

Solutions for Lightweight Design



Success with a Light Touch

Lightweight board is at the core of design for the future. The new generation of high-quality lightweight material has a style all its own, perfect for innovative concepts that open up new markets and reach new customers. But lightweight design is more than just a fashion trend because the economics are right. As furniture and cabinetry gets bigger and more substantial in design, the demand has grown for thicker boards that are light, less expensive and easier to move around. New developments in hardware allow lightweight panels to be used without stiles, rails and internal blocking, making them more cost competitive with PB and MDF panels. Rising costs for raw material, transportation and energy, combined with environmental concerns about wood consumption, prove the case that in wood panel construction less is definitely more.



Experts in Lightweight Solutions

Because it takes more than just a good idea to satisfy a need, four major suppliers have combined efforts to provide practical, lightweight solutions to the North American market. Stiles Machinery, Panel Processing, REHAU and Häfele – each partner brings an expertise in lightweight design for production, boards, edging and fittings. The resulting synergy will speed innovation, pioneer development and optimize lightweight panel design opportunities.



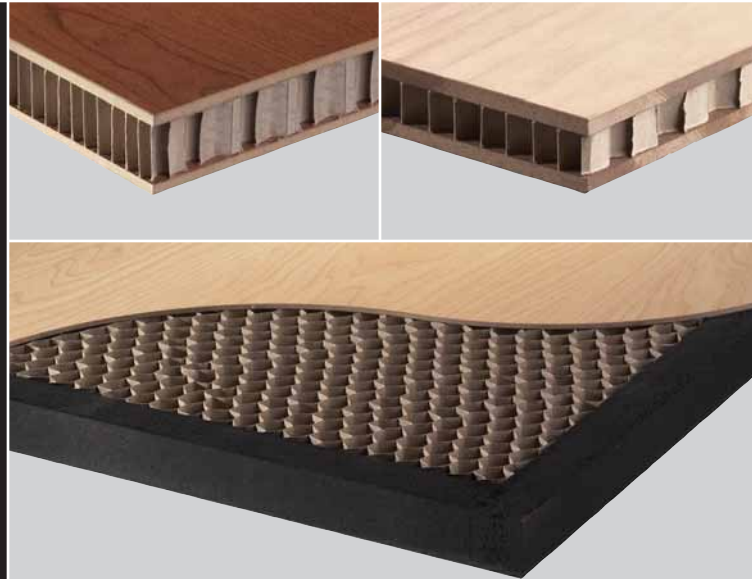
The Source for Production Equipment

Stiles Machinery has brought lightweight panel production from Europe to the United States with the Torwegge PWT 100 Lightweight Panel Line. The Torwegge PWT 100 offers manual or semi-automatic production of a variety of composite material panels in a range of forms. Strong, warp-free, environmentally friendly panels are consistently produced with an easy-to-use system that features modular design for incremental production increases. Part of the Total Production SolutionsSM offered by Stiles, the PWT 100 is supported with advanced equipment integration, experienced manufacturing consulting and superior service.



Panels Designed for Strength and Stability

From Panel Processing, the leading supplier of custom wood panel components, comes Kor-Board®. Kor-Board is a laminated sandwich panel utilizing face panels from the wide variety Panel Processing fabricates and supplies to provide greater design flexibility. Face panels are laminated to a recycled honeycomb paper core or a foam core. This process creates an exceptionally strong panel with dimensional stability and deflection resistance. Kor-Board is ideal for store fixtures, P-O-P displays, cabinets and furniture where the design calls for a thick panel, but where weight is a consideration.



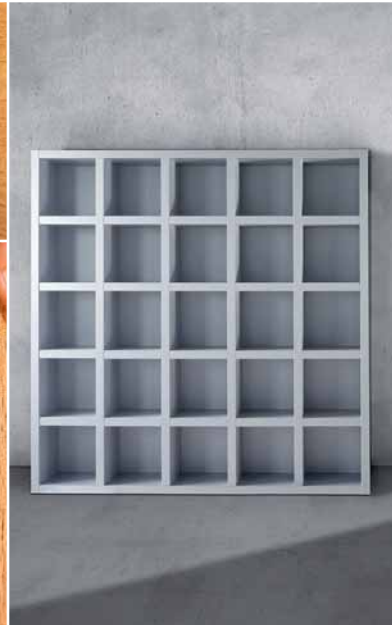
Edging Solutions for Support and Free-Form Design

REHAU SupportEdge™ is used in place of frames to increase the rigidity and load-bearing capacity of lightweight panels. Its flexibility allows creation of panels in virtually any shape. SupportEdge is fed from the coil directly onto the lightweight panel enhancing manufacturing efficiency. It can also be applied concurrently with decorative edgeband using commercially available edgebanding equipment. The porous nature of the ABS foam material with which SupportEdge is constructed provides an excellent surface for bonding of all thermoplastic edgebanding (including PVC, ABS and PP) using hotmelt adhesives. REHAU's wide range of decorative edgings including thin, thick, semi-rigid, grain-through, fluted, Magic™ Translucent Metallic, Magic™ Metallic Line and Magic Creativo™ provides the finishing touch to lightweight panels.



Functionality for Lightweight Panel Hardware

Always a pioneer in the development of innovative hardware solutions, Häfele was the first company to develop connectors that allow the production of extremely robust, load-bearing structures using lightweight panels. Häfele's broad selection of connectors and other hardware bring functionality to lightweight panel designs and production. One key to constructing furniture using lightweight panels is Häfele's Varianta screw, which allows a wide variety of standard fittings to be used even for thin cover layers starting at just 4 mm.



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