

THE TECHNOLOGY ISSUE



Saws can be upgraded and refurbished at our Perth factory

TRADE → IN, TRADE → UP

VEKTA IS LOOKING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

FAST SWAP OUTS WILL MINIMISE IMPACT AND MAXIMISE RETURNS

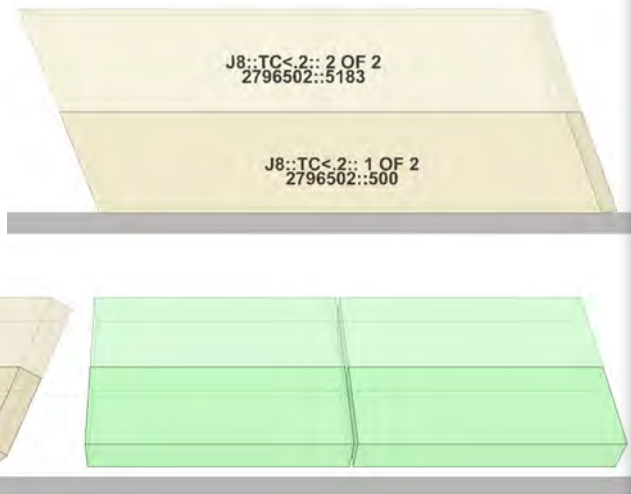
In the past six months we've received quite a few enquiries about either trading in an old system toward the purchase of a new system, or the outright purchase of a second hand refurbished system.

Trading in a machine can sometimes make sense when the saw has well and truly paid for itself and there are a few mechanical upgrades of interest to the customer. By trading the existing system in towards the purchase of a new system, a customer's equipment can be kept new and up to date – maximising their returns. What is more, we can typically swap out the old system with the new system over a weekend – minimising the impact on production. The original system is then sent back to our factory in Perth where extensive refurbishment and upgrade work can be carried out with maximum efficiency. The upgraded and refurbished saw can then be sold cost effectively to new or existing customers. This can be a great way to get a good, reliable linear saw into your factory, or to complement your other cutting systems, while still saving a bit of money!

If you are interested in exploring these options, please contact us to discuss the options further.

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Right and below:
the new mitre stacking
option makes for
improved throughput.



V9 IS NOW OFFICIALLY RELEASED!

Well, it's official! V9 of our Simple software is now available to all of our existing customers complete with its new undoubtedly industry leading, comprehensive and innovative self-diagnostics/help system. The latest version also has a number of other attractive features such as its improved throughput of angled mitre members.

So what's next? We aren't planning on wasting any time - it's on to V10!

V10 is earmarked to include the ability to print considerably more data onto truss and frames - noggin lengths, truss intersections with one another and wall frames, load points, and more! Operational improvements are also planned as well as the ability to perform automatic software backups and updates.

Intrigued? Keep an eye on the Vekta website www.vekta.com.au for more information or better yet - give us a call!

**COST
EFFECTIVE
SAFE
ACCURATE
COMING
SOON**

Our new entry level saw is developing steadily with a working prototype currently in our factory.

Over the past six months we have made a number of changes to further increase the saw's capability while also ensuring that the cost is kept low. For its anticipated price tag, the saw will include some impressive features such as full truss and frame printing including nail plate locations and stud marks, automated infeed loading system, automated outfeed kickoff system, bevel cutting, steep angle cutting, industry leading diagnostics and optimisation systems and high cutting rates. To top this off, the saw is incredibly safe, and best of all, very, VERY easy to use! Customers will finally have an alternative to the traditional pull and pop-up saws with a high calibre system that can be operated safely and efficiently with an inexperienced operator.

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Earlier this year we announced that we had adopted the original Trussquip line of frame and truss stacking machines - the Stakpro systems.

Since then we have been working closely with Ross Ranyer, others at Trussquip, and several existing Stakpro customers, to not only facilitate the transfer of the intellectual property, but to also take steps to further improve the already well respected products. Interest and support for these products has surpassed all expectations and we expect great things from this product line! We've been able to identify a couple of areas that could be improved upon and the current systems we are building will include these improvements. If you have an existing Stakpro system and could use a bit of assistance, or if you are interested in a safe, efficient way of stacking trusses and/or frames, give us a shout! We'd love to hear from you!



STAK PRO UPDATE

We're building improvements in to every new Stack Pro machine

OUR CORE VALUES

From engineering and design to the manufacturing of products and building relationships, Vekta upholds these core values.

SAFETY

IT'S TOP OF OUR LIST

From design to engineering, manufacturing, install and training - safety supersedes everything at Vekta.

EXCELLENCE

OUR PRODUCTS LEAD THE WAY

At Vekta, we are continuously striving for excellence in our engineering, manufacturing, software and customer relations

TECHNOLOGY

WE'RE ALWAYS INNOVATING

Vekta is highly adaptable and we pride ourselves on providing innovative technological solutions that are customised for each individual business and their unique needs.

CUSTOMER FOCUS

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

From buying, installation, training and technical support Vekta focuses on the customer- their needs, their requirements, their satisfaction.

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ELUCIDATING WITH ED

Elucidate (v) Make something clear; explain; illuminate; shed light on



MEMBER OPTIMISATION

The optimisation of members to reduce waste and cost is a key feature of pretty well any modern, automated sawing system these days. How this is achieved, the factors to consider and the implications to your production line are just a few of the many aspects around this surprisingly complicated subject. Now, I intend to do my best to explain and clarify some of these topics in future articles but at the moment I'd like to start by clearing up a few common misconceptions I hear about optimising components in a truss and frame factory.

“It's Just Too Complicated”

Along with the introduction of linear saws some 15 years ago came this idea to use a computer algorithm to hammer through thousands of different combinations of members, flipping them this way and that, all in the hopes of reducing the amount of timber required to cut a given job. Sounds great eh! Yet as I alluded to above, this isn't a simple matter and indeed today's optimising algorithms can be incredibly complex and elaborate – designed, written and understood fully only by a select few 'propeller-heads'! The good news however is that today's saw manufactures do a bloody good job at keeping the complexity of their algorithms hidden behind an easy to use interface.

I hear often, particularly from those with perhaps a weaker understanding of computers, that optimising is just too complicated - and herein is the first myth I'd like to break through. Setting up the optimising algorithms for a given site is initially done by someone that has a much deeper understanding of the system. That person will also take the time to fully explain what is involved based on the unique needs of that particular plant. From that point forward, putting these complicated algorithms to work is usually little more than a push of the button and the adjustment of a few key settings from time to time. It very quickly becomes second nature, even to those that are deathly afraid of computers. I've even seen guys that needed to be shown how to double click a computer mouse get their heads right around it in no time at all! So don't fret – it's not that bad!

“Optimising will bugger up the cut order”

Another very common misconception I hear is that optimising may save you timber, but it results in members coming out of the saw in all sorts of incomprehensible orders. Yes, it's true that the more flexibility

you lend an optimising algorithm, the better the results will be (at least in terms of cost and waste), but today's solutions provide for quite a bit of control in this respect. Say combining members together on a truss-by-truss basis only, or perhaps combining a few trusses together? Perhaps your plant functions better by optimising like members together – in a sort of batch cutting operation? Today's algorithms can usually cater to the unique needs of your plant and I can assure you that any optimisation is better than none! The order of the timber being fed into or the order in which the members come out of the saw CAN be controlled!

In future articles I will get more into some of the ins and outs of optimising, talking about various modern approaches and their associated advantages and disadvantages. But today I just wanted to reassure those out there with doubts that there is not a one-shoe-fits-all approach to optimising and systems can always be tailored to the unique needs and concerns of a given plant. If you already have a saw capable of automated optimisation, or if you are considering such a piece of equipment, don't hesitate to contact the manufacturer and ask for a demonstration. Even ask them to run a few sample jobs through their system so that you can see how the results will look. Optimising is there to help you and your team, not to make life hard! Make sure you get all the facts and don't be shy about getting us manufactures off our bums to show you! That's what we're there for!

Ed Serrano is the Managing Director of Vekta Automation. Ed is a mechatronic (robotical) engineer with more than 12 years of experience with the Prefabricated Truss and Frame industry, all of which has involved the Razer linear saw and other forms of automation. With a solid understanding of the conditions and needs of truss plants and his experience in industrial automation, he has helped many plants overcome machinery obstacles and has been instrumental to the success of the Razer saws.