

# Field report



**Investing in a Zünd digital cutting system generates savings and increases workflow efficiency.**



**Raoul Fetz**

**HWB Gürtel-fabrikations AG** was established in 1941 by Hermann Weiss-Buob in the town of Wolfhalden, Switzerland. Initially, the business was focused entirely on producing fabric-covered buttons but

soon expanded into making suspenders and men's, women's, and children's belts from fabric, synthetic materials, and leather. Today HWB Gürtelfabrikations AG is Switzerland's leading producer of these items. Highly quality conscious, the company uses only the finest raw materials, none of which originate outside the EU.

Innovative and cutting-edge products as well as close relationships with customers and suppliers have always been the company's primary goals. With this philosophy and a combination of traditional values and solid business practices, HWB has long been following a steady path to success.

### Efficient and sustainable

Prior to investing in a Zünd digital cutting system, leather belt strips were cut with a

strap cutter while cutting dies were used for the remaining parts. This production workflow was very labor-intensive and, from an inventory-control and warehousing standpoint, also exceedingly inflexible. It invariably led to material waste and extra steps in the production process. By putting into operation the Zünd LR-1600, the company was able to generate savings on multiple levels: waste in material and labor was brought down to a minimum, and without the need for storing dies, warehousing costs could also be dramatically reduced. At the same time, the entire production process became much more flexible, giving the company the ability to react quickly to changes in orders or trends. Any shape or design can now be converted economically, creating endless possibilities even for very short runs.

With the combination hand-cutting/die-cutting previously used, an Appenzell belt (shown below) would take roughly 6 minutes to produce. Today all cutting is done on the Zünd cutter in just a little over 2 minutes and with less material waste. This represents a time savings of nearly 66%.

Here is where the implications of these savings become tangible.

### Expanding on the possibilities

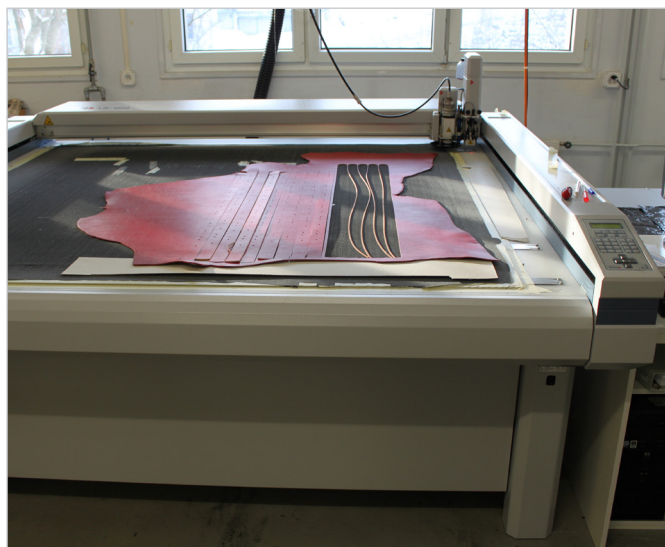
*"Without any unnecessary intermediate steps, our production workflow has become so much more efficient, we have been able to pass these cost-savings directly on to our customers,"* says Raoul Fetz, Assistant Manager at HWB Gürtelfabrikations AG.

Raoul Fetz continues: *"The flexibility we have gained with the new workflow also allows us to move much faster from concept to product. Small series for sampling are no problem at all anymore. In the future, we would also like to further increase contract manufacturing. In this, too, we have complete confidence in the Zünd digital cutting system."*

[www.guertel.ch](http://www.guertel.ch)



View of the stock room.



Short runs made easy with the LR-1600.



Appenzell leather belt and hide.

Factbox		
Application	Cutting method	Time required
Leather belt	manual	approx. 6 minutes
Leather belt	digital - Zünd LR-1600	approx. 2 minutes
Time saved		approx. 66%

**Headquarter**  
**Zünd Systemtechnik AG**  
 Industriestrasse 8  
 CH-9450 Altstätten  
 T +41 71 757 81 00  
 F +41 71 757 81 11  
 info@zund.com  
 www.zund.com

