

Workbee CNC Router

I recently bought a 1500×1500 [Workbee CNC router Kit from Bulkman 3d](#) and i bought both the leadscrew and belt versions (technically i bought the leadscrew version and a belt kit)

i think i'm going to be happier with the belt because it can supposedly go faster.

leadscrew wobble really is an issue on this size of the machine. except for Bulkman nobody sells the 1500 kits with leadscrews.. there is a video out there suggesting to put tension on the leadscrews rather than pressure to eliminate wobble.. i might try that but i don't want to shorten my extrusions, so i'll need to figure out another way to put tension on the leadscrews.

i've got the grbl controller and am running grbl v1.1 these are my settings for the leadscrew so far.. limit switches haven't been configured yet.

```
$0 = 10      (Step pulse time, microseconds)
$1 = 25      (Step idle delay, milliseconds)
$2 = 0       (Step pulse invert, mask)
$3 = 0       (Step direction invert, mask)
$4 = 0       (Invert step enable pin, boolean)
$5 = 1       (Invert limit pins, boolean)
$6 = 0       (Invert probe pin, boolean)
$10 = 1      (Status report options, mask)
$11 = 0.010  (Junction deviation, millimeters)
$12 = 0.002  (Arc tolerance, millimeters)
$13 = 0      (Report in inches, boolean)
$20 = 0      (Soft limits enable, boolean)
$21 = 1      (Hard limits enable, boolean)
$22 = 0      (Homing cycle enable, boolean)
$23 = 0      (Homing direction invert, mask)
$24 = 25.000 (Homing locate feed rate, mm/min)
$25 = 500.000 (Homing search seek rate, mm/min)
$26 = 250    (Homing switch debounce delay, milliseconds)
$27 = 1.000  (Homing switch pull-off distance, millimeters)
$30 = 1000   (Maximum spindle speed, RPM)
$31 = 0      (Minimum spindle speed, RPM)
$32 = 0      (Laser-mode enable, boolean)
$100 = 100.000 (X-axis travel resolution, step/mm)
$101 = 100.000 (Y-axis travel resolution, step/mm)
$102 = 100.000 (Z-axis travel resolution, step/mm)
$110 = 4000.000 (X-axis maximum rate, mm/min)
$111 = 4000.000 (Y-axis maximum rate, mm/min)
$112 = 500.000 (Z-axis maximum rate, mm/min)
$120 = 300.000 (X-axis acceleration, mm/sec^2)
$121 = 300.000 (Y-axis acceleration, mm/sec^2)
$122 = 200.000 (Z-axis acceleration, mm/sec^2)
$130 = 200.000 (X-axis maximum travel, millimeters)
$131 = 200.000 (Y-axis maximum travel, millimeters)
$132 = 200.000 (Z-axis maximum travel, millimeters)
```

the above maximum speeds where reached doing aircuts only!

Here are some configurations that worked so far:

| material | bit | depth | spindle RPM | feed rate (mm/min) | result |
|--|----------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|--|
| OSB | 1/4 upcut | 6mm | 19200 | 1700 mm/min | very rough cut, a little smoke every now and then |
| OSB | 1/4 upcut | 3mm | 19200 | 3000 mm/min | much smoother, no smoke |
| MDF | 1/8 upcut 2-flute | spiral ?? bore | 3000 | 500 | no smoke but vibrations |
| MDF | 1/8 upcut 2-flute | spiralpocket | 7000 | 500 | no smoke |
| Valchromat (Colored MDF, slightly harder than regular MDF) | 6mm straight 2-flute | 7mm | 10'000 | 2000 mm/min | some vibrations but acceptable quality that only needs slight sanding on visible edges |
| Aluminum | 1/8 2-flute straight | 0.1mm | 6000 | 1000mm/min | slow but decent :) |

G-Code Sender

my Workbee is using the GRBL firmware on a arduino together with a CNCshield on top of it. In order to send gcode to the arduino, a gcode-sender is used on a PC that is connected via USB.

currently i am using UGS (Univseral Gcode Sender) Platform edition. The reason why i chose this software is simple: i used it on my shapeoko and already kenw it. It seems though, that UGS crashes every now and then, leaving the machine stuck. i then need stop the job, disconnect from the arduino, reconnect and start over again. since the ardino still knows the machine position etc. I have a feeling this crash might happen on the UGS side. I therefore want to try different gcode senders in the near future. the two most interesting ones seem to be:

- [CNC.js](#) - nice web gui, touch probe support, “pendants” which are small ui's for small devices like phones etc. server can be run on a raspberry pi
- [bCNC](#) - basic CAM built in, accepts not only gcode but also svg and dxf. currety i do the CAM work on fusion 360 which is nice, but it might be simpler to have it integrated into the gcode sender, so it can be modified easily while standing at the machine.. the Fusion 360 interface needs quite a big screen to work with it smoothly and simple changes like changing the cutting speed means saving re-opening files etc. all the time.

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