

J&B GRIJPERS GRABS IT

First ELEMENT for Benelux



Complete solution with the plasma bevel cutting machine ELEMENT

The third-generation Dutch family business, J&B Grijpers, develops, produces, and sells wire rope and hydraulic grabs, perfectly adapted to bulk material handling. True to the company motto "J&B Grijpers - Grabs everything you want!", the globally active production company has "grabbed" a complete solution from Messer Cutting Systems and is saving a lot of time with the first ELEMENT plasma bevel cutting machine in Benelux.

To guarantee its customers a continued high standard in its wide range of standard grabs, J&B Grijpers is investing in its production facilities. "We wanted to bring our machinery back up to the state of the art," explains Armand Cretz, Production Manager at J&B Grijpers.

"For the grabs, we cut the components our-selves. Our existing plasma machine could only cut straight parts. We had to make all the bevels by hand to prepare the components for

internal welding of the grabs. The time-consuming manual operations caused a lot of work and tied up too many resources."

The company produces between 80 and 120 grabs per year with capacities ranging from 1 m³ to 45 m³. For cutting the sheets, the company was looking for a new modern machine with bevel function for weld seam preparation. The goal was to purchase a modern plasma bevel machine with Industry 4.0 functionalities.

So, in addition to the flame cutting machine, a complete solution was required, including

- + digital planning and time recording of cutting jobs,
- + Connection to the nesting software and
- + Connection to the existing ERP system.

SOLUTION

Directly from a reliable supplier with strong service



Caption: The ELEMENT machine with plasma bevel unit Bevel-S and ALFA oxyfuel torch from Messer Cutting Systems.

"We wanted to make our cutting department fit for the future. With a machine that cuts all welding preparations and is connected to our software solutions," explains Edgar Joustra, Managing Director, J&B Grijpers. Bas Sanders von Well, Business Unit Manager Benelux bei Messer Cutting Systems, erinnert sich: Bas Sanders von Well, Business Unit Manager Benelux at Messer Cutting Systems, recalls: "We came into contact with J&B Grijpers through GEHA Laverman in Zaandam.

J&B Grijpers had outsourced cutting work there. When we heard that J&B Grijpers was looking for a bevel cutting machine at a fair price with powerful software including installation from a dependable supplier with strong service in the Netherlands, we got in touch immediately."



Caption. J&B Grijpers is happy with the purchase of the modern plasma bevel machine ELEMENT with Industry 4.0 functionalities (from left): Armand Cretz, Production Manager, Theo Vermeulen, Production Engineer, Bas Sanders van Well, Sales Manager MCS Benelux and Edgar Joustra, Managing Director.

IMPLEMENTATION

Convincing on site

After initial discussions, a team from J&B Grijpers visited the European plant of Messer Cutting Systems in Groß-Umstadt (Hesse). The aim was to assess the cutting and machine performance of a MultiTherm in comparison with an ELEMENT. The ELEMENT delivered results that perfectly matched the customer requirements.

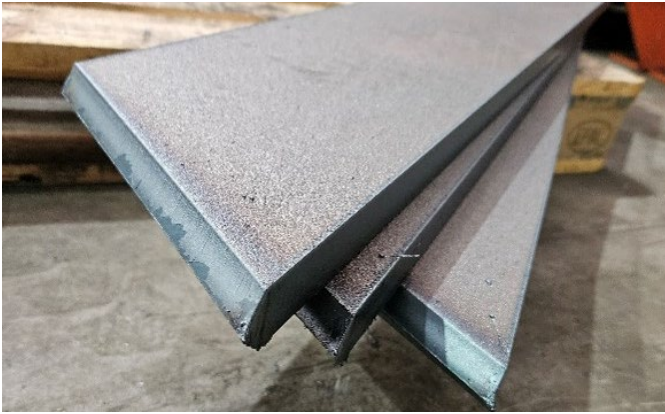
The ELEMENT has been working in Utrecht since June with a cutting area of 3000 mm x 6600 mm. It is equipped with the plasma bevel unit Bevel-S in combination with a Q 3000 plus

power source from Kjellberg and an ALFA oxyfuel cutting torch. It is completed with a cutting table from Beuting including a filter unit.

Added to this is the latest version of MesserSoft's OmniWin CAD/CAM nesting software with the Bevel option and 3D import option for Solid Edge. With this software the customer is able to convert 3D components into 2D components and automatically recognize welding preparations.

RESULT

An impressive 55 minutes instead of 3 hours



Caption: Instead of the previous three hours, only 55 minutes are now needed to prepare and cut the parts.

The efficient project management of Messer Cutting Systems Benelux in combination with a smooth in-stallation of the machine ensured a quick start of production.

"The visit to Groß-Umstadt already impressed us very much. The professional planning and preparation of the installation

OUTLOOK

Next steps already planned

J&B Grijpers is already planning the next steps, especially in the direction of digitalization. "We would definitely opt for this solution again. We have a good, stable machine with lots of possibilities and good support from the guys at Messer," sums up Edgar Joustra.

Theo Vermeulen adds: "Currently we are still working on the integration of the 3D software with OmniWin. In the next step, we will couple the ELEMENT with our ERP system for material management and scheduling. When we are familiar with the machine and all its possibilities, the implementation of OmniFab will be on the agenda."

The OmniFab Suite supports the creation of quotations and is used for production planning, control, and monitoring. A demonstration of the modules has already taken place. At the end of September, the use of the Industry 4.0 software solution will be detailed at J&B Grijpers.

then further confirmed our positive opinion of Messer Cutting Systems. But the biggest milestone for us was the first acceptance part that was successfully cut on site. The first bevel cut met our expectations 100 %," says Theo Vermeulen, Production Engineer at J&B Grijpers, happily. "We are especially excited that the parts are now 100% prepared and ready within 55 minutes, compared to three hours it used to take us for the same cutting task."

The new machine not only saves a lot of time but also achieves excellent cutting quality. But welding preparation and work preparation are also much faster with OmniWin and the ELEMENT. The lower noise level is perceived by the operators as a significant improvement in working conditions.

Production Manager Cretz is convinced: "The stability of the machine and the bevel function have already helped us a lot. We are now much more flexible and can process more orders in a shorter time and this for many years. Time is money and this machine will save us a lot of time. We now put that into building our grabs instead."

"We need more and more flexibility in our production. Machines must be able to cover more complex cutting tasks and save us working time. This is a trend that is becoming increasingly important from our point of view, especially in view of the dwindling number of qualified workers," Armand Cretz sums up.

He advises companies that also want to move in the direction of Industry 4.0 and digitalization of production: "Take your time, select the right partner without haste and look at what other companies are doing. Also think about all the necessary changes and technical requirements in your production hall such as flooring, electrical supply as well as gas supply."