



Front view of the Mistral with access door closed. Control panel with display screen is seen on the side of the machine.

## Drum milling comes of age

*The evolution of the humble wooden dry drum gently tumbling leather to a sophisticated piece of machinery, using computer programming and control to produce determined leather characteristics, is yet another example of how far the development of tannery equipment engineering is taking the industry.*

The stainless steel, digitally controlled milling drum built at the factory of internationally recognised drum specialist Vallerio International, marketed as the Mistral, incorporates functions offering precisely determined performance elements previously not achievable. These include the possibility of obtaining an accurate level of humidification, enhanced leather softening, rapid and effective de-dusting as well as even and thorough distribution of chemicals injected into the machine. Further, random patterns and characteristics meeting fashion demands are possible by reversible and variable speed milling drum rotation. The diffusion of modifier chemicals introduced into the recirculating airflow via atomisers can be varied to obtain irregular patterns on the leather if required. Good fixation of chemicals is aided by the fast drying or humidification inherent in the design of the machine. Antique, creased and stained vintage effects which otherwise need to be produced by rollcoating are obtainable in the Mistral machine.



Access door open showing internal rotating drum configuration with one of its shelves.

Up to date development of mechanical and electrical equipment includes frequency inverter controlled variable speed milling drum drive, a by-pass system to govern airflow in either closed or open circuit, atomised chemicals injection, atomised water spray for re-humidification and new very fine dust filtration. The Mistral is available in two capacities; the smaller 2500 model is equipped with an

inner rotating drum measuring 1.80m diameter by 1.00m and can handle up to 200 kg dry weight in hides or skins. The larger 8.400 model has a drum 2.50m diameter by 1.70m wide.

The automated control panel can also be operated manually. LC display of functions selected is integral with the panel. ☉

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