

Staircase maker boosts output with Masterwood

Staircase manufacturer, **P & L Joinery Ltd**, ordered a second Masterwood CNC machining centre just months after installing an Atlas XL model that has slashed production time for winder flights by half.

A Project 416L is expected to achieve the same time savings on straight flights and one-off specials produced by the Stoke-on-Trent joinery company.

“Because our order book is constantly full we needed to move away from traditional methods of hand manufacture,” explained P & L’s owner, Fred Powell. “We wanted to take the pressure off our joiners of often being behind schedule, plus cutting down on all the costly overtime that was being worked.”

He added: “As first-time CNC users we talked to several suppliers before deciding that Masterwood machines were the user-friendliest of them all. What attracted us was the simplicity of the software and the quality of advice we received from the Masterwood people, who seemed to understand our needs far better than anyone else we spoke to.”

The Atlas machines all of the components needed for the winder flights and has enabled P & L to boost production from around 30 sets a week to between 50 and 60.

Works manager Nick Maxwell explained the advantages of using the Atlas over traditional hand methods “Because we can now design the stairs on the CAD program setting-up time has been greatly reduced, as we no longer have to make templates. There’s more free space in the workshop, as we don’t have to find storage room for them.”

He went on: “The Masterstair software is very good. It’s quick and extremely accurate and I’m very impressed with it. It has made both staircase design and manufacture so much simpler. With the Atlas you are guaranteed the same highly accurate precision every time you use it.”

