



INDUSTRY: Fashion

JC Confection runs at 4% greater material efficiency with heightened productivity using Lectra's DiaminoFashion Expert V5R3

MARKET

Women's wear

LOCATION

Cholet, France

CHALLENGE

Optimal efficiency, greater productivity.

BENEFITS

DiaminoFashion can process nestings by in groups, automatically and by batch to optimize material consumption.

The French fashion manufacturing company JC Confection manufactures top-of-the-line women's wear for French fashion labels in addition to its own brand, Isis.

Specializing in knit items, JC Confection offers a wide variety of garments, including dresses, skirts, tops, and pants. JC Confection has evolved dramatically over the past 25 years, significantly increasing its client base and workforce, today numbering 110 employees, and attaining 2007 revenues of €8.6 million. With as many as 440 different models developed every year, JC Confection currently produces one million articles annually out of its two manufacturing facilities: their original plant near Cholet (western France) and, since 1998, a second plant based in Tunisia.

The challenge

JC Confection's considerable growth and evolution towards a specialization in top-of-the-line garments has created new challenges in the production room. In addition to requiring a second manufacturing facility, the company especially needed greater efficiency of time and materials. The creation of their own Ulysse brand five years ago accentuated these challenges.

Furthermore, the demands of their clients over the past few years have been requesting evolving into requests for a more complete offer from JC Confection. The production room staff has tripled in size over the past ten years to handle the extra work, she said. "Our customers now just hand us a sketch and let us do the rest," Loiseau said. "So we have to handle the whole process, from the pattern-making to the finished product."

The complexity of the models they were now processing, in addition to the use of different kinds of fusible interfacing and lining and the wide variety of fabrics, meant that the number of markers to be made was growing significantly. "Now we really have to study costs and materials consumption much more closely," Loiseau said. "It's essential for us to have a very precise estimation of the amount of fabric we'll need, to eliminate waste as much as possible."

JC Confection started looking for a solution which could help them meet the demands of the new workload with improved productivity and efficiency.

The solution

A Lectra customer since 1992, JC Confection acquired DiaminoFashion Expert, from the Diamino® solution range, in 2003 to automate the marker-making process.

Programmed with advanced algorithms, DiaminoFashion Expert creates markers automatically in batch-processing mode. Use of materials is optimized while garment and fabric constraints are respected, even for motif-patterned fabrics. Its user-friendliness and autonomy result in maximum productivity.

In 2008 JC Confection upgraded to version V5R3, Lectra's latest Diamino Expert release, with enhanced nesting features.

"The newest version of Diamino Expert has been such a time-saver for us because it automatically places the fuse blocks as one unit," Loiseau said. "And that, combined with the new, reinforced algorithms that tight-pack all the pieces, we have experienced an incredible rate of efficiency with our materials. We've been seeing material savings of 3 to 4% compared to the previous version (V5R2) of Diamino Expert."

Cost and materials evaluations have improved significantly since using Diamino Expert. Now able to run estimations automatically for each individual size, Loiseau's team has found that there is very little variation between the theoretical needs and the real needs. "We now have yardage that is appropriate for each

More about DiaminoFashion Expert



User-friendly and capable of handling all kinds of garments and fabrics, DiaminoFashion Expert works autonomously and unattended once the list of markers has been defined. Optimized nesting of pieces results in significant material savings.

More about JC Confection

"DiaminoFashion V5R3 has made us up to 4% more efficient in our fabric consumption compared to version V5R2! It also frees up our time, making us far more productive. Now each person can do so much more than before, while DiaminoFashion runs markers by itself."



Valérie Loiseau
Development Office manager
JC Confection (France)

launch,” she said. “The advantages really are numerous, especially in terms of time and material savings.”

Above all, time savings has been the greatest benefit of Diamino Expert for JC Confection. “Everything is automated!” Loiseau said. “Not just the evaluations, but the marker-making as well. That means we can multiply the number of markers made in the same block of time. With all the models we process, that kind of automatism is really fantastic. While Diamino Expert is running the markers, our team is free to manage the other tasks in the development office.”

Marker-making is now managed by a single person, Loiseau said. Now markers are not only sent on time; they’re ready in advance.

“Diamino Expert has given us about 20% more time than before,” she said. “There is just no doubt about the number of advantages to using Diamino Expert,” said Danielle Doret, JC Confection’s marker-making professional. “It has made my work so much easier and more efficient. I couldn’t imagine ever going back to working without Diamino Expert again.”

Loiseau’s team learned to fully optimize their use of Diamino Expert with the help of Lectra’s expert support staff, specialists in the industry and in Lectra’s solutions. By running a thorough audit, they were able to create a detailed diagnosis of JC Confection’s needs and provide them not only with the right solutions but with customized

training as well. “Our trainer was extremely well informed about Diamino Expert and our company,” she said. “She showed us how to get the most out of Diamino Expert.”

ABOUT LECTRA

Lectra is the world leader in integrated technology solutions that automate, streamline, and accelerate product design, development, and manufacturing processes for industries using soft materials. Lectra develops the most advanced specialized software and cutting systems and provides associated services to a broad array of markets including fashion (apparel, accessories, footwear), automotive (car seats and interiors, airbags), furniture, as well as a wide variety of other market sectors, such as the aeronautical and marine industries, wind power, personal protective equipment. Lectra serves 23,000 customers in more than 100 countries with 1,500 employees. The company is listed on Euronext Paris. For more information, please visit www.lectra.com.