

# Workpiece Changer Integrated — PRODUCTIVITY INCREASED

**KERN MICROTECHNIK ENABLES AUTOMATION IN  
μ-PRECISE MANUFACTURING**

*<< Figure 1: The new integrated workpiece changer from KERN can be used with KERN Micro machining centres and requires no extra space. >>*

**K**ERN Microtechnik GmbH, based in Germany and represented in USA by the subsidiary KERN Precision, Inc. in Webster, Massachusetts, is now offering manufacturing companies an easy introduction to automation in high-precision machining. Based on a newly developed workpiece changer (WPC) which is suitable for KERN Micro machining centres equipped as standard with a tool changer for 101 tools, the new WPC comes with no additional space requirements and can accommodate up to 30 additional workpiece blanks in Erowa ITS72 or System3R Macro pallets. These can weigh up to five kilograms and have maximum dimensions of 75 mm x 75 mm x 150 mm.

The new WPC is fully integrated into the tool cabinet and utilises existing essential components such as the pneumatic actuator, linear feed and pivot unit. Thus the expense of the additional hardware remains manageable and no additional software or interfaces are required, further reducing costs while increasing usability. Ultimately, the workpiece changer works exactly like the tool changer. Even the footprint of the machine tool absolutely stays the same, there are no additional space requirements.



*<< Figure 2: KERN workpiece changer can accommodate 30 workpieces and will pay for itself in under 12 months. Figures courtesy of KERN Microtechnik GmbH. >>*

Once the magazines are filled and the programs set accordingly, no operator is needed. Depending on component runtime, the system can run unmanned for several hours or shifts. Even during normal working hours, manufacturing firms will benefit from the integrated tool changer, as one employee can supervise several machines and the downtimes during workpiece change are always under one minute.

According to KERN's calculations, the amortisation time for the investment in the integrated workpiece changer is under 12 months. It is expected that the additional return can be achieved with around 50 additional, unmanned machine hours per week.

**You can find more information about this and all KERN machines at EMO 2015 in Milan, on 5-10 October in Hall 1, Stand C25.**