

# Lift Tables Improve Ergonomics for an Office Furniture Manufacturer

## About Southworth

Southworth Products Corporation is the world's largest manufacturer of ergonomic materials handling equipment for vertical lifting and work positioning, designed to improve worker productivity while reducing the potential for worker injuries.

Whether you're lifting and positioning work, handling pallets, working with parts in containers or transporting loads, Southworth has a lift table, pallet positioner, pallet lifter, container tilter, portable lift table or stacker to make the job faster, safer, and, easier.

We also employ the largest most experienced engineering staff in the business so a custom engineered solution is always an option.

## **SOUTHWORTH**

**making work faster, safer, and easier since 1890**

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**Office Furniture Manufacturer  
Plant Manager**

## Growth & Impact



**Awkward posture eliminated**



**Increased worker moral**



**Reduction in workers comp claims**

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Ergonomic lift table increase worker productivity and employee satisfaction



## The Problem

This company specializes in the production of office furniture. The production process includes a sanding operation to prepare the tops of conference tables for various stains and final finish.

Operators employed in sanding the table tops formerly worked at 30" high work platforms – a height too low for comfortable sanding of hard to reach areas. Excessive bending and stretching led to numerous back complaints. "One of the primary concerns is the welfare of our workers. We recognized we had an ergonomics problem at the sanding work station and we set about correcting it."

## The Solution

Management has been working on ergonomic improvements at the plant for several years and, after consultation with the area distributor for our company, a lift table was installed for the sanding operation. The lift table is used to elevate the entire work station platform, table top, and all – to positions that eliminate bending and stretching on the part of the operators. The table proved to be the first of 14 lifts that have since been installed at the plant for a variety of ergonomically beneficial applications.

Among its features are a large 24" x 48" platform, heavy gauge steel components, a full 36" lift, and profiled legs for added strength. All pivot points have hardened and ground pins that operate in lubricated for life, virtually maintenance-free bushings. Heavy-duty hoses have a burst strength 350% greater than the hydraulic operating pressure. Human engineered controls include a choice of pushbutton or foot switch operation for fast, precise positioning at desired heights. The entire table, including power unit, controls, and hydraulic fluid, is shipped fully assembled and ready to use.

"In addition to improved productivity and worker satisfaction, we've had a definite reduction in the number of claims in workman's compensation that could be directly attributable to back injuries. The units have really done the job for us."

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Office Furniture Manufacturer Plant Manager