

ATB BLANK / VARBERG TIMBER

Compact sorting

Small scanner – big plans

In order to offer flooring and paneling in a consistent high quality, Varberg Timber decided to invest in a new scanner last year. The Argus Spectra of ATB Blank particularly impressed the Swedes with its compact size.

Now or never! This notion went through Mikael Persson's mind at the end of 2013. In its wake, the CEO of Varberg Timber, Varberg/SE opted for an upgrade of the floor sorting unit of his company. After withdrawing from the Japanese parquet market due to too many complaints, Persson is now planning a re-entry with a renewed promise of quality.

What he expects to gain from the new Argus Spectra sorting line designed by ATB Blank, Roggenburg/DE, is primarily a more consistent quality and appearance of the products, as these are the aspects held in particularly high esteem in Japan, he says in the Timber-online interview. But also existing customers in Denmark and Norway should benefit.

Reliable quality on both sides

In January, the new scanner was installed within two weeks or so and integrated into the production. For that purpose, the team received strong support from mechanization supplier System Hall, Falkenberg/SE. Meanwhile, the manager is certain about the following: „You can totally rely on the machine to adhere to sorting criteria once they are set“. This also gives him an advantage when dealing with suppliers: „If the product quality varies even though the settings of the Argus Spectra were left unchanged, there must be something wrong with the raw material. And upon placing the next order I can point out just that to the supplier“, says Persson. Add to that the working speed

of the new unit: „At 120 m/min the surrounding machines have reached their limits. The scanner, however, could still go faster“, says Persson.

Compact partner

The scanner convinced Varberg particularly with its compact size which helped enormously to integrate it into the existing line. Nevertheless, its sorting capacity is still expandable. The model in Varberg currently uses two cameras. If necessary, additional „Argus eyes“ can be retrofitted to cover the narrow sides.

The color scanner works with modern light-emitting diodes in order to ensure an optimal and – also important – consistent illumination of workpieces. The use of LEDs also reduces operating costs. Matrix cameras can detect very fine cracks in the longitudinal passage. After paying a visit to ATB's headquarters in Roggenburg, the final decision was made. The decisive factor was the ease of use. Even before delivery, the staff involved were sent for a training session to ensure the new machine could start working soon after installation was completed.

Two months into operation, the scanner excels with high availability and flexibility. „We not only scan parquet with it, but also our products for the interior and the exterior wall cladding are sent through the scanner“, says Persson. „After two months of working with it I can see no problems, whatsoever. ATB Blank simply understand their customers.“



A red line marks the quality: long it means grade C, short grade B and no line indicates A-grades

> FACTS & FIGURES

VARBERG TIMBER

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Established: | 1948 |
| Location: | Varberg/SE |
| Managing director: | Mikael Persson |
| Product range: | sawn and planed timber |
| Production: | 75,000-80,000 m ³ /yr |
| Sales markets: | Scandinavia, Japan |

ATB BLANK

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| Established: | 1996 |
| Location: | Roggenburg/DE |
| Managing director: | Georg Blank |
| Product range: | Sorting and cross-cut scanners for hard- and softwood; measurement of lumber cupping, curvature and profile, annual ring control |

Having lived through troubling times

Now the Swedes concentrate on the comeback in Japan. First orders are already being processed, as Persson reveals. After all, the company has seen hardships in the past as well. When in 1991 the production fell prey to one of the largest fires in Swedish history, Varberg Timber was virtually rebuilt from scratch.



Photo credits: Urban

Eye to eye: Mikael Persson decided in favour of Argus Spectra also because of its compact size



The marked parquet tiles and blocks are separated based on their quality and conveyed to different storage boxes