



Peppermint Clothing

Lectra helps Peppermint Clothing cut a path to profitability with Vector iQ80.

The challenge

Specialized in bold fashion for the high-end girls' segment, Peppermint Clothing designs and manufactures styles for girls 1 to 13 years old. The company produces 125,000 garments per month, incorporating up to five different materials into each design. Wide-ranging fabric handling requirements and growing production volumes made it crucial to streamline fabric cutting.

Results

To enable the popular girls' clothing brand to reach its growth potential, Lectra helped the company make the switch from labor-intensive practices to automated processes. Implementation of a complete Vector multi-ply cutting solution has allowed the company to integrate multiple materials into a single garment with greater ease, allowing the customer to expand its product range.

Lectra's response

Following optimization of setting parameters on Peppermint Clothing's Lectra fabric spreader, a Vector iQ80 fabric cutter and second spreader were implemented at the customer's Baramati manufacturing facility. The modernized, fully integrated cutting line has yielded higher operational efficiency and reduced manufacturing lead-time.

Lectra's solution

VECTOR
Fashion **iQ80**

Up-and-coming brand on the thriving **Indian fashion market**

India-based Peppermint Clothing was founded nearly 30 years ago, initially running operations as a contract garment manufacturer using manually-operated equipment. The company was then called Crystal Creations. Following its acquisition of the Peppermint Clothing trademark in 2007, the company set up a state-of-the-art production facility in Baramati to build the brand while meeting growing demand for its popular children's collections.

Today the clothing manufacturer produces **125,000 garments** per month and employs more than **1,000 people**. The Peppermint Clothing brand is present across India through multi-brand retailers, store-within-a-store arrangements, and leading e-commerce vendors. The company has so far established a network of **four brand-operated boutiques** that it aims to expand in order to grow market share.

Precise handling requirements for a **multitude of fabrics**

Peppermint Clothing cuts seven styles per day, the equivalent of approximately 50,000 fabric parts. On average, three to five materials are incorporated into a single garment. One of the customer's main challenges is managing the sheer **variety of materials incorporated into the various garment styles**. At least 15 different plain and patterned fabrics are used based on style, season or detailing.

"Each fabric's characteristics are a bit different," explains Abhay Sangoi, Technical Head, Peppermint Clothing. "So we need personnel capable of handling them properly. Spreading traditionally is a manual process that requires two to three people. Any fabric made with spandex requires relaxing. But that's not all—you need to be able to lay it correctly without tension. The challenges vary from style to style."

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We can now do the same amount of cutting at a single location. We've saved on skilled manpower, and modern cutting methodologies have helped us achieve fabric savings. All of this means nothing but profitability for the company.

Kamlesh Katariya,
Director at Peppermint Clothing Pvt. Ltd

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Expertise to expand capacity and **improve productivity**

By the end of 2017, Peppermint Clothing was producing **5,000 garments per day** using manual spreading and cutting methods at its Baramati manufacturing facility. To expedite cutting operations, a first Lectra fabric spreader was acquired. Lectra Professional Services would later be contacted to optimize parameter settings on the spreading equipment.

"That's when we looked at simplifying our cutting process," recalls Sangoi. "It wasn't just a matter of simplifying, but also **making our cutting process more efficient**. It was basically at this stage when Lectra really supported us, in providing us with the right templates, in training our people on how to use the spreader, on how to change parameters, and why these parameters were important."

40% increase in garment production by 2020

Following substantial improvements in productivity, a second spreader and **Vector iQ80** fabric cutting machine were implemented in 2019. The complete Lectra spreading and cutting solution has enabled operators to **cut patterned fabric as quickly as plain material**. Fabric pieces of any shape can be produced faster, with a **high degree of precision**. The higher-precision cutting led to improved output in the sewing department, with faster, neater stitching meeting target quality standards.

In addition to streamlining its cutting processes and accelerating production, Peppermint Clothing has succeeded in **eliminating costly cutting errors and achieving significant fabric savings**.

"We have consolidated the cutting activity of nine cutting tables into four," observes Kamlesh Katariya, Director, Peppermint Clothing.

Following further improvements to the cutting department, production is set to increase from 5,000 to 7,000 garments by 2020.

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