



Hypertherm®

Equipment manufacturer raises productivity with ProNest® LT

Industry: Dyeing and Finishing

Equipment: ProNest®, HyPerformance® Plasma, HPR260XD®, EDGE® Pro



The company and products

Wuxi Yusheng of Jiangsu, China is a dyeing and finishing machinery factory. This modern Chinese company is backed by an expert staff of researchers and has many years of experience in the dyeing and finishing industry. Wuxi Yusheng's goal is to offer first rate products, coupled with excellent after sales service.

Increasing productivity through automation

Last year at this time, Wuxi Yusheng aimed to increase its output with the adoption of a computer numeric control (CNC) cutting table and nesting software to help maximize efficiency. The company decided on a nesting program that has been commonly used in China in recent years and had hoped the software would be able to arrange parts on sheet metal in a way that maximizes use of raw materials and minimizes waste. However, within two months operators gave feedback that the program did not meet their needs. Programmer Gu Leyi explained, "The software that we purchased was not user friendly and we had problems familiarizing ourselves with the interface. At the same time, it posed many limitations to our work which made us realize that the software wasn't the best fit for our operation."

Sourcing a better option

The negative feedback led Wuxi Yusheng to look for a more suitable nesting solution to meet their needs. Based on recommendations from Wuxi Qiaolian Welding & Cutting Equipment Co., Ltd., a supplier of mechanized cutting systems, Wuxi Yusheng decided to acquire ProNest LT, a full-featured intermediate level nesting software from Hypertherm. This time, operators had a positive experience from the get-go.

"Hypertherm's CAM (computer-aided manufacturing) solution has a user-friendly interface that's similar to popular business software that operators are familiar with,

so it took much less time for them to get acquainted with ProNest LT," commented Gu. "In addition, Hypertherm technicians provided training to ensure that the transition was a smooth one."

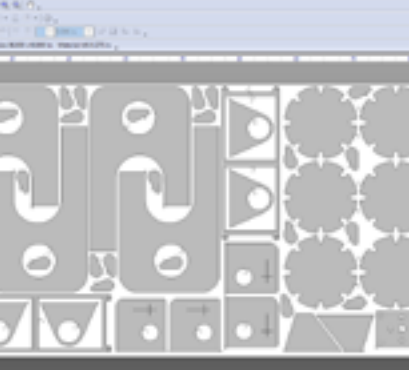
Reaping immediate benefits

One of the key benefits that Wuxi Yusheng found in ProNest LT was the ability to automatically nest parts without sacrificing material utilization. Operators found the parts to be cut were well arranged in a manner that minimized wastage with little need for manual intervention.

Wuxi Yusheng also noted the usefulness of the Common Line Cutting module, which can automatically or interactively arrange profiles with straight edges together so that they may be cut with a common line. This resulted in shorter cut times as pierce cycles were reduced.

Operators also spoke highly of two other productivity enhancing features; Chain and Bridge Cutting, which allow the development of a single, continuous cut path for multiple parts. By eliminating pierce cycles, these functions decreased production time, improved part accuracy and also maximized consumable lifespan. Gu remarked, "ProNest LT is able to cleverly arrange parts to be cut in a way that reduces material wastage, as well as cutting times. This gives the Hypertherm solution a clear edge over our first software."

Other advantages noted by the operators included the ability to edit the cut path without any difficulty (something that was almost impossible to achieve in the past). Also the ability to easily save and export nesting job files for future editing and subsequent orders (with the previous software they were forced to redraw similar shapes from scratch due to the complexity of saving files).



A positive experience

Having adopted a more intuitive program, operators at Wuxi Yusheng now carry out nesting as efficiently as a well-oiled machine. With Hypertherm's guidance, Gu and her colleagues are now proficient at using ProNest® LT, and she has even decided to help others switch to ProNest LT. "I am very happy with ProNest LT, and pleased with the benefits we have received. Now that I am more adept at using the program, I've decided to extend a helping hand to other manufacturers who need troubleshooting while using the software through an instant messaging group setup by Hypertherm. Hypertherm has been very helpful in the transition and adoption process, and I believe this positive working relationship will continue."

For a location near you, visit:
www.hypertherm.com/CAM

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