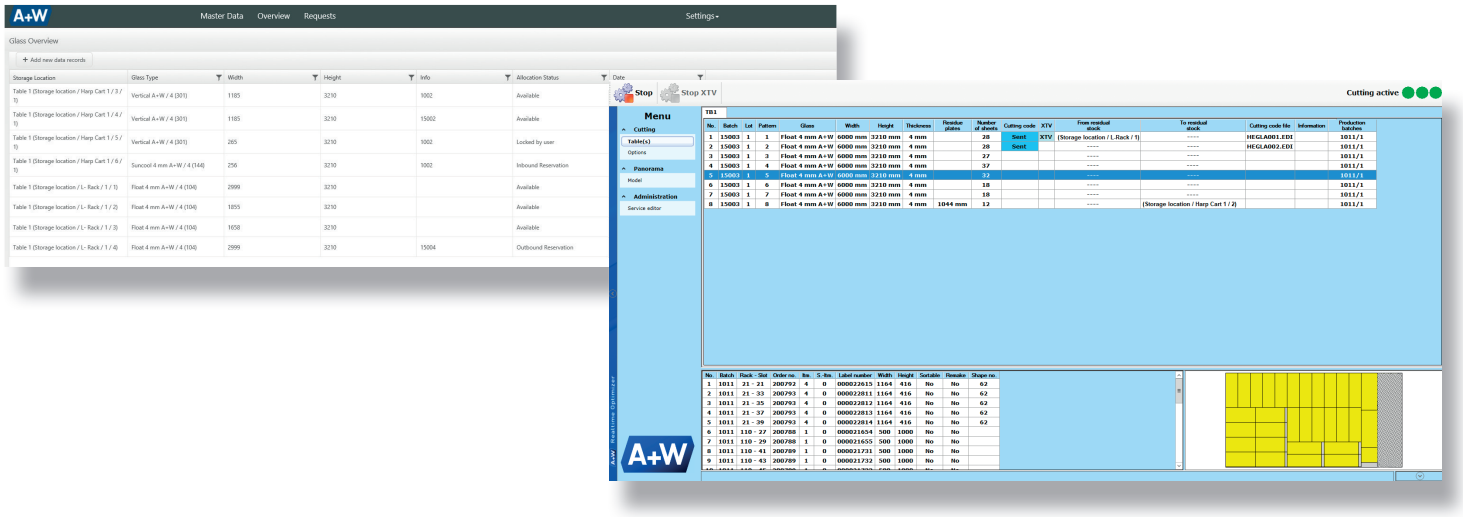
A+W Residual Stock Manager

Manage leftover plates intelligently



In the flat glass industry, ever more high-quality and therefore expensive kinds of glass are being processed. The variety is increasing even as production throughput time is dropping, especially for LAMI. This means that the value of the partial sheets that are left after cutting is also increasing. What are you supposed to do with these?

Anyone who does not use residual plates is just giving money away!

The worst solution: storing these remnants "somewhere" and eventually disposing of them because you have no concept how you can include them in optimizations and increase yield.

A good solution: using a residual plate management system. The valuable first cuts are kept directly on the cutting line and can, if necessary, be incorporated quickly into the optimization. When you're using the A+W Realtime Optimizer, the leftover plates are incorporated automatically at the appropriate point during cutting.

But these mechanical storage systems represent significant investments. Careful amortization calculations are required in order to make the right business decision: is a residual sheet management system worth the price? It's not the optimal solution for every company.

Manage residual sheets with intelligent software

Now A+W is approaching this problem with a brand-new software solution – this is a big win for many companies. The new manual residual plate management system A+W Residual Stock Manager (RSM) uses any racks or intermediate storage systems to store the first cuts. Combined with the A+W Realtime Optimizer, the RSM achieves the best possible yield from these remnants. They are taken manually from the cutting table – with appropriate organization – and placed on racks, where the RSM assigns the location and saves it in the database. The user specifies a minimum width for keeping a remnant in advance – everything less than this width ends up in the shard container.

From now on, the system "knows" which first cuts of which glass type in which size are available where for optimization. If the RSM discovers during a future optimization that a residual plate it manages can be used with good yield, it will incorporate this first cut into the optimization. The remnant can be used easily together with a jumbo sheet. Several RSM plates are used in an optimization.

When using residual plate storage with specified sequences, you have to consider that only the outermost plate on the rack can be used – quite a restriction that is, however, considered by the RSM to achieve the best yield.

Residual plate management across several cutting lines

If there are several cutting tables, it can make sense to use the RSM combined with the A+W Realtime Optimizer RSM for several tables. Thus the probability that first cuts fit into optimizations across several tables with good yield is higher than if you're using the system for just one table. Furthermore, the A+W Residual Stock Manager can also be used together with a mechanical residual plate management system. In this case, using the RSM further increases yield.

A+W Clarity

Software for Glass

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Keeping an eye on everything
In the "Residual Overview," the user can get a quick overview of the content of the manual storage, including the location, glass type, dimensions, sequence of the glass on the rack, etc. From here, you can also make changes. This way, the machine operator always has full control of the use of the residual plates and can override decisions made by the system if necessary.

Productivity versus yield?
Yes, unfortunately – even RSM cannot overcome the laws of physics. Of course the user has a slight loss of productivity if – instead of simply pushing a jumbo across the cutting table, the operators have to manually remove a remnant and put it in a defined position – and there is an additional productivity loss if a remnant has to be taken from a harp rack, and possibly, for larger sheets, moved by two workers and placed on the cutting table.

To find the right balance between productivity and yield, the user specifies in the default settings the conditions under which a residual plate should be used – and if a valuable first cut can be utilized, this can certainly balance out the loss of productivity.

Your benefits:

- Residual plates are incorporated into ongoing optimizations for the best yield
- No investment in expensive mechanical systems
- Reduction of manual search efforts
- Timely re-processing
- Consideration of sequence to minimize set-up time
- Use of a residual plate management system managed by the A+W Residual Stock Manager possible across several cutting tables
- Use in combination with mechanical systems is possible with good results

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Our long-term experience is your benefit.

A+W – Your Trusted Advisor

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