



-pulls mastered

Working in close partnership with SCM Group member, Stefani, Kleiberit's specialists have introduced what's believed to be a world first: a PUR adhesive that enables J-Pull handles to be produced using soft-forming technology.

Back in the early 1970s, when fitted kitchens really started to take off in a big way, the laminate-faced slab door was pretty much all that was available - and atop each chipboard fascia, one of the most common handle designs was a screwed-on metal profile that ran its whole width. What goes around often comes around and today, that same, simple handle style has gone through something of a renaissance. What's emerged is a trend-setting, sleek and highly desirable handle that's part of the fascia and matches the décor on the face: the J-Pull.

Until very recently, the only way to make a J-Pull handle was to route the top edge of a foil-finished MDF fascia and paint it so it matched the décor on the face. That was until the Kleiberit team, headed up by Antonio Daltri from Kleiberit Italy, came up with a stroke of genius and entered talks with SCM to develop an innovative project that would result in a revolution in the production of the J-Pull. The result of their collaboration was the development of a new kind of soft-former - and a new kind of adhesive technology with the properties necessary to produce J-Pull handles using not paint but, for the very first time, soft-forming technology.

The problem Kleiberit needed to overcome was how to bond an edgebanding material so it remained secure in the valley of a routed J-Pull. "Antonio Daltri and his team had to develop an adhesive that was specifically formulated for this new J-handle technology," explains Kleiberit's Bradley Larkan. "The process

requires a PUR with an extremely strong green tack that enables the edgebanding material to be bonded securely in the valley of the J-shape during the soft-forming process." After many months of development work, the solution was found: a high viscosity PUR hotmelt adhesive that's now available as Kleiberit 707.9.06 and guarantees users of the new soft-forming technology safe and easy processing. "Nobody had a solution with PUR," continues Bradley. "Because 707.9.06 is a PUR adhesive, all the advantages of a PUR are present in a J-Pull. J-Pull doors finished with this new cross-linkable adhesive technology benefit from being waterproof and heat-resistant, so they are ideal for use in bathrooms, where conditions are warm, damp and humid, and for use in kitchens near hot stoves, tumble driers and washing machines."

Recognition for their innovation and the joint contribution they have made in the field of J-shaped edges came to Kleiberit and Stefani at Xylexpo 2016 when the presentation of a new soft-forming system in combination with Kleiberit PUR hotmelts won them the Xylexpo Innovation Award 2016 in the Panel Processing category. Commenting in Milan, the President of Xylexpo, Lorenzo Primulti added his personal applause: "It gives an excellent response to market requirements for the edge banding of ergonomic profiles, using polyurethane glues for applications involving narrow radii and thick edges." For full details: 01530 836699.



Below. Stefani's Gyroni De Leonardis and Kleiberit's Antonio Daltri with their Xylexpo Innovation Awards.

