



Cutting edge since Bismarck's time

A symbol that has gone round the world for 150 years: Two plump cherries are the epitome of fine tools for many woodworkers. The Remscheid tool forge opened its doors for HolzWerken.

Jürgen Schmitt has apparently heard the question so often that he immediately smiles. Where do they come from then, the two juicy red cherries that have now adorned the tools of his company "Wilh. Schmitt & Comp." for exactly 150 years? Despite intensive inquiries, Schmitt cannot answer this question. "Today, we regard the two plump cherries as a symbol of our well-engineered products," says the businessman instead.

The "Two Cherries" logo is now borne by over 2,000 products, almost all of which the family firm makes itself: chisels and carving tools of all widths, lengths, cuts and bents; plane irons, draw knives and

many others. Some 400,000 tools are shipped from the factory every year. The tools have been produced in Königstraße in Remscheid – and only there – since the company was founded. Jürgen Schmitt and the family shareholders say they have never considered relocation, outsourcing or Asian imports. "We prefer to keep what we make under our own control!"

This is why the company with its 60 employees is managed from a former house of the family. The production facilities with forge, hardening shop, milling and turning shop, and the grinding shop, in which many of the tools are ground into shape, are immediately behind the house.