

CUSTOMER REPORT

The Path to Lean Tool Management at CAVAGNA GROUP

In a growing and innovative company, the internal organization itself can become the bottleneck in CNC production. Cavagna Group shows how you can turn this problem into a competitive advantage.



Matteo Simonetti,
Business Analyst and Developer

The Cavagna Group is a leading international manufacturer of controls and instruments for natural gas distribution. Their headquarters are in Northern Italy halfway between Milano and Venice. Founded by the Cavagna family after the war (1949), the company has since been a brand for inventive genius and quality products. Today the company benefits from their outstanding experience and market penetration. In Italy alone, Cavagna has eleven production shops and internationally there are 30 more. This enables Cavagna to offer minimal delivery times and professional services in all corners of the globe.

Why WinTool?

The main reason *Win Tool's* tool management system was introduced was to alleviate the overstrained situation in the old tool store. Over the years, CNC production had continued to grow, and the number of products increased. Because tool usage was not transparent, reorganization was not an option. The old system was simply not effective, and improvements were needed. With *WinTool*, the managers introduced a new platform which enabled organization of a lean tool store and workflow.

Software Implementation

Matteo Simonetti was tasked to install *WinTool* in a production shop that had many historically established Cavagna methods. Because



The Cavagna Group manufactures a complete range of valves and accessories for tanks and bottles to store gas under high pressure.

of this, the change-over to a lean process had to be organized into steps. First, they recorded only those tools in the new master database that had a definite Cavagna number code (which had to remain in place).

In the second step, the tool store got sorted out as only the tools that were needed for maintenance and any new tools were recorded. The remaining tools were eliminated. The challenge was to stay on top of the selection and data input process. Matteo Simonetti points out that this effort paid off, as during this phase they made significant improvements in preparation process efficiency and in reducing storage costs.

In the third step, the *WinTool* CNC-Archive module was implemented which allowed NC programmers to store and control machine operation and setup files. These files can also be viewed on the shop floor and transferred to the machines via DNC.

What are the improvements?

The old problems of no tool usage transparency and irregular tool supply have been completely resolved. Thanks to *WinTool*, the Cavagna team was even able to improve operations which had previously been considered optimal. *WinTool* opened new doors

for Cavagna because the new transparency and speed allowed team members to visualize solutions far beyond those possible in the restricted old organization.

Matteo Simonetti believes that the integrated management of production operation files and tools in one system is the perfect solution. All data used in programming and on the machines can easily be managed, traced back and reused.

Another great benefit is *WinTool's* user and rights management capabilities. In the old system anybody could access and modify the data which was a source of uncertainty and problems. Now it is always visible who created and changed the data. The data quality has totally improved since the introduction of *WinTool*. Now, the machine operators feel confident about using the archived production data and knowing that their machine setup and prove-out time has been greatly reduced.

Next steps?

In the next step *WinTool* will be interfaced with SAP. Then the storage transactions and purchase requisitions will be submitted digitally to purchasing.