

LINEAR DIGITAL MEASUREMENT SOLUTIONS

Primewood


PrimeWood, Wahpeton, North Dakota is a division of Woodcraft Industries who produces a broad line of some of the finest hardwood and laminated componentry in the industry. Woodcraft opened their doors in 1945 in St. Cloud, MN as a small cabinet and fixture shop. In the years that followed, up to today, Woodcraft has grown to include seven facilities and is one of the nation's leading manufacturers of volume hardwood and laminated components with a strong commitment to meeting the customer's exact specifications.

The PrimeWood division specializes in engineered component parts laminated with veneer, vinyl or paper. "We have three Divisions within PrimeWood," explained Alan Torrance, quality assurance manager. "On the Profile Wrapping side, we have door stops, door jambs, window extension jambs, door components and specialty products for the OEM market. We also have our Veneered Raised Panels going into the kitchen and bath industry, which also include doors and furniture component parts. And thirdly, we have our Rigid Thermo Foil product used in traditional kitchen and bath applications as well as within the industrial markets for desk tops, office furniture and other commercial products."

Manufacturing Problem/Solution

For many years, PrimeWood had various levels of quality control in their plant but the need for continuous improvement and tighter specifications was driven by their customers. Torrance explained, "In the industry it really comes down to competitors having the same products and the same service, the only differentiation between them is who has the better quality." Measurements in the production process with tape measures wasn't going to cut it anymore. That's when PrimeWood turned to Accurate

Continued



Various product measurements are made on the ProTable

Continued

Technology and the ProScale digital measuring units. "When I came here a few years ago, they were using 24" and 40" calipers that were being dropped and damaged all of the time," stated Tom Erhart, quality engineer for PrimeWood. "From that point we turned to ProScale and retrofitted those devices onto calipers for more precise measurement."

According to Erhart, they also used the ProScale linear measurement units on the router and the moulder and several other areas throughout the shop to give them the precise measurements they needed. "We also required a tight range of measurements on certain other manufactured products so we bought several ProTables from Accurate Technology," explained Torrance. "What it comes down to are the critical dimensions and what the customer requirements are. It's important to us to hit those measurements every time." The ProTable is a self contained, single axis measuring table and or QC station with SPC output.

Results

Erhart explains, "Our mission is 'quality is no mistake'. Through quality we're able to reduce scrap which in turn puts our manufacturing in a better position and keeps our costs down."

"We've purchased the same Accurate Technology equipment for all seven locations within Woodcraft Industries"
Tom Erhart



ProTable integrated into a custom fixture by PrimeWood

The Quality Assurance Department is made up of Alan Torrance, Tom Erhart and Lenn Sandahl. Quality control centers are set up throughout the plant in four respective areas with each area having its own quality tasks. The requirements are posted in each center. "Those centers include Accurate Technology ProTables and ProScales, plus on-line prints, each customized specifically for that center," described Torrance.

PrimeWood's quality program and each product from Accurate, has paid off so well that they have been able to invest in more of Accurate Technology's linear digital measuring products. "Not only have we bought more equipment for our process, we've purchased the same Accurate Technology equipment for all seven locations within Woodcraft Industries," stated Erhart. "Most companies look at investing in more production equipment to produce more product. But if you invest in measuring quality, you'll produce less scrap and produce more at less cost."



Torrance utilizes available SPC software from Accurate

"We bought several ProTables from Accurate Technology",
Alan Torrance

