



Tannery machinery design takes advantage of engineering developments

World Leather reviews recently redesigned machines in the Bergi range.



Bergi light buffer Innova.

Arzignano based Bergi this September celebrated 50 years of designing and building buffing, dedusting, rotary ironing/embossing, coating and polishing machinery for the leather industry. More recently Bergi, under the name, Bertech, now also produces automatic stackers and leather bundling equipment. The in-house technical department designs and prototypes all products using 3D software. Machine component drawings are transferred electronically to a production unit and the individual components then are transferred to the main Arzignano factory for final assembly of the machines. Electrical control panels, wiring as well as software for PLC equipped machines are also developed by technical staff.

The September celebration also saw the founder and president of the company, Giovanni Bergozza, handing the reigns to son Mauro Bergozza and Mauro's brothers Alberto and Frederico as vice presidents.

Foremost is the newly developed light and delicate leathers buffing machine known as the Innova. Amongst special new features is a smaller diameter of buffing and holding roller as this can be an advantage when working light leather by reducing the strength of the buffing action. Further, the machine frame has been redesigned to reduce the distance the leather has to travel to reach the transport conveyor which avoids the leathers overlapping upon outfeed. This makes it possible to work in continuous throughfeed to the dedusting machine thereby eliminating the need for a manual transfer. A new system incorporates electrical control of buffing thickness by means of a digital display in front of the operator who then can regulate buffing action with the use of two push buttons. Using the same

system the position of the holding blade and brush beneath the buffing roller is automatically adjusted. As the rubber roller wears out holding blade and brush adjust the position automatically.

Optionally the machine can be equipped with such features as variable buffing cylinder speed settings, buffing cylinder water cooling and a motorised holding cylinder amongst others.

The Bertech Armless Stacker is a new machine developed to meet the requirements of finishing plants where both full hides and sides are handled. This stacker has no arms as it has two movable self-standing conveyors which can also work as a single one. Specific software allows the conveyors to move either independently or in precisely paired and synchronised mode. The Armless has a conveyor ramp suitable for all types of leather which eliminates rolling or sliding of the product. A patented device preventing the lifting group from dropping protects operators as well as the machine itself. Another patented device keeps distance between the movable conveyor and the leather stack thus eliminating a gap which may cause overlap of the final part of the leathers.

From a construction point of view, direct drive electric motors, maintenance free self-lubricating bearings and special material conveyor guides which reduce friction and noise are fitted. Floor rails allowing quick and easy repositioning of the stacker are provided. A touch screen with clear intuitive descriptions guide operators in programming the working program as well as the detection of possible anomalies.

A part of the Bertech/Bergi product range are two more machines with new features. One is the in the Bertech family, an



updated version of the traditional Compact stacker. This has developed from the simple and reliable machine built around a sturdy and compact framework to the ideal tool to handle fast operations for wet blue, crust and finished leathers to be stacked on tables, horses or pallets. The system is flexible and can also palletise wet blue leathers after throughfeed samm/setting, padding, buffing and dedusting lines and after spraying firm leather. Firm leather after throughfeed ironing or embossing can be placed on tables or horses, Bergi indicates. Five versions of the Compact are available: extra short, short, medium, long and extra long length. A number of extractor system devices are also optionally available.

The other notable machine is the Bergi Starlux highly flexible ironing and embossing roller machine now produced in three versions. The "N" type has a high roller pressure as needed for "sandblasting" or for precise embossing and high definition engraving. Then the "S" type is the system producing a required gloss by contact only and also by a pressure control device consisting of a



Berteck "Armless stacker".

combination of a PLC controlled mechanical/hydraulic system; working thickness and spacing between operation cylinder and felt is regulated in this way. The third is the "V" type (vario) when there is a need for extended contact time, with or without pressure and filming the finish without compacting the leather.

A particular characteristic of the Starlux machine is its roller changing

arrangement. A roller changing device in place of the classic gantry is fitted which can change a roller automatically in less than 30 seconds. Up to three rollers can be stored, anyone may be preheated by one of the three heat producing unit parts of the machine, therefore being immediately ready to put into operation and thus restarting the machine without significant loss of time. ☺

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