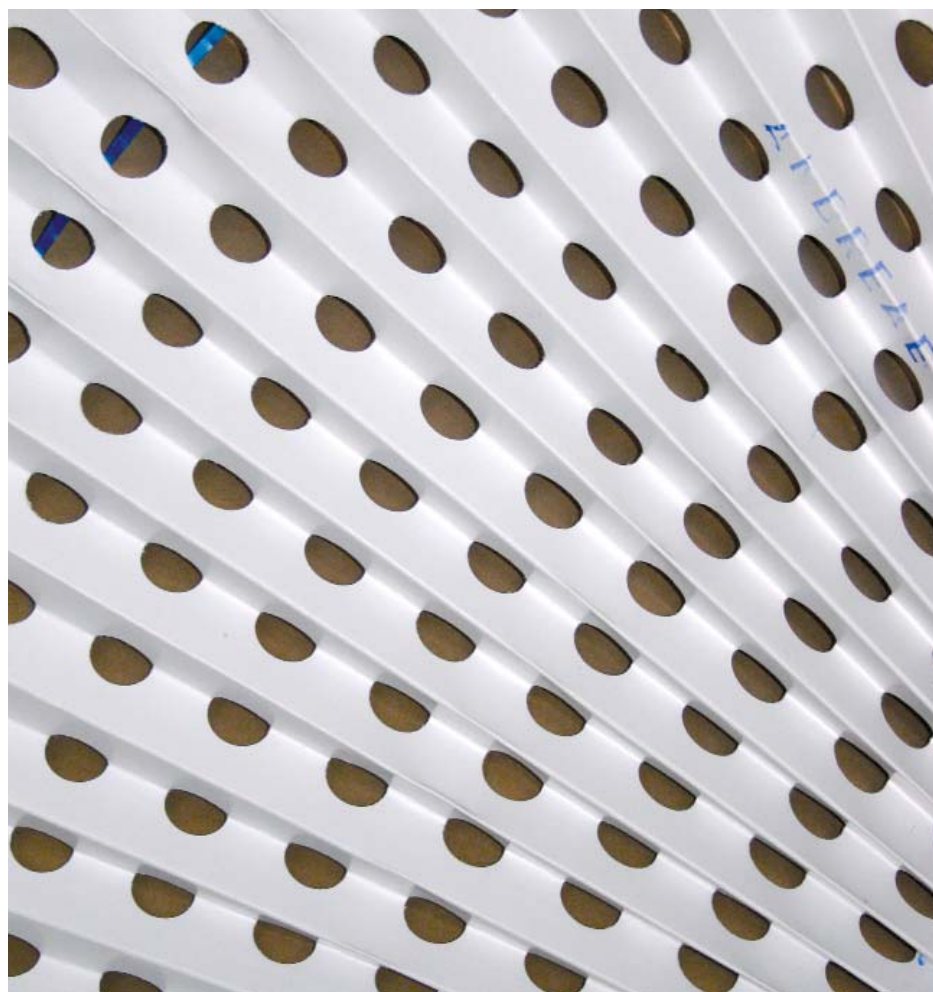


**Right:** Through Schucon, filters and abrasive wheels are also available, completing Schubert's finishing product portfolio.

**Below:** The Cattinair Rotoclean S offers a rotating spray pattern for zero striping and downward extraction to prevent the pigment forming into droplets in a void.



# from start to finish

*There's a lot more to Schubert Technical Services than the amazing Schubox, as Cresta know well.*



Above: Mark Smith

Mark Smith is a typical Yorkie: direct, straight talking and pretty astute in business. Mark, now managing director of Cresta, took over the company with his father in the mid seventies and from humble beginnings in the polishing shop, they rose through the ranks to buy out the previous owners and claw it back from the brink. Today, Cresta is as successful as it is well-known for its pine childrens' furniture.

Mark is a very hands-on guy. He knows the machines and he knows the processes - but being a Yorkie, he won't buy on a whim. If he couldn't see a benefit to a new piece of kit, all attempts at persuasion would be futile. But talk solutions with him and it quickly becomes evident that he is willing to explore ideas - even radical ones - if there's a genuine production benefit to be had.

Peter Schubert of Schubert Technical Services is the sort of guy Mark likes.

Peter's approach to any problem has always been to apply lateral thinking and he's of the school that believes there are no problems, just unfound solutions. It's worth getting ringside seats in the black leather chairs of Mark's office to watch the two of them exploring a production problem. There is a long-standing liaison which has seen Schubert Technical services provide Cresta with a whole spectrum of finishing equipment: Cresta bought the first Schubox infra-red catalytic drying oven, the first Schubert denibbing and sanding bench, the first Cattinair Rotoclean S - not to mention spray equipment, sanding wheels and filters.

"We bought the first Schubox about six years ago," says Mark. "Peter carried out the testing at Cresta. It turned out to be the perfect solution to our bottleneck." Cresta has a three-section Schubox - a standard unit of 3.45m long x 2.5m wide with double doors and two catalysts. The



**Left:** Peter Schubert's unique sanding table sucks dust down through the filters under the table, then returns it as warm air via a second filtration system at the top. Ex stock for under £3k. Also available without recirculation or without filter system.

Schubox is one of those typically Schubertian inventions that does exactly what it says on the tin: it runs on propane and cures the high solids A-C lacquers which Cresta uses in around twelve minutes, eradicating most of the VOCs and reducing Cresta's emissions - and its need for storage and drying space - markedly. It's so simple it makes you wonder why its invention didn't happen sooner.

Mark is just as pleased with his Cattinair Rotoclean S spray system. Installed last November, it's something he admits he had been looking into for a couple of years. "We looked at reciprocating systems," he says, "One drawback is that the excess lacquer is extracted either side of the belt; without extraction in the middle you can get drips. There's also a tendency with reciprocating systems towards striping."

Cattinair's background is in extraction and they've paid a great deal of attention

to this aspect when designing the Rotoclean S. The system in the Rotoclean S draws air straight down through the belt and through an easy-change filter system underneath, eliminating any possibility of a void in the centre where suspended pigment could amalgamate and fall onto the workpiece below. Transfer efficiency and edge coating are much improved by the rotary system and the patented rotary valve on the central shaft is fitted with a non-drip seal. "It's good with intricate shapes and changing colours is fast," says Mark. "We're running clear, white, tinted colours and primer - maybe twelve different colours. The Cattinair makes it easy."

Suggest that Cresta has become something of a showroom for the spectrum of finishing machinery and products that Schubert Technical Services supplies and Mark grins. "I guess we have," he says. But the spin-offs have clearly been worth it.

To explore unfound solutions to your finishing problems, call Schubert Technical Services on 01226 360900 or email [schuberts@lineone.net](mailto:schuberts@lineone.net)



**Above:** Cresta's Schubox was the first Schubert Technical services supplied. It's a 3-section unit with 2 catalysts which runs on propane.