



CONNECT MAGAZIN

EDUARD KRONENBERG GmbH
Haan | Germany

PRODUCT
SERVICE
MARKETING
QUALITY
INSIDE
HISTORY
PEOPLE
ARCHITECTURE
LIFESTYLE

Edition
41



CONNECT MAGAZIN

Dear Readers!

This year, we have the great pleasure of celebrating EK's 155th anniversary. It is a success story that goes back to 1867 with the founding of EDUARD KRONENBERG in Solingen. From its humble beginnings as a 'manufacturer of springs for pocket knives' for the local cutlery industry, our family-owned company has steadily developed into a brand manufacturer that operates on a global scale and supplies stamped and plastic parts for applications in a wide variety of industries around the world.

The task of ensuring that our company has been able to stay in good shape over such a long period of time is as ambitious as it is challenging. Five generations of the Kronenberg family have accepted this responsibility – in times of major market upheavals in the period following two world wars and today, with global markets, worldwide competition, current corona pandemic and the dramatic war in Ukraine.

Together with our entire workforce, we are proud to be a part of this great achievement. And together we will also master the challenges that lie ahead.

May we extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to all our employees, customers and business partners who have been instrumental in making EK's 155th anniversary possible!

Sincerely
Ralf M. Kronenberg & Frank Kronenberg

CONTENT

04_PRODUCT

EK Connect steel straight connector - making the good even better

With the best in-house references, the straight connector has now been upgraded to provide a perfectly optimized solution.

06_SERVICE

EK Connect product search - even faster and even more direct

With the newly integrated option to select, request and order products directly.

07_MARKETING

Sealed by, from and with ...

The EK seal on the outside signals EK quality inside. Tested multiple times. Verified multiple times. Sealed just once!

08_QUALITY

No condensation in the fogging box

How EK quality management verifies that EK straight connectors do not outgas even under the effects of temperature.

10_INSIDE

„Ferramentum“ - a tribute to steel

The steel artist Michael Schrader talks about the sculpture he created for EK's 155th anniversary.

12_PEOPLE AT EK

In focus: Jörn Potthoff and Marcus Schmitz

Two out and out team players talk about themselves for a change.

14_HISTORY

We'd love to have been there!

What has been going on around the world since 1867- the year Karl Eduard Kronenberg founded his company.

16_ARCHITECTURE

What's up, Düsseldorf?

The state capital continues to beautify itself: in Airport City, in the new Messe Süd trade fair center and in the city in the Ingenhoven Valley.

18_LIFESTYLE

Design and technology legends: Burmester

In the second part of our series on technology legends, everything revolves around the high-end audio icons from Burmester.

+++ IN BRIEF +++

EK is looking forward to glasstec 2022

It goes without saying that we will also be there as exhibitors, and we're already in the midst of preparations. After all, we want to be well organized for the highly welcome reunion with our customers and the large number of prospective buyers we hope to meet there. www.glasstec.de

EK Runners to run together again

For two years now, EK runners have been running more or less on their own. That is now finally over: From now on, the EK runners will again line up at the start to run together as a team. Next challenge will be the B2Run Düsseldorf on 10.06.2022. www.b2run.de

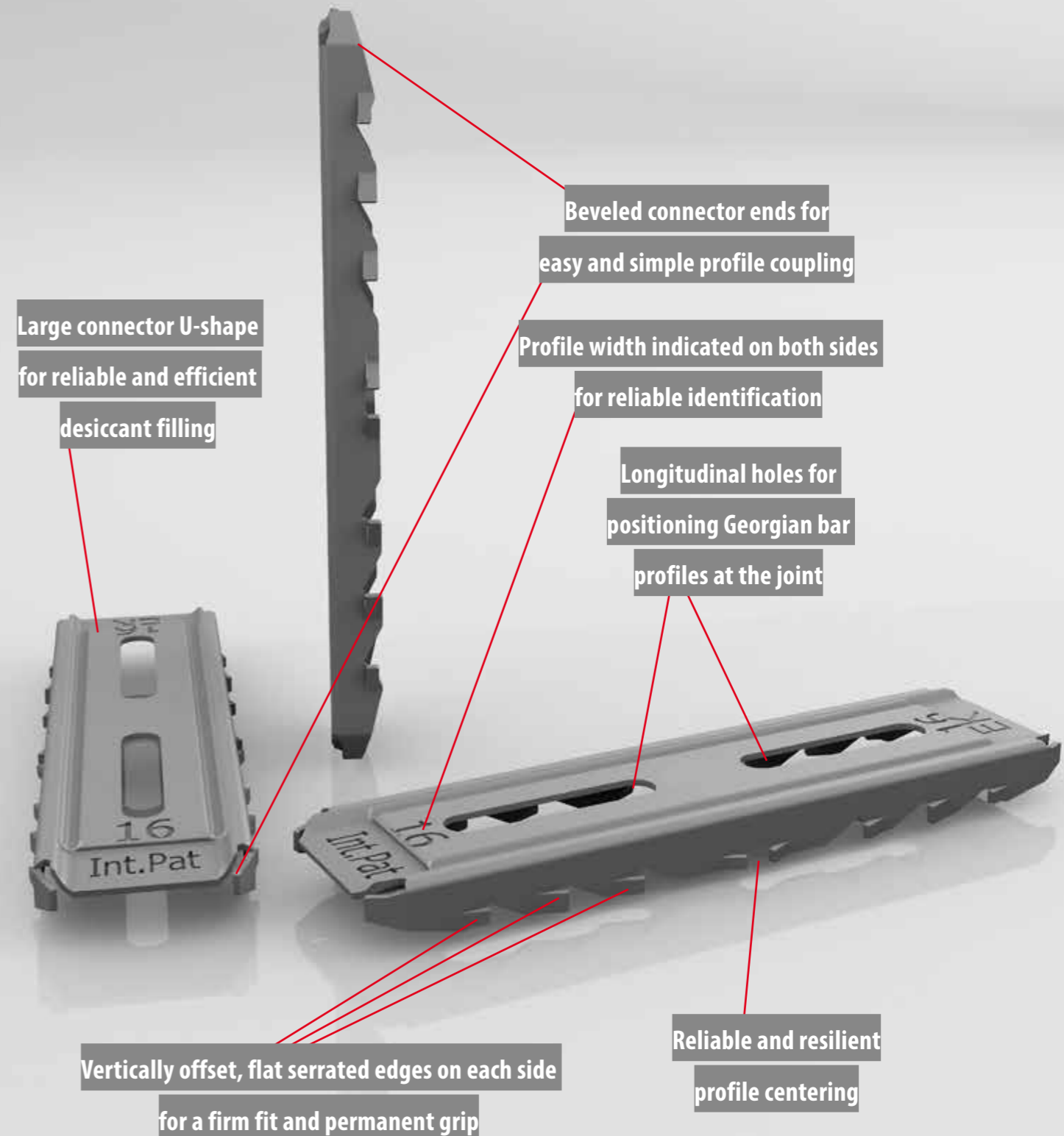
EK CONNECT STRAIGHT CONNECTORS – MAKING THE GOOD EVEN BETTER

Is it at all possible to further optimize a mature product like EK's steel straight connector? Anyone asking this question is unaware of the EK mindset of wanting to make good things even better. This is because at EK, the latest developments in materials research, for example, are always combined with innovative considerations regarding the design of our connectors. This is why we recently completely upgraded our EK STEEL Connect straight connectors for aluminum spacers.

Even though the EK STEEL Connect straight connectors for desiccant passage with vertically offset serrated edges have been used successfully for many years now and are virtually the standard for connecting spacer frames in modern insulating glass production, our ambition is to further optimize in the details. For example, we have developed new solutions for the EK STEEL Connect straight connectors for even easier insertion into the aluminum spacer frames and for improved and safer handling.

New flat serrated edges for extremely strong grip

The result of upgrading the serrated edges has proven to be well worth the effort: the new flat serrated edge is even more robust, even more flexible and has a far better feel. Do we need any more convincing reasons to continue on our quest for even greater optimization? Regardless of what we do, we take care at all times to retain the distinctive features of the straight connectors - the basic shape and the two oval longitudinal holes that are required for the optional Georgian bar profile connection at the joint.



EK CONNECT PRODUCT SEARCH – EVEN FASTER AND EVEN MORE DIRECT

The easy-to-use filter functions of the EK Connect product search make finding the right connecting elements for your insulating glass unit a pleasure. With the latest upgrade, you can inquire, and order products directly, or just request free samples for tests.

Once the inquiry or order has been completed, users of the EK Connect product search automatically receive a copy of the form for their files. The EK sales team responds to all inquiries promptly. We will continue to optimize the product search. One of the next projects being the automatic generation of a download catalog from your selection.

Give it a try:

www.kronenberg-eduard.com/en/productsearch

SEALED BY, FROM AND WITH ...

Right on time for the company's 155th anniversary our company is making itself a small gift with a big promise with the introduction of a new EK label – "Quality. Precision. Since 1867". The high quality of our products and the degree of precision in their manufacture formed the basis of EK's success right from the very beginning. Both were and are a guarantee of customer satisfaction. This is how it should be and it will remain so in the future.

The new EK label is an unmistakable symbol of quality on all our deliveries and shipping boxes. It communicates quickly and directly: 'Your EK shipment has arrived!' The label also serves a very practical purpose in EK's internal process: it marks the final completion of the goods ready for delivery. Checked multiple times. "Signed off" multiple times. And then given the final seal of approval – *Quality. Precision. Since 1867.*



ALL CLEAR THANKS TO THE FOGGING BOX

It is used at regular intervals: our in-house fogging box. EK Quality Assurance uses it to ensure that no unacceptable condensation is trapped in the interpane space, a phenomenon known as 'fogging', caused by the outgassing of volatile organic compounds from steel or plastic, for instance. EK Connect spoke to Remigiusz Zamaro, the contact person in EK's Application Technology department for the Glass business unit, about the construction and operation of the box.

Mr. Zamaro, what prompted you to construct a fogging test chamber for EK's own use?

We initially had the idea of carrying out our own fogging test in accordance with DIN EN 1279-4:2018, Annex C, as part of EK's in-house production control. But because you need a fogging test chamber to carry out the test, as project manager, I decided to sound out the market. In the end, we decided to build one ourselves, including the associated electronics. It goes without saying, of course, that it was constructed precisely in accordance with the specifications of the DIN standard I just mentioned.

That means the entire testing process is subject to a strict standard?

That's absolutely correct. But to provide our customers with a guarantee of even greater certainty and reliability, we increased the test temperatures from 60° to 80° Celsius based on ift Guideline VE-07/3 of 2018, because the risk of outgassing can increase as the ambient temperature rises. In addition to the assembled connectors, we always add further loose products to the inter-pane space in order to additionally stimulate possible outgassing. As you can see, we test our products

most thoroughly, of course, which is why we are able to guarantee their high quality. After a total of seven days in the fogging box, the test units are inspected for condensation in an inspection box, which also meets the requirements of the standard.

And now it's the turn of the EK Quality Assurance department?

After the first few trials, a number of final optimizations were made and then we handed over the fogging box including work instructions, test plans and certificates to the EK Quality Assurance department. For each test, new insulating glass units with EK products installed are requested from reputable IG producers and manufactured for EK in accordance with the DIN standard. This ensures that all components of the insulating glass units are tested and do not outgas.

To date, all EK products made of steel and plastic have been tested negatively, i.e. absence of fogging, each of which is confirmed by means of a test certificate! Incidentally, we also carry out regular fogging tests at the independent Center for Engineering Materials of MPA-IW Darmstadt, which thus confirms the fog-free nature of the materials used in EK products at all times.



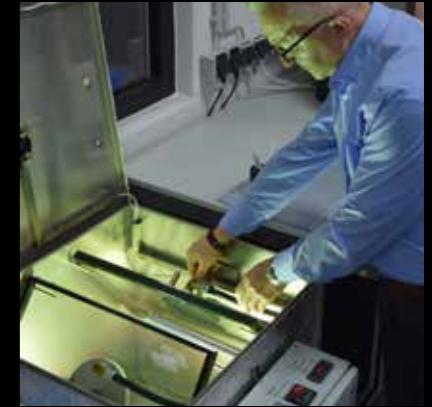
At a glance: The EK fogging system in a specially built rack - with sufficient space for the comprehensive test simulation equipment.

On the left is the actual fogging box with electronic unit and cooling unit. On the right is the IG depot. The inspection unit for visual examination is installed above it.



Test units are taken out of the IG depot and prepared for testing.

In order to ensure correct allocation at all times - two identical test units are required and inserted for each test - their precise position is recorded in the IG depot.



Both test units are carefully inserted in the fogging box.

During the subsequent mounting of the cooling plates, special care is taken to ensure that they are placed absolutely flat on the glass surfaces.



The focus here is on the loose EK products additionally inserted in the space between the panes.

Only after thorough testing do our EK products receive their final approval - which is the prerequisite for our guaranteed promise of no fogging!



Start of test procedure: uninterrupted, continuous testing for 7 days, i.e. for 168 +/- 4 hours.

The duration of the test is monitored using a timer. A specially converted electronic unit for EK monitors and controls the test temperatures stipulated by the standard.



The test specimens are finally examined in the inspection unit from a distance of 1 meter by means of transmitted and reflected light for any interference or scattered light caused by fogging.

The test performed in accordance with DIN EN 12794-:2018, Annex C, is verified with the EK test certificate.

‘FERRAMENTUM’ – A TRIBUTE TO STEEL

The new sculpture in EK's entrance area is both powerful and impressive. Its creator, artist Michael Schrader, has named it 'Ferramentum' - the 'iron tool' forged from pure steel. He has dedicated the work of art to all those who live and work with steel. And this is why it now has its rightful place at EK, right on time for the company's 155th anniversary. EK Connect spoke to the artist about his sculpture.



Mr. Schrader, what does your sculpture 'Ferramentum' stand for? It stands for itself. You have to see the raw beauty and roughness of the sculpture. It is not designed to be aesthetically beautiful and perfect, but draws attention to its production process, since it confronts us as a steel blank. Perhaps it would have become something very beautiful, but perhaps also something dark and dangerous.

At the same time, you describe the sculpture as being dedicated to all those who live and work with steel. Yes, it is a tribute to the technological progress of man. His incredible creativity with which he created the first arrow forges in Africa, then developed the kilns in China and finally smelted iron in huge furnaces to make steel.

'Ferramentum' is 4 meters high and weighs 4 tons. How does one handle such a huge piece of metal? Just like the blacksmiths in the last centuries! When tons have to be moved, then teamwork is the order of the day. These days you need the modern version: a so-called manipulator driver uses a lifting arm and claw to take the steel slab weighing tons, i.e. the block of cast steel, out of the furnace and transport it to the press. An assistant operates the press while I coordinate and monitor the production process.

The steel artist Michael Schrader lives and works in Haan. At the tender age of 15 Schrader discovered his enthusiasm for iron and fire watching an artist blacksmith and subsequently his vocation for sculptures made of steel. After completing his work in the EK atrium 'Generative Transaction', which symbolizes the relationship between generations in steel, his steel sculpture 'Ferramentum' is now the second work of art to have taken up residence at EK.

Contact via Gallery C. 30 in Haan:
c30projekte@gmx.de



Artist at work:
Michael Schrader

IN FOCUS: JÖRN POTTHOFF ...

The skilled toolmaker and EK toolmaking coordinator Jörn Potthoff is an absolute 100-percent team player - and is delighted when he has the opportunity to help young people improve their skills. It's something he demonstrates on a daily basis at home with his two teenage sons and at EK as an apprentice trainer.

Anyone wishing to teach others how to do their future job should have a good dose of self-confidence in addition to the necessary communication skills. Someone like Jörn Potthoff, for example, who has been with EK for around 15 years and considers his job as a toolmaker to be "the ultimate discipline of all metalworking professions!" Because the training is so comprehensive, he says, "from turning, drilling and sawing to CNC milling, we teach the apprentices everything that has to do with metals and how to machine them. Once they've mastered that, they'll never be unemployed."

Seeing what the apprentices have achieved when they finally pass their exams, how they then develop, not only professionally but also personally, in short, helping to shape their development, gives him a lot of pleasure. The nice thing about EK, explains Jörn Potthoff, is that the apprentices actually work in the toolmaking shop and become familiar with the tools we use. Later, they can carry on working here directly thanks to the guaranteed offer of employment. With two other colleagues, he also coordinates the work of over 25 professional toolmakers. „Teamwork is particularly important to me, because nothing works properly in toolmaking without it. You need a functioning team in which people get along with each other and resolve problems amicably.“

For Jörn Potthoff, it's important to be part of a team. Perhaps that's why he's thinking about joining the EK runners this year. And because he regularly goes for 10-kilometer runs himself, he's looking forward to possibly taking part. After work, he usually heads back to Solingen, where Jörn Potthoff has lived since he was a youngster. He looks after the garden at home, where he grows vegetables and expects to see his home-grown kohlrabi on the dining table very soon. Together with his two sons, he is planning to take a short trip to Berlin this summer, because there is always a lot going on in the capital. In quieter moments, he practices for his next sailing license. He already has a license for inland motorboats and sailing boats, but Jörn Potthoff still plans to do a lot more: „I'm currently taking my sailing license for sport boats as a prerequisite for the sailing license for sport coasters, which comes next. And then I'll be looking forward to 'fair winds' as often as possible!“



... AND MARCUS SCHMITZ

The sales professional works at EK as a tender and project manager. Customer inquiries, tool inquiries, material inquiries, requests for external service providers, calculating quotations, issuing quotations - all this and more are among the challenges that Marcus Schmitz faces every day.

Anyone listening to Marcus Schmitz when he starts talking about his long career as a project manager at various well-known companies will soon realize just how stressful and family-unfriendly such a job can be occasionally. For example, he has worked in advance quality planning for OEMs of major car manufacturers, which included making business trips to various production facilities. But being away from home five days a week also meant that Marcus Schmitz only saw his two daughters, who are now grown up, on weekends that were far too short.

To prevent this from happening to him again with his five-year-old son, he looked for a company with in-house production facilities. Marcus Schmitz has been at EK for just over a year now and comes across as being

very happy in his job. He sums it up like this: "I'm given a free rein and can work flexibly, and can usually make decisions on my own until the prototypes are offered. My colleagues are all super friendly and kind. And the technical equipment throughout the company is in fabulous condition!"

Marcus Schmitz now has enough time after work to spend time with his partner and son and to plan their vacations together. Like last year's vacation trip for the whole family to a rented apartment in Istria, Croatia. And he is now planning an all-inclusive hotel vacation in Novo Sancti Petri, one of the most popular resorts in Andalusia with miles of sandy beach.

He now has time to play tennis at the tennis club. Or to watch a soccer match with his son in the evening. Or time to tell him how his parents put their son, Marcus Schmitz, on skis in Kitzbühel, Austria when he was just five years old. And that it will soon be time for him to do the same for Schmitz junior. Or that they will soon be going to Lake Garda again, where his great-grand-uncle used to take the whole family cruising around in his own motorboat. All this is now genuine quality of life for Marcus Schmitz - and for his son. A real work-life balance - made by EK.





155 YEARS

The history of the family-owned EDUARD KRONENBERG company began in 1867. Over a period of what is now 155 years, we look back on a variety of innovations and inventions in our company. We were always inspired by an inquisitive look at the world – join us in amazement at all the things that have taken place in over 15 decades.



Dominion of Canada created

Oh, how beautiful is Canada! On July 1st, 1867, the British provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia joined together to become the confederation of Canada. This political act is considered the official founding of Canada. Canada's head of state is still Queen Elizabeth II.



Eiffel Tower

Vive Eiffe!! On March 31, 1889, French engineer Gustave Eiffel raised the French flag on the steel structure he had designed. It had taken two years to erect what was then the world's tallest structure on the occasion of the Paris World's Fair in the fashionable 7th arrondissement.



First non-stop transatlantic flight

Fasten your seat belts: John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown fly from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Ireland near Clifden in 16 hours and 12 minutes on June 14th, 1919, covering around 1,980 nautical miles, or about 3,667 kilometers, at an average speed of 225 km/h.



Currywurst

"What do you eat to satisfy your appetite? A currywurst!" A fried sausage, topped with a chili and ketchup sauce - in short, the invention of the currywurst, a popular street food throughout Germany, claims Berlin food stand owner Herta Heuwer. It made its first appearance on September 4th, 1949 at her food stand on the corner of Kantstrasse and 'Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse'!

1867

1884

1889

1902

1919

1922

1949

1953



First fountain pen

One blob too many is a fondly recounted reason for the invention of the first fountain pen. Lewis E. Waterman drills wafer-thin channels into the grip section between an ink reservoir and the nib, which allows the ink to flow more evenly. In 1884, Waterman receives the patent for his writing instrument.



First washing machine

Around we go: around 1902, the German Karl Louis Krauß was the first to develop a mechanical washing machine with a perforated washing drum. Beginning in 1907, mechanical washing machines fitted with electric drives are manufactured in the USA. The US engineer Alva J. Fisher is often named as the inventor.



Haribo and the gummy bears

Adults love them as well! Confectioner Hans Riegel founded the Haribo company in 1920 - Hans Riegel Bonn - with little more than a sack of sugar and a copper kettle, according to the company! Just two years later, he invented the 'Dancing bears', the forerunner of the famous 'Haribo Goldbären'.



First soccer shoe with screw-in studs

Who invented it? The screw-in stud myth suggests it was Adi Dassler. The Adidas founder filed his patent on November 28th, 1952. Others claim it was the shoemaker Alexander Salot from Bremen who invented the 'soccer boots or the like with replaceable anti-skid studs' and applied for a patent as early as August 30th, 1949.



Volvo three-point safety belt

Click! Volvo engineer Nils Bohlin combined the lap belt and shoulder belt - the manufacturer applied for a patent for his design in 1958 as the 'three-point safety belt'. As early as 1959, Volvo launched two car models fitted with the new safety system - and immediately makes the invention generally available.

1959



Cassette recorder

Click! From the early 1970s to the late 1990s, the compact cassette and the associated recorder were used by all and sundry. Both were developed from 1960 onwards by a team of developers led by engineer and inventor Lou Ottens at the Dutch company Philips and introduced in August 1963 as a pocket recorder.

1963



First cell phone from Motorola

Dial up envy! In 1973, Motorola brings out the first prototype of a cell phone developed by electrical engineer Martin Cooper. The inventor of the modern mobile phone immediately makes his first call - to his rival at Bell Labs. Motorola does not market the DynaTAC 8000X until 1983.

1973



First laptop from Gavilan

Too early on the market! Manuel "Manny" Fernandez is the founder of Gavilan Computer Corporation and pioneers the development of one of the first truly portable laptops, the Gavilan SC, in 1983.

Complete with floppy drive, MS-DOS operating system and a 5 MHz Intel 8088 processor. The device meets with only moderate interest.

1983



First smartphone from IBM

IBM launches 'Simon', in retrospect the world's first smartphone, at the COMDEX trade fair in Las Vegas on November 16th, 1992. Manufactured by Mitsubishi and marketed by South Bell, 'Simon' is capable not only of telephony, but also of sending fax messages and e-mails - and weighs over 500 grams.

1992



First video conference system

I can see you! At the CeBit 1993, the Aachen-based DATUS AG, a manufacturer of solutions in the field of communications networks, debuts the first video conferencing system.

During the first transmission, as a result of improved compression techniques, speech is compressed by a factor of 10.

1993



Emojis created by Shigetaka Kurita

In 1999, Japanese interface designer Shigetaka Kurita designed 176 pictograms within a grid of 12 x 12 pixels - and in doing so invented emojis, with the 'e' in Japanese standing for picture, 'mo' for write, and 'ji' for character. His original emoji set is on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

1999

2007



First generation iPhone

"This changes everything." With this promise, Steve Jobs introduces the first iPhone generation at the Macworld Conference & Expo in San Francisco on January 9th, 2007. Development began as early as 2004 under the code name "Project Purple". In Germany at the time, the iPhone cost 'only' 399 euros.

WHAT'S UP, DÜSSELDORF?



Coat of arms of the city of Düsseldorf

At long last, the trade fair gates will open again for the long-awaited glasstec in Düsseldorf. We have taken great pains in preparing for this mega-event of the glass industry in the fall of 2022, including providing an informative overview of what has recently been happening in the state capital in terms of exciting high-end architecture. Let's start right away by first landing at Düsseldorf Airport – more precisely in the ...

Airport-City

The new „Shift“ office building in the middle of Airport City is the first feature that catches the eye from a distance with its striking façade of polished, anodized aluminum. In the words of the architectural firm sop responsible for planning the building: „Its angular cubature and its matte glossy façade and the staggered rising outdoor terraces create an exciting building, which in terms of its energy planning scheme meets the DGNB gold standard.“

Around the next corner, another prestigious project is currently under construction, also planned by sop architects - the SMART OFFICE. The new sculptural office building magically draws the eye to its entrance portal as high as the building itself, which is connected by two H-shaped wings with glazed walkways. Inside the SMART OFFICE, which has also been pre-certified with the DGNB Gold, all forms of office organization, from open space and combination zones to individual and group offices, can be flexibly allocated.



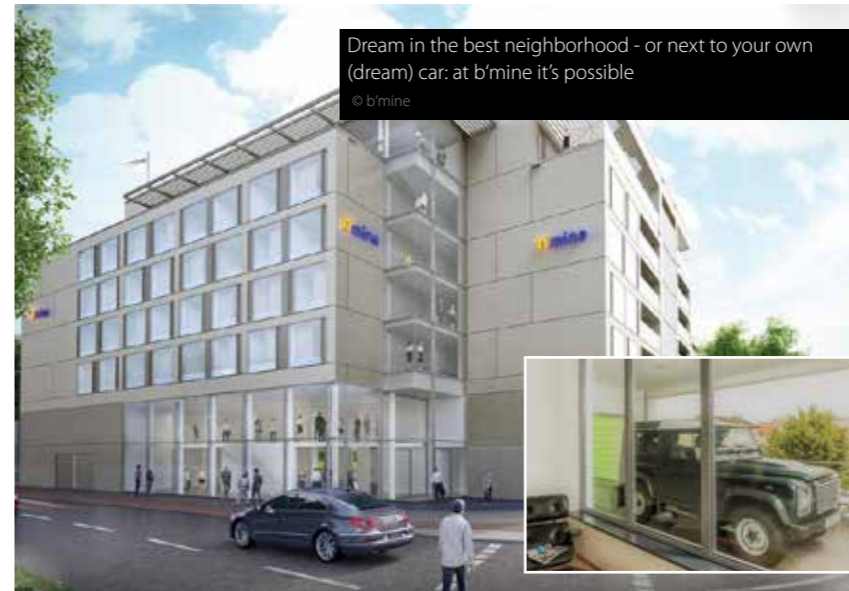
The 'Shift' office building at Airport City
© JDM

New South Entrance

Located at Exhibition Hall 1 close to the Rhine, the redeveloped South Entrance is something to be admired: a huge translucent canopy sets the mood for the glazed front of the new „South Entrance“. The foyer itself offers over 2,000 square meters of space for meetings and events. Above the heads of the visitors, the glazed conference room extends prominently into the foyer. Beyond the impressively designed forecourt and transparent foyer, visitors enter the new Exhibition Hall 1, which stretches across the full width of the entrance area. With space for 10,000 people, 6 conference rooms and a height of 15 meters, it is more beautiful, brighter, wider!



Lots of glass, lots of light: the 'South Entrance' of Messe Düsseldorf.
© Messe Düsseldorf // Slapa Oberholz Pszczuiny Architekten // Cadman



Dream in the best neighborhood - or next to your own (dream) car: at b'mine it's possible
© b'mine

b'mine hotel Düsseldorf

Chic conference hotels are always worth knowing about. Take the case of the 'b'mine hotel' in Düsseldorf, which opened in spring 2022. Located 5 minutes from Düsseldorf Central Station, it offers 202 'smart' rooms including 26 car lofts. Really smart: due to the digital infrastructure, the guest's own smartphone becomes the check-in and check-out device as well as the hotel room door opener. Event rooms for business meetings are available on the 6th floor, where guests will also find 'The Roof' - a restaurant, innovative bar and lounge with fireplace all in one.

Ingenhoven-“Wave“

The edge of the P&C designed by Richard Meier can be seen on the left of the photo, part of the Ingenhoven Valley is on the right, and the Kö-Bogen complex designed by Daniel Libeskind behind it. To complete the overall picture, the office building from the 1950s that was located between them was demolished and is to be replaced by an elegant building. A design by Christoph Ingenhoven has already been submitted, which skillfully draws on the architectural features of the neighboring buildings in its planning. What we know to date: retail outlets are to be included on two levels and very likely a hotel above.



Harmoniously integrated into the architectural landscape: The new building in Düsseldorf's city center.
© Ingenhoven architects

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY LEGENDS:

Burmester

There are products the mere sight of which automatically produces a desire to own them. Because they have a unique character. Because they have an inherent aesthetic quality that goes far beyond their mere usefulness. Because they anticipate the technical progress of their time simply due to their outstanding functionality. Design and technology legends that we would like to introduce here in no particular order of merit – such as Burmester.

With its excellent sound, the Burmester 175 turntable, according to the judgment of out-and-out hi-fi professionals, is one of the absolute best in the world. They are enthusiastic about the authentic sound, explain how the room comes alive with the sounds from the audience in live-recordings, the atmosphere is immediately tangible and the applause of the audience sounds incredibly realistic. Neil Young's acoustic guitar comes across as energetic and precise, the 1963 Wagner Ring with the Vienna Philharmonic under Georg Solti just astonishing, and even more: "You have the impression you're looking right into John Coltrane's saxophone - it sounds close, as dry as dust, immediate and unbelievably fresh!



Sound in perfection: One of five product lines: shown here the 'Classic Line'.

© Burmester

There are experts who claim that the Burmester 175 has established its own league and is unique in the world of turntables. It has its price, of course: the Burmester 175 currently costs around 39,000 euros.



Finest materials and highest manufacturing precision.
© Burmester



The legendary Burmester 175 – in a league of its own.
© Burmester

The rest is history

With the legendary Model 808, Burmester developed the world's first modular preamplifier in 1980. Then in 1991, the company launched the first belt-driven CD player, and in 1994 the actively regulated 948 Power Conditioner, which frees the supply voltage from interfering DC components. In 1997 the new Burmester Reference Line is born and has been setting standards in sound quality, innovation and manufacturing quality ever since. Adding the suffix 'Reference' was more or less determined by the world's trade magazines, because all products of this line have been honored with reference titles.

In 2005, Burmester entered the high-end class of the automotive industry: for the Bugatti 16.4 Veyron, the company developed an exclusive sound system over a period of more than three years. In 2009 his cooperation with Porsche started, and then in 2012 with Mercedes-Benz. And in 2018, Burmester finally introduced the 175 turntable as "the zenith of what is possible in terms of sound quality". The audio pioneer himself does not live to see the overwhelming success and the sheer elation of the entire high-end audio industry the 175 caused. Dieter Burmester died in August 2015 at the age of 69.

Only true legends sound this good

As a young engineer, Dieter Burmester was involved in the development of electronic measuring devices for precision medical equipment and he was also a passionate rock bass player. When his preamp gave up on him at the end of the 70s, he quickly soldered together his own: the 777 preamp. He created a masterpiece, and so in 1978 he founded Burmester Audiosysteme GmbH in Berlin-Schöneberg - with the goal of creating absolute first-class high-end devices, the perfect combination of superior sound, technological innovation and timeless design. Virtually from the outset, he designed his models in his characteristic chrome finish and brands them with his name in a cursive font.

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