

CUSTOMER REPORT

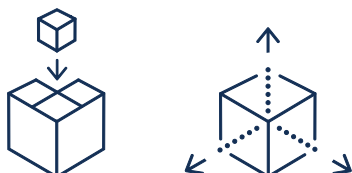
Schwingshandl automation
technology GmbH

Lino[®]
leading innovation

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Simplified Solidworks[®] 3D models in a single click



When Schwingshandl automation technology GmbH provides 3D models of its lifting and conveying solutions to third parties, it is not concerned at all about the intellectual property falling into the wrong hands. With Lino[®] Simplify, a lean add-on for Solidworks, the Austrian specialty machine manufacturer can now simplify its models precisely according to its own requirements – while generating manageable STEP files.



“As an add-on for Solidworks, Lino Simplify dovetails seamlessly into our workflows, which enabled us to put it into production virtually immediately.”

**David Kaltseis, Design Head
at Schwingshandl automation technology GmbH**

Task

- Simplify Solidworks assemblies in a defined manner
- Enable the flexible exchange of large 3D models
- Protect innovations and intellectual property

Solution

- Lino Simplify for automated model simplification
- Seamlessly integrated Solidworks add-on
- Consulting, initial training and support by Lino experts

More and more companies are looking for automated intra- and warehouse logistics solutions that reliably serve their own individual requirements. But the products of major system vendors mostly just cover standard tasks. When elevators, lifting gears, conveyors and distribution systems are required for special applications, that's when Schwingshandl automation technology GmbH shines. For instance, the company supplies customized machinery to ensure that a theater can automatically deploy and store its backdrops, which can weigh up to four tons.

“We can also select each individual part in the graphics area of Solidworks and define the simplification – another extremely helpful feature.”

David Kaltseis

Specialized machines for difficult tasks

As bespoke products or in small series, machines from Schwingshandl handle load carriers and materials whose dimensions or properties do not match up with any standards. “From double lifters for the paper industry to turning stations for turning cheese wheels, we develop solutions for virtually all industries. The decisive factor here is communication with our customers, so that we can comprehensively catalog the properties of the material to be conveyed,” says David Kaltseis, design manager at Schwingshandl.

This also includes the structural situation on site. Height differences, existing supply connections and interfaces to other machines not only influence the overall layout of an installation, but also the design of each of the specialized machines. To handle the customized design tasks, Schwingshandl has configured total of 16 workstations with the 3D CAD software Solidworks. In addition to generating the models of the modules, they also use Solidworks to create 2D drawings for further customer consultation.

Manual model simplification is not a solution

When a major plant equipment manufacturer commissions Schwingshandl to round out their portfolio with custom products, the partner company needs 3D models that can be integrated into the layout of the overall plant installation. “But our assemblies are complex,” says David Kaltseis. “From the drive wheel to the last bolt, the machines consist of up to 8,000 individual parts, which increase the level of detail of the 3D models.” In the past, these detailed models presented a serious problem when they were exported to the standardized STEP format – if not before.

Designer-in-chief Kaltseis recalls: “I frequently received error messages simply when saving in Solidworks. And customers often couldn't open the huge files or integrate them into their layouts.” Therefore, screws and other elements had to be manually deleted from the 3D model before exporting. An enormous effort that could take up to five hours even on small machines. “At least the manual simplification had the positive effect of generating models that protected intellectual property from third parties.”

Great trust in a smart add-on

In order to generate model files more quickly and conveniently, which are manageable for customers and at the same time conceal innovations, Schwingshandl was looking for software that could take over these tasks automatically. Through online

THE COMPANY



Name	Schwingshandl automation technology GmbH
Location	Holzhausen (Austria)
Portfolio	specialized hoist and conveyor solutions
Employees	75
Founded	2003
Internet	www.schwingshandl.com

research, they soon came across Lino Simplify, which stood out among other things because it was an add-on for Solidworks, not a standalone solution. For David Kaltseis and his colleagues, the seamless integration into the familiar software environment was a compelling argument. In addition, Lino Simplify allows users to accelerate their workflow even further using macros.

After a highly successful proof of concept on the basis of a real customer order, the decision for Lino Simplify was virtually a no-brainer. “From early on in the test phase, it was obvious how well the solution fits our processes. In addition, the Lino developers implemented all customization requests and enhancements incredibly quickly. On account of this, we right away felt confident in the performance of the solution and in our Lino experts. And this trust is continuously reaffirmed whenever we contact support or the developers,” says David Kaltseis.

“Conditional simplification is almost a superpower. It lets us define rules according to which specific components are automatically deleted. It’s fast and avoids mistakes.”

David Kaltseis

Simplification increases speed and security

Lino Simplify has now been in productive use for almost half a year. Without exception, every 3D model that Schwingshandl releases to third parties is “treated” using the add-on beforehand. This starts with initial, rough models, which can be used to clarify further specifications and requirements in consultation with customers. “The process is very simple and unbeatably fast: open the model, select the degree of simplification – and you’re done,” says design head Kaltseis. The default setting is also sufficient to simply reduce the size of the files.

For David Kaltseis, however, the new process speed is just one major benefit among many. Equally important is the flexible and condition-based simplification function, which allows users to specify that some components should be deleted automatically, others never or under certain conditions.

“This lets us protect selected innovative components while also specifying that others remain visible in detail – for example, interfaces to adjacent machines. We can also select each individual part in the graphics area of Solidworks and define the simplification – another extremely helpful feature.”

Lino® 3D configuration solutions

Lino GmbH focuses on the sale and development of technology-leading software solutions and consulting services for design and sales automation (CPQ), system integration, 3D web visualization and system configuration. Enterprises in many fields of mechanical engineering realize efficient, end-to-end sales and product development processes with enormous savings potential with Lino along with Tacton Configurator and Software Made by Lino® products.

The configuration specialist and software developer is an authorized Tacton Business Partner, Microsoft Partner Gold Application Development, Solidworks Solution Partner and member of the Autodesk Developer Network (ADN). The Lino team operates six offices in Germany and Austria: Bremen, Mainz, Stuttgart, Bad Mergentheim, Dresden and Raabs/Thaya.



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