

From aching muscles to a new business area

The MPB folding machine and the PDC power operated guillotine at metal roofing company M. MESSERSCHMIDT



Users

Metal roofer Michael Messerschmidt began a one-man operation in 2002 in the German city of Fambach and quickly made a name for himself in the area of restoration and roof decoration. Larger and larger projects for standing seam roofs made it necessary to purchase motorized machines in 2005 as bending and creasing profiles by hand had brought employees to the limits of their physical capabilities.
(www.metallrestaurierungen.de)

Success

Michael Messerschmidt can now take on even larger roofing projects. He successfully started completing orders for balcony fitters, among others, in order to fully utilise the capacity of the folding machine. In 2012, the company had ten employees and was able to triple its revenues compared with 2004, which was prior to the purchase of the Schröder machines.

Machines used

- **MPB folding machine**
 - 4,000 mm working length
 - 1.75 mm sheet thickness
 - Rotating clamping beam (switch between goat's foot tool and the sharp nose blade without tool changing)
 - POS 2000 graphic controller
 - Motorized back gauge

- **Power-Duo-Cut power operated guillotine**
 - 3,200 mm working length
 - 3.00 mm sheet thickness
 - Special blades designed for stainless steel
 - Pneumatic sheet support

Starting with smaller projects like dormers and lozenge, panel and cassette facades for apartment buildings, schools and protected buildings, the M. MESSERSCHMIDT metal roofing company slowly expanded to take on larger projects. For example, Michael Messerschmidt constructed his first 600 m² standing seam roof together with one apprentice and two assistants in 2004. However, the profiles for projects like this all needed to be folded by hand, which became too much, making it clear that motorized support was necessary. Michael Messerschmidt drove to Hans Schröder Machines in Wessobrunn, Germany, in 2005 and spent one day testing a variety of machines. The choice came down to the Power-Duo-Cut 3 200 x 3.0 power operated guillotine and the MPB 4 000 x 1.75 folding machine.

Increased productivity and quality

Manufacturing is easier and faster: That was the initial impression after the machines were put into service. Delivery times for products were significantly reduced, too. Rather than being limited to sheets ranging from 0.6 and 0.8 mm,

Messerschmidt was now able to process sheets between 1 and 2 mm thickness. The precision of the gauge controls was impressive right from the start with single pieces, but it is especially apparent in terms of repeated precision, which provides a quality advantage when producing a number of identical parts.

Other advantages provided by the Schröder MPB folding machine resulted from using the POS 2000 graphic controller. The touch display allows users to create, measure and save folding programs simply by tapping the screen. Accessing the saved profiles allows users to create identical sheets, even after

a long time. Saved profiles can be used as templates to efficiently create variants. Another plus is the integrated database, which included material adjustments. On this basis, the folding program automatically makes material adjustments to adapt bending angles, since it knows the elastic recovery coefficients of the respective material.

A new business area

"The machines were not working at full capacity for the first year and a half," recalls Michael Messerschmidt. As a result, the company advertised the sheet processing capabilities of its Schröder machines in newsletters to other metal processing companies in the region. And success soon followed: Today, supply to other companies makes up approximately 60 per cent of revenues, however, individual metal restorations remain the core company focus for Michael Messerschmidt.

"As a metal roofer, I really appreciate the fact that the folding machine treats the surface of the sheet very gently. Unlike die bending, there are no impressions or scratches, which means I can work with paint-coated or polished surfaces."

Michael Messerschmidt



Schröder Group

The Schröder Group consists of Hans Schröder Maschinenbau GmbH, located in Wessobrunn, Germany, and SCHRÖDER-FASTI Technologie GmbH, located in Wermelskirchen, Germany.

Founded in 1949, Hans Schröder Maschinenbau GmbH combines traditional and modern aspects in mechanical engineering. Successfully managed as a quality and customer-oriented family company, Hans Schröder Maschinenbau specialises in the development of modern machine concepts for folding and cutting sheet metal.

Thanks to the 2006 integration of the Fasti Company and its workshops and a global presence, the Schröder Group is now a leading provider of machines for folding, cutting, crimping, beading, and circular bending sheets of all kinds. The diversity of the range of precision machines ranges from proven solutions for trade to innovative, high-performance machines for automated industrial production. The Schröder Group now employs more than 240 workers at various domestic and international locations.

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