

Clean and reliable marking of timber floors

Constantly available reliable marking solution at Parador

Parador manufactures and distributes engineered wood and laminate flooring. Each plank is marked on the back with production-related data. Therefore, the company needs two printers applying clean, accurate and abrasive-proof codes which do not cause any downtime.

"We live for products that make each home the most beautiful in the world - authentic, innovative and challenging," With this motto Parador as a design brand is an international leader in the floor and wall design. Its portfolio ranges from solid wood flooring, parquet, laminates and panels for the living room through to decking and screening elements for outdoor use. The focus lies on quality materials, precise finishes and the unique design of the products. With innovative products, Parador sets the threshold for creative and quality standards and prepares the ground for exclusive furnishing. This is confirmed by international design awards such as the red dot design award 2009, the AIT Award 2011 and the Interior Innovation Award 2011.

Excellent quality and reliable technology

To provide a consistently high quality of products, the plank manufacturer must be technically always up to date. This applies to the entire production chain, including the engine and motor vehicle fleet. "We turn every little screw to get the most out of our production and to achieve superior results," says Egon Marin, technical plant manager at Parador.

This quality claim is also true for the marking systems as an integral part of the production chain. They are integrated into the profiling line milling the profile out of the plank. Before the finished and cleaned plank is finally checked, the marking system prints production-related data directly onto the underside of the parquet or solid wood flooring. Over the encrypted code Parador can precisely trace the manufacturing of the product whenever required.

Absolute reliability of the marking solution is a must

Since 2008, the company uses two thermal inkjet printers of aps. Since each individual plank must be coded, the absolute reliability of the coding solution is a must. The system in use before didn't fulfill the requirements of the company any more, but made daily work difficult, since the constant system availability was no longer assured.

In addition, the former marking solution soiled the production line. At the end, a legible marking was no longer given. "For us it was important to install a reliable and interruption-free system. Therefore we have investigated in detail which devices are suitable for our needs. Then we carried out several tests with the ink," explains Egon Marin. The team at Parador checked how fast the ink dries. That was a crucial selection criterion, because the finished planks are stapled after coding. At an average production rate of 45 parts per minute the planks run across each other about every 1.3 second - until then the marking must be dry so that the print will not abrade on the plank underneath.



About Parador

A leading manufacturer of high quality systems for floor and wall design, the Parador GmbH & Co. KG has developed since its founding in 1977. The product range includes laminate flooring, engineered flooring, solid wood flooring and panels, which are manufactured at its German headquarters in Coesfeld and at the Austrian sites Guessing and Frauental. Since 2009, decking and screening complete the range. Highest standards of technology, materials and surface finishing as well as an outstanding product design guarantee the worldwide success. Parador is a company in the Hüls corporate group, which includes among others the brands Hülsta and Rolf Benz.

Abrasion-proof printing thanks to the fast-drying ink

The decision was made for the aps basic printer absolute Essential for simple coding requirements and for one of the fast-drying solvent-free inks from the aps ink portfolio. This ink doesn't blur even at high production rates and creates an easily readable printing.

Moreover Parador benefits from the high resolution printing of the thermal inkjet printers. About ten people use the devices in three-shift operation and cope with the handling. Egon Marin: "The menu system is so logical, you cannot do anything wrong." Even the start-stop behavior of the device and the inks was checked. In the previously used continuous inkjet printers the start-up after a break involved a complicated purification procedure which needed the devices to be rinsed and readjusted. The aps marking systems start after a downtime directly with consistent quality.

Avoid downtime, save costs

Parador prints about 25,000 planks in the first and 8,000 planks in the second production line. The number of planks which are manufactured depends today on the size of the planks and the job situation, not on the availability of the marking system. The absolute printers also convince in everyday life: Since the devices require no maintenance or repairs, they also provide significant time and cost savings. In a short time, the cost of the device was recovered. "Comparing the downtime of the previous solution with the low cost of the new equipment, we certainly have our issues settled in less than two months," says Egon Marin.

A third line has recently been started up at Parador and will be also equipped with a new marking system in the medium term. Since products for outdoor use are manufactured in this line, a weather-resistant ink is required. The flooring manufacturer currently checks the possibilities herefore.



About aps

The aps group with headquarters in Herrenberg, Germany, is a leader in industrial marking and coding, specialising in ink jet technology. Founded in 2000, the aps group is represented with their own offices and stores worldwide in more than 30 countries. With their absolute printer, the company offers the first and reusable, maintenance-free inkjet printer. Both products and packaging can be identified thanks to the large range of ink available.