

Arzignano — an area of modern tannery machinery development



Although Italy's Vicenza Province in the 1960s was already well developed in leather making, mainly so in Arzignano and the surrounding area, design and manufacturing of skin processing and leather making machinery was then in its infancy. At the time local people already familiar with the leather industry began to set up companies concentrating on the leather machinery sector. Typically, Arzignano's Bergozza family started the Bergi company working in this field, designing and building one of the first swing arm padding machines. In 1965 there followed a growing range of leather buffers and, by 1970, roller type ironing/embossing machines. With ongoing development since 1980, Bergi produced many more machines which amongst others are in the fields of samm-setting, roll coating, dedusting and polishing. A step into automation figured with bundles-preparing machinery as well as leather stackers together with a variety of accessories.

Arzignano well and truly deserves to be considered as one of the four major leather industry clusters in Italy – combining the manufacture of leather making and the building and provision of tannery machinery.

The details of several new or updated Bergi machines are illustrated here.

Innova - a through feed buffer newly developed for light and delicate leathers

The photo at the top of the page shows an Innova on the Bergi factory shop floor ready for final inspection prior to shipping.

Innova's international symbols control panel, amongst others, holds buttons which can govern a blade timer, variable buffing roller speed and buffing increase. The machine produces fine and precision cutting of the fibres with reduced distance between the cutting point. An exit conveyor smooths the leather passage and decreases leather tensioning compared with other buffers. Bergi reports that the features of the Innova are of specific benefit when buffing suede splits, snuffing and nubuck finishing. Further, the

manually operated buffing increase device can increase the buffing action on specific areas of the leather.

The main features are:

- Buffer roller cooling systems (reduces vibrations that create chatter or machining vibration marks)
- Variable speed buffing roller
- Pneumatic holding blade (standard manual or optional by photocell control to buff the leather right up to the final edge)
- Automatic thickness adjustment with digital display (standard on 1200/1500mm machine, optional on the larger ones)
- Ionising bar to reduce electrostatic charges
- PCL and Touch Screen for automation of working functions. Working widths available are 1200, 1500, 1800 and 2100mm.

Leather straightening bar

An optional specially developed leather take off device readily coupled to the buffer, smoothing the leather.





Starlux - a versatile throughfeed ironing and embossing machine

This machine has been specifically designed for maximum ironing pressure and precise hair cell embossing. Generally high definition in embossing is obtained. The "S" variant of this model has a thickness control device which can adjust the working thickness and spacing between the cylinder and the felt. Grain ironing, without pressure, by contact only becomes possible, necessary for some finishes. A "V" variant provides long contact without pressure thus avoiding compacting the leathers.

The Starlux has a revolver type roller changing system carrying out the change in under 30 seconds. Each roller can be heated to a desired temperature. Up to three rollers can be mounted.

Working widths of the Starlux range from 1800mm through 2200, 2600, 3200 up to 3400mm.



Fold and Load - a step into automation

The Fold and Load bundles preparing machine is normally placed below a leather stacker such as a Bertech (Bergi) stacking machine. The Fold and Load unit can be set to fold the leathers 2, 4 or 8 times after which they are automatically slid on to pallets. Pallets are positioned on to a lifting platform side by side. When the platform is full it will go down, creating space for the following load. One operator only is required to fold bundle edges and attach any necessary identification.

A rotating carousel of 90 degree rotation of the Fold and Load axes can be set thus making it possible to fold belly to belly or head to tail. Another feature is the possibility to fold grain up or grain down as may be required through synchronisation between stacker and folder. ⚙️

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