

## AMANA TOOL<sup>®</sup> DELIVERS RELIABLE, PRECISE CUTTING PERFORMANCE FOR GILMORE FURNITURE

### Company Overview

Gilmore Furniture, Inc. ([www.gilmorefurnitureinc.com](http://www.gilmorefurnitureinc.com)) engineers and manufactures wood/veneer components and complete finished furniture products for the contract furniture industry. The company has been a trusted OEM source to many noted office furniture manufacturers since 1983. Their expertise in wood, veneers, metal, stone and upholstery is unsurpassed. Customers look to them for occasional and conference tables, components, cylinders and cubes, table bases and seating – finished or unfinished according to their customer's specifications.

Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mich., the company combines exceptional craftsmanship with well-honed business acumen, making Gilmore a valuable partner for customers big and small within the contract furniture market.

### Challenge

Gilmore produces large volumes of corporate and hospitality pieces for its extensive furniture customer base. These pieces are manufactured from a variety of materials – MDF, particleboard, plywood, solid lumber and metal, as well as countertop materials from Corian<sup>®</sup> and Avonite. To process these materials and manufacture the multiple product lines, Gilmore sought industrial-quality cutting tools that were durable, long-lasting and would provide consistent, superior cutting performance over an extended period of time. Gilmore also needed products that could maintain production efficiencies while being used for a number of applications – sawing, boring and routing – in handheld, table-mounted or CNC machines.

“Because we manufacture such an extensive array of products for variety of customers in the

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Regardless of whether customers need one-of-a-kind or mass production manufacturing, Gilmore provides superior knowledge, engineering, and workmanship to an exacting degree of precision, craftsmanship and quality.

same facility, we required tools for an assortment of applications including drilling, boring, trimming and profiling,” said Kevin McCarthy, CNC Engineer with Gilmore Furniture. “During our search, we concentrated on companies that could fulfill all of our needs and provide the best cutting and finishing performance.”



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CASE STUDY



### Amana Tool® Solution

To help the company determine the best tools for their production needs, Gilmore turned to Active Machine and Tool ([www.activemachine.com](http://www.activemachine.com)) of Jenison, Mich., a manufacturer, servicer and distributor of tools for the woodworking and plastics industry. Active Machine helped Gilmore evaluate a number of options before selecting a variety of Amana Tool's industrial tools. Amana Tool ([www.amanatool.com](http://www.amanatool.com)) specializes in industrial-quality carbide-tipped, solid carbide and replacement carbide cutting tools, including saw blades, router bits, shaper cutters, boring bits and more. Gilmore valued the variety of tools in Amana's product offerings as well as their superior performance, exclusive carbide grades and advanced tool designs.

"Amana's quality, design and price combined with the superior performance of its tools made them our top choice for a tool supplier," McCarthy said. "The long-lasting cutting edges and quality finishes their products provide allow us to save valuable time and manpower during the manufacturing process."

### Results

Amana products have enabled Gilmore to more efficiently process materials across all of its product lines. The tools' performance ensures accurate, superior results at each stage of the process, enabling the company to more easily schedule machine runs and maintenance and meet customer deadlines. Amana's exclusive carbide grades and tool designs also provide Gilmore with smooth finishes, consistent cutting performance and long-lasting tool life.

According to McCarthy, Gilmore uses a number of Amana's products for sizing and rough cuts during its manufacturing process in addition to finishing edges and other surfaces. Veneers and

laminated materials are cut to rough dimensions, and shapes and designs are routed and bored on the work surface via a computer numeric control (CNC) machine.

During manufacturing, Gilmore uses Amana products in its two CNC machines, including boring bits (items **316005** and **416010**) and double-flute carbide-tipped A-MAX router bits (items **45200** and **45426**). Perhaps the largest range of applications is from Amana's profiling and edging router bits, which Gilmore uses to create rounded corners, straight plunge and flush trim profiling (items **49710** and **49510**).

After the CNC process, furniture components are then sent to the assembly area where various tools (items **47102** and **47090**) are used to trim veneers and laminate materials on table bases and cylinder and cube tables. Here, Gilmore also uses a mortising router bit (item **45500**) to create shallow mortises for hinges and locksets.

Edge details are then applied to the parts, where they are trimmed to the required shape. The manufacturers get twice the productivity out of Amana's double-end pilot router bits (items **51201** and **51203**), which trim laminate either flush or bevel. With the unique double-end bits, Gilmore has access to two cutting sides in one tool that can be flipped over when the cutting edge dulls to reveal a new surface.

McCarthy adds, "Our relationship with Amana is longstanding, and we've found them to be a reliable tooling source. Their tools provide exceptional finishes for our products and make them aesthetically appealing, a trait that ensures our end products reflect the visions of our designers. We consider them a valuable partner in our manufacturing process."

***With the help of Amana Tool, Gilmore is redefining what it means to be an OEM.***

