Customer Case Study

Levan Associates, Inc: Embracing Automation With Peddinghaus

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CUSTOMER NAME: Levan Associates, Inc.

INDUSTRY: Structural Steel Fabrication

LOCATION: Emmaus, PA, USA

CHALLENGE: Automate existing manual processes for faster throughput and higher accuracy

SOLUTION: Installation of Peddinghaus equipment including the Anglemaster-623, FPB-1800 plate processor, Advantage-2 drill line and a PeddiWriter CNC layout marking line

RESULTS: Staying competitive within the market by processing 25% more steel with more accuracy

Setting CNC Goals

Levan Associates was founded in 1985 by Scott Davis, and in 1989, was joined by current business partner, David Mushko. Together they began with four employees and the ambition to grow their company into an innovative structural fabrication firm within Emmaus, Pennsylvania, USA. However, manual processing methods were proving to be quite timely for Levan, and it was becoming more difficult to source local skilled talent. David and Scott decided that CNC was the future for Levan.

“Before Peddinghaus, our operation was very laborious,” explained David. “We did everything by hand; we laid everything out by hand; we punched everything by hand. Now, everything is automated.”

Investing in Their Fabrication Future

The Levan team searched for CNC solutions at a trade show where they first heard about Peddinghaus. After looking at all available manufacturers, David and Scott knew Peddinghaus was the right technology to grow their company. “The Peddinghaus sales team do a wonderful job of marketing their product,” David stated. “I reviewed many different machines and the build quality of the Peddinghaus machines is superior to others on the market. It’s one of the reasons we went with Peddinghaus. We felt that their equipment was sturdier, and the backup support is the best on the market.”
Levan’s initial investment with Peddinghaus technology included an Anglemaster-623 angle/flat line and further lead to additional future investments with an FPB-1800 plate processor, an Advantage-2 drill line and a PeddiWriter CNC layout marking line.

**Adapting to New Innovations**

The team at Levan experienced immediate benefits from their Peddinghaus technology. The FPB-1800 plate processor proved itself with labor savings and increased productivity. Levan previously had three to four employees processing plate by hand. Following their plate processor installation, Levan currently has one employee feeding finished pieces to 19 people.

Before the recent Advantage-2 drill line and PeddiWriter CNC layout marking line, Levan was putting through 25-30 beams per day on their older drill line and then manually laying them out. With their newest CNC investments, Levan proudly runs 65-75 beams per day drilled and layed out. The PeddiWriter further provides Levan with not only increased production, but with increased accuracy versus previous manual processing methods.

“All of our layout and fitters are on the older side. It’s hard to get a young person to learn a trade although they are trained. When we first purchased the PeddiWriter, they all endorsed the technology tremendously which was very good. A lot of times it can be difficult for older generations to accept new technology. That new PeddiWriter has taken what used to take an hour and a half to two hours down to nine minutes to layout the same thing with better accuracy. And it doesn’t take vacation and it doesn’t have Blue Cross and Blue Shield... And it doesn’t call in sick either,” David said jokingly.

**Award-Winning Projects with Peddinghaus**

Levan’s CNC technology aided in completing award-winning projects for the fabrication firm. The 2012 Judges Award from Metal Architecture was awarded to Levan as the steel fabricator for an outdoor band shell project, Levitt Pavilion SteelStacks in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Additional successful projects completed with their new CNC technology include a Deka Battery 375,000 square foot (35,000 square meter) manufacturing facility in addition to many schools, universities and hospitals.

“Our competitors who don’t have the Peddinghaus equipment can’t produce the amount of steel we can with the accuracy we can,” David confidently stated. “It’s been very helpful in keeping Levan Associates
Before installation of the FPB-1800, Levan had 3-4 employees processing plate by hand.

competitive within the market. We set ourselves apart because we are technology-oriented. The technology has taken us to the next level of processing more steel with more accuracy and 25% more production than before purchasing Peddinghaus.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To learn more about Peddinghaus Corporation visit: www.peddinghaus.com

PRODUCT LIST:
- Beam Drill Lines
- Anglemasters
- Plate Processing
- Coping Machines
- Thermal Cutting
- Automated Layout Marking
- Structural Band Saws
- Ironworkers
- Material Handling
- Shot Blasting
- Raptor 3D CAD/CAM Software