

A bright future for UK manufacturing

Record Power's new woodturning tools and increase in UK manufacturing



As most woodworkers and woodturners will know, Record Power is a world-renowned UK brand, with its historic roots planted firmly in Sheffield. In recent years it has been developing and expanding its UK-based manufacturing capacity, beginning with the acquisition of the CamVac brand of dust extraction machines back in 2014. Since taking on CamVac, it has improved and streamlined the manufacturing processes and ramped up production capacity, allowing it to sell these machines worldwide in many thousands.

Recent significant investment in 2020 allowed further expansion of the production department – which is now the largest in the company – in order to provide the ability to competitively manufacture a much wider range of products with greater control of quality and cost. Its range of modern CNC machinery, semi-automatic

finishing technology, grinding stations, plasma cutting machinery and much more gives the flexibility and capacity to produce a wide range of products to exact specifications.

All this is, of course, meaningless without the right people, and Record Power is proud to employ some exceptionally talented engineers, designers and operators to turn its ambitious plans into reality.

In addition, it now features the prestigious Made in Sheffield mark across its range of turning tools and CamVac dust extractors and is looking forward to applying it to a growing number of products in the future.

Turning tools are the latest new product to be made in its own factory in the UK. Although the company had many years of experience making turning tools in Meadow Street, Sheffield, as part of its old group of companies prior to 2003,

this range of tools has taken several years of development to reach the market.

For what is such a simple-looking tool, there is a lot to consider. The company began by reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of its original Sheffield-made range and identified areas that could be improved. It then benchmarked these against other UK manufacturers and tested the strengths and weaknesses of their offerings.

This led the first sets of prototypes which, were tested in a number of different countries by local professional woodturners, keen woodturning enthusiasts and experienced specialist woodturning retailers.

After many months of testing different handle shapes, sizes and tool profiles, Record Power finally found the designs that met its objectives. It wanted full size, professionally specified tools that were still safe and simple to use, even for



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first-time turners. These tools feature generously sized beech handles, which feel good in the hand and offer plenty of fine control as well as strong support for heavy cuts. The fluted tools have been refined to give the best clearance for smooth, easy cuts and all profiles have been chosen as the safest general-purpose grind for any level of user, with maximum ease of resharpening. However good the quality or potential of any turning tool – it will only operate at its best when properly sharpened and this is the area that many users find the most difficult to master. So, the tools have fully professional specifications and sizes – including the same steel and heat treatment as

most of their UK competition – but the profiles are simple to use and sharp straight out of the wallet. There are online videos to help show how to do this as simply and as cost effectively as possible – freehand with a basic grinder.

A priority was to provide the best quality, performance and value possible, within the normal price range of the UK-made market, yet ensure the tools were as safe to use and easy to resharpen as possible, and the company believes it has met that brief.

Its increase in UK manufacturing is part of a long-term initiative to increase production of exclusive British-made Record Power products. In addition

to turning tools, Record Power have recently launched a range of high-quality UK-made lathe headstock and tailstock accessories. This range comprises four-prong, six-prong and multi-tooth drive centres as well as a traditional revolving centre and ring centre. An interchangeable tailstock revolving centre kit will also be launched in 2022.

These ranges are currently exported to over 30 countries, allowing Record Power to significantly expand across the globe while also creating local jobs and making a positive contribution to the UK's manufacturing industry.

www.recordpower.co.uk

For more information about Made in Sheffield & Made in Britain visit: madeinsheffield.org & madeinbritain.org

