

Stacks upon racks, for Hackon

A £45,000 installation of Hakon glass storage racks by Flat Glass Solutions was an essential part of a wider £400,000 investment in a combination cutting line by Bradford based CT Glass reports *The Fabricator's* special correspondent Ed Humphreys



Three sets of the Hakon racks have allowed CT Glass to manage cut remnants from its newly-installed combi cutting line safely and efficiently, plugging the gap in an overall new cutting line.

Over the last couple of years, CT Glass has experienced a 20% growth, and as a result has been going through a period of asset investment to ensure high standards of customer service and deliveries are maintained.

“We have a 95,000sq ft processing facility here in Bradford which delivers toughened and laminated flat glass to the commercial fit-out market the length and breadth of the UK. Every pound we invest must have a beneficial impact on the overall delivery of our products to our client base,” says CT Glass managing director Gary Thirkell. “Integrating FGS’ Hakon racks was fundamental to the overall efficiency of the new cutting line, enabling us to stack and store remnants in a way that saves space, protects the glass, and maximises overall efficiencies.”

Competitive edge

Head of commercial for CT Glass, John Day, says:

“The architectural glazing market is becoming increasingly consolidated, and production efficiencies are crucial for us to maintain competitive edge. The

Hakon racks are quite simply the simplest and most cost effective method of streamlining processing lines – freeing up space and resources to get product out the door quicker.”

FGS is the UK distribution partner for Hakon, a Czech manufacturer that specialises in industrial glass storage. The frame racks enable varying sizes of glass to be stacked and manoeuvred via simple drawer system.



Gark Thirkell

Essential kit

“The racks are an essential element to an overall glass processing line that can often be overlooked,” said FGS managing director David Cahill. “The growth experienced by CT Glass leads to an increase in remnants off the cutting line, which in turn required an improvement to storage methods. The company approached us to fill in this obvious gap in the production line, which we were able to do quickly and cost effectively.”

CT Glass is an independent processor with a workforce of about 70 working from a dedicated 95,000sq ft site in Bradford. The company produces high specification flat glass to a range of architectural and commercial projects across the UK. □

With a smart touch

The ScreenLine SL16 slim integral blind system, which is designed for 24mm IGUs and exclusively available in the UK from Morley Glass within its Uni-Blinds range, is now available in a motorised version for integration into smart home systems



The SL16MB Venetian integral blind uses the same next-generation brushless motor technology incorporated into the standard MB System to offer a slimmer format integral blind with ultra-smooth functionality and long term reliability. The motor's design means the blind moves almost

silently and with precision, and when integrated into doors and windows featuring multiple IGUs, such as bi-fold doors, the blinds in each window can be programmed to move in sequence.

All raising, lowering and tilting of the slats is controlled in one of three ways to suit the end-user's preferences. It can be specified with wall-mounted controls or a remote control handset, with a third option being to link the system to leading home automation systems, including Loxone, to allow the blind to be operated via a smartphone app.

The versatility of the SL16 is being increasingly recognised across the market given its compatibility with IGUs with a 16mm cavity, unlike the 20mm cavity needed for most standard integral blind systems. That makes it an option for many homeowners who are looking to retain the frames of their existing windows and doors and simply replace the IGU with an integral blind unit.

As with the manually-controlled versions of this slimline system, the slats are available in nine colours, including the most in-demand colours such as agate grey (S120), black (B160) and beige (S125).

Ian Short, managing director of Morley Glass says: "The SL16MB adds another dimension to this slimline integral blind system's appeal, giving installers a system with



Ian Short

excellent sales potential to meet the needs of an increasingly tech-savvy market. The system's creation is the result of an extensive research, development and testing programme by ScreenLine systems' manufacturer Pellini S.p.A., which continues to be the global leader in integral blinds, and we are delighted to be able to bring this to the UK market on an exclusive basis.

"The demand for home improvement products with integrated technology is strong, as we have seen with the growth in popularity of smart locks for doors, video doorbells and window sensors. And the great thing about the SL16MB is that it offers a home automation solution for homeowners who are looking to retrofit by upgrading the IGU rather than replacing the complete windows and doors – smart technology integration whilst keeping their existing frames."

The Venetian blind within the MB System for both the slim and standard variants features an internal motor within the blind head-rail, which also incorporates a micro-control unit plus encoder. This is the technology that allows the simultaneous, synchronised movements of groups of blinds, aided further by specially designed sliders to ensure virtually vibration-free movement.

With the SL16MB, the motor and mechanical components are contained within a system that is slightly thinner than the standard MB system, without compromise. That means the slats are reduced in width from 12mm to 10mm, a minor difference with major benefits when it comes to being able to incorporate a state-of-the-art premium integral blind into 24mm IGUs. □

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