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Woven pieces „made in Pforzheim“

„It is a mistake to think that Milanaise products can be made just using machines, because the processing of metal mats is when the challenge really begins,“ says Michael Heidecker of **Heinrich Heidecker**.

A fresh gold mat hangs up to dry in the workshop. Its surface feels smooth and supple, almost like silk. Next door the tapping sound of numerous sewing machines - sorry, Milanaise machines - can be heard. „A needle winds wire into a spiral. Then the metal spirals are woven into one another, row by row,“ explains Benjamin Heidecker. The graduate industrial engineer is the great-grandson of the eponymous company founder and works primarily in sales.

EXTENSIVE HAND CRAFTSMANSHIP

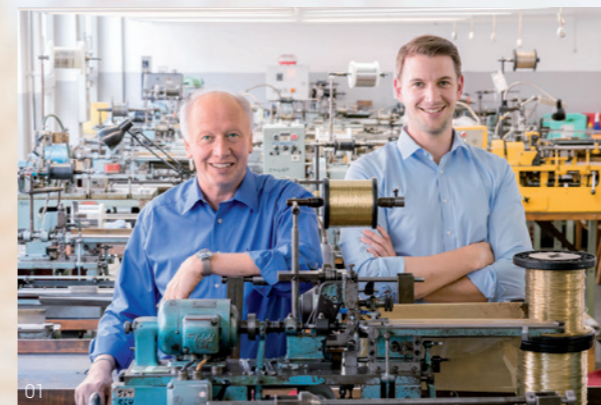
His father, Michael, is the company proprietor, a technology expert and consequently often to be found in the workshop. He shows us how the mats are marked and cut to the required width. The resulting bands are then formed, for example into round, rectangular, triangular, heart or wave shapes. Depending on the end product, they are then rolled, pressed or annealed intermediately before being pulled to the right dimensions, sandblasted or polished, as well as galvanised where required. All of these procedures require practiced moves and involve tools mostly built by the company itself.

95 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

The same applies for the Milanaise machines, which have been further developed over the course of decades. Heidecker was founded in 1921 and produces its Milanaise weaves in gold, silver, platinum and other materials as well as the resultant chains, jewellery and watch bracelets exclusively in Pforzheim. „The bundling of all work stages on one site means we can address different customer requirements quickly and flexibly,“ says Benjamin Heidecker.

Saraj Morath ■

www.heidecker.de



01 Michael and Benjamin Heidecker (right) 02 Cutting the precious metal mats 03 The woven product

Photos: Martin Glauner



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