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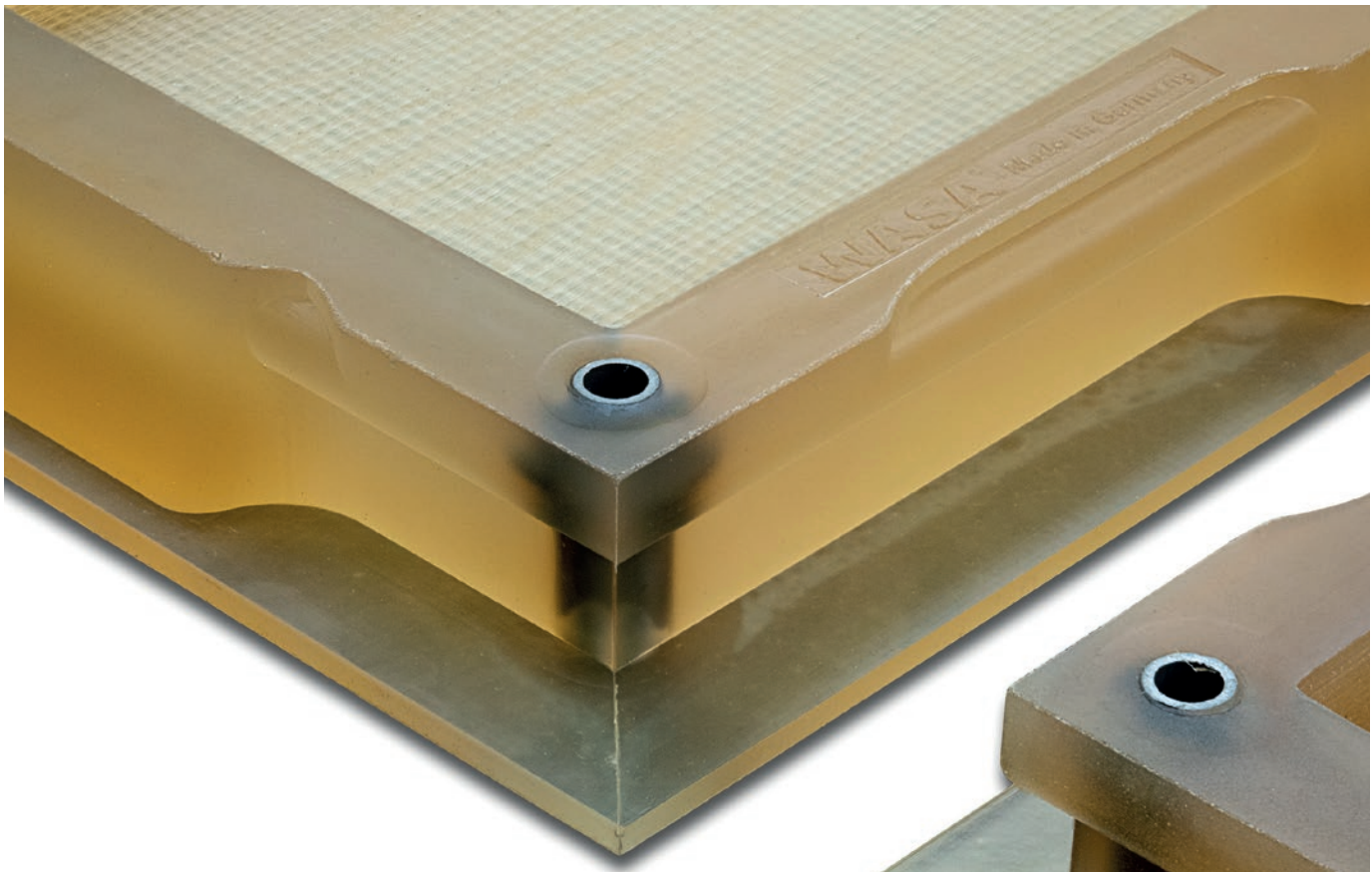
REPRINT | CONCRETE PRODUCTS & CAST STONE

Wetcast in its best shape

WASA®



REPRINT
CPI 3/2023



Wetcast in its best shape

Wetcast is a very popular method for concrete goods production. Both simple and complex shapes and designs can be produced with this technique. The surface of Wetcast products is very special in its aesthetics and is appreciated by designers and architects all over the world. The following article deals with the topic of wetcast in its best shape and shows what Wasa has already included in its standard product range so that customers all over the world can produce fantastically beautiful concrete products easily and with little investment using wetcast moulds. While the concrete mixture and colour are certainly an integral part of the finished concrete product, the aesthetic aspects of wetcast products, such as the geometry and surface texture, as well as the ever-evolving mould technology, decisively contribute to the creation of a unique and appealing atmosphere using the finished concrete blocks.

Standard

Whether the timeless classic travertine, noble immortality with granite, natural harmony with basalt, historic elegance with slate or nostalgic charm with a wood look in a slim format. Wasa has them all in its standard range.

When the Wasa Wetcast brochure was first published, no one expected such a success story. Customers from Germany, the USA, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, France, Pakistan and many more have started their own success stories with Wasa's wetcast moulds and still produce concrete block products from the popular Wasa Artcast, Wasa Stonecast and Wasa Woodcast series.

Wasa offers a very good entry into the world of wetcast products with these series and the various stone designs they contain.

With the well established formats and available extension systems ranging from large-format stones, matching patio slabs, block steps, wall systems to complete pool surround solutions, everything is included. These moulds stand out due to their rapid availability for the end customer, as the required models for casting with polyurethane are already in storage. Naturally, in Wasa's mould shop, bespoke models and moulds according to the customer's wishes can also be made. A detailed report on this has been published in CPI 6.2022.



Wasa Artcast - Sand



Wasa Stonecast - Basalt



Wasa Woodcast - Timber



Various stone geometries from the globally popular Wasa Stonecast - Travertine series (Culzoni S.A., AR)



Naturally inspired

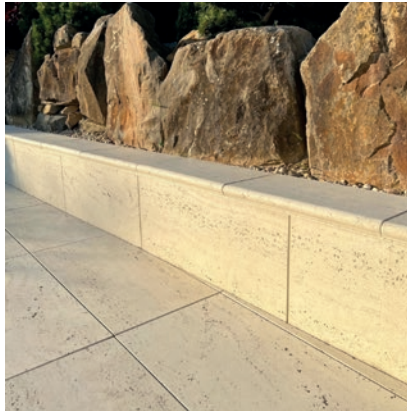
For greater flexibility and creativity:
WASA WETCAST moulds and innovations.

With WASA WETCAST, we enable the automated and continuous manufacture of high-quality paving slabs in individual shapes and with unique surface structures. Our in-house model construction department will work with you to develop a prototype completely in accordance with your wishes, before your casting shop manufactures robust polyurethane resin moulds.

Contact us and learn more about WASA WETCAST.



WASA WETCAST



Application examples Wasa Stonecast – Travertine (Presbeton Nova, s.r.o., CZ)

New development in mould design

The development of new technologies and materials is opening more and more possibilities in mould design. The combination of traditional craft techniques and modern manufacturing methods makes it possible to realise complex and filigree shapes that were previously unthinkable.

Another important factor in the new development in mould design is sustainability. More and more manufacturers and designers are turning to environmentally friendly materials and resource-saving manufacturing processes. This not only creates sustainable products, but also opens up new opportunities.

While other manufacturers of wetcast moulds rely mainly on tried and tested products, the employees at Wasa are constantly refining their products. Through close contact with customers, suppliers and manufacturers of automation systems for the wetcast industry, it is possible to achieve innova-

tive and improved solutions. A phrase that Wasa's founders, Heinz Bechtold and Peter Webel, coined: "Always making good things a little bit better!" is also meticulously continued by the second generation at Wasa, Matthias Bechtold and Jannik Webel.

The new mould technology consists, among other things, of a self-supporting mould, here Wasa has made the previously necessary wooden frame obsolete for most slab and paving products. The structure and materials have been optimised to bring even more stability and flexibility to the moulds.



Application example Wasa Woodcast – Timber (Kann GmbH Baustoffwerke, DE)



Wasa Stacking – The carrier solution here for a Quadra wetcast plant



SystemBoard – The carrier solution in an Automacad wetcast line

The wooden frame used in the past, usually made of multi-layer wood, serves - if at all - as a support and stackable element. Many semi- and fully-automated wetcast lines today rely on the use of carrier systems on which the moulds are either screwed on or have a special holding device attached to the carrier system.

The core polyurethane matrix and also the fabric mesh that Wasa processes in its wetcast moulds have been specially developed and adapted to the high-performance demands of wetcast production. The mould construction was also completely revised to the self-supporting function of the moulds. Then, the developers and design engineers at Wasa enhanced the moulds with a thin PU cover on the underside, towards the production board. This layer increases the polyurethane consumption somewhat, but the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. The moulds sit snugly on the base and the disturbing stone and concrete residues, which may become visible in the surface of the end product, are thus almost completely kept away. The moulds can be fixed to a production plate via the metal sleeves around the stone cavities, which are always integrated in the polyurethane. Other manufacturers, such as Automacad from Canada, rely on a special carrier system and moulds with fully integrated steel rods to ensure that the moulds hold on well to the carrier system and to also master further handling in a fully automated circulation plant.

Wasa on the international stage

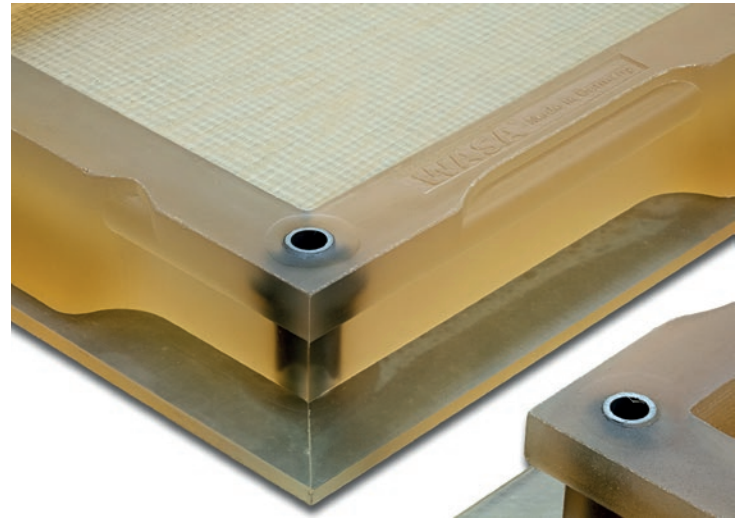
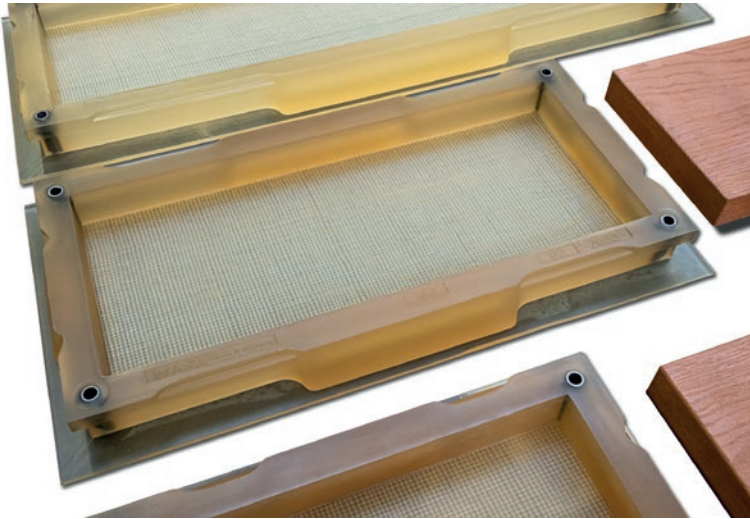
Trade fairs as such are often challenged. Some very high participation costs, naturally, always cause people to reconsider. Although Wasa also likes to save costs, it still participates in as many trade fairs around the world as possible. Today - and especially after the pandemic - it is more important than

ever to meet in person and have a defined time and place to socialise, learn new things and exchange ideas about the construction and concrete block industry.

In January 2023, Wasa was again represented with its own booth at the World of Concrete trade fair. The trade fair had a lot of visitors from South America and the USA, but also customers and interested people from e.g. Japan, South Korea, Pakistan and Israel surprised with their visit to the Wasa booth in the metropolis of millions Las Vegas in the USA. With almost 50,000 registered professionals from a total of over 120 countries, participation in the World of Concrete was more than worthwhile for Wasa and expectations were far exceeded. Registration for next year is already made and Wasa will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the World of Concrete.



New Wasa mould design – Different product sizes, moulds and concrete blocks from Wasa Woodcast Series



New Wasa mould design – detail pictures

Shortly afterwards in February, the ICPI/NCMA Association Annual Meeting and Precast Show, held this year in Columbus, Ohio, became the venue and magnet for international audiences. Wasa's Sales Director, Benjamin Burschey, was there to witness the official merger of the two well-known associations in the USA, ICPI (Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute) and NCMA (National Concrete Masonry Association). The new association name was unveiled during the lunchtime event at the Hyatt Regency Hotel: CMHA (Concrete Masonry & Hardscapes Association).

The highlight of the event was the adjacent Precast Show. Automacal, a leading supplier of automation systems, showed the SystemBoard developed jointly with Wasa at the Precast Show, including the SystemMolds on their booth. Especially for use on the fully automated Automacal wetcast lines, the carrier system and the associated moulds were worked out

and fine-tuned together with the manufacturer in order to offer the end customer not only a solution but also a perfectly coordinated all-round carefree package. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION



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Exhibition booth at the Word of Concrete 2023 in Las Vegas f.l. Benjamin Burschey, David Werning



Automacal stand with SystemBoard and SystemMold at the Precast Show 2023 in Columbus Ohio f.l. Benjamin Burschey, Jill Spohn – Spohn-co