

# FENCING TIMES

*XL Edition*

*2023, Ausgabe 7*

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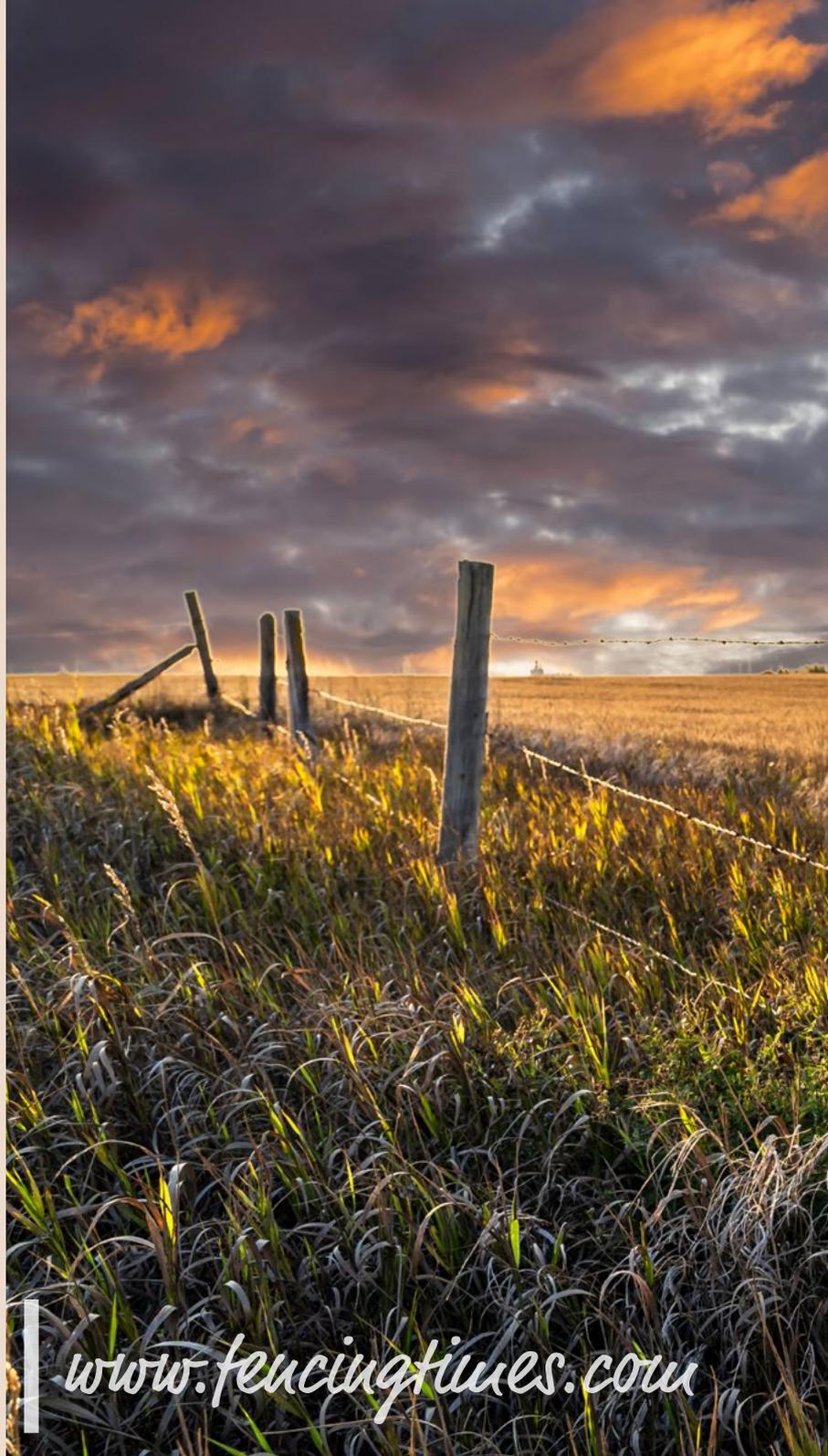


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A barbed wire fence on a wheat field on the Canadian Prairies in Wheatland County Alberta. Photo: Ramon Cliff



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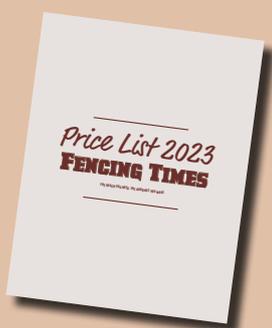
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# Were you also too stupid to qualify for any other job?

**I**f you ask a fencing installer why he became one, the answer you often get is: "I wasn't clever enough to do anything else." That always rather winds us up here in the editorial department. Fencing is a profession in its own right and certainly not suitable for fools. It takes a good deal of knowledge, skill and intelligence to become a fencing installer.

For example, you should be able to distinguish the colours green, anthracite and black from each other. In the morning light especially, that's more difficult than the average person might think. And if you need to obtain a safety certificate, so you can work at an oil refinery for instance, you need to be able to correctly fill in the answers during an exam as per your boss's prompts.

What's more, you need to be able to read at primary school level and count up to a hundred roughly, so that you understand the work orders. You need to be able to work a calculator so you can calculate how many packs or bundles you need to transport to the construction site, and you should know the difference between left and right so that you get the gates to open in the customer's preferred direction.

A good work ethic is also important for a fencing installer. If you've scored some pills on Friday with a view to partying all weekend, you should at least have the presence of mind to phone your boss on Sunday evening and tell him you can't come in on Monday. Your boss may well have factored that in anyway. After all, he obviously knows you, but it's still the decent thing to do.

If your driving licence has been revoked again because you were caught drunk-driving on the motorway, tell your boss that as well. Then he can get someone else to drive and the truck won't be impounded by the police.

And, if you couldn't restrain yourself after payday and immediately spent half a day in the cafeteria feeding your entire salary into the fruit machine, you've got to be skilled at thinking up pretexts and excuses to explain why the job didn't get done.

That's all complete nonsense, of course. Fencing installers are inclined to poke fun at themselves but the industry really isn't composed entirely of uneducated football hooligans, borderline criminals, cowboys and other hopeless losers. The vast majority of installers are very good at their job. And just as in any other industry, every now and then you come across a super-installer.

They're the installers who get dozens of metres of fencing done in a jiffy. The ones who, when a job goes well, surprise their bosses in the afternoon by coming to pick up another pack of panels for the job. Those who never phone up to say they're stuck. It's the installers who get the biggest tips because they leave customers super-satisfied.

They're the installers the boss of every fencing business would commit murder for. Who are granted every day off they ask for – should they ask for it, but they never do – and who are pampered in every way because they're so valuable.



Now, of course, the question is: how do you become such a super-installer? There are no fencing schools, where you can learn our great profession. And even if they did exist, you probably wouldn't last long in one. Fencing installers and school don't go that well together.

If you're lucky, you'll have an old-school ganger or foreman you can pick up things from. But even without him, you can still become a super-installer. How? In the same way you became a regular installer: by gaining practical experience. All the fencing installers we know have learned the profession by falling over and picking themselves back up again. The super-installers simply fell over a bit more often and harder - and picked themselves back up a bit more often as well.

The great thing about it is: if you're already a fencing installer, you can practise every day. For free, in the boss's time. All you need are willpower, perseverance and discipline.

That starts by just paying attention and thinking, in everything you do. As you're setting off in the morning and before you exit the yard, go through the whole packing list one more time and check that you've got all the materials you need with you that day. Then you won't need to go to the hardware store halfway through the day, or even worse, all the way back to base. That's the worst possible waste of time.

And eliminating wasted time is where the most profit can be made. The fewer unproductive hours there are, the more valuable you become. Time is money, a universal law. So never call the business either to say that you can't continue until someone arrives with an aerial platform or a mini-digger. Try to improvise. You'll probably be able to borrow a loader or a forklift from somewhere in an industrial estate nearby.

The same applies to the fencing itself: make sure the metres go up at a rapid rate. The more metres you fit in the same time, the more valuable you are. It doesn't necessarily have to involve ridiculous muscle power or running faster. Here, too, the biggest gains lie in efficiency. Stop and think for 10 minutes or so before you start. How can you make sure you spend the least time walking around empty-handed?

During those first 10 minutes, also insert a stick in the ground that marks your goal for that day and keep going until you get there.

Make sure you never go home when there's only an hour's work left on a job. If you have to go back tomorrow for that one short hour, half a day will be lost with all the driving to and fro.

Then when you finally get back to base after a long day, don't run off to your own car and drive off site with screeching tyres. You really deserve that cold beer now, but in half an hour it will taste even better. The installation truck should be tidied up first and loaded for the next day. And topped up with fuel, so you don't have to do that tomorrow morning.

What also helps: setting off early. At least early enough to avoid the morning traffic jams. Then you'll also finish earlier in the afternoon and can get home before the evening rush hour. You'll have to shift your rhythm for a while, but you'll soon get used to it and it will save a huge amount of useless time.

You'll say, "OK, but why should I go to all that effort? Just so the boss can drive an even plusher AMG? What's in it for me?" And now we get to the point: a really good installer can earn so much that he can afford his own AMG.

Because the more metres you install, the more valuable you are to your boss and the more salary you can demand from him. He should happily pay you accordingly. Casually ask him what you can earn if you fix double the number of metres every day. Just for fun, even if you think it's impossible to fix double the number of metres every day at the moment.

That question is a nice first step towards becoming a super-installer. And before you know it, you'll be going to your school reunion in the nicest car out of all your former classmates, those who were not too stupid for anything else. ■





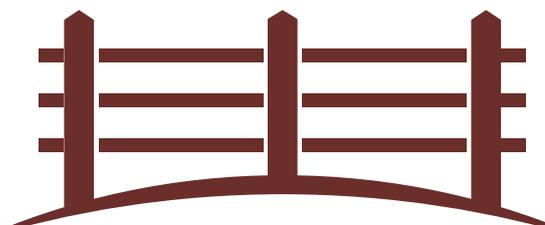
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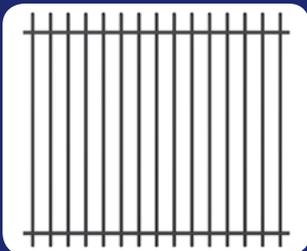
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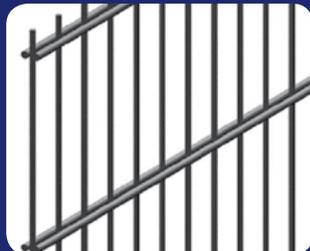
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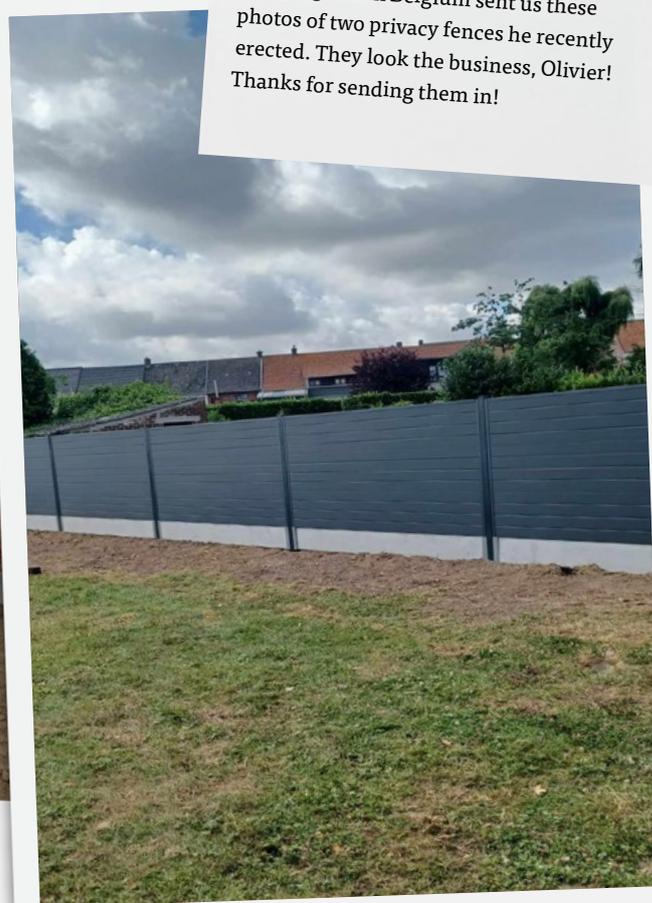
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# FENCE POST



## *Olivier @ Clôtures Olivier*

Olivier Lebrun of Clôtures Olivier from Hacquegnies in Belgium sent us these photos of two privacy fences he recently erected. They look the business, Olivier! Thanks for sending them in!



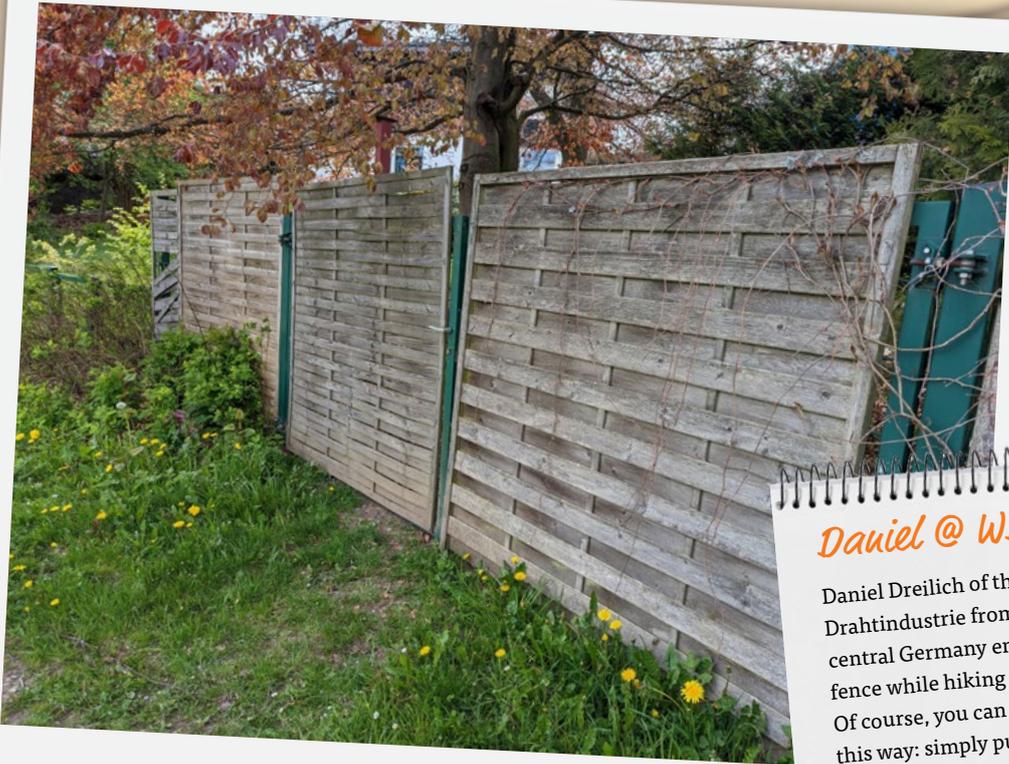
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avez-vous un conseil à offrir ou à prendre ? Ou avez-vous quelque chose à partager et à nous faire que vous aimeriez partager ? Partagez-moi vos idées et vos conseils à propos de clôtures, de portes ou de portail ? Ou peut-être des photos de clôtures que vous avez récemment installées ? Partagez-les avec nous ! Faites-le nous savoir en partageant la avec vos collègues du secteur.



### *Ian @ Crediton Fencing*

Ian Parsons of Crediton Fencing near Exeter in south-west England came across this birdie on a barbed wire fence. Nice photo, Ian! Thank you!



### *Daniel @ WDI*

Daniel Dreilich of the Westfälische Drahtindustrie from Altgandersheim in central Germany encountered this unusual fence while hiking in the Harz mountains. Of course, you can also make a privacy fence this way: simply put some old wooden fence parts against your steel gate. Great solution, or perhaps not. It's obvious that this customer didn't visit Olivier. Thank you for the photo, Daniel!

### *Ralf @ Hema*

Ralf Böhmer of Hema of Düsseldorf came across this gate in Ireland, though he didn't tell us where exactly. A gem of a gate - they don't make them like that any more. Many thanks for the photo, Ralf!



### *John @ ABC Hekwerk*

John van Meegen of ABC Hekwerk Zuid-Oost in Lottum in the Netherlands spotted this work of art in Polignano a Mare, a coastal town right at the bottom of the Italian boot on the Adriatic Sea. The infill is nice, but so is the latch - it's been done on the lower beam. Many thanks for the photo, John!



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## *Denis @ Walput*

This photo of the Karlsruhe Zoo's new Africa Savannah comes from Denis Valput of fencing company Draht Walput in Rheinstetten. It's the new enclosure for the Karlsruher Zoo's giraffes, zebras and antelopes. The customer wanted the fence to look as natural as possible, so Denis' lads put together this wooden fence on site, by hand. Mission accomplished. The Locinox Construction Radio is on its way to Rheinstetten. Thanks for sending that in, Denis!

Would you too like to win a Locinox Construction Radio? Send in a photo of your nicest project to [fencepost@fencingtimes.com](mailto:fencepost@fencingtimes.com).

# AFI and AFA organise best practice day

**A**t the end of September, UK trade organisations the Association of Fencing Industries and the Agricultural Fencing Association are holding a Best Practice Day in Cirencester.

The agenda includes several topics. One: different types of netting, not just those used for livestock. Two: how to adapt techniques for strainers, strutting, turners and wire work in different conditions. And three: the use of materials other than wooden posts.

Fencers Rob Bell, Jono Bradley, James Corbett, Mark Evans, Si Gibbs, Ross Heaven, Peter Redgwel, Nic Quan, Duncan Samson, Rory Samson and Charlie Wright will come to Cirencester to demonstrate their best techniques.

The Best Practice Day will be held at the Royal Agricultural University on 30 September from 10am to 4pm. Tickets can be booked via the AFI website.

Traditional Cotswolds weavers' cottages in Bibury, near Cirencester



# Irish fencers compete in Stock Fencing Championship

**T**he first Sunday in July marked the second Irish Stock Fencing Championship to take place at the Clonmel Show, one of the oldest agricultural shows in Ireland. This year's championship followed an initial trial in 2022, pitting five teams of two contractors to battle it out for the top title. The event was sponsored by Tornado Wire and Scanpole.



Each team was required to erect a stock proof wire fence, digging the holes by hand, securing the posts and joining the wire, all within a fixed time frame. Contestants were scored on the standard of workmanship and the time taken to complete the challenge.

The winning team – Dan Flood from Dan Flood Plant Hire & Fencing and Alan Duffy from AD Fencing – secured themselves an all-expenses paid trip to compete at the Tornado Wire Fencing competition due to be held at the NSA Sheep Event, Three Counties Showground in Malvern next year. This major event will also see competitors up against stiff competition from literally the other side of the world, as the winners of the New Zealand Fencing Competition's Golden Pliers event will also be taking part.

“2022 was very much a trial run,” says Jack Bennett, Tornado Wire’s Technical Sales Engineer for Ireland. “It was encouraging to see more entries – not

*exclusively from Ireland – participate in this year’s Irish Stock Fencing Championship. It’s great to see such enthusiasm and passion for the craft amongst the competitors, not to mention sheer strength and tenacity given the need to hand dig the holes, a job that is usually handled by machinery in the UK. We’re optimistic that the competition will continue to grow in stature with a further increase in contractors wanting to compete in the 2024 event.”*

Dan Flood, part of the winning duo says: “This competition represents a really important event to us. It offers a chance to witness new techniques, meet new people and offers a genuine industry networking opportunity. Tornado Wire has done a fabulous job in raising awareness of the championships which has clearly helped to increase the number of entries. Winning this title simply underpins my business’ commitment to delivering an exemplary standard of fencing and constantly improving my skills.” ■





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# Kiestra now also importer of SEA

In addition to its imports from Genius and Faac and as from the spring of this year, the Eindhoven importer and wholesaler of gate automation, Kiestra Toegangstechniek, has also begun importing Automatic Gate Openers from the Italian drive producer SEA, which is based in Teramo, a town near Pescara located halfway down the Italian boot.

“One of our customers needed a brushless drive motor for one of its clients,” says representative Klaas Ohmstede. “At the time, we didn’t have those in our range, so then we began to look for them. That led us to SEA. They were able to supply the drive. It was clear from the very first discussions that the SEA range would be a good supplement to our existing range of Faac and Genius drives. So we flew to Italy and sat down with them around the table.”

## SEA AUTOMATIC GATE OPENERS

The SEA range includes barriers, moving bollards and drives for swing gates and sliding gates. “SEA has an extensive product range with more than twenty swing gate drives and eleven sliding gate drives,” says Ohmstede. “It goes all the way from lightweight 24-volt drives for small swing gate leaves, through compact underground drives and brushless electric motors to hydraulic super-drives capable of moving a leaf that is 12 metres in length and weighs 2500 kilograms. For the sliding gates, the maximum leaf weight even goes up to 6000 kilograms. That means there is a focused and highly appropriate solution for every application and every situation.”

## MODERN

“Furthermore, SEA is up with the leaders in the field of new technology,” Ohmstede continues. “That’s clearly indicated anyway by their commitment to brushless motors and motors with inverters. Brushless motors consume less power, wear out less quickly and can be used more intensively. Motors with inverters can be controlled more precisely. What’s more, all these different drives have one and the same controller, the UniGate. This operates entirely intuitively. Once you’ve mastered how the first drive works, you can quickly configure every drive and barrier after that. And finally, SEA was one of the first manufacturers to have a user app for opening the gate remotely, and an installer’s app for programming the controls and fault diagnosis. The controller can also be connected to the internet, and if the customer opts for it, fault diagnosis can also be done remotely. This saves a lot of unnecessary journeys, especially for minor faults like a dirty photocell.”

## RANGE

Ohmstede emphasizes that the new SEA range will be sold alongside the existing product selection. “Faac and Genius are big names,” says Ohmstede. “The demand for those drives is as big as ever. The SEA range is there so we can provide additional options and capabilities, which we haven’t been able to deliver until now.” As well as drives from Faac, Genius and now SEA, the Kiestra range further includes intercoms from Alphone, Entrya, Intratone and Videx, safety edges from ASO Safety and key switches from Geba. ■





# Three quarters of UK gates still lack fall protection

**U**K-based Gate Safe is known for its gate safety courses, but the organisation also regularly carries out inspections of existing gates at the request of gate owners who want to know if their gate conforms to current safety requirements.

Of the 86 inspections carried out this spring and summer, three quarters of the gates were found not to be protected against collapse of the leaves. "This is clearly not in accordance with the new version of EN 12604," says Gate Safe founder Richard Jackson. "According to this standard, every gate must have three hinges." Only 9 out of the 86 gates were fitted with 3 hinges. Out of the gates with only 2 hinges, 12 had been updated with a safety cable. None of the other 63 gates had any form of fall protection.

"We looked at gates all over the country," says Jackson, "We can therefore assume that the survey is representative for the whole of the UK. But all of the gates we looked at belonged to owners with above-average concerns for safety, otherwise they would not have got in touch with us. If we repeated the survey on all gates in the UK, the results would be significantly worse."

Richard Jackson





As Jackson says, the results of the survey are not encouraging: "It's really disappointing that in spite of the standard being updated 5 years ago, there are still so many gates lacking 3 hinges or without fall protection in the field. If you carry out maintenance or repairs on a swing gate, you can immediately see whether it is protected against leaf collapse. If it isn't, all you need to do is fit a fall protection device and a major risk will be eliminated. The component for this costs some 10 pounds sterling. We would really recommend that installers get on and do this." ■

Here in the editorial office, it's our guess that the same study in the other European countries wouldn't deliver any better results, but for us the results are striking nonetheless. After all, it was mainly the UK delegation in the CEN<sup>1</sup> working groups that pushed the case for the three-hinge provision in the standard, because there had been several occurrences of someone in the UK getting fatally injured under a collapsed gate leaf when one of the hinges had failed.

1) CEN (French: Comité Européen de Normalisation) is a standardisation organisation founded in 1961 by the national standardisation committees in the European Economic Community and the European Free Trade Association. CEN standards are referred to as European Norm (EN)



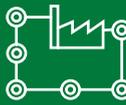
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# Bever revamps mortice lock

Bever & Klophaus, a lock manufacturer from Schwelm in Germany (between Cologne and Dortmund) has revamped its mortice lock for rectangular sections. After attachment, the latch bolt is still reversible and the lock can also be used now as a panic lock.

**T**he new mortice lock has come as part of a major restructuring. Part of that reorganisation involves revamping the portfolio to better align with today's demand and the current state of the art. This spring it was the turn of Beaver's mortice lock for external gates.

## RENEWAL

"Bever has been in existence now for over 200 years," says CEO Holger Hoffmann. "We were founded in 1809 and the current owners are the seventh generation. It means we have a vast accumulation of knowledge and experience and a trusted name. But it also means that some things are still being done the same way today as they were a 100 years ago. That's why we embarked on a renewal drive three years ago. We're renewing the machinery, but also the production processes, internal logistics, software and so on. Supplier chains too are coming under the microscope. Plus we're overhauling the portfolio. Locks we've barely sold for years are on their way out, a whole row of locks are getting an update and where we can we're consciously putting the focus on premium products."



## RECTANGULAR FRAME LOCK

The new lock is called the 1104 and it's the successor to the 1004 lock. Actually, we should also call it a new lock series as there is also an 1103 and an 1105 variant. In the new version, the mortice lock has a welded faceplate instead of it being riveted. Furthermore, the latch bolt can still be reversed after attachment. *"In the previous version, the recess in the faceplate had a notch at the top,"* says Hoffmann. *"Now we've made that notch in the shape of a corrugation. Moreover, the latch bolt is now symmetrical. We've made it in such a way now that you can turn it around even after it's been fitted. This allows gate manufacturers to pre-install all the locks and fencing installers on site can arrange for the gate to open in the other direction, if they wish."*

## VERSIONS

The 1103 lock has a zinc-plated faceplate and a latch and deadbolt made of cast zinc. *"That's the entry-level version, so to speak,"* says Hoffmann. *"It's a bit cheaper and suitable for galvanised gates."* Then comes the standard version 1104. This one has a stainless steel faceplate and instead of being cast zinc, the latch and deadbolt are now nickel-plated. Finally, there's the 1105, which is the panic version of the mortice lock. It has two mechanisms and according to Bever this ensures that the lock is guaranteed to open in case of emergency. *"The first is a mechanism that causes the latch bolt to open immediately anyone operates the panic button. While it was under development, we paid a lot of attention to that opening time. The mechanism opens the lock within a fraction of a second. The second mechanism ensures that the first mechanism still functions even when the gate wing is under pressure, in order to always guarantee panic opening."*



## SPECIFICATIONS

The new locks are available with fixing holes of 8 millimetres, as well as 8.6 millimetres for Austria. The panic version can be supplied with fixing holes of 9 and 10 millimetres for panic buttons. The 1103 and the 1104 are available with five backset sizes from 24 to 45 millimetres, making them suitable for rectangular sections from 25 millimetres. The smallest backset in the 1105 is 30 millimetres. The housing is made from galvanised steel. The dimensions of the new 1104 are the same as for its predecessor, the 1004. "Fencing installers can easily replace an old 1004 lock with an 1104 lock. And manufacturers don't need to adjust their templates. We're now in the process of having the lock tested by the PIV<sup>1)</sup> in accordance with EN 12209. The panic lock will also be tested in accordance with EN 179. Once we've obtained those certifications, we'll also provide the locks with CE marking as standard." Anyone ordering large quantities can have their logo stamped into the faceplate. Faceplates with alternative dimensions are also possible for larger quantities. ■

1) PIV stands for Prüfinstitut Schlösser und Beschläge Velbert. It is an independent testing and certification organisation of the RAL Gütegemeinschaft Schlösser & Beschläge.





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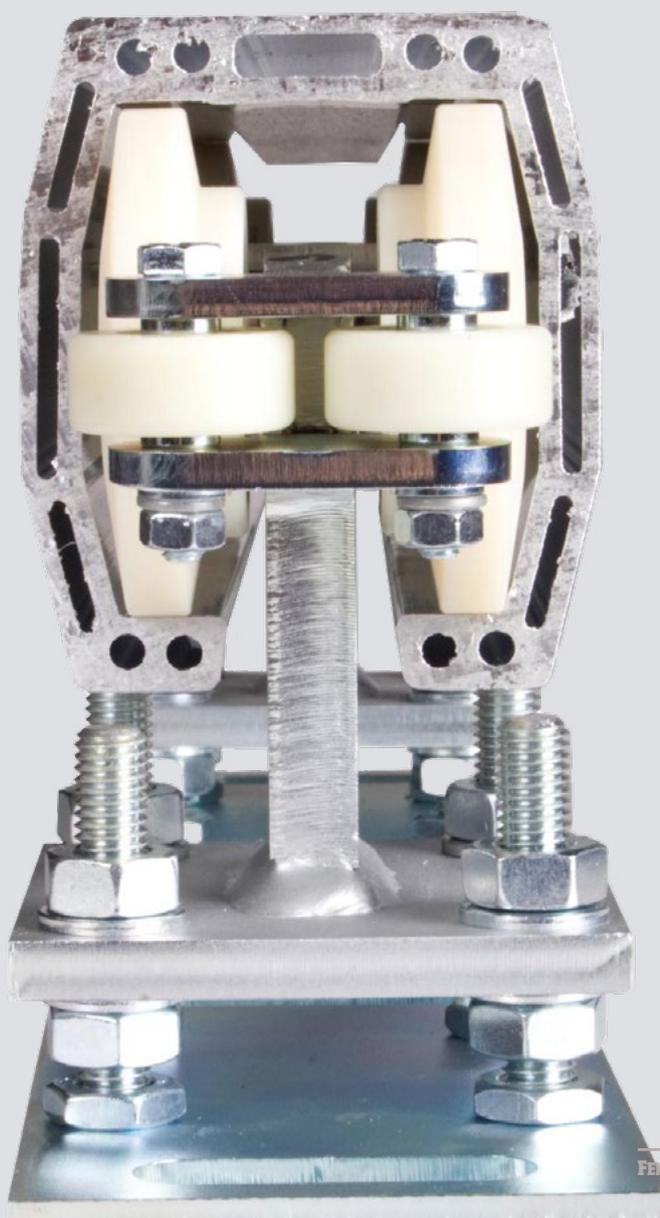
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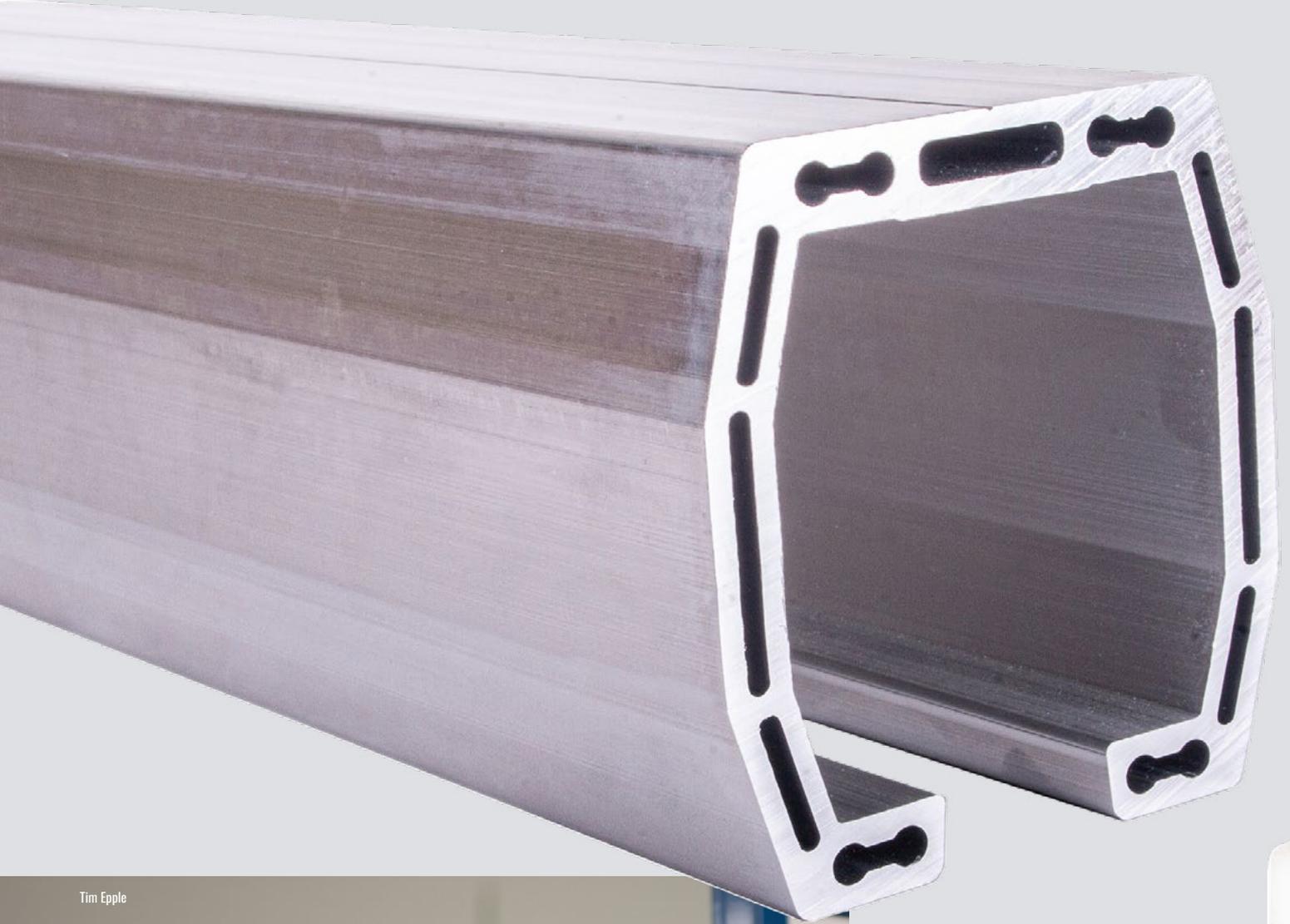
# New aluminium roller profile from Attas for manual sliding gates

**A**ttas, a German sliding gate component manufacturer based in Waiblingen, near Stuttgart, is launching a new aluminium roller profile. It looks like the existing profile, but without the extra flange for the rack and pinion.

*“Obviously most gates are electrically powered,” says Tim Epple of Attas, “but now and then you have customers who want to push their sliding gate open by hand. Until now, gate-builders who wanted to build aluminium gates for those customers used our FST 90 aluminium profile. However, that profile has a flange for the rack and pinion. Obviously that isn’t needed for manual gates, so we’ve now developed and marketed a version of the profile that doesn’t have that flange. It gives customers a nice smooth section.”*

*“When we started making aluminium roller sections years ago, it wasn’t cost-effective to make a separate section especially for manual gates,” Epple goes on. “But the demand for aluminium has increased significantly in recent years, because more and more gate-builders are seeing the advantages. For example, an aluminium gate weighs only about a third of what a steel sliding gate weighs, which means that all the mechanical components wear out less quickly and the lifespan is longer.”*





Tim Epple



Transport and installation are also cheaper thanks to the lower weight. And of course aluminium doesn't rust, even when there are scratches or damage. The surface is smoother and so looks more attractive, and because aluminium doesn't need to be galvanised, the profile won't warp at the galvanisation plant. And finally, you can still install a steel leaf frame on it if you want to, as long as you use corrosion protection tape between the two metals."

Attas's FST 90A profile is suitable for gates with a passage width of up to 8 metres and a leaf weight of up to 450 kilograms. "The hollow chamber system means that it's a very sturdy section," Epple says. "We've got calculations that show that a sliding gate leaf on this section is able to withstand wind speeds of up to 100 kilometres an hour." For lengths of more than 6 metres, the section comes in two parts. There are eight holes that you can slide pins into to join two sections together. "The section is suitable for welding or screwing. The set of castors that goes with it is designed so that you can screw a gate leaf to it in the middle and the protruding screws won't block the path of the rollers. That way it's easy for gate-builders to screw their gate leaves onto it." ■



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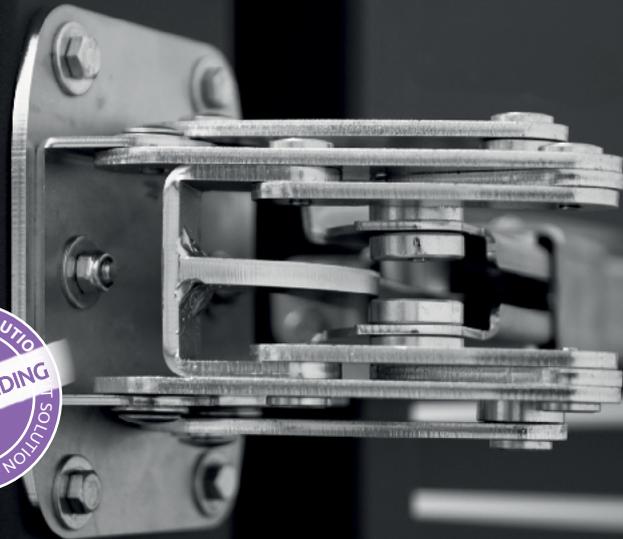


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# Deutsche Zauntechnik expands 2-metre range

Deutsche Zauntechnik, a brand of the fencing manufacturer AOS-Stahl from Wetter in the Ruhr region, is expanding its 2-metre garden fence concept from four to fourteen models. This will allow fencing installers to offer more choice to customers who prefer to do the installation themselves.

**“**In the past, fencing installers would direct customers that were looking for a cheap fence straight to the hardware store,” explains sales manager Samuel Adolph. “We thought that was a wasted sales opportunity. Which is why we launched our 2-metre garden fence concept a couple of years ago. This market has grown enormously due to coronavirus. That’s why we’re now expanding the range.”

## CONCEPT

All fencing panels in Deutsche Zauntechnik's retail concept are about 2 metres long. "This means we can place the panels upright on a euro pallet, together with some posts and drop-ship them cheaply," says Adolph. "Fencing installers with an online or physical shop can thus gain sales from DIY customers by selling them the material. We, as the manufacturer, then deliver the material directly to the end customer. We do that on behalf of the fencing installer, using a neutral delivery note. Each fencing model is available in complete packages from 2 to 30 metres and includes all accessories for the corresponding number of panels and posts. We have our own dealer catalogue for these which shows all our models, gates, gabions and matching accessories. Each model can be scanned via a QR code on the relevant page to immediately establish the end-customer price per package."

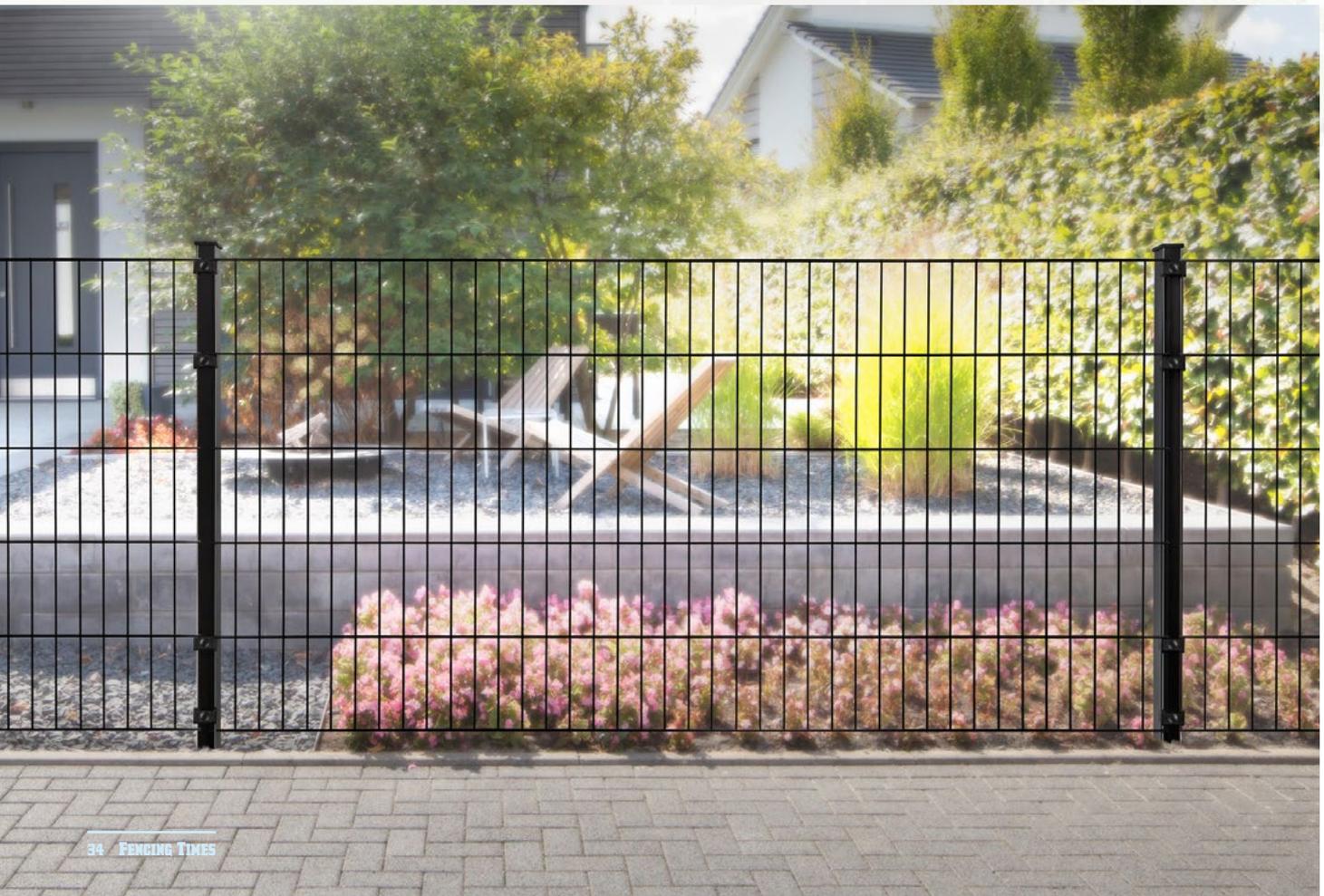
## MODELS

The range for the 2-metre garden fence concept is now being expanded with 9 extra models. "To start with, we developed a short version of our diamond panel, namely the Malaga decorative panel," says Adolph. "The diamond panel is the best-seller in the professional market.

Then we have Milo, a panel with wider mesh in the upper half, which adds variety, and finally we have the Blacky model. This is a mesh panel in a standard look but coated in black. It's supplied with black coated posts and black fixings. Black is a neutral but elegant colour, which some customers really appreciate."

## RANGE

The new panel models are not the only types of fencing that fencing installers can have delivered directly to their customers by AOS. This facility is also available for the Brienz and Basel ornamental wire fence models. "The Basel model, the sloping fencing we recently launched, is particularly suitable for this," says Adolph. It's adapted to the slope on site and then screwed together. We now have the 2-metre version of the fixed version, Brienz in stock. Because the two models have proved so popular, we've now added the models with the decorative topping." The firm installing the fence can also have the new Manhattan palisade fence made of aluminium delivered directly from AOS to the customer, since the elements are only 1 metre wide. We stock this in heights from 1 to 1.8 metres. ■

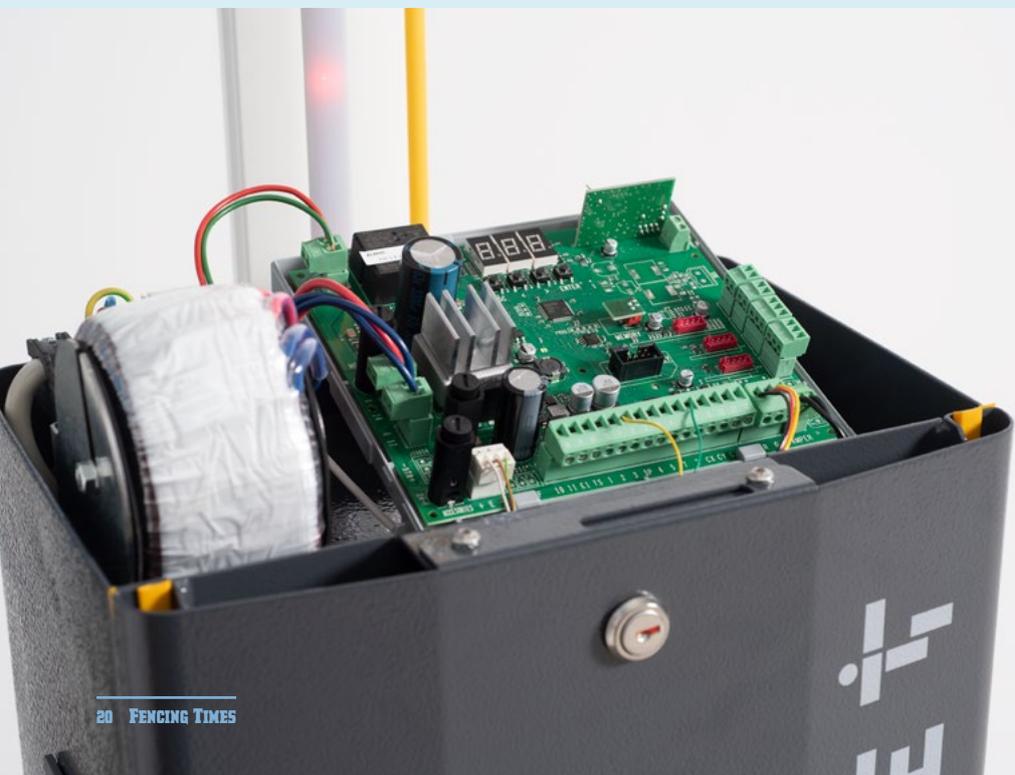




# Came introduces Gard LS4 barrier

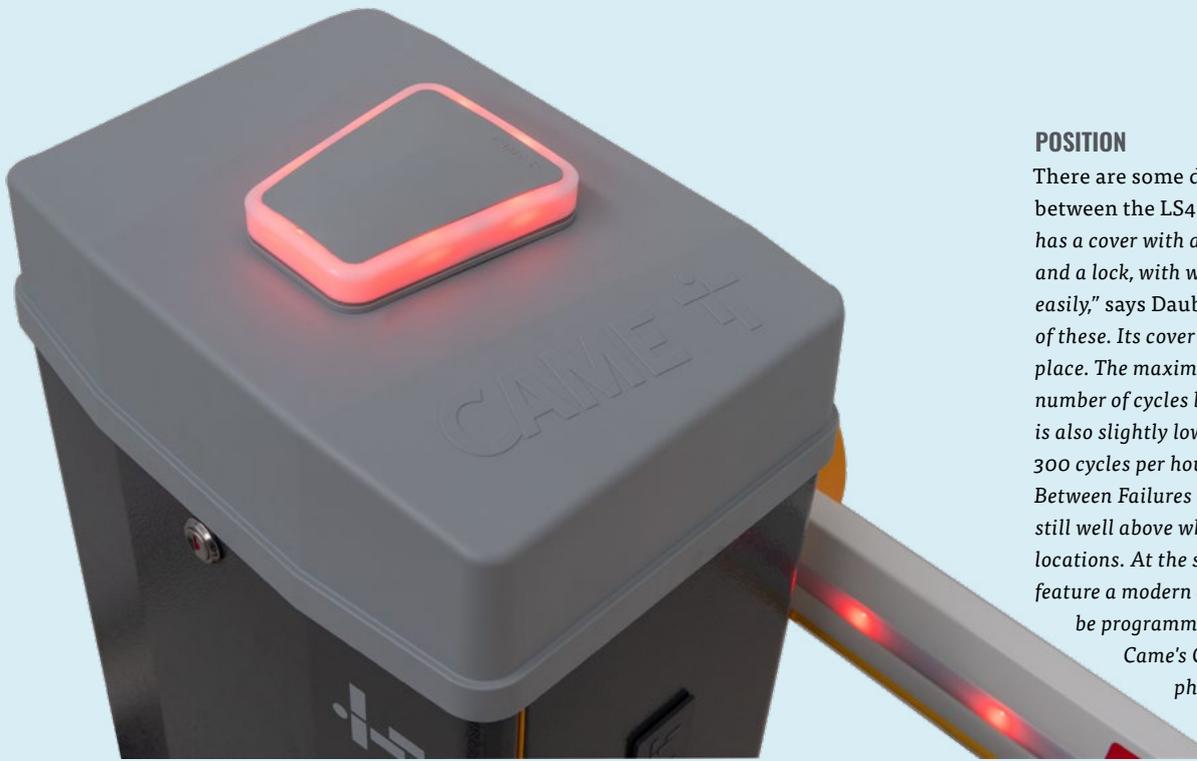
Came, an Italian access control manufacturer has launched a new barrier this spring. It is called Gard LS4 and joins the range alongside the GT and PX series. The LS4 has a boom length of up to 3.8 metres and is regarded as an entry-level model.

**“T**he GT and PX series are modern, well-equipped barriers,” says Marc Daub, marketing manager of the German branch of Came in Korntal near Stuttgart. “Up to now, customers with a more modest budget and who needed less equipment, have had to rely on the orange Gard range. For them, we now have the LS4: a favourably priced but modern barrier in the same new style as its big brothers.”





CAME

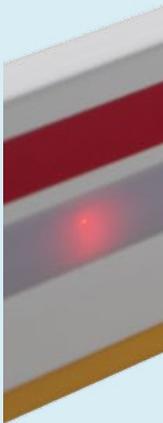
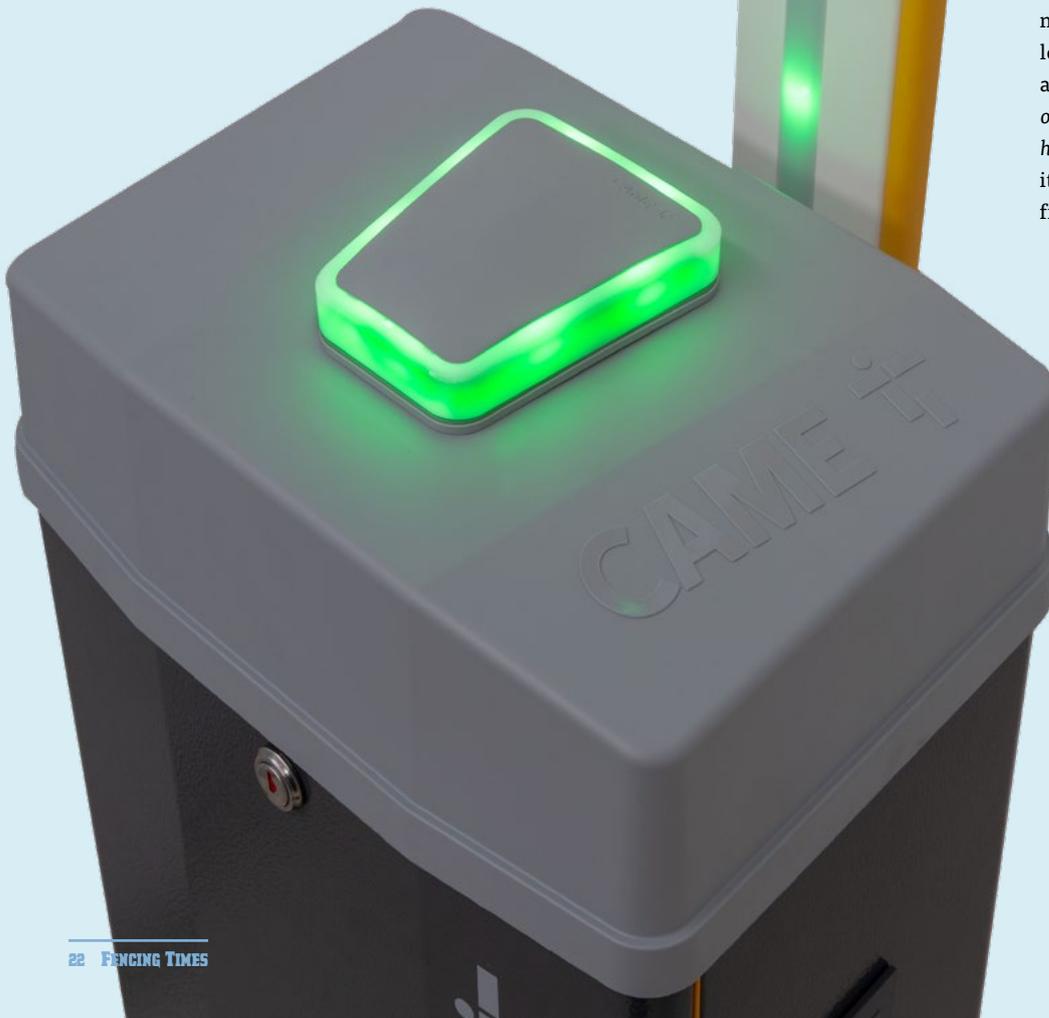


## POSITION

There are some design differences between the LS4 and the GT4. "The GT4 has a cover with an integrated LED strip and a lock, with which you can open it easily," says Daub. "The LS4 has neither of these. Its cover is simply screwed into place. The maximum deployment time and number of cycles between service intervals is also slightly lower with the LS4, but at 300 cycles per hour and a Mean Cycles Between Failures (MCBF) of 1.5 million, it is still well above what is necessary for most locations. At the same time, the LS4 does feature a modern controller, one that can be programmed and configured with Came's Connect Setup App on the phone or tablet."

## ENCODER

The barrier's 24-volt drive motor is equipped with an encoder. "The electronics in the controller ensure the barrier moves smoothly," Daub continues. The controller continuously analyses the forces acting on the barrier arm as it moves and adjusts the speed of the motor to suit them. This guarantees a long service life and reliable operation in all weather conditions." The control unit of the Gard LS4 is located at the top of the housing and angled upwards. "This makes it readily accessible when you stand in front of it."

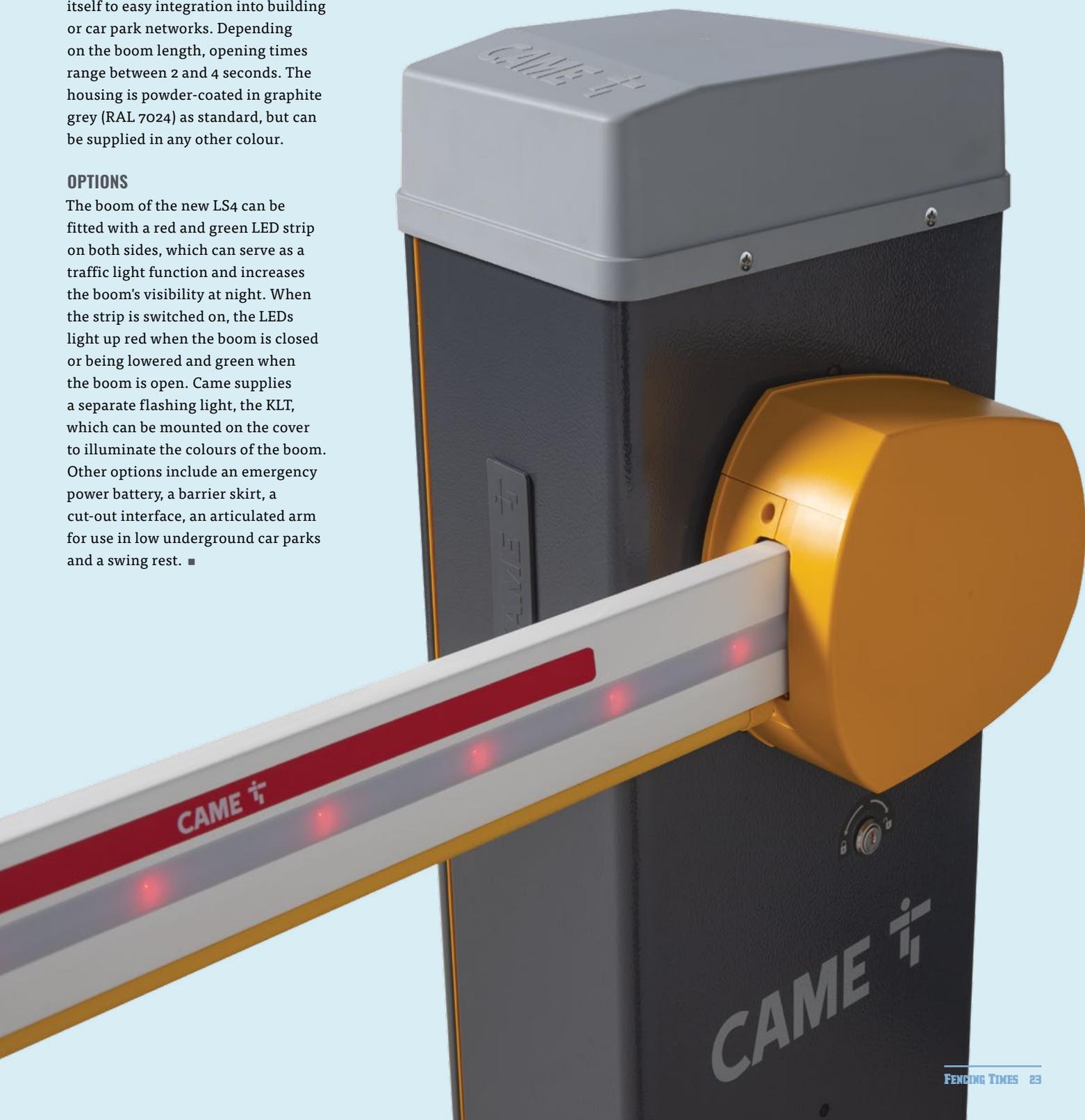


## SPECIFICATIONS

The new LS4 has a 24-volt DC motor and is available in boom lengths from 2.5 to 3.8 metres. For easy connection of accessories, it features a connection for Came's own BUS system, and thanks to its preparation for the Modbus system, it also lends itself to easy integration into building or car park networks. Depending on the boom length, opening times range between 2 and 4 seconds. The housing is powder-coated in graphite grey (RAL 7024) as standard, but can be supplied in any other colour.

## OPTIONS

The boom of the new LS4 can be fitted with a red and green LED strip on both sides, which can serve as a traffic light function and increases the boom's visibility at night. When the strip is switched on, the LEDs light up red when the boom is closed or being lowered and green when the boom is open. Came supplies a separate flashing light, the KLT, which can be mounted on the cover to illuminate the colours of the boom. Other options include an emergency power battery, a barrier skirt, a cut-out interface, an articulated arm for use in low underground car parks and a swing rest. ■



# ELKA Slide gate openers EST-FU with frequency converter controller

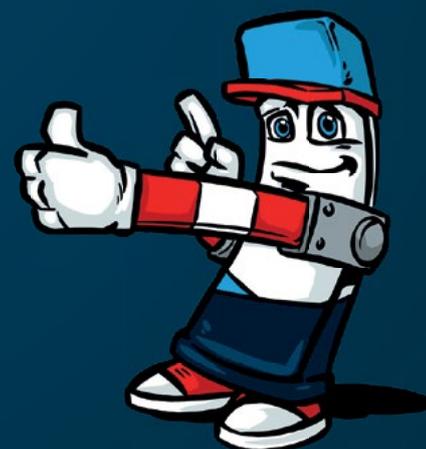
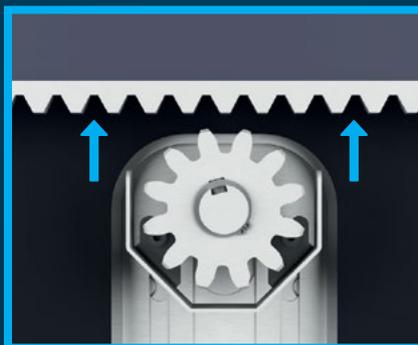
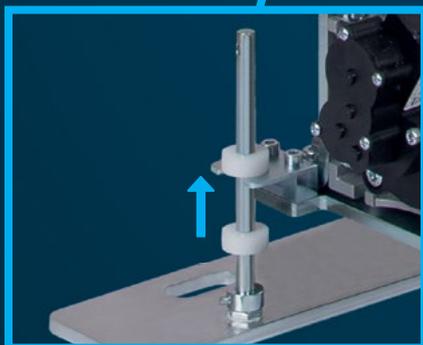
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# Triebenbacher expands range with aluminium gates

Triebenbacher, a German manufacturer and wholesaler of – until now – primarily gate and fence components, is expanding its offering to include a range of aluminium design gates. The range includes both swing and sliding gates, as well as fencing elements.



**“M**ore and more gate-builders are asking us for complete gates,” says Dirk Wiegand, the technical manager at Triebenbacher. “They have less and less time to manufacture them themselves as they’re no longer able to find good staff to do so, or they’d like to include luxury designer gates in their range but have no aluminium-welding experience. For these reasons, we’ve created a completely new range.”

## RANGE

The new series is simply called Aluminium Gates and Fences. “On one hand we wanted to provide lots of choice,” Wiegand says, “but at the same time also standardise calculation and production as much as possible, so that both the quotation phase and delivery time are kept short. For that reason we divided the range into five models, each with different variants and options. There’s a simple price structure and a lot of standard components. It’s turned into a 40-page catalogue; it really gives gate-builders something lovely to offer their customers. And thanks to all the different combinations, our clients can offer their end customers an individual design too.” All variants and models are available as swing gates, sliding gates on rails, and cantilevered sliding gates.



Portal Select with a design element made of brushed aluminium.



Portal Variant with clock arch. Bar infill measuring 60 by 30 millimetres. Diagonal closed infill.



### **PORTAL VARIANT AND SELECT**

*“Demand for fully-closed gates that you can’t see through is still increasing,” Wiegand says. “For the Portal Variant, the infill is 2-millimetre-thick closed aluminium sheeting, glued to the frame on both the inside and the outside. It makes the gate look like it was cast in a single piece. The frames and hinges are welded though, which guarantees a long lifespan. The aluminium plate can be milled with eight different motifs, and the list of options includes an asymmetric leaf, a two-tone gate, finger scanners, and an electric opener.”*

### **CITY VARIANT**

In contrast, the City Variant model offers a wide range of different frame shapes. The leaves here are divided in two horizontally. The lower segment consists of panels of closed aluminium sheeting or aluminium profiles, which can be installed horizontally, vertically and diagonally. The panels are built in after coating, so they can have a different colour to the rest of the gate if desired. The upper segment of the leaves has a bar infill. There is a choice of two different bars: a rectangular section of 80 by 20, and a rounded section measuring 60 by 30 millimetres.



### VILLA VARIANT

The leaves of the fourth variant are again only available in a rectangular shape. In the Villa Variant model the leaves are also divided into open and closed segments, but here the division is vertical. The bars, on the other hand, are installed horizontally, creating a playful effect. There are two variants: the open part of the gate can be placed either in the middle or on the hinge side. The closed segment consists of panels, the same as in the City Variant. Here, again, these can be installed horizontally, vertically or diagonally, either in the same colour or a contrasting one.

### KLASSIK

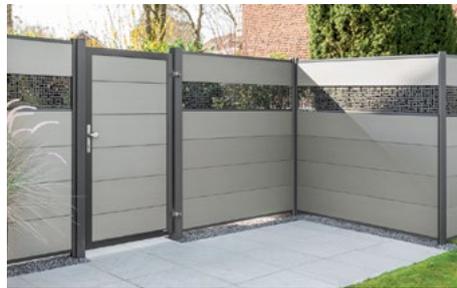
The final model is the Klassik. Most variants of this model are similar in shape to old-fashioned wrought ornamental fencing. The infill consists of round bars that pierce the top rail, with a choice of five different decorative points. A chain of rings can be welded between the bars, either straight or curved according to preference. Additional options include extra intermediate beams, extra intermediate bars at the bottom, and panel infill at the bottom. Leaves with various different arches are again an option for the Klassik model.

### COMPLETE

The double leaf swing gates have a maximum opening of 5 metres, while the single-leaf versions are manufactured in sizes up to 2.25 metres wide. The sliding gates are available in passage widths of up to 4 metres. The gates are available in heights from 1 to 2 metres. In addition to the swing and sliding gates for the driveway, there are matching fencing elements available for all models and variants in the range. *"We've spent a great deal of time and effort putting together the different variants and models,"* Wiegand says. *"Ultimately we've created a luxury range with a striking appearance, without it looking overly extravagant. We've already had very positive feedback from the market."* ■







# Holler opens Holler Benelux

As of this summer the Austrian sliding gate manufacturer Holler, from Wagna near Graz in southern Austria, has a branch in the Netherlands too. Known as Holler Benelux, it serves as the link between the dealers and the factory.



Henk Stetering and  
Lisa Holler

**“B**elgium and the Netherlands are important markets in which our gates are very popular,” says managing director Lisa Holler, who is also the daughter of the company’s founder. “At the same time the distance is large – it’s 1200 kilometres from us to Utrecht or Antwerp. Right from the start our motto has been that we want to be close to our customers, so we’ve set up a separate company: Holler Benelux.”

## RANGE

Holler’s range chiefly consists of industrial sliding gates with a passage width ranging from 3 to 25 metres. The company also manufactures swing gates, folding gates and fencing. All fences and gates are made of aluminium. Lisa Holler: “Our sliding gates account for far and away the majority of our turnover and are very popular throughout Europe thanks to their quality, which is quite simply unsurpassed. At the same time, they fall into a very affordable price range. Since the company began we have tried to match the quality, price and reliability to exactly

what the average industrial customer expects from their access solution. We know that Belgian and Dutch customers have roughly the same expectations as those in Germany and Austria, which means that there’s still room for significant growth in the Benelux. But that isn’t going to work from faraway Austria – we can only do it if we’re there in the local market.”

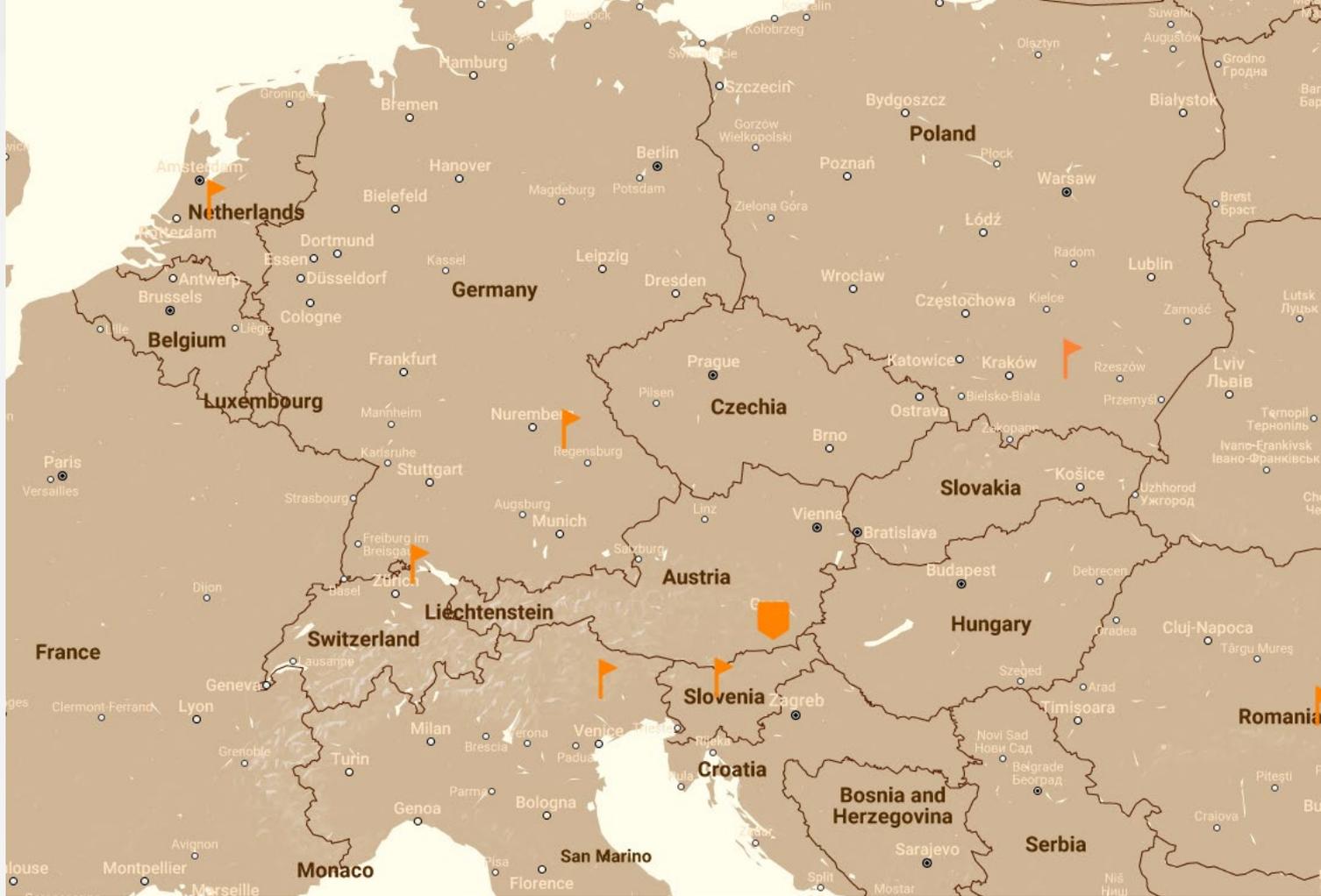
## THE LINK

For this reason, Holler wanted to find a Belgian or Dutch director for the branch. After a six-month search the chosen candidate was Henk Sleitering, who has travelled all around Europe in recent years representing Irish intercom manufacturer AES. “Henk is a driven and ambitious guy who nonetheless has both feet on the ground,” Lisa Holler says. “This is 100 percent in line with our own mindset as well as with how we want to run our business, so Henk was the ideal candidate for us. We’re extremely happy that we now have him on our team.”



Sletering sees the move as an enjoyable challenge. "I'm half Austrian and have lots of family in Tyrol," he says. "I have an affinity with the Austrian mindset and culture, which obviously helps. But there's also a click from a business point of view. Ewald and his daughter Lisa have big goals, which I find enormously motivating. At the same time, I have a lot of freedom in how I work towards achieving those goals. That makes for a really good collaboration."

Henk Sletering



## DEALERS

In the Benelux Holler works with dealers who receive the sliding gates from Austria in batches, assemble them, get them ready as much as possible and then deliver them on to the fencing installer. Sletering stresses that Holler explicitly doesn't want to take the work over from these dealers with the new branch. "Thibo in Beek en Donk, for example, is one of these dealers," he says. "They have Gold status with us, which means that they're completely focused on helping fencing installers quickly, efficiently and competently. So then I'm the link between dealers like Thibo and the factory in Austria. My job will be to ensure that the dealers are able to provide the best possible service to their customers and get solutions that are tailored to their own segment of the market."

## GROWTH

Following on from branches in Switzerland, Germany, Poland, Italy, Romania and Slovenia, Holler Benelux is the company's seventh foreign branch. "We've allocated a year to expanding the dealer network in such a way that every installer in Belgium and the Netherlands is easily able to buy a Holler gate from a dealer they trust and are comfortable working with," Sletering says, "no matter whether they live in De Panne on the Belgian coast, or the Dutch city of Delfzijl in north-eastern Groningen." ■





# Profex creates wood-look privacy strips

Fencing manufacturer Profex Kunststoffe, from Uetze near Hanover, launched its wood-look plastic privacy strips on the fencing market early this year. The pattern on the new Oak privacy slats isn't printed onto the strip, but created by adding a wood grain to the material during extrusion.

*"Privacy slats have experienced a huge boom since the first one came onto the market at the start of the millennium," Profex managing director Marcel Aehlig says. "All the new German suburbs are full of them. Whether they are attractive is a topic of debate – fortunately tastes differ. But they're simply one of the cheapest ways to install a low-maintenance privacy fence in your garden, so they're popular. All sorts of variations have been created over the past 15 years. There have been slats made of wood, textiles, smooth or embossed, with a print or patterned made of rattan, you name it. But the majority of customers still choose the PVC or PP slats, in green, light grey or anthracite. All the same, in recent years we've had an increasing number of requests for something a bit different. A new slat, with the competitive price of the plastic slats so it's still affordable to the mass market, but just a bit less boring."*

Marcel Aehlig





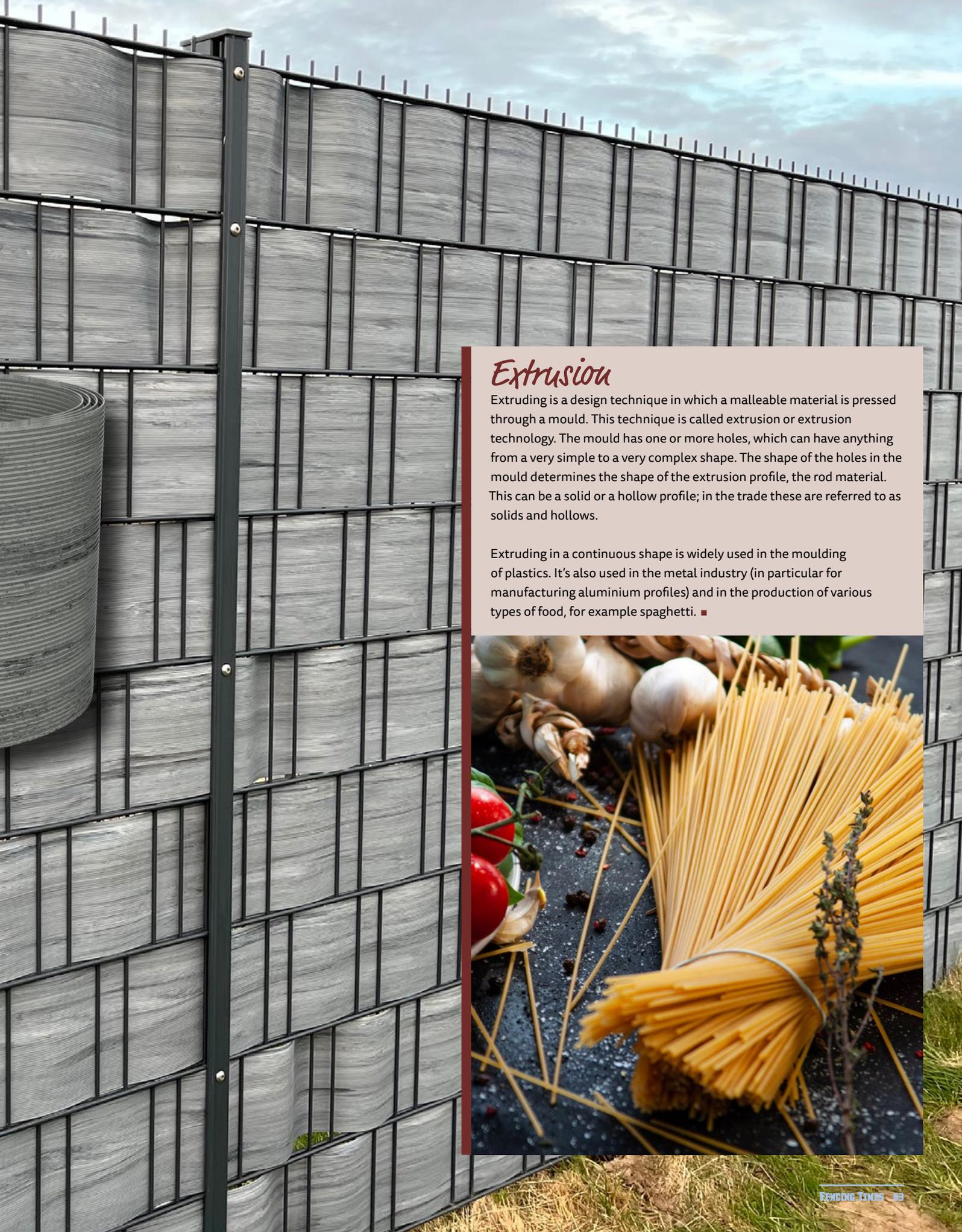


## DEVELOPMENT

*“That’s why we started developing a new slat 3 years ago,” Aehlig says. “We didn’t want a print, or a slat made of fleece, tin, or real wood. All of these materials have their own drawbacks – there’s a reason why plastic’s so popular. On top of that we have experience with plastic slats; 15 years ago we were one of the first plastic manufacturers to make them and we’ve been supplying them to a large number of mesh panel factories and system suppliers ever since. We’ve continued to improve the quality of the slats since then and have set new quality standards. For our ‘special’ slat project, we wanted a slat that’s still affordable for everyone, but at the same time finally gives new suburbs a bit of a more interesting look. We spent more than 2 years working on a formula for a very complex blend of materials, so that during extrusion [see box], a pattern that resembles wood grain is created in the slat.”*

## OAK

*“And the really special thing about that grain,” Aehlig goes on, “is that it’s completely random. On slats that have a wood pattern printed onto them, the same image is repeated over and over. When you look closely, it looks really fake. Our slat, which has a pattern created during extrusion, has a really natural look. Whether you look at it from a distance or up close, no two strips are the same and yet together they form a really lovely whole. If you don’t know any better you think that there are thin strips of wood woven into the fence.”* Because the grain looks a bit like that of oak wood, the slats with the new pattern are called Oak.



## *Extrusion*

Extruding is a design technique in which a malleable material is pressed through a mould. This technique is called extrusion or extrusion technology. The mould has one or more holes, which can have anything from a very simple to a very complex shape. The shape of the holes in the mould determines the shape of the extrusion profile, the rod material. This can be a solid or a hollow profile; in the trade these are referred to as solids and hollows.

Extruding in a continuous shape is widely used in the moulding of plastics. It's also used in the metal industry (in particular for manufacturing aluminium profiles) and in the production of various types of food, for example spaghetti. ■



## CARAMEL OAK

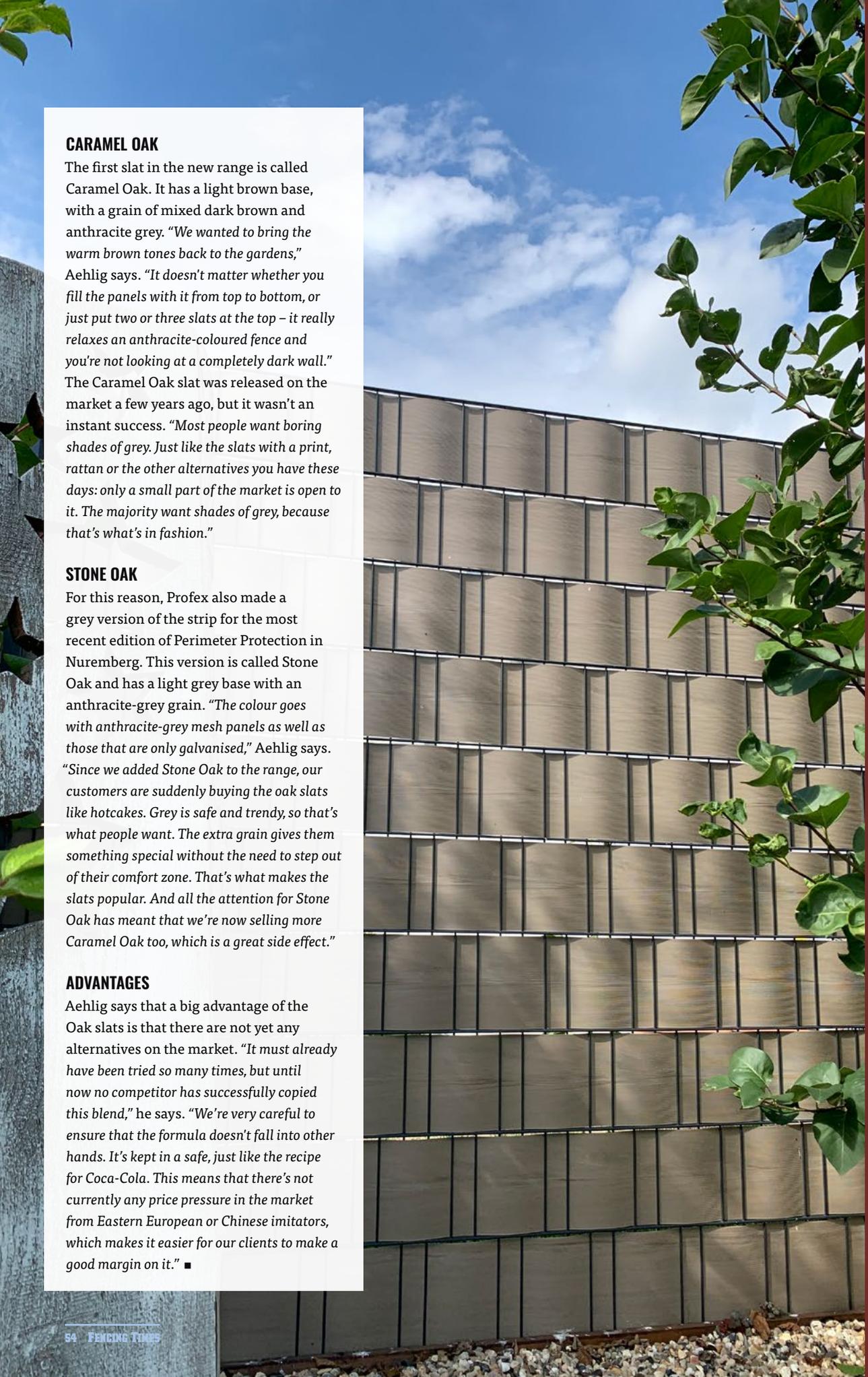
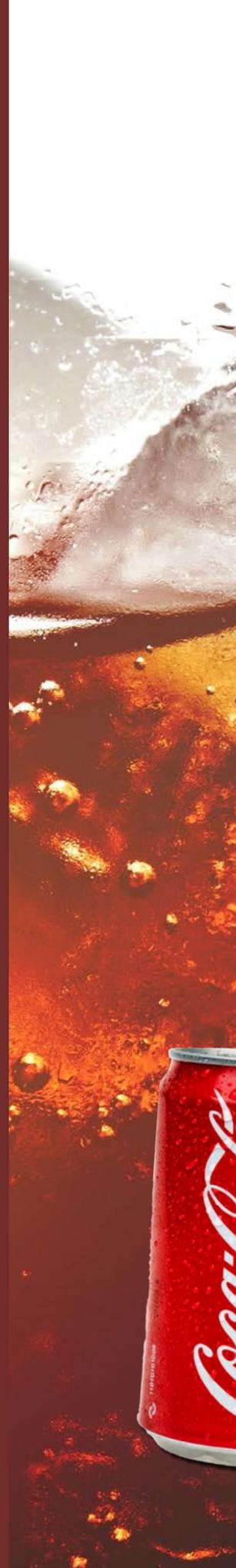
The first slat in the new range is called Caramel Oak. It has a light brown base, with a grain of mixed dark brown and anthracite grey. *"We wanted to bring the warm brown tones back to the gardens,"* Aehlig says. *"It doesn't matter whether you fill the panels with it from top to bottom, or just put two or three slats at the top – it really relaxes an anthracite-coloured fence and you're not looking at a completely dark wall."* The Caramel Oak slat was released on the market a few years ago, but it wasn't an instant success. *"Most people want boring shades of grey. Just like the slats with a print, rattan or the other alternatives you have these days: only a small part of the market is open to it. The majority want shades of grey, because that's what's in fashion."*

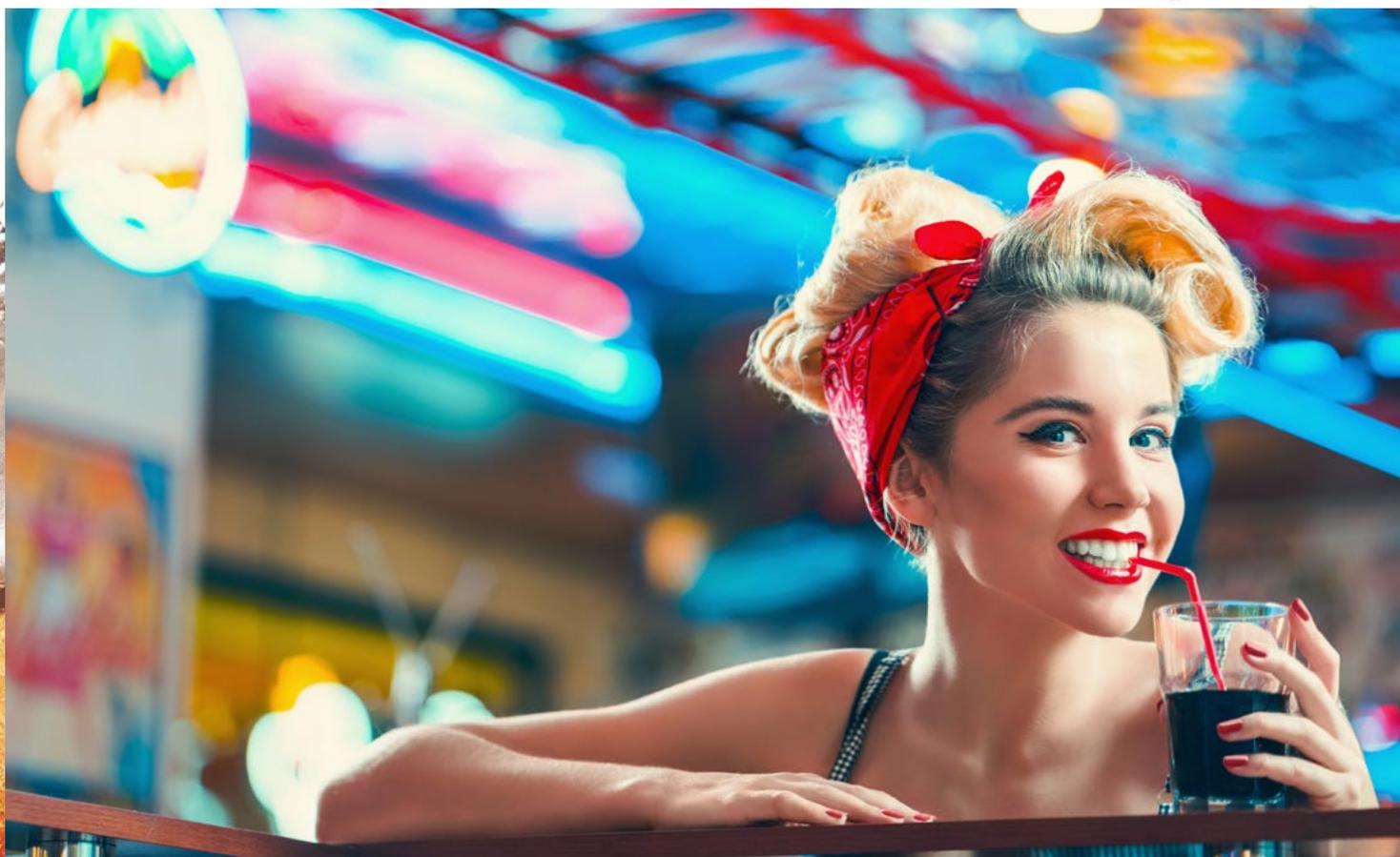
## STONE OAK

For this reason, Profex also made a grey version of the strip for the most recent edition of Perimeter Protection in Nuremberg. This version is called Stone Oak and has a light grey base with an anthracite-grey grain. *"The colour goes with anthracite-grey mesh panels as well as those that are only galvanised,"* Aehlig says. *"Since we added Stone Oak to the range, our customers are suddenly buying the oak slats like hotcakes. Grey is safe and trendy, so that's what people want. The extra grain gives them something special without the need to step out of their comfort zone. That's what makes the slats popular. And all the attention for Stone Oak has meant that we're now selling more Caramel Oak too, which is a great side effect."*

## ADVANTAGES

Aehlig says that a big advantage of the Oak slats is that there are not yet any alternatives on the market. *"It must already have been tried so many times, but until now no competitor has successfully copied this blend,"* he says. *"We're very careful to ensure that the formula doesn't fall into other hands. It's kept in a safe, just like the recipe for Coca-Cola. This means that there's not currently any price pressure in the market from Eastern European or Chinese imitators, which makes it easier for our clients to make a good margin on it."* ■





## The Coca-Cola recipe



Coca-Cola was invented by physician and pharmacist John Pemberton. He owned a pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia in the south-east of the USA, where he ran a lucrative trade in a drink he had developed, made from a combination of Bordeaux wine and an extract from the leaves of the coca plant. The drink was sold under the name *Pemberton's French Wine Coca*. At that time coca extract was mainly used in medicines, for drinks to promote sexual drive and treat digestive problems, to soothe the nerves, and as a drink to fight the ageing process. After many counties in the state of Georgia banned alcohol in 1885, Pemberton replaced the wine in his drink with sugar syrup. In 1887 he patented his blend.

Pemberton is known to have shared his original formula with at least four people prior to his death in 1888. In 1891, Asa Candler bought the rights to the formula from Pemberton's heirs. Candler founded the Coca-Cola Company and instituted the shroud of secrecy that has surrounded the formula ever since. He also made changes to the list of ingredients, which according to most people improved the flavour and also gave him the right to claim that anyone who knew Pemberton's original formula no longer had the 'real' formula.

In 1919 the Coca-Cola Company was acquired by a group of investors led by Ernest Woodruff. The investors borrowed to make the purchase and, as collateral for that loan, Woodruff locked the only written copy of the formula in a safe at the Guaranty Trust Company in New York. In 1925, once the loan had been repaid, Woodruff moved the written formula to the Trust Company Bank in Atlanta. Since 2011

the formula has been stored in a safe on the grounds of the World of Coca-Cola, a museum about Coca-Cola's history in Atlanta, where the safe is on public display.

The company says that only two employees have knowledge of the entire formula at any time, and they are not allowed to travel together. If one of them dies, the other must choose a successor from within the company and pass on the secret to that person. The identity of the two staff members who know the secret is a secret in itself. However, Coca-Cola's policy surrounding the secret formula is more of a marketing strategy than an actual trade secret. A competitor who knew the real Coca-Cola recipe wouldn't be able to source key ingredients – such as the coca leaf – and even if they did somehow manage to do so, they wouldn't be able to market their imitation under the Coca-Cola name. ■



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# Association of Fencing Industries invests in Fencex

**T**he Association of Fencing Industries (AFI), a British industry association, has bought a major stake in Fencex, a trade show for the fencing industry that is held bi-annually near Birmingham. The investment – for an undisclosed figure – follows negotiations with Ian Law, who founded Fencex 20 years ago. For the AFI, it marks an important step towards fulfilling its ambitious growth plans.

As an official stakeholder, the AFI intends to use its involvement with Fencex as a means to achieve wider engagement with the fencing community which includes rolling out more training and development initiatives to provide guidance on best practice – these will feature at Fencex 2025.



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*“Fencex is the ideal platform to connect with the industry”*

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Fencing Times spoke to AFI Chairman Chris Hackett to find out more about the new arrangement. “The AFI membership currently sits at around 250 and we have aspirations to grow this as much as possible,” he says. “As an organisation dedicated to promoting safety, quality and professionalism throughout the fencing industry we are here to represent the best interests of every fencing contractor. We recognise that in the past, we’ve not been as successful as we’d like in connecting with those working directly in the fencing industry, nor have we done enough to promote the benefits associated with membership to the AFI. Fencex provides an ideal platform to address these issues and we’re excited to have input into the 2025 format, which will definitely include more training and development events such as the Timber in Ground Contact conference and profiling our successful Apprenticeship programme.”

“Fencex currently attracts 400 visitors to the single day event,” Hackett continues. “We believe that by making more installers appreciate the value of what the show has to offer, we can grow that number. The show currently runs at NAEC Stoneleigh, Coventry which effectively represents the centre of the country, but there is a possibility that in the future, we may consider events in the north and south.” The next edition of Fencex takes place 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023. ■



Chris Hackett



**I**n addition to being a fencing installer, Livia Graf is a photographer. Whenever her guys finish off a project, she drives to it and takes stunning fencing photos. This is one of them.



# According to a survey of 100 installers:

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# Detection with cables: how does it work?

*Everything you need to know about perimeter detection: the assembly and installation of sensor cable systems, in detail*

raijmond@fencingtimes.com



## *Raijmond Rondeel*

Raijmond Rondeel has worked in perimeter security for many years. For Fencing Times, he writes about securing outdoor areas with detection systems. Do you have questions? Or a practical example - and are curious what Raijmond would have offered here? Send him an email at [raijmond@fencingtimes.com](mailto:raijmond@fencingtimes.com)

Last month I explained how to mount and install sensor cables on a fence, but that's just one part of the story. Now we have to make sure that the alerts that the central unit detects with the cable make it to their destination. We also have to supply the units with power, otherwise they won't work.

How do we do this? It's completely dependent on the situation. If you want to fit a business with detection fencing, it will definitely have a technical room, which also houses the building's alarm system. It will certainly have an internet connection too. This makes it one of the simplest practical situations.

The units require a 12-volt DC power supply. You can simply install it from the technical room in a star shape, using the alarm system's voltage and emergency power supply. When long distances are involved, ensure that 12 volts of power are actually arriving at the unit. This will only happen if the wires in the power cables are thick enough. Good installers will be able to calculate this themselves. Another option is to bring 230 volts to the fence – or perhaps there's already a 230-volt cable somewhere, for lighting or an electric gate on the site. In the latter case, you can install an additional power supply unit in a field cabinet, to convert the 230 volts into 12 volts as well as containing an emergency power supply.

You then feed your central units from this field cabinet, with the cables now not needed to be as thick because the distances are shorter. Obviously the power supply unit



Field cabinet with power supply, emergency power supply, burglar alarm control panel with alerts via the mobile network, and a heater with a thermostat.

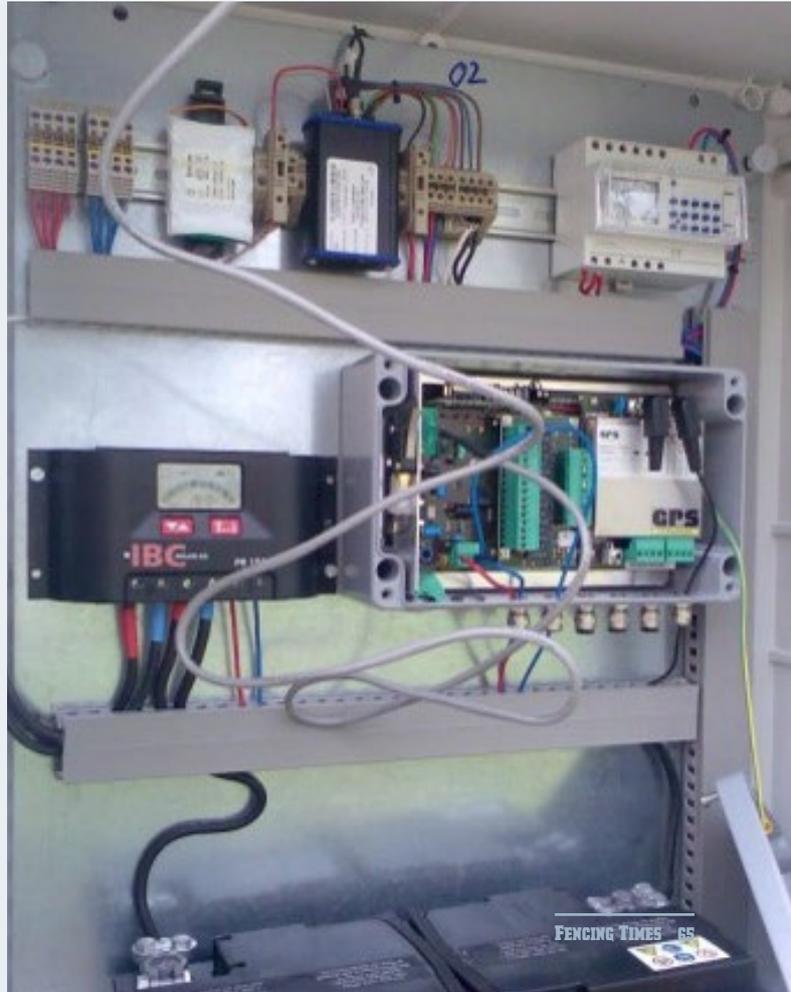




will need to be able to provide enough power for all three units. But cable needs to be laid to the units in any case. This means you'll need to dig a trench and lay a special underground cable in it, or a casing pipe. You could also run the cables via the fence. There are special cable ducts available for this, which can easily be mounted to the fence, but it does create an additional sabotage risk.

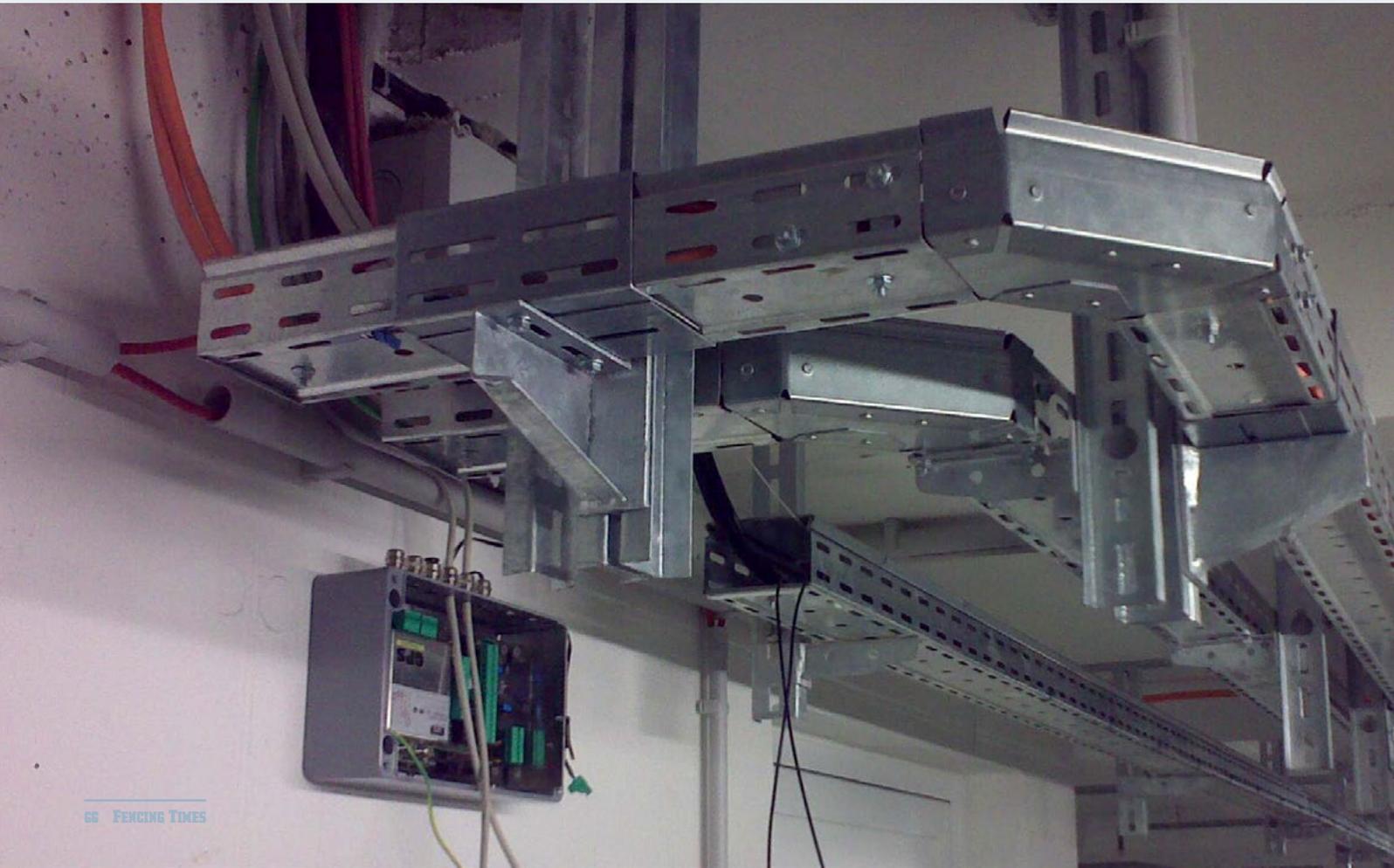
Once the power supply is in place, the communication of the various alarm and fault alerts still needs to be organised. Each unit has eight relay outputs for the various alerts: Alarm A and B, Sabotage A and B, Wire Breakage A and B and Fault A and B. The tamper contact for the cover of the unit itself is included under Sabotage A or B. In my example of 700 metres of fencing and the gate, there are therefore a total of 24 alerts from the perimeter. These are provided as relay contacts from the three central units. What this means, in its simplest form, is that you need to lay a 16-wire cable for each unit, in order to be able to gather these alerts in a star shape somewhere and transfer them to the company's alarm system. The perimeter detection then becomes part of the total alarm system. A quality alarm system will be able to read and tend to the perimeter alerts separately. An operator in the alarm centre is then able to see from the alert that it relates to an alert from the perimeter.

In remote perimeter installations, for example those in solar parks, a separate alarm system is installed somewhere in a technical room or in a special field cabinet, where the various signal cables come together. This alarm system then sends the alerts to an alarm centre via a wired internet connection. If there is no wired internet connection, the alerts can be sent via the 4G network or even via the old-fashioned mobile network at the destination. In these types of situations, make sure that the cabinets are properly sealed and that you connect good tamper contacts, which obviously are able to report sabotage to the alarm centre at any time, regardless of whether the system is on or off. About 12 years ago I sold a project where there was no additional voltage available on the site at all. The installer had calculated exactly how much power he needed to run the central unit and the communication equipment via the mobile network. A single solar module was able to generate that amount of power. He then built everything into a field cabinet. In addition to the central unit for the microphone cable system, the cabinet contained a relay unit to the alarm centre via the mobile network and, of course, the solar panel's control unit, complete with battery. Only the sensor cables ran outside. By positioning the field cabinet close to the fence, he was able to monitor 300 metres of fencing without needing to dig a single trench. However, he had also built a GPS-controlled track-and-trace system into the cabinet, because he was worried that the entire cabinet with all the equipment would be taken. In practice, it turned out that there was enough power supplied in normal daylight – and that there was even extra left over.



If the sun decided not to come out at all one day, the equipment would still be able to keep running for a few days. The installer was smart enough to sell a good maintenance contract along with it. In practice, he went to clean the solar panels every month. Clearly a forerunner of today's mobile camera systems, which you often see on construction projects now. While I'm writing this, I'm thinking: "Raijmond, that was a missed opportunity – you should have started a mobile camera systems company, because for those camera systems you need at least three to five units to do what you can do with one box and one system for perimeter detection. Well, you can always go and write pieces for FOBS."

In addition to the relatively simple business solutions, there are projects that involve very long distances, or extremely high-risk situations. These usually have their own guardhouse and control room. This type of control room has a software management system that handles all alerts. There are often cameras installed here too, which can turn to the location of the alert or even zoom in on it. In these sorts of cases, the fence detection system forms part of a larger security platform. The detection system communicates, using its own protocol, with a processor that is housed in a technical room. This processor then becomes the heart of the system. From this technical room, a so-called bus cable goes to the units outdoors (for long distances, a fibreoptic connection can be used).



A bus cable like this runs from unit to unit, so there's no star cabling. All units communicate with the processor in the technical room via the same bus cable. Often the power supply is able to run on the same bus cable too. Most sensor cable system manufacturers supply this special cable along with underground cable. It means that it can be put into the ground easily, saving a lot of digging in comparison to the star-shaped system. However, the basic equipment needed for this costs more to buy. The units then require software; they no longer have their own relay contacts. The processor for this type of system is housed in a 19-inch rack in the technical room, together with a unit with relay outputs that relay the alerts to the security guards. Another option is that the processor doesn't put relays through, but instead displays the alerts directly on the security guards' screens via software.

The point here is the simplicity of the cabling. In high-security projects, where it's important that communication is up at all times, the cable is installed redundantly. This means that the bus cable is laid all the way round: from the processor to unit 1, then to the other units, and then from the last unit back to the processor. If the bus cable develops a fault somewhere along the way, then communication via the other side of the circle will still remain intact. When risk is even higher, the processor is sometimes made redundant with a second processor that is able to take over if the first fails.

Cable detection systems don't necessarily need to be attached to a fence. They can also be used to protect walls and roofs. This is just as well really, because sometimes a building is right on the property boundary with no room at all for a fence. And if that building is a shed made of sheet piling, then security is certainly recommended. In my first column I wrote about a factory where electric bikes are assembled, where a battery-powered angle grinder was used to easily cut through the sheet piling, and subsequently 100,000 Euro of electric motors were stolen. I've recommended fitting detection cable to the sheet

piling. By mounting a thin PVC tube to the inside of such a wall, and then running the sensor cable through it, you protect the wall from being hacked, broken or ground through. Obviously, the same conditions apply as for the fence: ensure that the tube makes good contact with the surface. So it needs to be well-attached; use a saddle clamp every 20 to 30 centimetres. You can protect a flat roof from the inside in the same way.

Cable ducts can also be guarded using these sensor cables. I was once asked to protect a cable duct in a car park (it had fibre optic and internet connections transmitting sensitive information running through it) by a business that had offices in the building above. The cable ducts were made of metal, and closed off with a lid. Fortunately there was a separate compartment for low-voltage cables, as this is a requirement. You mustn't lay the sensor cable alongside a high-voltage cable, as this will cause it to malfunction. It was also important that the sensor cable be laid in this compartment first, that is at the bottom, before other cables were laid in the duct. Doing so meant that we could be sure that the cable made optimum contact with the cable duct, and would continue to do so.



In Luxembourg there's even a (well-known) bridge that's protected by a sensor cable system. Daredevils, or people whose lives were not going well and wanted to jump off the bridge, attempted to climb to the top of the bridge via its columns. For this reason, the base of each column has been surrounded by a mesh fence which has a microphone cable attached. The moment that people step on the mesh and attempt to clamber over it, this is detected immediately and appropriate action can be taken.

Once a sensor cable system has been installed and connected, it can be put into use. The central units are connected to the power supply, and after that the sensitivity of each zone can be fine-tuned. In an analogue system, this means setting a particular threshold and a time interval. If a particular signalling value is reached a number of times during a certain period of time, the system goes into alarm. This is a fairly simple principle that can be used in most straightforward situations. If the project is a little more advanced, for example because there are several types of fencing and gates used with each other, or if a less stable type of fencing has been used, then I would always recommend using a modern digital system. Even for simple situations, though, these systems offer more options. Digital systems can recognise attack techniques and patterns that they have learned previously. While putting it into commission, have a colleague climb the fence a few times or attempt to get over the fence in another way. The system stores all these attack patterns as the ones that it needs to watch out for. The result is an extremely reliable system in which disruptive signals from the surroundings, such as the fence moving in a strong wind, hardly ever lead to unnecessary alerts. It can also be done the other way around: you can teach the system that it can safely ignore a certain signal. In the example above, of the cable ducts in the car park, there was one thing we didn't think of: now and then a high car with a long antenna touched the cable duct, which initially resulted in unnecessary alerts. So we needed to go back for that. Then we recorded that signal, of an antenna tapping, a few times as a pattern, and we set up the software to ensure that that type of signal didn't trigger an alert. Problem solved. However, this calibration of the software must be done for each central unit. So in the worst case you'll have to walk along that 900-metre-long fence in Wellington boots, with an umbrella and a laptop with a full battery, to adjust the sensitivity of each zone in the central units three times. This is an additional argument for the bus system, because then you connect the laptop to the processor, which is in the technical room. From there you're then able to access the central units on the fence. The security guards in the control room often have good coffee, too, and it's a pleasant place to spend time. Then you can send your colleague out with a raincoat and a walkie-talkie to climb the fence and jump on it at your command to record the attack patterns. He can do this a few times every 50 metres or so. Depending on the number of zones, he could be out there for a while. Wish him luck – after all, all animals are equal, but some are more equal than others. ■





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# FENCES IN THE NEWS



## Woman paints fence in neon colours to annoy neighbours



Newton County, not far from Atlanta in Georgia, is where Donna Yopp Paul lives. Donna fell out with her neighbours years ago and they cannot stand the sight of one other. At one point, Donna was so fed up with the sight of her neighbours that she wanted a privacy fence at the property's boundary. Never a bad idea of course, since it puts bread on the

table for fencing installers. So Donna called the local county authority and asked how high she was allowed to make her fence. 'Six foot,' was the answer that came back. As a result, Donna built a 1.8-metre high fence on the border with her neighbour's plot. From the back corner and all the way out to the street. But it then transpired that she had

misunderstood the county official on the phone. Or that the official hadn't understood that it involved a piece of the front garden. In Newton County, fences at the front of houses are only allowed to be 4 feet in height. Something her friendly neighbours naturally complained about to the county authority and the latter made Donna shorten the fence. You

could never guess what happened then: Donna was so incensed at her neighbours that she went to the hardware store for the brightest neon colours she could find, for painting the new fence. "According to the factory, this paint will keep its colour for 15 years," she told the local news channel. "If the neighbours haven't gone by that time, I'll paint the fence again." ■

# Bangladesh building tiger fence



Bangladesh is home to the Sunderbans. This is the world's biggest mangrove forest. It lies on the delta of the Ganges. The area is named after the sundar trees that grow there. The forest is renowned for its rich fauna, which includes Bengal Tigers as well as many crocodiles and snakes.

The area is exposed to a number of threats. The damming of rivers upstream has led to less and less fresh water reaching the Sunderbans, causing parts of the area to dry up or become saline. At the same time, the local population is increasing. This population depends on the forest for its living and is felling timber there to make room for arable and livestock farming. Large sections of the Sunderbans are also drying up as the rivers and canals flowing into them are becoming filled with sediment.

All these factors are combining to give both tigers and humans access to parts of the mangrove forest which they couldn't previously access. This is leading to an increasing number of conflicts between tigers and people. People go into the forest to look for fruits or to graze buffaloes. Conversely, tigers also come to the villages because the livestock kept there in corrals or fenced pastures is easy prey. A conflict between a person and a tiger is nearly always fatal. Either the population kills the tiger out of fear if it is detected in the village, or the tiger is faster and kills one or more villagers. No one is too concerned about the villagers there (apparently there are plenty of them (oh dear, what are we saying)), but the tigers are under serious threat of extinction. In 2003 the tigers numbered 440 but only 114 were left by 2018.

The authorities in Bangladesh have therefore decided to get fences installed in the Sunderbans to keep tigers and humans apart from each other from now on. The measure is part of the three-year Sunderbans Tiger Conservation Project of the Bangladesh Forest Department. The fences comprise bamboo poles with tensioned nylon netting in between. On the face of it, this doesn't strike us as a very solid solution but it has already been tested out on the Indian side of the border with good results (the Sunderbans is partly in India).

So if you're up for an adventure and fancy the idea of erecting fences in the mangrove forests among the crocodiles, snakes and tigers, send in your application to a Bengal fencing installer. Initially, it's about 60 kilometres, so it should keep you busy for a while. ■

## Fire brigade members in training to become fencing installers

In Celle, a small town near Hanover, Germany, members of the local fire brigade were forced to play fencing installer in May. A hedgehog had got itself entangled in the mesh of a wire panel (a U-mesh panel by Adronit, for the experts among us), whereupon a concerned resident alerted the emergency services. Both the Polizei and the Feuerwehr attended the scene. Usually, when the fire brigade is called in somewhere, it's because heavy equipment is needed. Petrol-driven grinding machinery with a half-metre blade, pneumatic shears and all that kind of stuff. Nothing will be left of the fence when these kind of tools are used. But in this case, the fire brigade

opted for a minimalist approach. By using the smallest battery-operated grinder from their toolbox to dismantle a cover strip and pulling the wire panel forward, the hedgehog was freed. The fire brigade then put the panel back in position and screwed the cover strip back on (expertly, according to the press release). Thus, the fence miraculously survived this operation with not even a scratch visible afterwards. So, fencers from the Celle region who are still looking for fitters take note: you can find additional professionals at the local fire brigade. Oh yes, and the hedgehog is also doing well: his rescuers took him to a forest and released him there. ■



## World's longest fence affecting evolution of kangaroos



The world's longest and most famous fence is in Australia. It's called Dingo Fence. At more than 5,000 kilometres long, it was built from around 1860 by sheep farmers, who wanted to protect their sheep from dingoes, a wild dog species. But the fence doesn't just keep dogs and sheep apart: it's also dividing the kangaroos into different species. Or more to the point: after 150 years of dividing the land in two, the fence is now creating a new

kangaroo species. In June of this year, a study was published showing that the young of the Red Kangaroo (*Osphranter rufus*, for the clever among us) on one side of the fence are much larger than their similarly aged counterparts on the other side of the fence. It would appear that the dingoes seek out the smallest kangaroos as their prey – and the kangaroos protect themselves from the dingoes by growing big quickly. Or it could

be working in a different way, of course: the fastest-growing kangaroos are the least eaten, so they get to reproduce the most. The slow growers are eaten before they have the chance to reproduce, and die out. Evolution in its purest form.

On the other side of the fence, the kangaroos don't have any enemies, so with no problem there the kangaroos continue to grow just as slowly as before. ■



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