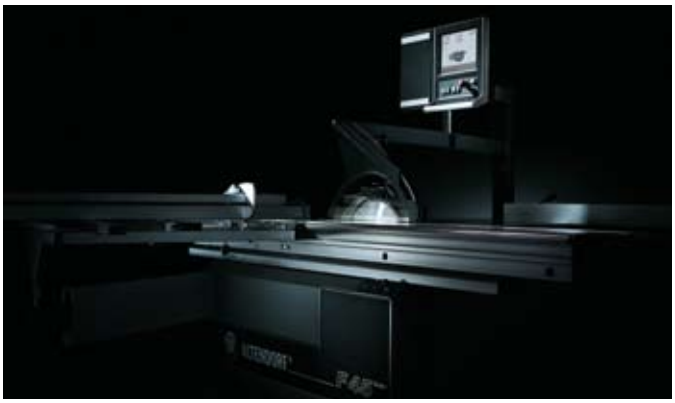
Altendorf centenary: setting new professional standards

Premiere of the new F45

As a fitting tribute to the company's centenary, Altendorf is presenting the next generation of its successful F45 sliding table saw at the Holz-Handwerk woodworking fair in Nuremberg. Offered in two basic versions, the new machine covers a much wider price/performance range than ever before.



Under the spotlight in Nuremberg: the new, completely redesigned F45 from Altendorf.

Appealing ergonomic design: safety hood and control panel on the new F45.

Over the course of its history, Altendorf has already set down a number of technical benchmarks with the F45 sliding table saw. From the development of the double roller carriage, to motorised adjustment and CNC-controlled axes, the F45 has always been the very model of cutting-edge technology in sliding table saws. As such, it has found widespread acclaim in the industry: of the 120,000 Altendorf sliding table saws sold worldwide, almost 70,000 are F45s. Now, to celebrate the company's centenary, the Minden-based market leader is presenting the next generation of its successful flagship model. Although the Minden engineers are holding back the final details to surprise us with at the Holz-Handwerk fair, Altendorf's management granted us an exclusive first look at the new F45 which is set to redefine the professional standard yet again.

The new series was designed with the aim of providing the best possible professional technology at an optimum price. Or, to put it another way, more machine and superior technology for your buck. Altendorf is keen to show that this need not be a contradiction in terms, given the extensive experience in designing and building cost-effective sliding table saws that it has to offer.

Marketing & Sales Director Andreas Ploeger mentions another aspect and points out a change in the marketplace: „Not everyone requires the very highest quality with every feature under the sun. Promising new market segments on an international level and a change in the investment behaviour of our customers have necessitated greater differentiation in the range of features we offer."

The new series is therefore intended to fill a gap in the mid-price range and appeal to an even wider range of customers. The F45 will be available in two different basic versions: the „standard" mid-range version with a generous basic specification will round off the lower end of the F45 spectrum. Optional configuration packages, such as the CNC-controlled rip fence for example, will offer a high level of convenience from the outset. The new top-of-the-range model, distinguished by its own grey livery, is called the „F45 ELMO" and supports up to 4 CNC-controlled axes. High-tech accessories, including a barcode printer, are of course available as options on the „F45 ELMO".

A few highlights of the completely redesigned new series:

- Optimised redesign of the machine frame, now standardised across all versions. The new suspension of the saw unit will ensure even smoother running.
- The developers have paid a lot of attention to maximising user friendliness: all versions of the F45 series now come with on-screen control. A touch screen interface with pictograms enables even quicker and easier machine operation on the F45 ELMO. Around 90 percent of all settings can be made on the screen or via the touch screen. Only the On/Off switch remains within easy reach on the front of the machine frame.
- An appealing modern design is a must for the Minden developers, so a high-quality aluminium casing replaces the plastic panels of its predecessor. When not needed, the tilt arm for the crosscut mitre fence can be swung away to lie flush with the body of the machine.
- The new design of the safety hood is also interesting: when cutting mitres, there is no need to use a second hood, simply swapping over to a „half-shell" is all that's required.
- Altendorf has retained its tried and tested double roller carriage with low-maintenance guidance system.
- The F45 option packages also mean that changing over the drive belt – always an unpopular task – can now be consigned to the past. Altendorf has solved this problem with a further improved VARIO drive with infinitely variable speed selection.

  Some new or improved features stand out on the F45 ELMO in particular:
- Scorer setting with optional RAPIDO Plus system on three axes via the touch screen.
- The flip stops on the crosscut mitre fence can now be set electronically up to 3500 mm on the F45 ELMO IV.
- Optimised setting options for crosscuts and mitres. Automatic digital calculation of length compensation is available on both the crosscut mitre fence and the DUPLEX fence. (mm)

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