



The interior of the new Infiniti QX50. Automotive groups expect high levels of consistency from their material partners, including the tanners supplying leather. IMAGE: NISSAN INFINITI

Consistency is key

The chief executive of tannery machinery manufacturer Bergi, Mauro Bergozza, says the company's latest ironing and embossing machine, SuperVario, can be especially effective for automotive leather manufacturers.

It is a well-known fact that the automotive industry is particularly strict when it comes to rejecting perceived flaws in hides, including their natural markings. The reality is that not all hides are suitable for making leather for cars, because of natural defects, size, and other factors. Those processing the hides that are suitable, around 50%, have far less margin for error due to automotive groups demanding higher levels of uniformity in terms of thickness, finish, and a number of other aspects. It is for this reason that they favour large bull hides from high quality sources, with south German often offered as an example.

Of course, there are significant benefits to being a leather supplier to a large automotive manufacturer, most obviously the fact that these companies plan their programmes years in advance. This means their tanning partners have more certainty over their incoming orders and consequently their revenue. More importantly, they know this information well in advance. At a time when there is so much uncertainty for tanners supplying other sectors, most notably footwear, those specialising in automotive leather have much more clarity over their outlook.

Leather chemical suppliers are working hard to develop products that help automotive tanners achieve the levels of consistency being demanded of them, and they are fairly

vocal about their efforts. However, we must not forget that machinery suppliers can also play an important role in this endeavour.

Super solution

Italian tannery machinery group Bergi believes its latest ironing and embossing machine, known as SuperVario, can prove to be of great value to automotive leather manufacturers. It is an evolution of the company's Superpress technology, which has been its leading model for many years. It describes the Superpress machine as a "reference" for some of the most important and successful tanners.

The SuperVario is available in 3,200 millimetre and 3,400 millimetre working widths. It retains some of the characteristics of its predecessor model, such as the double wall frame that allows it to reach high working pressures, but Bergi has added new technological features to create what it calls "one of the most versatile productive units available on the market".

The machine can work in the traditional manner, 'vertical mode', which offers low contact levels between the hide and the operative roller. This is ideal for giving a glazing effect or for the embossing of automotive grains. It can also be



switched to 'inclined mode' for greater surface contact. This is well suited to ironing the surface of the grain or to embossing large upholstery leathers.

The adjustable surface contact allows for the hides to be preheated prior to embossing in order to avoid cracking. A defect such as this would be quickly rejected by an automotive partner. It also allows for the chemical reaction of the products applied to be activated gradually.

All these aspects are controlled by a programmable system, as is the updated felt tensioning system, the automatic adjustment of which gives greater consistency. The machine's operator can monitor all parameters via state-of-the-art touch-screen control panels. The system also allows for different "working recipes" to be stored, modified if necessary, and transferred to other storage units. It can interface with other tannery computer systems, in line with moves towards Industry 4.0.

A range of optional accessories for the SuperVario are available. They include an operative roller leather detaching device and a felt cleaning brush with aspiration and dust collection bag. Customers also have the option to have installed a metal detector on the feeding conveyor, an ionising bar to reduce electrostatic charges, or a camera to view the exiting hides on screen. Bergi points out that the machine is suitable for embossing rollers of other brands.

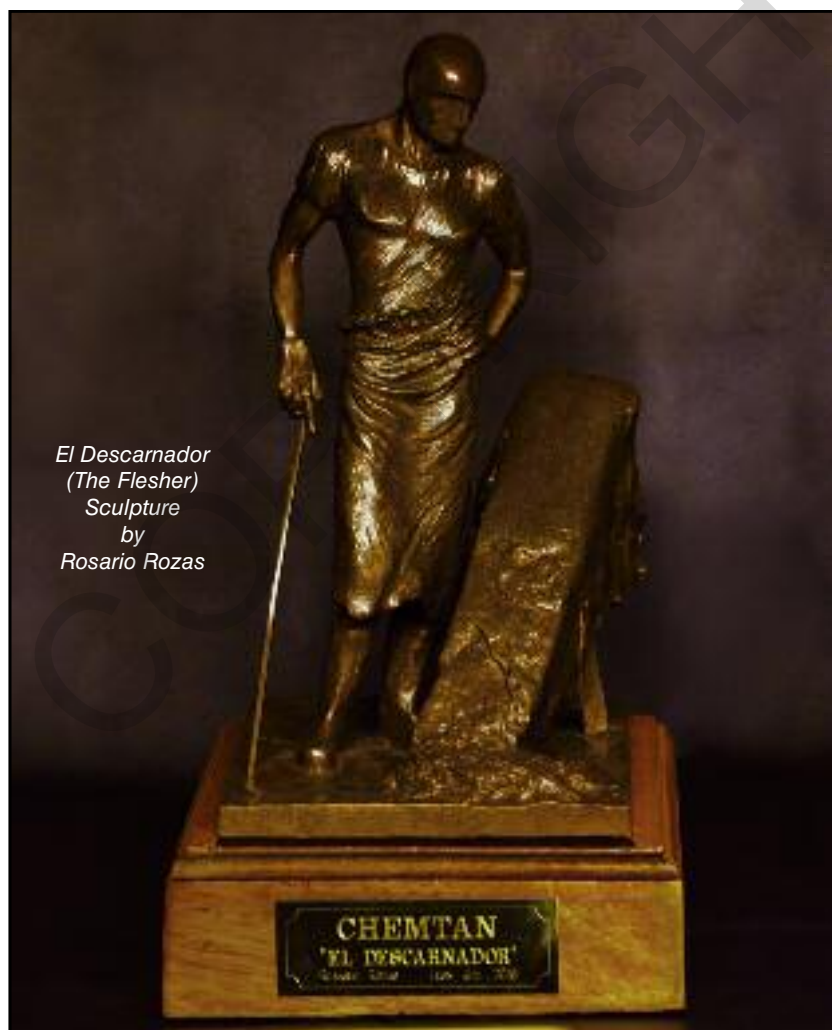
The company's chief executive, Mauro Bergozza, has said

SuperVario is proving to be a good technology for automotive leather manufacturers. Among the key reasons he gives for this is the automated adjustment of the felt tensioning, which gives them the high levels of consistency that their automotive customers demand. He also points to the preheating of the hides and the variable angle of work as key advantages of its latest innovation. ●



SuperVario builds on the success of the Superpress machine, one of Bergi's leading models for a number of years.

IMAGE: BERGI



*El Descarnador
(The Flesher)
Sculpture
by
Rosario Rozas*

We are Leathermen

Chemtan® R-106R
Chemtan® Reflect V-100



Tel: (603) 772-3741
www.CHEMTAN.com