



Novare's Julie Grgicevich's designed showroom and Manufacturing Manager Alex Rau with the company's new SCM Pratika.

SCM - excels in cutting, edging and moulding

Cutting and edging panel and shaping solid timber are central to the efficient operation of most kitchen manufacturers and fit out specialists. We spoke to three manufacturing business in the Auckland and Northland area who all purchased very similar SCM machinery and discussed their experience with the SCM brand and there New Zealand agents Machines R Us.

Novare Kitchens

Auckland kitchen designer Julie Grgicevich and commercial fitout specialist Darren Cook joined forces in the middle of last year to set up Novare Kitchens Ltd to provide the manufacturing arm for their high end kitchens and fitouts.

Among the first issues faced was the selection of the machinery required for the business. Initially they looked at a second hand set up but quickly decided against that as they weren't confident any cost savings would outweigh the uncertainty in the service and maintenance side of such an arrangement.

The eventually decided to purchase SCM a decision which was influenced by several factors, says Darren Cook. "Positive discussion with colleagues in the industry with similar machining requirements, compatibility with the existing design software we were using and very importantly service and spare parts availability. Following on from this and after viewing a number of possibilities in action at various shows and showrooms we went with a Pratika CNC machining center, Olympic K 400 edgebander and SCM panel saw from Italian brand SCM."

"SCM's NZ agent Machines R Us were pivotal in this decision," says Darren, "They offered a good deal and they are just down the road providing very close service and parts



The SCM Olympic features a very quick tape change.

support. We also established an instant rapport with owner John Fleet who really went the extra mile, providing good advice on specific requirements across the machines as well as advising on factory layout.

Novare's experienced CNC operator and main man on the factory floor, Alex Rau assisted in and was very pleased with the purchase decisions. "The Pratika is very easy to use, great for our panel cutting requirements and in conjunction with Microvellum software provides us with excellent links from design to production. The SCM Olympic K 400 edgebander provides quality edging and has a very quick tape change saving significant set up time and the panel saw is great for

the smaller jobs that we don't need to run on the CNC such as toe kicks and kitchen rails. The three machines provide us with a comprehensive cutting and edging set up with good time management options and make my life a lot easier. On the occasion we have needed support Machines R Us have been here within the day and their online remote access has been very good when a technician has not been immediately available.

Fifteen months on from purchase Darren Cook is very happy with their purchase and the support from Machines R Us. "The SCM machines are working well for us and John Fleet has been great throughout the experience. I would recommend the brand and John and his company all day long."



Alex Bowler finds the SCM Pratika excellent for the solid timber work they do.

Cab Workshop Ltd

Alex Bowler purchased an SCM Pratika CNC machining center and SCM panel saw in early 2016 when he set up a new factory in West Auckland with partner Stu [...]. The company focus on custom furniture and fitouts - specialised, unusual and highly spec'd work

Alex has an engineering design background and wide experience in CNC machinery, having even built a small CNC router himself, so he knew what he wanted and what he didn't want and was able to compare current requirement with previous use when selecting his machinery.

"For us much of it was about what you pay, for what you get," says Alex, "and the SCM package was a lot better when considering the specifications of the machine versus the cost. We do a lot of specialised work, shaping solid timber, creating curves with often complex jointing and needed a CNC with specifications capable of doing that within the budget of a new business."

"With the Pratika I liked the spindle drill bank, it is designed for drill bits and takes the load off the spindle - well designed for the workload we put on it. The unloading set up was also very important to me. As the timber comes off the machine it vacuums the board from above and below the piece being worked, before it leaves the work area, keeping the factory clear of dust and particulate."

"I also liked the enclosed box nature of the machine. Great for safety but it also forces you to think about the whole process before you start, do you have it set right when you push the button, once it is running it is running and some of our jobs can run for hours at a time."

"The Pratika was installed and commissioned very quickly, we virtually plugged it in and began to use it. It has continued to run well and there have been no mechanical problems with it. The panel saw has been much the same it is in constant use largely for preparing jigs and ripping material for the solid timber tables and seating we do. It has an extremely smooth table action and cuts really well.

Both purchases have worked well for us - no problems, and I have found Machines R Us very honest and supportive in the dealings we have had.



Some jobs can run for hours on the Pratika.

Guyco Kitchens

Guyco Kitchens and Joinery Ltd are a well established Whangarei firm manufacturing across the residential, commercial, and timber joinery sectors. Until recently their panel cutting had been primarily done on a beamsaw but in the middle of this year that changed with the purchase of an SCM Pratika CNC machine and SCM panel saw from Machines R Us.

Managing Director David Brinn says the shift was prompted by an ageing beamsaw which was becoming difficult to service and the need to stay abreast of new technology. The decision to go the SCM way was down to the fact of the SCM brand reputation and that he liked the background of Machines R Us as a machinery service company and the good reports he received on owner John Fleet from others in the industry.

"We largely use the Pratika for cutting panel for kitchens, it is working great, doing all we expected," says David. "The purchase and install process was very seamless and we were punching out kitchens the next day. We had pre-done the software side which made things easier, and the technician from Machines R Us, who had been trained on the machines in Italy, was very sharp. Our young operator took to it easily. In fact it was unbelievable how easily he picked it up. It actually operates like a 3d printer which he had used in school - he understood it and just started using it."

"We have occasionally needed assistance from Machines R Us since, and they have been on call anytime of the day, the 180 odd kilometers in distance from Auckland hasn't seemed to be an issue."

"In the SCM panel saw we wanted a good finishing saw capable of cutting the 3600 sheets we use in some of the special work we do. With its over-size table the saw provide these options. We initially purchased it with electronic stops but once we had it in the shop we decided we preferred mechanical stops - it is a sign of Machines R Us attention to service that they converted it straight away - no problems."

"The benefits to the business through the purchase of these machines have been significant. As well as improved and more efficient panel processing we have ensured the business stays current with developing technology in the industry."