

PRO 100 - easy to use

Auckland based software supplier Design 2 Cam last year introduced the PRO 100 design and manufacturing program to the New Zealand market. JOINERS magazine spoke to three manufacturers who have begun to use it for a range of requirements from just designing kitchens through to full CNC production, and the overriding comment was - it is very easy to use.

PRO 100 and its companion PRO Centre were introduced to New Zealand by Design 2 Cam principal, Anthony Scammell. An apprentice served joiner by trade Anthony has been selling and servicing software for the kitchen design and manufacturing industry for many years. As such he knows what works from both a manufacturing and design viewpoint and when he came across PRO 100, while researching European programmes, he liked what he saw and worked to secured the Australasian rights.

As a design program PRO 100 is very adaptable and can be used to design kitchens, cabinets, joinery, furniture or as an interior design tool. It is based on Microsoft Windows and as such has a very user friendly interface. It has a custom built catalogue to suit your business with simple and easy navigation including graphic to depict each item so you can visually see what you are going to add.

Once your design is complete you can get a client proposal and manufacturing information with a few clicks of the button from PRO Centre which can also ready the job for CNC production.

Rhys Powell from **Rhys Powell Joinery** in New Plymouth purchased the package late last year primarily for kitchen design. He was looking for a programme that was easy to use and flexible and has found that to be the case.

"I have found it easy to pick up, like everything you need to spend time at it but it is less complicated than the last program I had. I developed the library with Anthony to suit my own construction methods which means I am designing cabinets as I intend to manufacture them. The click and drag options work well and you are able to stretch or change cabinets or parts of cabinets very easily and the cabinet and product coding is very well organised."

Rhys is currently only using the kitchen design end but intends to progress to using it for cut and parts lists. "As a design and selling tool I find it great, the visuals are good, it's easy for the client to visualise their kitchen and it also easy to use in front of the client when making changes to any design."

Whangarei kitchen and cabinet manufacture **NZMS Ltd** purchased PRO 100 last October. They do a lot of custom made non standard work and find the software ideal for that.

"We can work in it to totally suit our own purpose", says owner Bernie Dewstow. "Whether it's a cabinet, a profile for a cornice, or a different door, you are able to draw each component and then assemble them as you wish - with endless opportunities to alter or change cabinet and construction methods as you go. I particularly like the fact that you are able to operate in non parametric mode so that if you

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designs to the company's production base in East Tamaki, they needed something simple to fit a more complex situation. The man in charge of setting it up was Craig Marshall.

"It's the simplest design package I have ever come across," says Craig. "We are able to operate our whole dealer network on the one mainframe with one central library, it was easy to create and suits our production needs."

We are totally automated from design to production. We have a standard library which all our dealers use to design their kitchens, if they require anything different we design it at our central design center and email it to them for inclusion in their kitchen. They then email the complete kitchen back to us. Every part in our library has a CNC code applied to it, so when the kitchen arrives here it is automatically costed and readied for production - all we need to do is select the machine or machines that we want to run it on.

"It is early days yet," says Craig, "but so far we are very happy with the way things are going, in fact we are talking with Anthony about developing a lite version to put on our website so our clients can make a start on their own kitchens - but that's another story."



want to do something like change a drawer front size you can do so without everything else changing as well."

The company use the software for design and to ready the job for production. "We use it in conjunction with Ardis, which comes with the package, to produce manual part and cut lists as well as optimisation schedules. We are not yet linked to CNC machinery but I am mindful that when and if we make the shift to CNC we will be well down the track already."

Three months into using the software Bernie is very happy with his purchase. "I have used other software and by comparison have found this one quite easy to pick up, the initial support from Anthony in installing and establishing the library was good, he is easy to contact and has acted quickly on any subsequent queries."

One company who use the software from design through costing to manufacture is **Kitchenz NZ Ltd.** With six franchise outlet throughout the country, all sending in kitchen

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PR⁺I⁺O⁺O is an incredibly user friendly software for creating 3D kitchens, 3D furniture and interior designs. Based around the familiar Microsoft Windows environment the easy to use interface is simplistic and intuitive.

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