

Member Profile

Member Profile: James L. Taylor Manufacturing Company

Location: Poughkeepsie, NY

Founded: 1911

Member since: 1912

Product: Clamping machinery for the solid wood furniture industry.

The James L. Taylor Manufacturing Company has been a member of the Council of Industry since 1912, longer than any other current member. One reason they have outlasted so many others is their commitment to innovation. James L. Taylor Manufacturing started out making clamps for wood furniture and as the furniture industry evolved Taylor looked for ways not only to change with the times, but also to offer his customers the best machinery available.

James L. Taylor began making hand clamps for woodworking sometime around 1903 in New Jersey. In 1911, he decided to move to Poughkeepsie, New York in 1911 and start the James L. Taylor Manufacturing Company on Parker Avenue in the same building (a few additions and renovations later) where it is today. Here he manufactured his patented quick adjusting, self-locking bar clamp. These hand clamps were Taylor's main product throughout the early part of this century and were a significant step forward in the gluing of lumber for the woodworking industry.

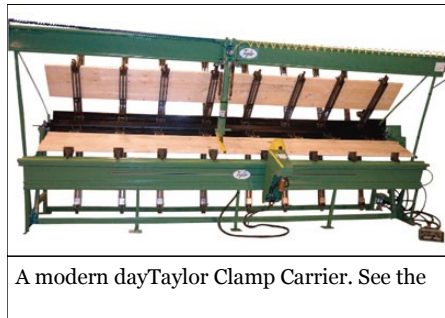
In the 1930's and 40's, Taylor's clamps were placed on a wheel, similar to a Ferris wheel arrangement. Wood workers used these clamp wheels, or Taylor Clamp Carriers, to glue pieces of wood for a variety of trades such as furniture and casket makers and even a company that made wooden propellers for airplanes. It was a major first step towards mass production.

In the 1940's the glue went from animal hide glue to a two-part epoxy type glue. This technology forced innovation on the clamping industry. A new curing process involving steam heating was now being used. Taylor Manufacturing developed a steam heated press that used a batch feed called the Panel Mint and a continuous feed edge gluing machine

called the Panel Flo. They made between 300 to 400 of these machines during next few decades.

In the 1980's, the glue changed again. This time it was an industrial version of Borden's Elmer's glue, called PVA. This new glue cured at room temperature, eliminating the need for steam curing. With the advent of the new PVA glue, clamp carriers came back into use, and Taylor took the clamp carrier wheel and automated it.

In the 1990's the company added a second machine line, JLT Clamps. This was a line of smaller clamping machines designed for the custom cabinetry shop. This line is still going strong today with the introduction of their Mini Pod Press.



More recently a third line has been added, Cameron Automation. While this line has nothing to do with clamping or gluing, it is still a part of the woodworking process. Cameron Automation manufactures machines that contain a scan and feed system for ripping and chopping timber. Their latest innovation is the Quick Match, a machine that can color match and pre-sort

pieces of wood so that an entire set of cabinets will be the same shade of oak or maple. This process increases efficiency and quality.

As James L. Taylor Manufacturing Company comes upon its own centennial, they will continue to develop product lines and increase automation on the current machines. They already build all the computer hardware and write their own software for the machines they manufacture. This allows their customers to get programs tailored specifically to their needs and receive free upgrades when needed because there is no middleman.

It is because of their flexibility and innovative approach that the James L. Taylor Manufacturing Company has won numerous Challenger Awards for their machines over the last three decades. That ability to look ahead and envision the woodworking tools of the future is also what has kept customers coming back to Taylor for almost a century.