



WoodNews

Feature



CNC Opens up New Vistas for Small Carpenters

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In most modern carpentries, the CNC workcenter plays a very important role when it comes to improving productivity and quality. While executing orders, large or small, a CNC machine ensures that product quality is met as per customer expectation, that the correct number of parts is produced and that the supply chain is working smoothly.



Often, there is a misconception that CNC is only for 'large' companies with 'huge' production volumes and 'mega' sized batches. Yes, in such a situation CNC is the only option. However, even for small companies, which need flexibility in production, a CNC machine opens up whole new vistas.

In the next few paragraphs, I will describe some of the common applications best suited to CNC.

Routing

This could be engraving (for example for a membrane pressed shutters), milling (for cutting out parts from a larger panel) or formatting (for example removing 1 mm material from a panel). A good example is seen in picture A where a company logo is milled out using a special template.



Drilling

Accurately drilled holes are vital for 'flush' cabinets. A CNC machine allows you to achieve accuracy levels of up to 0.1 mm. Another way of enhancing the accuracy is to 'format' the panels prior to drilling. Since the formatting and drilling are done in one pass the accuracy levels achieved are much higher.



Door Production

Modern construction techniques have evolved and end users have much higher expectations. Doors are expected to be sound proof, should not expand during monsoons, should be lighter AND stronger and of course should look good. Also for a builder, it's important that the doors should be fitted much faster. Conventional Flush Doors are definitely out. Rebate doors with appropriate door frames are essential to compete in today's world. CNC can speed up door and door frame production and also achieve a very high level of accuracy, critical for such applications. Picture C shows you the use of the mortising aggregate for locks.

Windows

In a tropical country like India, it's important to keep the heat 'out' of the home / office. Bad quality windows help in increasing the load on air-conditioning and contribute to global warming. Wood is



the only renewable construction material which can be used safely even in projects requiring LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) PLATINUM rating. Picture E shows window profiling over an arch.

Arches

Working on complicated shapes, like arches, is made easier on the CNC.



Architectural Millwork

When your imagination runs riot, a CNC can help give shapes to your ideas. Whether its signage's, or POS furniture and fixture, or one of a kind jobs, the CNC is always there for you. Picture F2 is an excellent example for architectural milling.

Picture 'CNC 35' shows a few other examples of the capabilities of the CNC work centre.



Finding the Right Machine

For a customer it's important to identify her field of opportunity prior to making an investment. These could be immediate opportunities or opportunities in the near future. A fatal mistake could be to buy a machine which does 'everything', most of which might not be needed by the customer. Another, equally fatal mistake is to not look at various options / possibilities and invest in a cheap machine. By severely restricting applications / options, the customer ties her hand and may not be able to offer good solutions to her customers.

