

Plywerk Keeps Manufacturing Local

Started in the basement of a Portland couple's home, Plywerk Inc has grown from a small mom and pop business to a highly regarded photo mounting and art panel company. Despite consistent and aggressive growth since 2007, Plywerk is committed to keeping manufacturing at home in Portland.

"We don't want to be just another company that relocates manufacturing out of the US to save money" says Kjell van Zoen, CEO of Plywerk. "Our objectives have always been to A) provide an eco-conscious exhibition quality product and B) manufacture it on-demand with minimal turnaround time. Doing so overseas would compromise these objectives. That being said, in our mind, 'local' is always relative to the consumer. If, for instance, we saw enough demand for Plywerk on the East coast we would explore opening a manufacturing facility there."

To stay competitive as a local manufacturer, Plywerk adopted the just-in-time, or "lean," manufacturing principles as developed by Toyota. These principals allow a manufacturer to keep virtually no on-hand inventory, accelerate the production process, and increase the quality of the finished product. "As our company evolves we continue to reevaluate our manufacturing process," says JJ Birky, Operations Director at Plywerk. "Through lean implementation we've cut our turnaround time in half and have dramatically reduced the footprint of our manufacturing space. These improvements led to happier end users as well as an increase in our profit margin."

Mounting digital photos, artwork, and award certificates on sustainably grown bamboo and maple panels, Plywerk is the perfect way to display a variety of images. Customers simply upload images to plywerk.com, choose a print option, material type, and size. About a week later your Plywerk will be ready for local Portland pick up or can be shipped directly to your door step.



For more information about Plywerk, eco-conscious photo mounting, lean manufacturing, and nonsensical marketing contact Garrett Bishop at garrett@plywerk.com. You should know that I switched to a purple mouthwash a few months back and could not be happier. Please tell 10 friends about it.

For more product images [click here](#).

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