

In with the new at the 2007 AWFS Fair

Once again the Fair is the place to find new tools, products and hardware

Manufacturers unveiled an array of new woodworking and CNC machines at the 2007 AWFS Fair in Las Vegas. Laguna's custom-made CNC machines for the small to large production shops were one surprise; Steel City Tool Works' granite-top 10" hybrid saw was another hit. Several manufacturers introduced table saws with riving knives for the first time.

Grizzly Industrial exhibited 18 new or updated machines including four jointers — three parallelogram bed jointers and a 6" model with spiral cutterheads; a 12" jointer/planer, two table saws with riving knives, four band saws, a shaper, a line-boring machine and two cyclone dust collectors.

Woodstock International, manufacturer of the Shop Fox brand, released 13 new machines that included a 12" table saw with riving knife, 15-hp straightline rip saw, dust collectors, and a jointer, planer and shaper.

Laguna introduced several other machines including the Italian-made Bandit 4/8 gluepot edgebander, a heavy-weight panel saw, and its Platinum series table saw.

Steel City's 10" granite-top hybrid saw will be available in December. "The granite top is stable and very, very flat," said Scott Box, the company's general manager and vice president. "Obviously it will never rust or corrode. It's harder than stainless steel."

A three-dog night

The most eventful of all product debuts was a private press event sponsored by Porter-Cable/Delta. Held at The Joint concert venue at the Hard Rock Hotel, surprise band Three Dog Night played over a dozen of their hits that made them famous in the '70s, including "An Old Fashioned Love Song" and "Joy to the World." The concert preceded the launching of the company's new and updated tools.

The "woodworking revolution" showcase included an upgraded Porter-Cable 2-1/4-hp 890 series router with enhanced plunge base, as well as a new Porter-Cable 17-gallon vertical portable air compressor.

Attendees were informed that all Porter-Cable tools will now have a silver metallic look to convey the precise attributes of the brand, along with rich, dark gray and black sections to represent the rugged, traditional standards. Delta tools will have a corresponding metallic silver look.



Komo captured the attention of AWFS fair attendees with this CNC demonstration.

"All of our changes were made with the professional woodworkers in mind, to reflect the quality, precision and durability that they have come to expect from Porter-Cable and Delta machinery," said Chuck Hardin, vice president of marketing for the company. "This historic brand revolution assists our customers, distributors and retail partners by making our tools stand out in woodshops, stores, catalogs and on the Web with a distinctive look that matches the superior performance of Porter-Cable and Delta tools."

Benchtop CNC

ShopBot Tools introduced a benchtop CNC machine, suitable for a small shop or job site. It's a scaled-down version of the company's Personal Robotic System line, launched in January, weighing less than 300 lbs. and taking up about 16 sq. ft. of floor space. The base models offer a 32" X-axis and 24" Y-axis travel, while a PowerStick attachment will lengthen the Y-axis to cut stair treads, for example.

Powermatic has added a workbench table extension to its popular PM2000 table saw and helical cutterheads to its 6" and 8" jointers, as well as its new 22" planer.

(Video tours of the ShopBot and Powermatic machines are available online at www.woodshopnews.com)

Freud introduced a 12"

blade for miter and table saws, router bit sets for making French doors, crown molding and beadboard, a Quadra-Cut router bit that features four cutting edges, and a 2-1/4 hp fixed and plunge base router kit.

General International's new offerings included a 25" double drum sander, 14" x 32" wood lathe with a pivoting headstock, 10" scoring saw with a sliding table, 13" spindle borer, 17" wood/metal band saw, 30" scroll saw, and steel fire protection cages for dust collectors which are open at the top for easy hose access.

Rikon unveiled two 10" table saws — available with a cast wing or a sliding table — and an 8" jointer, while Jet's booth featured a new 10" entry-level table saw and a 12" saw with a left-tilting arbor.

SuperMax Tools expanded its line of SuperBrush profile and contour sanders. Machines had been available in 24", 36" and 49" sanding widths, and a 13" design was introduced at AWFS.

JDS Tools has added a 3-hp single-stage dust collector, called the Dust Force. The company also introduced an automated blast gate system with a central control box. Meanwhile, Oneida Air Systems unveiled a 10-hp direct drive dust collector.

Festool had a busy booth with its Domino joiner, introduced in late 2006, as the star attraction. The company introduced new accessories for the tool, including Sipo hardwood tenons for outdoor applications.

3M's booth featured its Scotch-Weld Polyurethane Reactive Adhesive Systems and Instant Wood Adhesives, which will have a lot of uses in the shop.

Makita Power Tools featured its new Lithium-ion cordless products at the show, including two jigsaws, the 4350FCT and the 4351FCT with barrel grip, and finishing sander.

Software

20 20 Technologies, Planit Solutions, EnRoute, MasterCam, CabinetPro, CIM-Tech and Komo unveiled new versions of their CAD/CAM software — look for

AWFS Sequoia Award winners

Product Innovation

Hardware

Hafele America Co. for Arena Champagne Collection

Power Tools

Professional Tool Mfg. for Worksharp Tool Sharpener

General

Appolo Sprayers for The Atomizer
Louis and Co. for Wurth Fill and Finish

Machinery Under \$50,000

Travaini Pumps USA Inc. for Evo Dynaseal System

Product Innovation & Productivity

Components

Hardwoods Specialty Products for Echo Wood

Tooling

Penntek Tools for Versaclamp

Software

KCDw Software for Door Ordering System

Machinery Over \$50,000

Biesse America for Selco Twin Pusher

Productivity

Power Tools

Onsrud Cutter LLP for Tuff Core Compression

Machinery Under \$50,000

TigerStop LLC for Tigersaw

Ergonomics/Safety

LRH Enterprises Inc. for Magic Molder

Environmental Achievement

Delle Vedove USA Inc. for CVX/UV-X

more coverage in upcoming issues.

KCDw earned an AWFS Sequoia Award for its Door Ordering System, which allows users to order doors directly within the software.

TigerStop introduced its Clipboard with Visual Optimizer software that works on a touch screen in connection to a TigerStop and replaces a physical clipboard holding parts lists. Clipboard allows the user to view and manage parts lists, sort by fields, view progress and create keys for frequent tasks, as well as view and manipulate optimizing of material.

Hardware

A multitude of hardware companies exhibited their latest products and discussed current trends in functional and decorative items. For example, Knape & Vogt introduced new concealed drawer slides which mount below cabinet drawers, as well as soft-close hinges for cabinetry — both of which are becoming industry standards with hardware manufacturers.

Architectural hardware manufacturer Hickory Hardware reported on hot design trends, such as extra-long handles on cabinet doors, often called appliance pulls because they resemble refrigerator door handles.

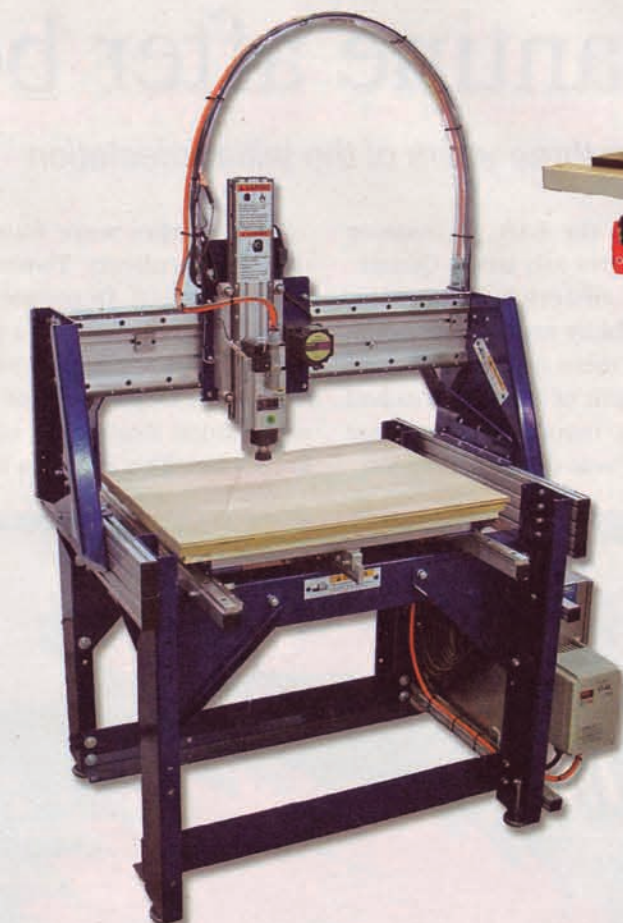
Other products

Representatives from Schelling America Inc. and IMA America Corp. announced their new partnership at the show, saying their alliance was designed to give customers and business partners the benefit of working with one source to serve their panel saw, edgbander and CNC machining center needs. The two companies exhibited their products for the first time together.

Black Bros. Co. introduced the Panel Express Plus, a heat-assisted rotary laminator, designed to deliver high-pressure laminate panels to customers or to other operations in your company within minutes of the demand.

The wood scene

An increase in green products was visible throughout the Fair. Certified wood products are no longer limited to lumber. Forest Stewardship Council and/or



The benchtop CNC from ShopBot Tools, left, and Steel City's granite-top 10" hybrid saw.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification could also be found at numerous veneer suppliers and engineered wood dealers.

Columbia Forest Products of Portland, Ore., a manufacturer of PureBond urea formaldehyde-free plywood and particleboard, announced it had been appointed by adhesive producer Hercules Inc. to provide exclusive sales and service of its formaldehyde-free adhesive technologies to the composite wood panel industry. Columbia will be selling these products through its newly formed technology marketing division.

"We have learned a great deal about integrating these soy-based adhesives into composite panel manufacturing," said Steve Pung, Columbia's vice president of technology. "We look forward to sharing this

knowledge and experience as we bring the technology to the rest of the composite panel industry."

Timber Products Company used the Las Vegas show to introduce its GreenT line of hardwood plywood with a special no-added-urea formaldehyde resin and several core options produced with recycled wood fibers.

Kerkfore Co., a manufacturer of patented bendable substrates and panel products, exhibited an increased inventory of its materials used primarily for radius work.

As in past years, the majority of hardwood companies exhibiting at AWFS were from the western part of the country. While most dealers presented small samples of their products, others showcased large batches of their premier hardwoods, both domestic and exotics. There was also a considerable amount of flooring companies at this year's Las Vegas show.

Large veneer companies such as Certainly Wood, Interwood Forest Products, GL Veneer, Herzog Veneers and others were widely represented, displaying some of the finest in exotic veneers. Burls appeared to be a popular choice for exhibitors.

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