

# 90 Years Lach Diamant

When in **1922** Jakob Lach founded the eponymous enterprise as a company for cutting diamonds to brilliants he could not have imagined that one day this enterprise with the name of Lach Diamant would be synonymous for a pioneer worldwide for the development and manufacturing of diamond tools.

Here the direction was set early: Away from the jewelry diamond towards the industrial diamond and to the diamond tool. In the mid thirties, by a barter transaction, Jakob Lach acquired industrial grade diamonds. To promote the sales of those diamonds he founded the company "Deutsche Industrie-Diamant-Vertrieb Jakob Lach", (German Industrial Diamond Distribution Jakob Lach) which was active with its own sales force until the start of Worldwar II operating in the German machine building triangle Leipzig – Magdeburg – Chemnitz now Hesse and the Saar Region. Well-known

companies such as Junkers Motorenbau, Dessau, Carl Zeiss, Jena, AEG, BMW, Waldrich, Opel, Rüsselsheim, Kugelfischer, Schweinfurt, Index-Werke, Esslingen among others belonged to his circle of customers at that time.

Up to the outbreak of Worldwar II **600** diamond cutters were employed of which **300** worked in their own establishments in Hanau and surroundings and **300** in other operations. During the postwar period and due to the new strong D-Mark the jewelry diamond cutting trade collapsed in Hanau and all over Germany.

In the mid fifties, Mr. Jakob Lach, now already **60** years old, revitalized the business branch of industrial diamonds, diamonds as a tool. On October **1, 1960** his son, Horst Lach who had just finished his studies in business management was asked to assist his father for the implementation under the present name of Lach Diamant.

The world of diamonds and further innovations for new materials for the industry were in an upheaval. The first man-made synthetic diamond by General Electric in **1957** was a source for imagination and possibilities, which up till now have not been all exploited.

In fast motion many developments and technologies took place which quickened the application of the diamond as a precise working material and helped to make possible the first Sputnik and space travel, the present aviation, automobile and communication technology, house and road construction and furniture industry, just to mention a few: Diamonds have changed our lives.

Following is a list of the most important highlights:

➤ **1973** – the first presentation worldwide of PCD tools at the Hannover



Processing of composite materials with PCD drills

Fair - polycrystalline synthetic diamond (PCD) made available by General Electric for the first time.

- **1977** – at the 1st Productronica in Munich Lach demonstrated as a world first the cutting, milling, scoring of glass fiber reinforced material for printed circuit boards.
- **1978** – discovery of spark erosion for the machining and forming of PCD, which made possible the economic manufacturing of rotating PCD tools, such as milling cutters, saws, drills for the wood and plastic industry.

For Lach, by the way, this was the start to build the so called EDG (EDG = Electrical Discharge Grinding) rotation grinding machines for use in their own fabrication and the marketing of know-how transfer. Without the discovery of this new technology the following quick development leaps in the furniture, plastic, wood industry, all the way to the GRP – CFRP machining for the aerospace industry and the building of wind power plants would not have been possible.

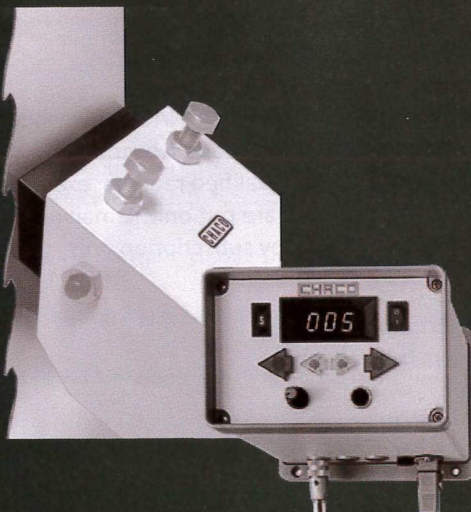
Their tools, presently in its **90th** year after the company founding by Mr. Jakob Lach, are manufactured by more than **150** employees at company headquarters in Hanau and the branch in Lichtenau near Chemnitz, Germany as well as independently made for the US market by Lach Diamond Inc. in Grand Rapids, Michigan USA.

The company is still a family enterprise managed by Chief Executive Officer Horst Lach and his son Dipl.-Ing. Robert Lach.

[www.lach-diamant.de](http://www.lach-diamant.de)

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