
Küssnacht am Rigi, 23.09.2008

Press release

Index cutting as finishing concept

If you've ever searched for a specific topic in a telephone book or encyclopaedia, you appreciate the benefits of step indexes. Used as a tool for handling and searching through voluminous works, index cutting is a globally established method in paper processing. The "index" also made the leap into the digital world, where it is used as a guide on many websites.

Thanks to new technical possibilities and more efficient manufacturing methods, indexes are popular. But their creative potential is far from exhausted. Brothers Urs and Hansjörg Dietrich from the bookbinding shop "An der Reuss" in Littau near Lucerne see the development in a similar light: "The topic of index cutting evokes different feelings in our customers. Some see index cutting predominantly as a time consuming step that drives prices up, or they associate it with dusty old phone books. Fortunately however, the majority is enthusiastic about today's possibilities and gives the "modern" index good odds." Products such as simple advertising inserts, representative company brochures, quarterly and annual reports and instruction manuals of all kinds demonstrate growing potential. This tendency can also be seen in countries in which index cutting was previously of negligible importance.

Thanks to continuous new and further developments at Durrer, many step indexes can be manufactured fully or semi-automatically. In most cases, it is possible to implement individual customer requirements. And so, in addition to the classic 90° angle cut and the simple thumb cut, more and more customer-specific types and shapes of index adorn printing publications today. In particular, specialities such as the head cut are in increased demand. The flexible combination of different index cutting techniques also increases the possibilities (see glossary).

Step indexes facilitate marketing

When used properly, indexes increase the value of paper products in addition to fulfilling their basic function as an orientation tool. Index cutting makes a creative contribution by making printed product designs more attractive. In individual cases, index cutting can become a product's characteristic trait. And thanks to the high recall value of such a product, the index achieves an important marketing goal. There is still potential for development in this approach and further information and convincing of the "creative" designers of print products is still needed regarding the many possibilities.

The market "is growing"!

As finishing printed products gains in importance, index cutting also benefits. Based on customer requests at this year's Drupa, Durrer anticipates continued market growth in the field of index cutting. Over the past years, various factors have led to an altered but clearly higher market volume:

- More suppliers in the field of index cutting and the accompanying increase in machine availability on the market enables shorter delivery times.
- Enhanced technical possibilities lead to new products and have more than compensated for the backlog of existing products.
- Ongoing automation leads to more attractive prices.

Fully automatic manufacturing

For a long time, indexes were mainly cut using semi-automatic machines such as the Durrer REMAT. With the use of fully automatic solutions by Durrer, fewer staff and less time are needed, making index cutting more interesting from a financial point of view (even with large print runs). The REGA 5 is, without a doubt, the Durrer flagship when it comes to fully automatic index cutting. This machine processes bound products up to a block

thickness of 60 mm and papers starting at a grammage of 30g/m². In addition to cutting, Durrer's product range also features machines for varnishing and printing on cut indexes.

New technologies

Durrer is making consist advancements in the field of index cutting. The REBIB, first introduced at Drupa 2008, is Durrer's semi-automatic solution for the cave cut. This type of index cutting is used in reference works or bibles. Previously, cuts of this type had to be done by hand, requiring much effort. The REBIB cuts hole indexes in block thicknesses up to 80 mm. And to complement the cutting process, Durrer is currently developing an add-on to affix printed labels.

Index cutting glossary

Standard angle cut



Standard angle cut - 2-row, offset



Thumb cut



Thumb cut, 2-row



Stepped index combined with standard angle cut



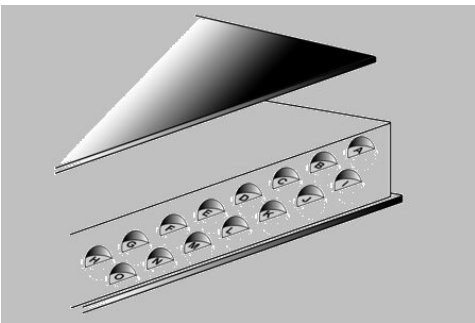
Foot cut (also possible as head cut) combined with standard angle cut



Diagonal cut



Cave cut



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