

Roller Blinds

Remember when?

Time Flies

Maggie Thatcher was Prime Minister and Paddy Ashdown had just been elected as Leader of the then Liberal party. Wimbledon had amazed everyone by winning the FA Cup. The first ever Red Nose Day had taken place and raised what was in those days a staggering £15 million for charity and Whitney Houston was top of the pops with her song "One moment in time".

The Year was 1988 and perhaps not surprisingly, going quietly unnoticed by the world popular press, Louvolite introduced its first version of the Louvolite roller blind programme and manufacturing system at the BBSA exhibition at the Motorcycle Museum in Solihull. A "workstation" was set up and a member of the Louvolite team was continuously making blinds to present the manufacturing method to the trade. In those days there was only one roller size offered and this was typically geared for use with blinds made for the domestic market.

In the 1990's the Louvolite roller system really started to come of age with the introduction of the key three foundation systems that still drive the programme today – System 32, 40 and 45. These three systems were designed around the same operating platform but provided differing performance levels to allow blinds of differing weights and sizes to be operated simply and effectively.

The fully integrated manufacturing method, allowing blinds to be assembled without the need for sewing or gluing, was refined still further and the roller blind had suddenly become of age. No more wooden, or worse still, fibre rollers; instead an aluminium tube perfectly designed to receive the appropriate end set and a fabric locking system simple to use and effective in use.

Chain operated systems became the product of choice and frankly remain so. Louvolite's spring loaded idle end allowed for far easier and faster installation and also gave a degree of comfort for those odd measuring mistakes. It has to be said that in those bygone days, the roller blind was probably viewed as a domestic product by the vast majority of blind makers.



Fast forward now to the 21st Century.

We have had a Labour Prime Minister for the past 12 years or so, Wimbledon has now moved and has renamed itself the Milton Keynes Dons, Whitney Houston has not been heard to sing in years and £15 million wouldn't provide a decent pension for an outgoing bank administrator!

Roller blinds however still play a huge part in the furnishing of domestic windows, but in addition they are now the product of choice by architects and specifiers too.

The original Louvolite programme has evolved to reflect the changes needed by today's professional blindmaker. Workstations have grown to in size to allow ease of manufacture for those larger blinds found in commercial installations. Tube designs, whilst still using the preferred aluminium, have been modified to allow them to receive some of the thicker sunscreen fabrics being requested.

The operating systems are still familiar but are now known as SC Series™ 32, 40, 45 and 45+. The operating units allow consistently smooth operation over a wide variety of sizes and weights of product with aluminium deflection performance being fine tuned to comply with operational efficiency and preferred operator pull force values for ease of use.

Louvolite has refined its manufacturing and assembly techniques to incorporate the most modern and effective injection moulding facilities used in combination with thermoplastic engineering materials that are especially selected to ensure high performance. In addition Louvolite uses robotic assembly procedures to ensure consistency of product production and performance. SC Series manufacturing batches are randomly selected to undergo 10 year cycle tests at the R&D test centre; it is this attention to detail that maintains the high customer satisfaction level.



In addition to the standard units blind manufacturers can now incorporate spring assist units with slide and lock technology to further reduce the efforts required to raise larger heavier blinds. Where motorisation is required for either individual operation or to be used in conjunction with computer controlled building management systems Louvolite SC Series can be driven by Somfy motor systems.

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Recent advances to provide multiple drive units for manual or powered drive operation further enhance the offering and a totally revised Architect specification sheet summarising the options available through accredited Louvolite manufacturers is about to be issued. The Louvolite product is also viewed on the Royal Institute of British Architects web site and the Louvolite web site.

A special place must too be reserved for the Perfect Fit™ roller blind. This product has, with the other family of Perfect Fit™ products, transformed the industry and created a new benchmark for others to try and follow. If the

conditions allow, it is quite simply the best way to install roller blinds to double glazed windows.

Domestically – Louvolite products still remain the product of choice by blindmakers and their customers alike. The choices available that allow the consumer to personalise their blind are greater than ever, as too are the fantastic array of fabric choices that Louvolite offer. Success, however, can bring with it a number of issues that have to be considered. The Louvolite

product is so successful because it has been proven to perform consistently and without creating problems either for the consumer or the blind maker – this is true at both domestic and commercial levels. Because of that success, the Louvolite systems have spawned a number of lookalike products that are not manufactured by Louvolite and are in no way connected to the Louvolite company. These lookalike products are available in Asia and are now being made available within the UK, so make sure that when you specify a Louvolite product that's exactly what you get and not a wannabe.



Stylish new intu™ Roller



The new intu™ Roller is the latest exciting addition to the successful range of intu™ Venetian, Pleated and Cellular blinds. The new versatile intu™ Roller blind, complete with its soft curved fascia, is quick and easy to install without the need for any drilling or screws.

Taking the popular roller blind to a new level, the stylish new intu™ Roller blind integrates beautifully into most window frames including conservatories, tilt and turn windows and glazed doors.

The streamlined bottom rail easily locks into position and gives perfect control when operating the blind. Designed with Safety in Mind, intu™ Roller is also particularly 'child safe' by eliminating all hanging cord loops and chains.

Available in a wide range of fabrics including plains and prints, intu™ Roller also provides outstanding energy efficiency and room darkening options with blackout, solar reflective and fire retardant fabrics.



INTU Roller Headrail



Easily clipped in place



Streamlined Bottombar