

# Digital XY Flatbed Cutters, CNC Routers and CO2 Laser Cutters



at VISCOM Italy '09



Zünd cutting samples made on board.

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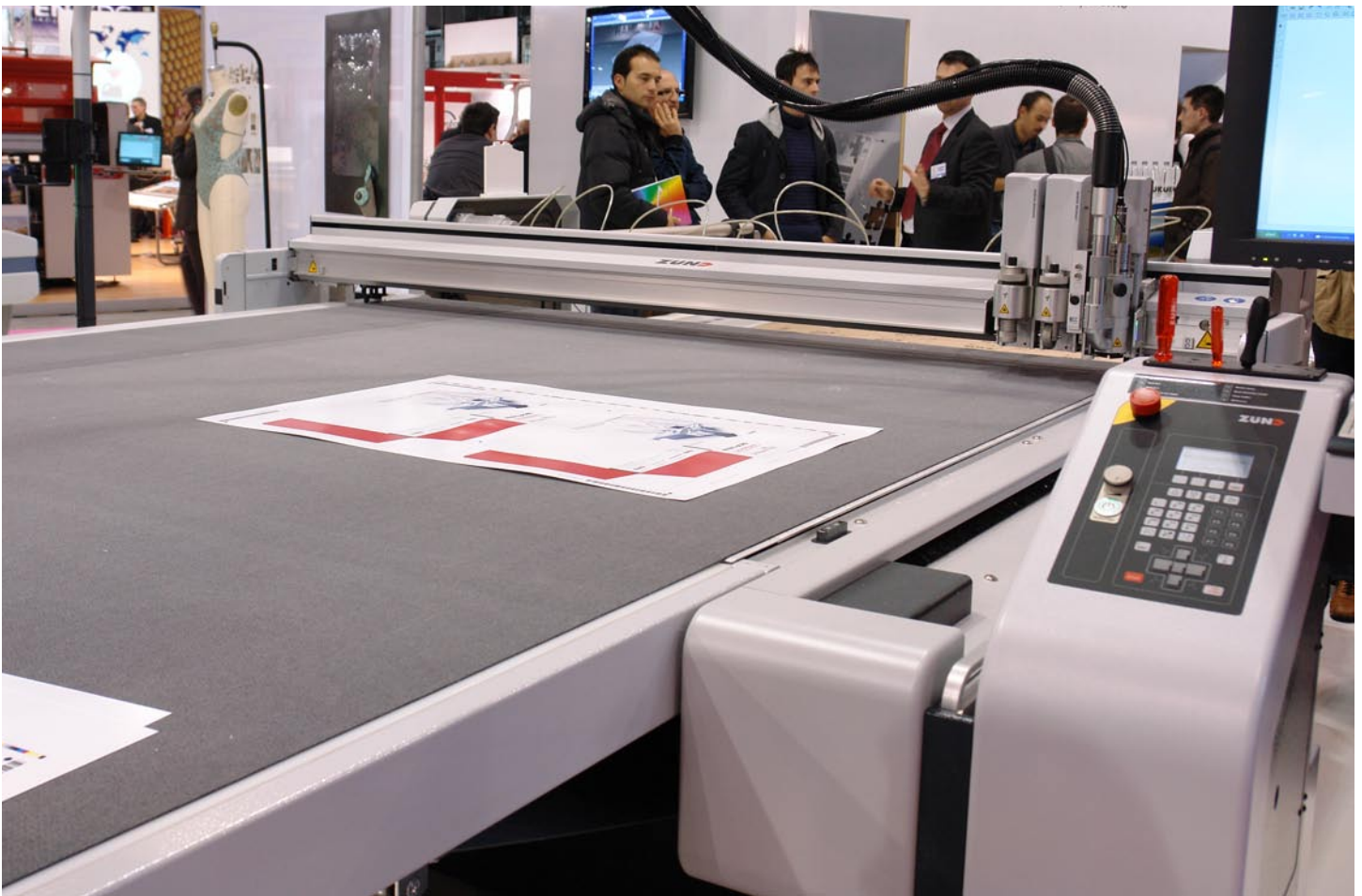
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*Zund G3 XL-1600, at VISCOM Italy '09.*

### **Digital XY Flatbed Cutters, CNC Routers and CO2 Laser Cutters (but over 1x2 meters) displayed at VISCOM Milano 2009.**

In **bold font** are the cutters we know. We know a cutting table system by either visiting an end-user who has one, and/or visiting the manufacturer. FLAAR does not list or review cutters made in Asia (other than Japan). There are too many different brands and until we can visit end-users we prefer not to list flatbed cutters other than those made in Europe, North America or Japan. Note that some European companies may be rebranding equipment manufactured in Asia, so you need to check on this yourself before you decide which brand and model to consider.

#### **Flatbed cutter-routers**

This is a list of the flatbed cutters, usually over 1 x 2 meters, that we noticed at VISCOM Italy 2009. This list probably has 90% of the exhibited models that are made in Europe or America.

A longer list is in the issue 5/2009 of the Italian trade magazine pubblitec, but in their list there is no way to tell which are made in Europe and which are made in China.



*Viscom Italy '09 main entrance.*

Altec Italia, Italy.  
Laser cutting, up to 1.5 x 1.5 meters  
[www.Altec-Italia.it](http://www.Altec-Italia.it)

Cielle  
Flatbed cutters, both laser cutters on large flatbeds as well as CNC routers..  
[www.Cielle.it](http://www.Cielle.it)

Comagrav, Czech Republic, same booth (K21) as GCC uv printer.  
CNC routers.  
[www.comagrav.com](http://www.comagrav.com)

CMS, Tecnocut, Italy, distributed by Reklam.  
Water cutting flatbeds.  
The text in their large 4-page opening brochure was completely illegible because it was in light gray.  
[www.Tecnocut.it](http://www.Tecnocut.it)

Cutlite Penta, El.En Group, Italy.  
CO2 laser cutting  
[www.elengroup.com](http://www.elengroup.com)

Demark Optikut, laser cutter (see Opticut).

Elitron, Italy.  
These cutting tables come from a past in the leather-cutting industry (fashion and upholstery, for example). But today they are clearly aiming to compete with Kongsberg and Zund. So their Kombo SD machine is for Forex, Dibond, PVC, plastics, films, carboard, corrugated board, PE and foamboard. The product brochures are professionally designed (and in any language you need, including English).  
[www.Elitron.com](http://www.Elitron.com)

J-D, Republic of San Marino

J-D Raptor Alubox; this produced close to the most debris (mess) of any router at the show/ Their J-D Racer looks like it is made in China but the booth person said it was made in Italy.

Neither of their three brochures listed any web site whatsoever.

**Kongsberg (EskoArtwork), Norway**

Kongsberg is recognized as the Rolls Royce of flatbed cutters, but I would also call them the Mack Truck of router-cutters (a compliment in America). The other idiom is "built like a tank" though of course they are more sophisticated. One benefit of Kongsberg is that they own all parts of the workflow: vision system, software, xy cutting table.

I have been provided preliminary training at former i-cut headquarters (Lake Geneva, Wisconsin) not part of EskoArtwork (which bought both Kongsberg and MGE i-cut). Plus I have twice inspected a Kongsberg XL cutter-router in Bloomington, Illinois. Next step is to inspect the newer XP series.

[www.Esko.com](http://www.Esko.com)

[www.MGE-US.com](http://www.MGE-US.com)

[www.icutvision.com](http://www.icutvision.com)



BB Packing booth, at VISCOM Italy '09.



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Digital Flatbed Cutters to pair with a UV Flatbed Printer

**Kongsberg XL**  
Series Cutter-Routers

Download Now

EskoArtwork XP flatbed cutter at BB Packing booth.

**MultiCam, USA.**

But they exhibited an older CNC router not their newer digital cutter, the Digital Express. Avezzano is their distributor at this show. [www.MultiCam.com](http://www.MultiCam.com)

**Optikut (Demak), Castaldi Group, laser cutting (with i-cut from EskoArtwork).**

These are normal sized laser cutting tables (so not 1x2 meters) but very sophisticated. [www.Demak.it](http://www.Demak.it)

**Protek, Italy.**  
Flatbed CNC router-cutter  
[www.ProTek.it](http://www.ProTek.it)

**S.M.R.E. Engineering, Italy.**  
This is water jet technology and CNC routers.

Their booth had a nice cut-out model of a bee. Their brochure shows applications in granite, marble, iron, aluminum, leather, plastic, sponge, cardboard (for packaging), etc.

Their product and booth looks sophisticated but their web site is mostly "under construction" (which is typical in Europe; they make good products but don't spend much time on their web site presence). [www.SMRE.it](http://www.SMRE.it)

**Tecnocut (see CMS).**

**vhf, Germany.**  
CNC milling (router)  
vhf Cam 2030 ActivePro, flatbed cutter-router  
[www.vhf.de](http://www.vhf.de)



*Protek booth, at VISCOM Italy '09.*



*Protek Fresat-3020 view, at Protek booth.*

**Zünd Systemtechnik AG, Switzerland**

They displayed a Zünd M-1600 and a Zünd G3 XL-1600. They shared a booth with EuroLaser.  
[www.Zund.com](http://www.Zund.com)



*Zund booth, at VISCOM Italy '09. They have several samples of different cutting medias.*



*Zund G3 XL-1600 cutting some board samples.*



*Zund G3 XL-1600 view.*

### Conspicuous by their absence

I did not see Aristo (Aristomat) or Gerber (M-series) flatbed cutters. Digitalia lists Aristo but I did not notice any Aristomat cutter in their booth.

The best way to see who failed to appear is to have a comparison chart, so here it is:

2008	2009
Aristo Aristomat TL1617-8, cutter, behind GCC K100UV	
XYZ CNC router	
Esko Artwork, Kongsberg i-XE10, XP, MultiCut-iCut,	
Gerber M Series (Spandex booth, shared with EuroScreen	
Meca Numeric Pro 3020, CNC router	
Mimaki	
Neo CNC router	
Did not notice this brand in 2008	Protek
SMRE Water Jet, show floor mats cut	Yes, again in 2009
Did not notice this brand in 2008	vhf Cam 2030 ActivePro
Zund G3 3XL-1600, own booth; also in Oce booth; also Montplast booth (GS L-2500)	Zünd M-1600 and a Zünd G3 XL-1600

### Comments

It is amazing that in a country with such a sense of design, in a country that produced the Roman Empire, the Etruscan art before that, the Renaissance and Baroque, that the design of product brochures varies from the immature (J-D) to the totally illegible (CMS Tecnocut). I have seen brochures for Chinese companies better than these.

Hopefully they spend all their effort on making good flatbed cutting systems (rather than on graphic design).

### Sophisticated Roll-to-roll cutter-trimmers

Fotoba XL 320 was in the HP booth. There were Fotoba cutters in other printer booths as well.

FLAAR does not list roll-to-roll cutters like Roland, Mimaki, GCC since there are too many brands, plus there is no significant new technology.

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