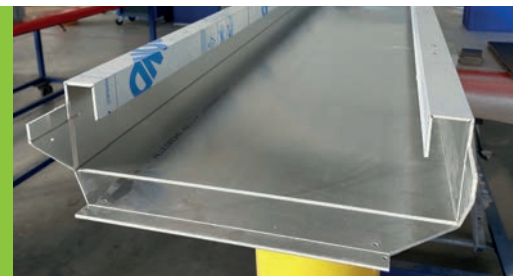


## Increased productivity with easier operation

Folding machine from Schröder at Hupfeld & Schlöffel Metallbau GmbH



### Customer

Hupfeld & Schlöffel Metallbau GmbH in Berkatal, Hesse, manufactures façades, windows, doors and special constructions as well as fire and smoke protection elements made of aluminum. These are supplied and installed throughout Germany for everything from smaller buildings to large prestigious structures. For large orders, it is crucial to produce the construction elements from 2 to 3 mm thick aluminum sheets as efficiently as possible. Hupfeld & Schlöffel GmbH's initial aim was to make it easier for employees to process large sheet formats. ([www.hupfeld-schloeffel.de](http://www.hupfeld-schloeffel.de))

### Success

With the acquisition of an EVO Center from the Schröder Group, the company, which specializes in aluminium construction elements, also increased its capacities, technical capabilities and productivity. Managing Directors Bettina Schlöffel, Eduard Schlöffel and Dennis Schindewolf became aware of a folding machine at a partner company one day. "We sometimes work with very large sheet metal formats and it was immediately clear to us that a folding machine would be much more user-friendly than a press brake for these formats," recalls Dennis Schindewolf.

### Machine in use

#### EVO Center

- Folding machine up to 3.0 mm sheet thickness
- 4040 mm working length
- Graphic control POS 3000 3D
- Folding beam adjustment 200 mm
- Clamping beam stroke 850 mm
- Clamping beam geometry 180°
- Fully automatic tool changer for max. 400 mm clamping beam tool height
- Up-and-Down folding beam
- Suction plates in gauge table
- Remote maintenance

The managing directors of the 140-strong family business then visited the headquarters of the Schröder Group in Wessobrunn-Forst, Bavaria, the manufacturer of the machine they had seen, and sought advice. They were disturbed by the fact that highly qualified employees had previously been blocked from assisting with bending while a colleague struggled to position huge sheets in the bending press. On a folding machine, a single person can do the same job without any effort – especially if the possibilities of partial automation are used, which were presented to the management team at Schröder.

### High degree of automation

The EVO Center was chosen. The machine is a development from the Evolution series. These are largely automated high-performance machines that the Schröder Group mainly supplies to industrial customers. The EVO Center, which has permanently changed the way Hupfeld & Schlöffel works, has a working length of 4040 mm and can bend steel sheets up to 3 mm thick with high precision. The clamping beam stroke of 850 mm and tools up to 400 mm high provide sufficient space for the production of boxes. Changeover of the machine is fully automatic. The tool changing system for clamping beam tools on the EVO Center consists of two asynchronously movable tool changers, each with a gripper unit. Servo converter-

„Als wir das schrittweise Rundbiegen kennengelernt haben, waren wir begeistert. Diese Technik hat unser Angebot erweitert. Zum Beispiel stellen wir jetzt Fensterbänke mit runder Abtropfkante her.“, erinnert sich Marcel Röhr“

Marcel Röhr  
Metallbaumeister bei  
Hupfeld & Schlöffel

controlled drives, motorized folding beam adjustment and central crowning stand for precision and two innovative equipment features ensure that all bends on one side are carried out fully automatically: The sheet only has to be positioned once and is taken over by the suction plate stop. Thanks to the Up-and-Down folding beam, folds and counter-folds can now be bent without having to turn the sheet.

### Proven in praxis

The folding machine has met all expectations in terms of ergonomics, but also in terms of efficiency. "It's now more a case of cutting becoming a bottleneck," says Marcel Röhr. The master metalworker is responsible for work preparation and machine control in sheet metal production. He cites examples of the benefits of the semi-automated folding machine: "The advantages in operation are clear, for example, with the narrow, high boxes for sun protection. The sheet metal blanks measuring up to 4000 × 1000 mm, from which they are manufactured, are easy to handle on the EVO Center – on a press brake, on the other hand, it is laborious work for two people, made even more difficult by the high tools, which have to be specially equipped with a lifting device due to their great weight." The overhead crane in the factory hall is currently still used to transport large sheets to the folding machine. There are plans to purchase a separate crane with a suction plate.

„The EVO Center not only makes our work easier, but has also increased our production capacity. We can take on projects such as a current 7000 square meter façade for a TV station without hesitation," says Dennis Schindewolf and Marcel Röhr praises: "If we have any problems with the machine, we simply call Schröder. We immediately reach a competent contact person there who quickly has a solution for us."



## Schröder Group

The Schröder Group consists of Hans Schröder Maschinenbau GmbH, which is located in Wessobrunn, Germany, SCHRÖDER-FASTI Technologie GmbH, located in Wermelskirchen, Germany and the SMU GmbH, located in Leinburg-Weißenbrunn.

Founded in 1949, Hans Schröder Maschinenbau GmbH unifies traditional and modern approaches in machine building: Successfully managed as a quality and customer-oriented, family-owned company, Hans Schröder Maschinenbau is specialized in the development of modern machine concepts for bending and cutting sheet metal.

The successful integration of the Fasti Company in 2006 and its worldwide presence make the Schröder Group one of today's leading providers of machines for bending, cutting, beading, flanging, and circular bending all types of sheet metal. The company's precision machines range from proven solutions for craftsmen to innovative, high-performance machines for automatic industrial production processes. 2021 the Schröder Group was expanded by the tool manufacturer SMU GmbH. Overall, the Schröder Group currently employs more than 300 people at various locations at home and abroad.

**SCHRÖDER**  
GROUP

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