

Wanzl, by investing in efficiency retains manufacturing in Germany

7.000 Shopping Trolleys a day



If the name Wanzl isn't familiar to you, then it will be when you push a shopping trolley at a supermarket or carry luggage at the airport. Wanzl actually produce **over 7000 shopping trolleys daily** at their Kirchheim factory made from around 7.5 million metres of tube a year!. In all probability the trolley you are pushing is made by Wanzl. The company has over 2000 personnel operating from two production centres in Germany (Leipheim and Kirchheim) and have a global sales network.

Winning over the sceptics

There were many doubters at the Kirchheim factory when, four years ago, the first laser tube cutting system was installed. "That was an excellent decision because this technology has enabled us to provide job security and a future for jobs here in Germany," comments Anton Boxler, the Production Director and Company Secretary. In December 2005 the second ADIGE laser tube cutting system came on stream and the company **began working on three shifts**. Boxler also says that, in his judgement, the positive effects of laser cut-

ting are clear "**The level of finish quality from the welding of the tube** has only been made possible by using laser cutting."

Investment in the first system, an LT652 sold by ADIGE, has paid for itself well within two years and now that the new LT712D system is side by side with the previous machine, they work in three shifts **controlled by a single operator** who occasionally is also able to spend time doing bending operations. "We have never had any problems with our laser machines as we spend time doing the necessary preventative maintenance (every 2000 hours of operation). Given that we are working to full capacity, it is important to maintain a high level of machine efficiency" states Boxler.

Precision has made savings

"We quickly began to design favouring laser cutting. It has produced savings on component wastage, on welding and importantly, on the number of parts requiring rework, from cutting to drilling – plus a massive improvement in quality. In other words, the tubes are more accurate and repeatable



so the manufacturing path has become simpler and more rational allowing us to make some of our **products in kit form for self-assembly**, “explained Anton Boxler.

“We have created a team of specialists and technicians for the laser cutter who are extremely enthusiastic and highly motivated – made possible

by the type of technology and the modern equipment being used. When we discuss new products **“Laser Man” is always around the table** identifying all the opportunities for the most effective methods of production, right up until the end of the project.

From 1 to 500 part lots

“Actually **we cut up to 440,000 tubes and profiles a year** with our Lasertube in batches from 1 to 500 pieces. The laser gives us no problems with the aluminium and stainless steel we are cutting,” Anton Boxler continued to say. This has helped Wanzl to use just-in-time production and to reduce stock and work-in-progress to a minimum.”

30% quicker

The new LT712D has 2KW power and is 30% more productive than the first laser we purchased. This is an important factor given that its not how long the machine is working but much time it is producing product which in our case is more than 90%,” concluded Boxler.



WANZL
METALLWARENFABRIK
GMBH
 Werk III
 Hasberger Str. 13
 87757 Kirchheim/Schwaben
 Tel. 08266/299-0
 Fax. 08266/299-100
 E-Mail: info@wanzl.de
 www.wanzl.de