers a 30 percent increase in clamping surface, up to 1,500 lbs. of clamping force, a large comfort grip handle, and quickly converts to a spreader, according to the clamp maker.

Bessey's Lisa Johnson says the larger grip handle offers greater comfort and allows for maximum clamping force with less effort.

She discussed other features as well.

"The glue-resistant pressure caps are made from soft non-marring plastic

and help to protect the K Body jaws from new hi-tech glues. These inexpensive replaceable glue-resistant pressure caps can be easily replaced when needed," she says.

"Rail protection pieces are incorporated in the new Revo to raise the work piece, and are ideally placed under the

glue joint to catch excess glue. This helps to reduce glue build-up on the rail. The clamp also features an end rail clip that can be removed so that the sliding jaw can be reversed, changing the action of the tool from clamping to spreading."

The clamp is suited for accurate adjustment of corners and offset edges

with the new KR-AS adapter accessory.

There are eight different lengths of the REVO, from 12" to 98", and prices range from \$36 to \$72, depending on the size.

Contact: Bessey Tools, P.O. Box 160, Leroy, NY 14482. Tel: 800-828-1004. www.besseytools.com



The K Body Revo, from Bessey Tools, offers up to 1,500 lbs. of clamping force, according to the company.



SHOPBOT from previous page

nominal cutting area of 24" x 32" x 5" and total tool movement area of 25" x 33" x 7" — sells for \$4,995. The PRSalpha 32, which offers increased speed for some operations as well as a feedback loop for positioning, is priced at \$8,445.

The PRSstandard 48 — with a 24" x 48" x 5" nominal cutting area and 25" x 49" x 7" total tool movement area — sells for \$6,795. The PRSalpha 48 goes for \$10,245.

All Buddies are sold with a "Z-Zeroing" plate for accurate tool position setup, dust skirt to control and allow removal of waste, and ShopBot's CNC control software and PartWorks design software.

Contact: ShopBot Tools Inc., 3333 Industrial Dr., Durham, NC 27704. Tel: 888-680-4466. www.shopbottools.com

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