



CASE STUDY:

Drill bit machines that leave holes in the competition

CLIENT: Patience & Nicholson
Industry: Manufacturing
Business: Machine builder and user
Project: Providing control systems for drill grinding machines

SIEMENS

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The company

Producing 60,000 drill bits for hand tools every day, New Zealand based Patience & Nicholson is a global supplier of high quality drill components, which are sold under its own brands and those of its OEM customers. The company not only produces the drill-bits, but also builds the machines that manufacture them.



The challenge

“In our business, we need to implement new ideas and build machines from scratch,” says Glenn Morgan, Engineering and Production Manager at Patience & Nicholson. “When CNC comes in to help us with the control system of a machine, they have to analyse the requirements and invent a new production method each time. From experience I can say that they do this very well - they always come through.” For the TSX grinder, for example, CNC had to develop special algorithms that allow the machine to cut specified drill point shapes.

The TSX also meets another challenge, that of having to be highly flexible in New Zealand’s low volume market - it can grind flutes, reliefs and points all on one machine.

Why CNC?

Collaborative relationship

“We’re working very closely with CNC - with our specialists on the mechanical side and CNC’s experts handling the control systems,” explains Glenn. “It works perfectly every time. Should a problem arise, we can get on the phone to them anytime and they’ll find a solution. They communicate well with us and are very good to deal with.”

Expertise and excellent service

Glenn describes CNC as a trusted supplier that goes above and beyond the call of duty with everything they do. “We never have to worry about their products. They always do a very good job and deliver what we need. The skills and abilities of their staff are second to none.”

Quality equipment

“By using Siemens, CNC offers some of the best technology you can get,” says Glenn. “We’ve found their products to be extremely reliable and user-friendly. In fact, we’re thinking about changing most if not all of our control systems over to CNC and Siemens. They’re far superior to other providers in the marketplace.”

The result

Having worked with CNC for over 10 years, Glenn believes that the company helps businesses become more internationally competitive. “Our machines are now arguably the best in the world,” he says. “They are flexible, so we can reset them quickly to perform different tasks. They’re also very easy to handle, so our productivity has improved dramatically.”