



Title: Universal compact Sheet Metal Storage and Retrieval System
for small storage volumes

Topic: New Sheet Metal Storage and Retrieval System shown for the first time at the
Euroblech 2006
Press text 48-2006-E-long/ October 2006

The new Sheet Metal Storage and Retrieval system **UNITOWER C** from KASTO Maschinenbau GmbH & Co. KG for job shops, industrial facilities and steel distribution centers shown for the first time at the *Euroblech 2006* is characterized by

- easy handling
- either semi-automatic or automatic operation
- high flexibility in regard to pallet heights
- excellent ergonomics when handling the sheets and
- safe operation

Besides sheets, also cut-pieces, packing drums, boxes, pallets and other plates can be deposited. The modular, robust and easy to operate technology plus a standard design allow first time users and professionals in job shops and industry an economic utilization of the storage system.

The space-saving system with a footprint of 3450 x 4150 mm allows the storage of standard sized sheet metal pallets with different shelf heights. The sheet metal pallets are moved on maintenance-free, large-sized plastic glides in the guideways of the steel structure and are pulled out of the shelves or pushed into the shelves via the loading traverse, which can be lifted and lowered and is mounted to the steel structure. To allow 3 different loading heights, i.e. different distances between the shelves, the **UNITOWER C** will have three different contour control heights.

The steel structure of the UNITOWER C is extremely flexible. Depending on the situation at the customer's facility, it can be flexibly configured with standard, perforated profiles up to a system height of 7 m and can be assembled by the customer if he is qualified to do so.

The shelf supports for the sheet metal pallets can be flexibly mounted in fixed increments of 47 mm and, if needed, changed again.

An integral part of this steel structure are two precisely manufactured racks, where two sprockets, connected via a synchronizing shaft like a lantern gearing take care of the lift movement. The 2,6 kW lift motor reaches a maximum lift speed of 8 m/min. The pallets, designed for the large sheets, with a usable load of 1.200 kg per storage location are carefully pulled out of the shelf and are reliably positioned to the desired working height with the pallet lifter. An important characteristic is the flexible working height for a direct supply to sheet metal processing machines.

Socket pins can be used to contain the sheets on the pallets and to support remnants. To load the pallets and to unpack the sheet packs, a deposit table is available as an option onto which the pallet is lowered with the lifting traverse. After the sheet pack is positioned, the forks are pulled back and after the packing wood is removed, the sheet pack is positioned directly flat onto the pallet to utilize the minimum usable shelf height of 51 mm. The resulting high packing density allows to store a large variety of different sheets.



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The **UNITOWER C** uses the new KASTO-BasicControl with touch panel and operator guidance; it can be operated in semi-automatic (with dead man control) or in fully automatic mode.

In summary, this system offers the customer in industry or distribution a cost-effective and compact sheet metal storage and retrieval system with definitely lower investment costs than the individually planned sheet towers. Other advantages are a maintenance-friendly hoist, an easy operation via storage location selection keys and deadman control with the semi-automatic version, a small footprint of approx. 3,5 x 4,2 m, additional storage possibility for small parts, fixtures etc., a safe and clean operation, time-savings due to direct access without additional crane and, if located close to sheet processing machines, a very favorable and ergonomic handling.



Picture 1
Shows the KASTO-Sheet Metal Storage and Retrieval System UNITOWER C, where sheets, pallets, boxes etc. can be stored



Picture 2
Shows the pallet lifter with rack and loading height control as well as the steel structure with gliders



Picture 3
Shows the KASTO-control BasicControl with location selection and dead man control



Picture 4
Shows the optional deposit table to load pallets or to unload sheets