



*"We prefer to keep what we make under our own control": Two Cherries boss Jürgen Schmitt backs the Remscheid location.*

"Mind your head on the stairs!" Juan José Garcia, "Two Cherries" sales manager, takes HolzWerken on an extended tour of the factory. Up stairs and down stairs, so you realize this production facility has grown over more than a hundred years and this is even more obvious as soon as you enter the forge. Metalworking as it was in the heyday of the craft is in store for the visitor here; punches, large and small forging hammers, some of which are still driven by leather transmission belts from the ceiling.

Two kinds of carbon steel of different hardness are worked here, one for chisels and similar tools and a harder kind for

carving tools and plane irons. HSS steel is also used for turning tools. The carbon steel delivered to the factory is commercially available rolled steel. "What we do with it makes it so special," says Garcia against the noise of the large forging hammer. Every one of the subsequent tools passes through here. The cut-to-length but still round steel rod is heated in an electric smeltery until it glows red. The steel die, i.e. the milled out inverse shape of the tool, is already clamped in the bed of the hammer. Multiple mighty blows with a force of several tons make the floor tremble and the hammer presses the tool steel into the die and compresses the structure of the steel. This improves the quality and the subsequent life of the sharp blade.

### Melted salt ensures durable hardness

After removing the forging residues, the chisels and plane irons are taken to the hardening shop. Tools with complicated cutting geometries like V-chisels and gouge chisels are shaped on smaller punches and presses by trained staff. "It is the craftsmen who make the company what it is, not the machines, not the factory, and not the world-famous reputation of the brand. The decades of experience are irreplaceable," emphasizes Garcia. This also applies to the hardening shop, where works foreman Thomas Becher is currently checking to make sure everything is in order. "Hardening salt at 810 degrees Celsius makes sure the blades are even harder," he explains. The forged steel strips remain in the salt bath for six to twelve minutes depending on the thickness of the tool and the kind of steel; the salt melts at temperatures above 200 degrees Celsius. This hardening process distinguishes "Two Cherries" tools from almost all the other tool forges throughout the world. According to Garcia, the company is the last forge in Germany producing such woodworking tools. The process itself is thorough: Two-thirds of the steel length disappears into the hardening bath, the rest at the handle end remains elastic, which it must be to absorb shocks. Garcia says cheap producers only harden the first one or two centimetres of the tool. →



*The two cherries logo in finely embroidered form also leaves Remscheid for places all over the world.*



*The company is managed from a former house of the Schmitt family, a slate-clad building typical of the region.*



*One corporate goal is to cover the broad spectrum of wood crafts, which includes mallets with bronze heads.*



*The most important products are produced continuously and special tools whenever stocks run low.*



*Freshly forged and still glowing red, the blanks wait for the next process.*