

PROSAW

Sawing Times

Issue No.4

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News and application stories from **PROSAW**

Prosaw awarded ISO 9001



Following several months of work, Prosaw are pleased to announce they have been awarded their certificate for ISO 9001 Quality Management System.

Having worked for many years to a standard of excellence which was recognised by companies such as Rolls Royce, AWE and TATA Steel the decision was made to formalise their documentation and procedures and go through the ISO 9001 accreditation process.

The award of the accreditation underlines Prosaw's commitment to our continual improvement both with internal functions of our company, dealing with recognised quality suppliers and also supporting our customers.

All Prosaw customers can be reassured that they will continue to receive first class service and support from the moment they contact Prosaw and for years afterwards whilst they are using the equipment we have supplied.

PROSAW

Every step of the way

Fabrics Design

New GEKA Hydracrop machine brings substantial savings to production process



The flat bars are stacked after initial cropping

In the UK, the demand for stair lifts has grown tenfold over the last 20 years as people progressively live longer and lead fuller lives. Increasingly, many people now opt to stay in their homes in later years, but for some, physical restrictions will make a stair lift a vital requirement.

This fact has inevitably given rise to the need to produce more stair lifts, which in turn has fuelled component manufacturing in this sector.

Fabrics Design, located in Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancashire, produce in the region of 40,000 components for stair lifts every month. The company specialise in 3Dimensional computer design and prototype production and sampling, however, the surge in the

stair lift market has prompted the company to invest in a GEKA HYDRACROP 80S system from **Prosaw**, to accurately guillotine 90mm x 6mm mild steel flat bars to length. The system is fitted with an ALRS automated flat bar feeder, which simply eliminates what can be the cumbersome manipulation of the bars.

After cropping the bars to one metre lengths, they are transferred to a CNC machine, where they are drilled and tapped, before being reloaded onto the GEKA system for final cropping, producing individual components of just 50mm in length. (see centre of picture above)

The installation of the GEKA system has resulted in a number of substantial benefits in the form of cost savings as well as in increased production capacity for the company.

Explained Managing Director, Mark Bushdyhan "We previously utilised our CNC machine to crop the bars, but since we invested in the GEKA system to take over this process, we have seen savings in the region of £20,000 per annum as a result. The acquisition of the GEKA system has also allowed us to almost double our production capacity for this product."

He added "Since we took delivery of the GEKA system, we've found it a very easy and low-cost machine to maintain, whilst **Prosaw** have been very helpful in customising the software to suit our production requirements as well as providing us with excellent service."



Long narrow bars are fed into the GEKA Hydracrop 80S machine using the ALRS Automated Feeder system

The cutting edge of motor sport



Precision automotive component manufacturer chooses **Prosaw** again



RT Quaife Engineering Ltd has a long and illustrious heritage. The business was created in 1965 by Rod Quaife, initially operating from a small workshop near Penshurst in Kent to produce close ratio five-speed gearkits for Norton and Triumph motorcycles.

As the business flourished it relocated to larger premises at Tonbridge. In the meantime, the pedigree of Quaife's products was being proven with victories at the prestigious Daytona Speedway and the Isle of Man TT.

Now located at much larger premises in Sevenoaks, the company is currently celebrating their 50th anniversary, and are now the undisputed leaders in the field of high performance drivetrain and steering rack components.

The company count automotive manufacturers of the calibre of Morgan, Caterham, McLaren and Lotus amongst their high profile customers, supplying high quality products such as wheel uprights and steering racks.

Although Quaife now direct their business more towards the non-professional motor sports market, their precision engineered products have been favoured in many levels of motorsports, including Formula 1, whilst their patented ATB (Automatic Torque Biasing) differential was specified by Ford for the Focus RS Mark I and II, as well as Daimler-Chrysler and GM vehicles and is now in great demand from Rally drivers and historic motor sport enthusiasts around the world.

Occupying a combined floor area of 40,000 sqft across their two sites in Sevenoaks and Gillingham and employing 80 people, the company now design and manufacture a large and diverse range of high performance drivetrain products.

Many of the precision engineered components produced by Quaife originate from round steel bar which requires sawing to length prior to the machining process. The company have for a number of years successfully made use of a bandsaw supplied by **Prosaw** for this purpose, so when the time came to upgrade the sawing facility, they naturally turned to **Prosaw**.

Quaife produce a wide variety of components where small batch sizes are a normal requirement, so a LX250AE fully automatic bandsaw, featuring variable speeds, length encoder and an integral touch screen was chosen in order to easily and quickly control the frequent changes needed to the cutting criteria in order to produce the company's extensive range of drive train components.



The Prosaw LX250AE bandsaw



Typical finished drive train components

Bundles of joy



Steel tube stockholder increases production with bespoke saw feeding system



As an importer and distributor of steel pipes and their complimentary fittings, International Tube and Fittings (ITF) will soon be celebrating their 10th anniversary, supplying steel pipes and fittings to the fire protection industry for use in sprinkler systems, as well as the mechanical heating, ventilation and plumbing industries and even for use as handrailing.

Located in Wednesbury, in the heart of the West Midlands "Black Country" the company occupies a huge 51,000 sq ft warehouse which ensures that the capacity and range of products held in stock are always available to their customers.

Cutting stock pipes to length is an

important part of the business of being a stockholder and ITF satisfied this requirement in their early days with the purchase of a horizontal bandsaw from **Prosaw**.

The bandsaw was originally configured to saw the tubes to length individually, but as business increased, capacity became critical and the decision to upgrade the facility became crucial.

In order to increase the capacity of the existing sawing facility, **Prosaw** designed a system that would be capable of sawing the tubes in bundles instead of sawing them individually. This was achieved by designing special purpose clamps to hold complete bundles of tubes

during the cutting process. The clamps, which are interchangeable depending on the size of the bundle, hold each bundle firmly during cutting.

Since a bundle of 1/2" diameter tubes contain 169 separate tubes, all of which are cut simultaneously, the resulting savings in time are spectacular.

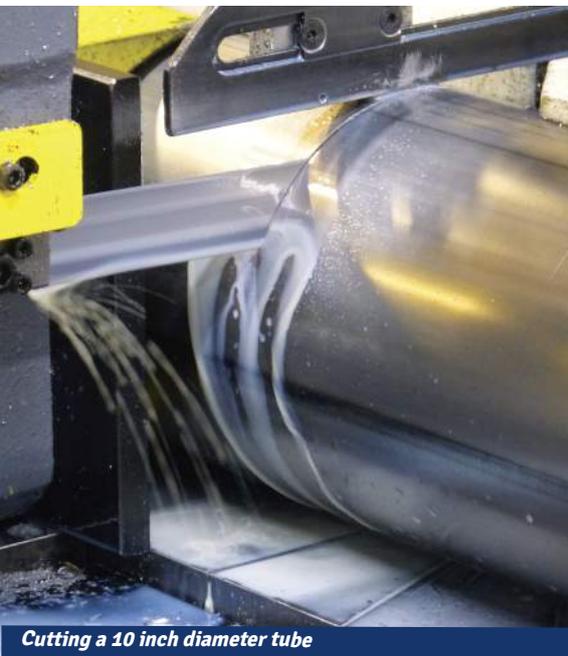
Commented Joint Managing Director Rosemary Slater "We are obviously delighted with the resulting system and we found **Prosaw's** approach to our problem was both flexible and solution oriented. They gave us lots of help and assistance in setting the new system up, especially in terms of feeds and speeds, as well as making sure that the blade life was optimised."



Bend it, Bend it...



Tube forming company enjoys significant productivity gains with new **Prosaw** system



Cutting a 10 inch diameter tube

Malvern Tubular Components Ltd have over sixty years experience in supplying tubular products into many diverse markets, in particular the diesel engine, generator and radiator manufacturing sectors. Formed in 1942 the company is today a key subsidiary of Tricorn Group plc, a Group that specialises in tube manipulation.

One market sector served by the company is the power generation industry, a market sector that has very precise requirements, so when it became clear that the company's existing large diameter tube sawing facility was not suited to meet the stringent tolerances required by this industry it was only natural that they should contact **Prosaw** to advise on a more applicable system.

Following investigation, **Prosaw** were confident that they would be able to hold the close tolerances required when sawing the 5 inch and 10 inch diameter tubes with a system that would also enjoy the additional benefit of increased productivity.

A Bomar Individual bandsaw, model 520.360 DGA NC was selected for this purpose, being a machine capable of precisely sawing up to 10 inch diameter tubes in mild steel or even 316 stainless steel.

Following a successful demonstration of its capabilities, the Bomar bandsaw was installed at MTC's Malvern factory, where the results have been little short of spectacular, showing a marked improvement on the results of the previous tube sawing facility.

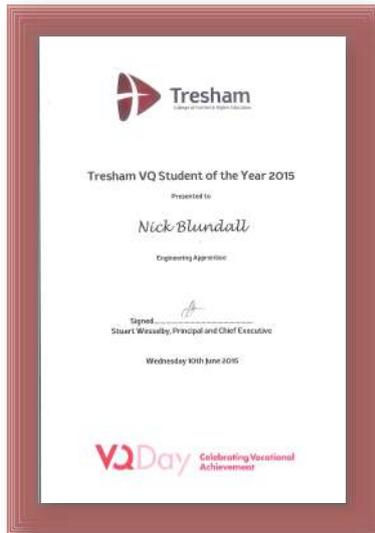
Manufacturing Engineer Jerry Moule, has been delighted with its performance, commenting "The Bomar machine is not only more accurate, but the cycle time is also considerably quicker than the system it replaced, due primarily to its capacity to accommodate tubes of longer lengths as well as its ability to cut tubes at a faster rate. These two factors are largely responsible for the substantial production cost savings we have enjoyed since this machine was installed."

"However, in addition, blade life has also been greatly increased and is now at least ten times longer than that of our previous machine, meaning that in combination, these factors have been responsible for an very welcome 55% improvement in overall productivity."



The Bomar bandsaw in action

Prosaw apprentice is “Student of the Year”



Prosaw apprentice Nick Blundall receiving his “Student of the Year” award

Prosaw Limited recognises that the young people of today all deserve the chance to join a company that can help them develop their careers and skills in a chosen discipline.

In each of the last 3 years we have taken on a young Apprentice to work within our busy Engineering Manufacturing Department, where we design and manufacture a wide range of material handling systems bespoke to our customers' requirements.

Nick Blundell, is one of our Apprentices who joined Prosaw in 2012 to gain much valuable work experience, whilst at the same time attending Tresham College to continue his Engineering Apprentice studies, he is developing a wide range of engineering skills and has had a valuable input into several engineering projects. Managing Director Philip Crick comments, “The young people of today are the potential managers and designers of the future so we need to invest time with them now to allow us all to reap the rewards in years to come.”

Prosaw Certificated Training Courses

- Can you meet your obligations to the Health & Safety of your bandsaw operators?
- Are your saw operators trained and certified?
- Are you running at maximum productivity in your cutting department?
- Are you getting maximum life from your blades?

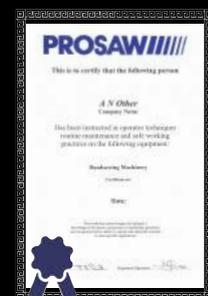
If you cannot answer yes to all of these questions, then you cannot afford to miss one of our training sessions.

We were established in 1963 and our specialised tutor is a respected authority in bandsaw theory and practice gained in over 20 years of practical experience.

You will benefit from:-

- A thorough working knowledge of bandsawing techniques
- A comprehensive reference package for you to take away
- A certificate of completion, an acknowledgement of your operator's competence

Call us today to
book your place
01536 410999



PROSAW

Telford Way | Kettering | Northants | NN16 8UN

Tel: +44 (0) 1536 410999 | Fax: +44 (0) 1536 410080 | www.prosaw.co.uk | email: sales@prosaw.co.uk