

OPTITEX



DRÄXLMAIER

HOW OPTITEX HELPS DRÄXLMAIER STREAMLINE ITS GLOBAL OPERATIONS

DRÄXLMAIER boosts production efficiency and saves on material consumption and global operation costs

AT A GLANCE

COMPANY: DRÄXLMAIER

LOCATION: Vilsbiburg, Germany

www.draexlmaier.com

Founded in 1958, DRÄXLMAIER got its start in cable sets, quickly expanding into other interiors and other territories. Now the company is truly worldwide, with plants in Mexico, China, Romania, Poland and Germany. The company has achieved several worldwide landmarks, such as creating what was the lightest door in the world for Audi. It supports premium automobile manufacturers such as Audi, BMW, Jaguar, Land Rover, Maserati, Mercedes-Benz, MINI, Porsche, Rolls-Royce, and VW throughout the entire engineering process – from initial ideas, concepts, and prototyping to in-sequence delivery. For decades, the DRÄXLMAIER Group has been a reliable partner to the international automotive industry and is considered a technological leader in the premium segment.

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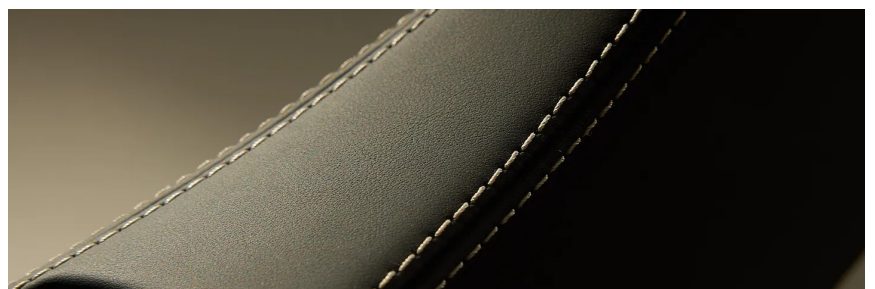
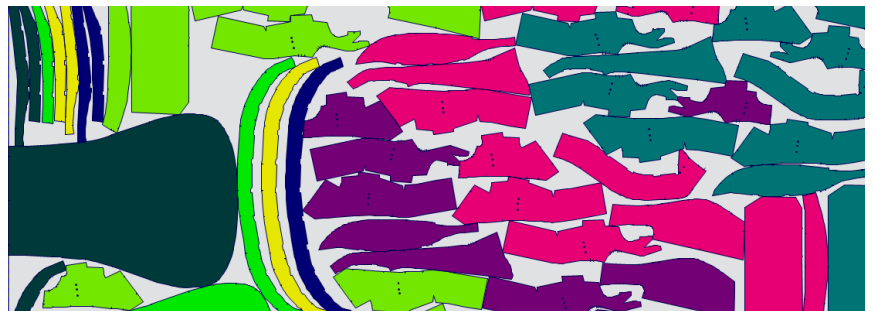
VANESSA STELZL /
PROCESS DEVELOPMENT
PATTERN, DRÄXLMAIER



DRÄXLMAIER as a company had become accustomed to several processes and ways of working that weren't optimal for the business. As you'd expect with a company of this magnitude, simplification of processes and production efficiency are key - and overcoming the language barrier between plants spread globally, is just as important.

A change was needed, and fast. The company already had experience with Optitex back in 2015, and three years later, DRÄXLMAIER came back to Optitex. One of the key reasons was the ability to use the nesting capabilities that Optitex has.

The first change DRÄXLMAIER, supplier for premium automotive manufacturers worldwide, made was a small but significant one. “It decided that we had to move on to Windows 10 and our old CAD program was no longer capable of that” says Vanessa Stelzl, Process Development Pattern at DRÄXLMAIER. But the changes didn't stop there.



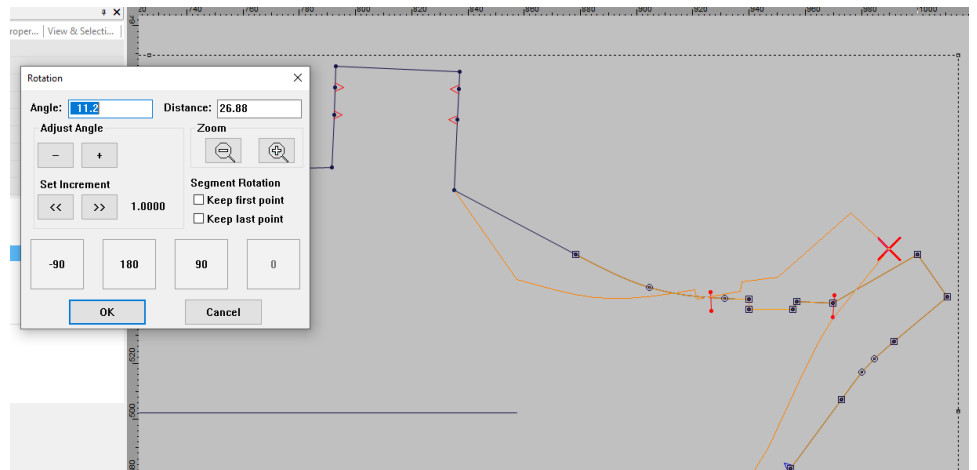
THE BENEFITS OF NESTING

“We found that we could save so much material that it would actually be much more beneficial to change to optitex as soon as possible,” says Stelzl. And the amount was significant, saying “we had numbers up to half a million EUR material consumption that we could save. And that was just with already existing pieces that we would reinvest.” Meaning the potential number with future ranges was even greater.

Another factor was simplification. DRÄXLMAIER's systems had grown and evolved into something increasingly complex, requiring several systems for export and import.



“Previously the third-party programs were only installed on one computer. You always had to switch computers if you wanted to look at anything. “With Optitex interoperable tools and openness to all cutters in the market, we don't have to switch computers anymore” says Stelzl. Now you can have everything on your computer.” The switch meant that the company had gone from ten programs down to a single one - Optitex.



FIXING THE GLOBAL WORKFORCE COMMUNICATION ISSUE

In addition, the speediness of the export feature expedited the work process even further, as DRÄXLMAIER needs to export every file into four different formats.

A large issue with DRÄXLMAIER is one of its biggest strengths - its worldwide presence. The company has plants in Mexico, China, Romania, Poland and Germany amongst others. So the ability to switch languages is important.

“While we all use English at the moment, Optitex users in all our plants have the capability to switch the language if they need help

with understanding anything,” says Vanessa Stelzl. “The biggest issue that we faced with our previous system is that because it was such an old program, the translations were not good, that they were not up to date and that we could not communicate between each other because the functions would be named something completely different.” As you'd imagine, a misnamed function could easily lead to miscommunication between plants, something that could be costly in the long run. “So it's helped us on a global level to just speak one language.”

ELEVATING THE STANDARD

A key aspect of using Optitex for DRÄXLMAIER is that it's enabled them to elevate the standard across the board. “We've come up to a really high level of pattern making for everybody,” says Stelzl. The software has enabled a levelling of the playing field. “Before we had some who were better, some who were not so good, and now all of them are pretty much on one level.”

The possibilities within Optitex have enabled a different standard of working within the company. “You have endless capabilities and different combinations of functions and the end result may

be the same, but I've gotten much faster with patternmaking. It comes more naturally in most cases.”

For DRÄXLMAIER, what started as a simple Windows upgrade led to so much more. Using Optitex's software has allowed changes and improvements across the board, from the combination of saved costs with nesting, the ability to effectively communicate across production plants globally and the raising of the base level of patternmaking. The end result? A true elevation of the standard for now and the future.

ABOUT OPTITEX

Optitex is a global software provider of integrated 2D-3D CAD solutions for mass-market brands, retailers and manufacturers in fashion and apparel, transportation interiors, and furniture industries. Serving over 30,000 users, our solutions focus on pattern accuracy and intuitive tools, and streamline design, development and production throughout the supply chain, enabling efficient workflows and tight collaboration for assured fit, speed and sustainable production.