

Hombak in an overview

- Founded in 1924 as a family business in Bad Kreuznach – focus on: woodworking machines for joineries and handicraft businesses
- 1956 production of the first flakers for the particleboard industry
- Long-term core competence: specializing in wood-reduction technology, expansion and further development of individual machines, complete flake and chip preparation and processing
- June 2009: integration into Siempelkamp Maschinen- und Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG
- 65 employees
- Sales target 2011: approx. € 12 million



Traditional, clever, innovative:

Hombak is Group-compatible!

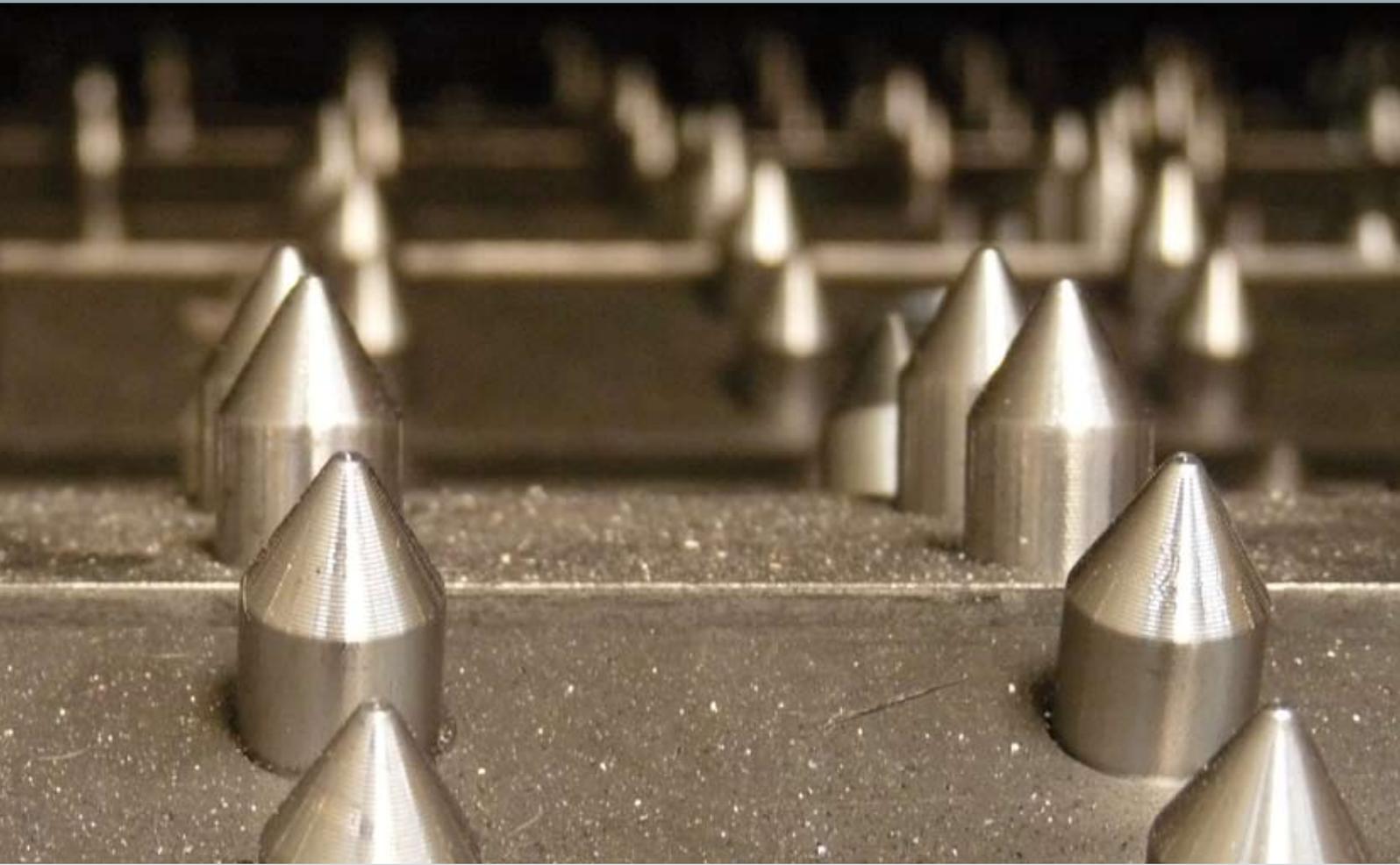


Werner Schweinsberg

Since 2009 Hombak Maschinen- und Anlagenbau GmbH has been part of Siempelkamp. As the youngest member of the Group, the company from Bad Kreuznach has all the talents that a suitable partner of the Siempelkamp winning team should have. This includes a strong commitment for the company's philosophy, a coherent portfolio which enriches the overall strategy, and the cleverness to incorporate traditional products in innovative concepts time and time again!

By Ralf Griesche

Infeed drum chipper



Hombak enriches the product spectrum of the Siempelkamp Group with sophisticated and versatile wood-reduction technology. An even broader portfolio for the front-end is an important contribution to the Group's entire range of supply, which makes the machine and plant engineering specialist even more attractive as a single-source supplier.

From the wood feed to the drum screen, everything is included. For flake and chip production Hombak supplies the wood feed to the rotor debarker, the chipper with discharge screw to the knife-ring flaker as well as the surface layer mills.

For the production of OSB strands Hombak offers stranders as well as wet and dry storage bunkers and drum screens. This represents the complete range of machines for the production of chips, flakes and strands.

The beginning of Hombak in the 1950s is marked by the cutter-head (see below). Today Hombak is represented on the market

with a complete series of universal drum flakers and knife-ring flakers. Furthermore, the company offers a complete series of drum chippers which produce chips for many different applications, for example, micro-woodchips, TMP wood chips, chips for all applications in the particleboard industry, as well as chips used for energy production. The range of applications refers to shredding, cutting, and chipping logs with a diameter up to approx. 820 mm at a machine intake width of up to 1,450 mm.

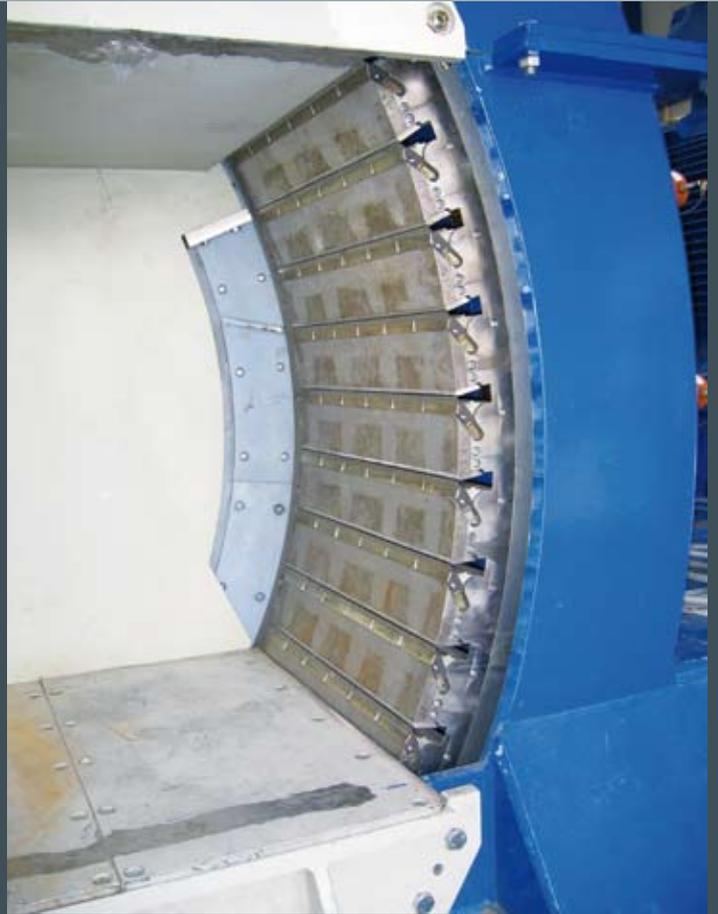
Furthermore, Hombak offers a machine portfolio for the reduction of wood waste and residual wood, such as bark and tree stumps. The rotors of drum chippers have diameters of up to 2,300 mm (standard) – a maximum size which, for example, the Siempelkamp customer Russian Laminate ordered for its complete MDF line in the Smolensk region.

The objective of the company is to position itself, according to the Siempelkamp overall strategy, as a single-source provider in the wood-based materials industry. At the same time Hombak

Rotor



OSB strander, view of the chipping area



Metering bin

Knife-ring flaker



will not lose sight of its single machine business because an order for an individual chipper is as welcome as an order for a complete line. Likewise, new business is just as important for Hombak as spare parts business. Plant operators have a choice when buying, for example, a new knife-ring flaker or refurbishing an existing one.

**With innovative strength and synergy awareness
"genuine Siempelkamp"!**

Not only in regard to the product spectrum but also in regard to our company's philosophy, Hombak is fully integrated into the Siempelkamp Group. "Consciousness of tradition, stability of value, and reliability are the three main features that we incorporate in our company and our products. In this way, we are fully integrated in the overall strategy," outlines Werner Schweinsberg, Executive at Hombak since April 2011 and an expert in the area of wood-size reduction technology for 17 years.

Synergies with other Siempelkamp companies are actively formed and advanced, for example, with the planning specialists from Sicoplan, the automation experts from ATR or the dryer specialists from Büttner. Planning, project planning, design, production, and sales are supported by the constructive dialogs within the Group. This results in products that are perfectly tailored to the customer's requirement, something that can only be achieved through team work of all involved partners.

Another Hombak characteristic also fits in the overall Siempelkamp picture: "We meet market expectations and needs which are still unknown today with new concepts tomorrow, something that would not be possible without an intensive exchange of ideas with our customers. We promote and value the open and conscious communication, which is a vital part of our Group, also in the cooperation with our customers. This behavior advances our innovative strength decisively," says Werner Schweinsberg.

After the cutterhead also means before the next cutterhead – an ongoing development!

The cutterhead has emerged as the current driver of innovation. While in 1956 it was used for the first time in smaller machines, today the cutterhead is Hombak's traditional reference product. Its special feature includes: The knife is not positioned horizontally as usual but peripherally around the cutterhead – hence the curved shape. The highlight at the product introduction and still today is that the wood shavings from a log can be immediately used in the core layer of particleboard after their production.



De-barker



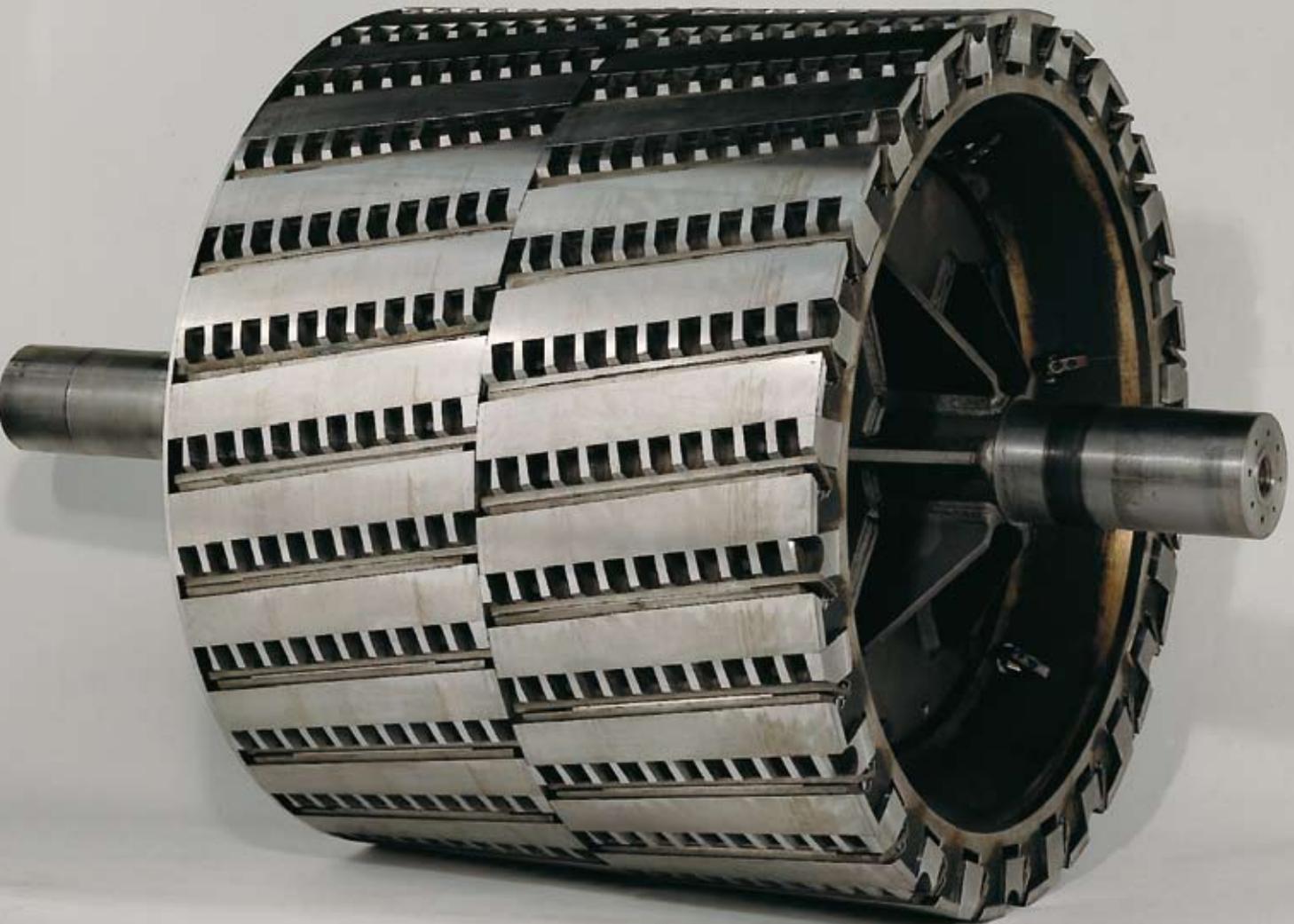
Drum chipper



De-barker



Universal drum flaker



Cutter head

The two-phase process, drum chipper and knife-ring flaker, is also used in current projects by Hombak to accommodate increasingly changing wood types and bent wood. "With little design effort, however, we would also be able to reduce bent wood with a cutterhead," says Werner Schweinsberg.

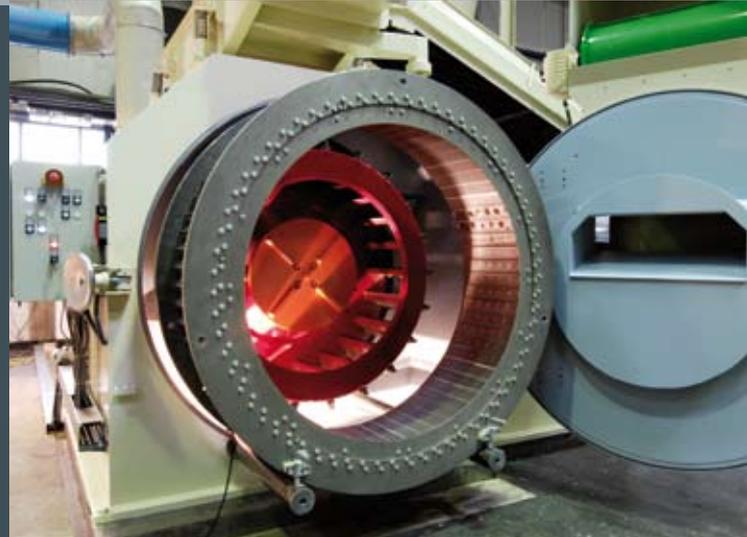
The advantages of the Hombak cutterhead are evident: Due to the fact that the knives are pulled through the wood there is a much better flake quality being generated in comparison to the regular chipping. With such a knife it is possible to cut perpendicular as well as parallel to the fibers' direction. This technology pays off due to its low energy demand which, next to quality and production speed, is an argument that may convince plant operators most.

Just the mere centrifugal force will hold the knife in place, i.e., the knife is clamped and not – as usual – screwed onto the knife holder. This represents two more advantages: less wear on parts and quicker knife replacements. With so many benefits it is not amazing that the cutterhead has always received the recognition of the market that is necessary for such long-term success.

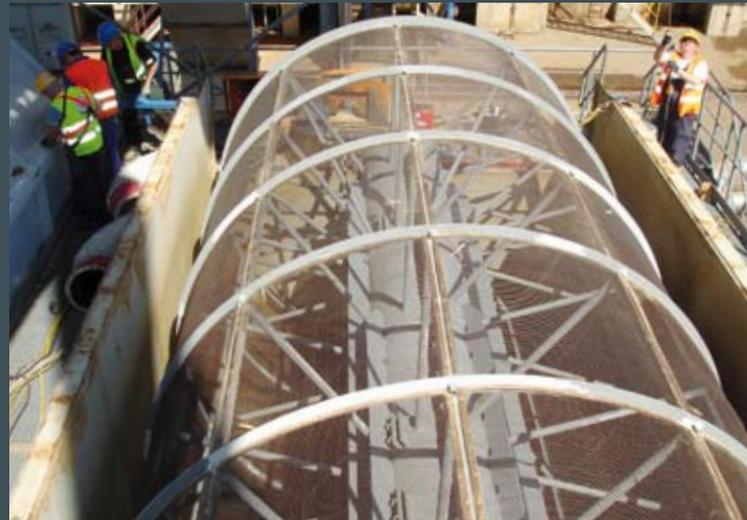
The application fields of the cutterhead are not limited to the wood-based materials industry, as Hombak has known for a long time. The traditional concept is well on its way to set new benchmarks as an innovative product. In the 21st century the Bad Kreuznach company will put a large part of its development work into finding ways to use the special advantages of the innovative cutterhead in other application fields, for example, in paper and plastic reduction.

Basic tests with the perpendicular cut show that this effective chipping technology represents a clear advantage especially when cutting young materials, such as carbon fiber reinforced polymers. Among others, the aircraft industry benefits here (source: a Master Thesis on the WWW). "Our research and development currently concentrates on developing modified cutterhead concepts. In this respect, one cutterhead will always follow behind the next one!" says Werner Schweinsberg.

In order to achieve the objectives, Hombak not only focuses on research and development but also on the expansion of its equipment and process efficiency. A new boring machine allows the machining of larger parts with a component weight of up to three tons. Furthermore, the material flow is being optimized; production processes are becoming increasingly more efficient. For the representation of business processes and for the continuous integration into the Siempelkamp Group, Hombak is investing in a connection to the ERP system used by the Group. This also opens up the advantage of communicating with the other Siempelkamp team players in a more intensive and effective manner!



Cutter head in extended position



Drum screen



Drum chipper during assembly