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From June 16 till 20, Picanol was present at the ITMA-CITME Shanghai textile machinery exhibition with no fewer than nine machines.

In addition to the OMNIplus Summum the OMNIplus-X was on display. This airjet machine is engineered and produced in Picanol’s Suzhou plant in China and uses the proven OMNIplus 800 technology. The OMNIplus-X is designed to meet the requirements of the Asian mid-segment. A novelty on this machine is that it is now also available in 280 and 340 cm widths in addition to the standard weaving widths of 190 cm and 220 cm. Here special attention has been given to improved output quality, user-friendliness and lower energy costs.

As for the rapier machines, the highlight was an OptiMax weaving a coating fabric on a 540 cm machine equipped with batching motion. On another OptiMax a fancy denim fabric was woven.

For the first time the new GTMax-i rapier machine was on display. This new weaving machine is a further development of the existing GT-Max. The main highlights of the GTMax-i are the reinforced gripper system and heavier machine drive, which allows higher production speeds. Also, the dobbý and undermotion have been completely redesigned.

In total nine Picanol machines were on display: five on the Picanol booth, one Picanol OMNIplus Summum with jacquard on the Bonas booth and another on the Stäubli booth, and two GT-Max machines on other booths (Qihui and TongXiang booths).

**International attendance**

The number of visitors exceeded expectations with a particularly large contingent of textile people from outside China (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, etc.), making it a real international textile machinery fair. There were around 100,000 visitors from 102 different countries, 7% more than at the 2012 show.
Visit to PST (Picanol Suzhou Textile machinery works)

Picanol seized the opportunity to organize a guided tour of the Picanol production unit in Suzhou. A group of about 40 customers and prospects visited PST on June 18, where they could see with their own eyes how the very high quality standards are maintained in the Suzhou plant.

PST was Picanol’s first major production line outside Belgium, with the technology and organization based entirely on the assembly concept employed at the company’s headquarters in Ieper. Today PST houses a complete production plant with three assembly lines, a mechatronics division, and a sales, service and spare parts organization. The majority of the Chinese managers, engineers and technicians have been trained in Belgium.

ITMA-CITME 2016

At the show it was announced that the 2016 exhibition will be held at the new National Convention and Exhibition Centre in the Hongqiao business district of Shanghai from October 24 to 28, 2016.

Mr. Luc Tack proudly offered the newly released book “Picanol 50 years in China” to Mr. Du Yuzhou, Minister, and his delegation members. It was a heartwarming souvenir for Mr. Du to see the pictures, featuring himself and his delegation during their multiple visits to Picanol Belgium.
Picanol is proud to be partner of the

**Ermenegildo Zegna Group**

**Ermenegildo Zegna** is an Italian luxury fashion house specializing in men’s clothing. Founded in 1910 it is now managed by the fourth generation of the Zegna family and remains in family ownership. As one of the biggest global producers of fine fabrics (2.3 million meters per year), Zegna has been active in promoting improvements in wool production around the world.

**Finer and finer**

Ermenegildo Zegna founded the company in 1910 in Trivero, in the Piedmont region of Italy. Zegna quickly gained a reputation for producing fine quality wool for suits.

In its constant pursuit of the highest quality, already in the 1960s Zegna produced extremely light woolen fabrics under the name “Centoventemila” which stands for the metric count of the yarn: one kilogram of yarn is 120,000 meters long. This was many years before “summer weight wool” became common.

The company went one step further with the introduction of “18 milmil 18” and “17 milmil 17” fabrics, where the fineness of the wool fibers was 18 and 17 microns respectively. To achieve this the best Australian super fine Merino wool was used. The “15 milmil 15” and “13 milmil 13” followed in the 1990s.

**Far-sighted**

In the 1960s Ermenegildo’s sons, Angelo and Aldo, spearheaded the company’s foray in the high-end menswear sector, followed by the addition of knitwear, accessories and sportswear. In the late 1980s the Group completed its process of vertical integration, consecrating itself as a leading global luxury and lifestyle brand. The highest quality of fabrics, garments and accessories, the focus on direct retail operations, the continuous investment in innovation, and the penetration of emerging markets: these strategic elements are integral parts of Zegna’s identity and its 100 years of excellence.

The first boutique was opened in Paris in 1980, followed by Milan in 1985. In 2014 the number has grown to 550 monobrand stores, more than 310 of them fully owned by the company, Ermenegildo Zegna’s flagship boutique locations are mostly found in the United States, Europe and Asia.

**Production**

Zegna’s range includes fabrics, suits, neckties, knitwear, shirts, accessories and sportswear. They have also branched out in other areas, for instance upholstering the interior of automobiles.

The export quota was more than 90% in 2013, divided equally between Europe, Americas and Asia.

In 2010 a soft ultra-fine, 10-micron fleece from Windradeen, New South Wales set a new world record in the fineness of wool fleeces when it won the Ermenegildo Zegna Vellus Aureum International Trophy.

Wool in all its forms (merino, cashmere, vicuña, alpaca, Shetland etc.) remains the most important material for the Zegna products, but silk, cotton, microfibers and nanofibers are used in different applications. The complete production process is carried out by Ermenegildo Zegna, from selection of the raw materials to finishing.

**Tradition, technology, togetherness**

Commitment to quality and the use of modern technology to back-up artisan craftsmanship is a living tradition linking past, present and future. And it is here that Picanol contributes to achieve this goal. The first Picanol machines were installed at Zegna in 2011, with a batch of 10 OMNIplus 800 airjet machines. Later, in 2013, after extensive weaving trials the OptiMax rapier weaving machine was installed in the Zegna weaving shed. 40 OptiMax machines in a weaving width of 220 cm equipped to weave up to eight colors were installed at the Trivero weaving mill.
But Zegna is more than a manufacturer of the world’s finest clothing. It is an institution with a “spirit”, taking its responsibility towards the community we live in. Even in the early days Ermenegildo Zegna did things for his employees which were unheard of at the time.

The Ermenegildo Zegna group has a longstanding commitment to environmental and social responsibility. Alongside his industrial vocation, founder Ermenegildo Zegna was committed to enhancing the environment starting in the early 1930s. Beginning with his territory of origin, he implemented an important reforestation program, planting over 500,000 conifers and rhododendrons and building the panoramic road that now bears his name. In 1993 Oasi Zegna was established, a project for the study, protection and development of the eastern Biella Alps, as well as for the development of tourism activities that respect the local ecosystems.

After almost 20 years, Oasi Zegna is now a protected area in which the relationship between man, nature and the culture of the mountains is absolutely privileged. The area covers roughly 100 km² and is crossed by the Zegna Panoramic Road.

Another part of the Group manages the philanthropic activities of the Zegna family in support of international and Italian organizations that work to improve society and the environment. These activities are promoted by Fondazione Zegna, of which Anna Zegna is President. The foundation coordinates initiatives across four key areas of activity: the preservation and valorization of environmental and cultural heritage; sustainable development of local communities in Italy and worldwide; medical and scientific research; education and training for young people. A mission that, once again, connects the present with the original spirit of the founder. For Ermenegildo Zegna, like his descendants, ethics, business and aesthetics were intrinsically interwoven and a constant dimension of the enterprise.

In February 2014 the company launched a 25-year scholarship program for a total of 25 million euros, about 34.3 million US dollars named for its founder, to offer talented Italian graduates the opportunity to pursue a master’s degree, doctorate or research program at prestigious universities or research centers outside Italy and to assist them in finding employment upon their return to Italy.

Picanol is proud to be partner in this quest to achieve a better place to live.
Our history is clearly intertwined with that of the Chinese textile industry. As one of the world’s leading textile machinery manufacturers, Picanol has always had a very close relationship with the Chinese textile industry. This relationship has not come about as a result of chance or coincidence. On the contrary, it is the fruit of long-term, strategic planning. We have always been fully aware that the Chinese textile industry had the potential to become the largest in the world and we are not surprised that it has acquired such global significance.

Based on this belief we sent our first pioneers to explore this promising land of textiles as far back as the 1950s. We also took part in one of the first international exhibitions held in Beijing. Over time these initiatives produced a positive response with the first official visit by the Chinese textile industry ministry to the ITMA exhibition in Hannover in 1979. This was the period when Picanol sales managers, who at the time were still based in Ieper, travelled throughout China to present our weaving machines at a large variety of exhibitions and technical seminars spread all over the country. However, further success depended on the newly-installed machines being supported by a local service organization. This led to the Picanol Service Center being set up in Shanghai in 1987. It was the base for local technicians providing installation services for new machines, together with the supply of spare parts and a local repair service for electronics.

In 1994, Picanol set up PST – Picanol Suzhou Textile Machinery Works, where production of GTM type rapier machines was started up. This made us unique at the time, as the first foreign company of this kind in China. Nowadays, PST is home to a complete production unit with three assembly lines for three product types, a mechatronics division, as well as a sales, service and spare parts organization.

The People’s Republic of China has always been a market of great strategic importance, and we have installed tens of thousands of weaving machines in Chinese weaving mills. In recent decades we have made constant advances with weaving machines in that country, thanks to and in partnership with our Chinese customers. It is partly due to the confidence and belief of these Chinese customers that Picanol has been able to grow into the world leader that it is today.

In April 1975, a trade exhibition is held in Beijing with 28 Belgian companies including Picanol taking part. Our CM-SB/MDC machine with positive let-off and independent take-up in MDC version is a major attraction. Sales Director Louis Motte looks on with a contented expression.

**Some milestones:**

The Picanol crates for customers in Hong Kong are loaded on board the Charlotte Maersk, the first ship in the new connection between Europe and the Far East (1968).
More than 50 years of Picanol in China

is a retrospective view in words and pictures reflecting the most important moments in the long history of Picanol in the People’s Republic of China. The book is richly illustrated with 72 pages and is available in English or Chinese. It is available on request: info@picanol.be
On April 1, 2014, Managing Director Luc Tack had a meeting with the Chinese President Xi Jinping in Bruges. The Chinese leader was in Belgium for a three-day visit. King Philippe and Queen Mathilde also joined the meeting. As one of the world’s leading textile machinery manufacturers, Picanol has always had a very close relationship with the Chinese textile industry.

During this meeting, Luc Tack emphasized Picanol’s close links with the Chinese industry stretching back over many decades.
We all know that well trained employees are important for optimum plant performance. The weaving industry is no exception: the quality of the weave and the efficiency of the machine are determined not only by the input materials and the machine itself, but also to a large extent by the way in which the materials and machine are handled.

Ongoing staff training in order to keep on top of the job is crucial for any well-managed business. It goes without saying that Picanol can help you here too: its Training Center in Ieper (Belgium) has been available for many years now to help customers train their staff better on Picanol weaving machines.

Furthermore, the Picanol contract normally includes training vouchers: depending on the number of machines purchased, customers can send their staff to Ieper for a basic or expert training.

If it's difficult for the customer to send people to Belgium, then training can also be organized on the customer’s own site.

Picanol naturally attaches the highest importance to good training, and so last year it decided to invest in a state-of-the-art Training Center, as part of a 17 million € investment program in premises and equipment realized over 2014. The new building has been taken into service on August, 18. There will be three fully equipped training rooms (each with two weaving machines, mock-ups, mini-workshop etc), covering a total area of 270m². Of course a project like this has to allow for future developments, and so provision is made for further expansion with a fourth room.

As might be expected the facility has all the necessary amenities to make things as comfortable as possible for the trainees during their period at the Training Centre. In short, the new Training Center will provide the best possible facilities for trainees to learn all about the latest weaving machines and the various options.

*Training* takes your talent further
The textile industry in Indonesia is in transition. Companies are currently expanding their production capacities and modernizing their installed machinery base thanks to investments in more productive hi-tech machines. As a consequence, the demand for personnel at shop-floor and supervisory levels is increasing. Personnel must be able to operate machines and manage production operations in a more complex and dynamic environment. While Indonesia has a large and young working population, there is lack of skilled employees for the textile sector. Suitably qualified personnel are required to support the growth and development of the industry.

The School of Textile Technology (Sekolah Tinggi Teknologi Tekstil) in Bandung, West Java, is one of the very few educational institutions in Indonesia dedicated to train technical and management staff for the textile and garment industry. As part of its efforts to supply “industry-ready” labor, familiar with current production processes and machinery, it operates several laboratories with machinery and equipment for practical training. The Weaving Technology laboratory recently purchased a new Picanol weaving machine, a GT-Max rapier machine, to make its students familiar with the latest weaving technology. The machine in the weaving lab is a 4-color, 190 cm machine with electronic dobby. The GT-Max rapier is currently used by various mills in Indonesia for weaving denim, shirting and upholstery fabrics. Given the simple and user-friendly settings on the GT-Max and the widespread use of the machine in industry, it was the natural choice for the textile school. The Picanol GT-Max was in fact the winning tender to supply a machine to the school.

The inauguration ceremony at which the machine was handed over to the textile college was held on March 17, 2014. Students, college lecturers and other distinguished guests had the opportunity to see the machine running in the laboratory and find out more about the Picanol group and its activities around the world and more specifically in Indonesia.
Also as part of the ceremony, two third-year college students were awarded a scholarship by Picanol. The Picanol scholarship will help to cover their tuition fees for one year.

With these actions and more cooperation projects with the textile school planned, Picanol confirms its commitment to help develop the technical human resources necessary to make the Indonesian weaving industry “Fit To Win.”

Picanol is represented in Indonesia by its subsidiary PT. Picanol Indonesia, which handles sales of all new Picanol machines and aftersales service and support for Picanol customers in Indonesia. With a capable and knowledgeable local support team providing technical support, training, PCB repair and spare parts, PT. Picanol Indonesia is well equipped to support Picanol customers and ensure they get the most out of their machines.
Picanol’s Aftermarket organization
Understanding customer needs for excellent service

Picanol’s overall policy is to keep its customers’ machines in the most versatile and competitive condition. This enables customers to stay at the forefront of the market, even if some of their machines are older. In fact, machine performance remains at a high level. Other benefits include improved lifetime, lower consumption of spare parts, and higher weaving flexibility.

We have tailored solutions for our customers around the globe, with special services to take care of their particular requirements.

These include:
- Online ordering of parts through “P@rtsline”
- On-time delivery of high-quality original parts
- Analysis and recommendations of running costs
- Upgrade proposals for your older machines (Weave-Up)
- Preventive maintenance and service audits
- Harness frames for all makes of machine

With headquarters in Belgium and local offices in China, India, Indonesia, Turkey, USA, Mexico and Brazil, we are able to assure a close, long-term relationship with all our customers.

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Imraan Textile Mills is a manufacturer of woven fabric for the apparel and home textile industries. Its main products are school uniforms. Fabrics woven for the apparel industry are sold mainly to garment manufacturers who in turn supply both independent and chain-store clothing retail outlets. Home textile fabrics are sold to wholesalers and retailers.

Target markets include ladies wear, menswear and schoolwear. Imraan Textile Mills also produces fabrics for niche markets such as private schools and specialized corporate wear. The mill is designed to focus on short runs with quick turnaround times.

Over the past decade Imraan Textile Mills has become a reputed supplier with an excellent track record for quality, service and on-time delivery. In future the intention is to maintain the company’s existing markets whilst growing those markets in which it has a niche and thus a competitive edge.

Imraan Textile Mills is always mindful that the key to success is the ability to meet the demands of customers, which it tries to achieve by providing quality to customers’ requirements. To this end significant investment has been made in training and professional development of staff, modernization of plant and machinery, and continual product development.

Imraan Textile Mills recently installed OptiMax rapier machines and is looking for further expansion.
Picanol remains the forerunner in developing state-of-the-art solutions for weaving technical fabrics. After releasing successful products for amongst others aramid weaving and wider width weaving (machine width up to 540 cm), Picanol now also offers solutions for heavy technical fabrics. The heavy fabric developments are done on the OptiMax machine. With its solid structure, strong beat-up and different insertion possibilities, the OptiMax platform provides the perfect base for the specific high-end requirements technical weavers are looking for.

The OptiMax is now available for producing heavy canvas fabrics and heavy filter fabrics. This customized weaving machine is capable of weaving canvas fabrics up to weights of over 750 gsm (grams per square meter) and filtercloth up to 600 gsm.

The newly developed S-Tube backrest provides extreme stiffness and a specific geometry that ensures very good contact between warp yarn and backrest during the full weaving cycle. This allows the beat-up force to be fully applied on the warp for maximum weavability of heavy fabrics.

The beat-up assembly has been re-engineered and the sley reinforced to deal with the high beat-up forces that are needed to weave these fabrics. For synthetic warps, Picanol uses a new take-up system that gives maximum grip on these fabrics. To deal with the high warp tensions, GTP’s HybridPower 158 harness frames are used, offering maximum stiffness with minimum weight thanks to its combination of aluminum sections reinforced with carbon strips.

The release of the heavy fabric version is another important addition to Picanol’s portfolio of weaving machines for technical fabrics. For further inquiries or information on this type of weaving machine, contact your local Picanol sales manager or send an email to technical@picanol.be.
Weaving the sound of denim!

A musical performance featuring the beats of a Picanol shuttle loom was premiered at the latest Bread & Butter fair in Berlin, Germany. The Candiani Denim Symphonie is a neo-futurist project by Alberto Candiani, music producer and owner of the renowned Candiani Denim Mill. The idea is to combine the process of creating denim with that of creating music.

As a “trade show for selected brands” Bread & Butter provides the concept of an innovative trade fair event for the progressive, contemporary clothing culture. Offering an international specialist trade fair for Street and Urban Wear, Bread & Butter represents a marketing and communication platform for brands, labels and designers from the areas of Denim, Sportswear, Street Fashion, Function Wear and Casual Dressed Up, as well as for suppliers from the preliminary stage of the textile industry.

The Denim Symphonie was composed with the sound of a Picanol President shuttle loom as the main percussive element that drives the tempo and creates the groove. An unheard-of experiment that elevates the process of weaving denim to a musical act of entertainment performed live on stage by Alberto Candiani. One stage, one shuttle loom, one band to give a live performance of the fabric we love the most, Denim.

A video of this performance can be found on: https://vimeo.com/87585669.
Password: BBB

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Picanol has always had, since its existence, one main objective: to help make you “fit to win”. We want to give you all the necessary tools to be successful in your market and win: machines, services, the know-how and dedication of our team and our people.

We’ve all had tough years to struggle through. At Picanol we know the only cure to fight this is to work even harder. Our motivation and determination have brought us to where we stand today. By now our knowledge and expertise is wider and sharper than ever. And it’s to you to take the advantage.

Let’s say we’ve gathered more than enough fuel to be in pole position. Want to keep ahead of the competition? Buckle up!