

Pedal at the ready

ADOPTING AN INNOVATIVE TAKE ON THE AGE-OLD PEDAL IS ATTRACTING COMPANIES KEEN TO INVEST IN A MORE MODERN PRODUCT

Components on a machine cabin floor, such as brake and throttle pedals, used to be ignored. To meet this need, Caldaro has created a suspended pedal called P11.

It is the same simple design as its original product created in the 20th century, featuring the protected electronics that has become the signature mark of this innovative Swedish company.

Since Caldaro launched the P09 in 2016, pedal design can never go back to what it was before. Soon after it entered the market, customers got in touch to ask the company to flip the P09 to make a suspended wall-mounted version.

"We started out trying to do just that," says Claudio Talamo, CEO of Caldaro. "However, we quickly realized that this pedal needed a new design. Customers involved in the process pointed out the importance of the ergonomics. Theoretically, you should have no

foot movement horizontally, just vertically. Our mission was to create the world's best suspended pedal ergonomically while providing the best control possible."

New look, same smart features

Caldaro's key customers in the material handling segment have spurred it on to evolve the pedal design while the company kept the smart features from the P09, such as a minimal number of components and super sealed electronics. The result is the P11, a modern compact pedal made of double surface-treated casted aluminum that withstands the harshest conditions.

The P11 is at its best in the toughest environments. Corrosive water, salts, sand, and gravel require periodically flushing the cabin with water. This is easy to do with a wall-mounted pedal and is safe when you can trust all the electronics to be completely protected.

In the present day, thousands of P09 pedals and the critical components such as the movable shaft



ABOVE: The P11 suspended pedal is built for tough application use

axle and the back spring element have been tested in a wide range of challenging environments.

"The reuse of the smart P09 design construction concepts in the P11 has been done with the highest engineering expertise and we know they won't break," says Erik Kauppi, sales engineer at Caldaro. "We're determined that our pedals will not be the cause of unexpected failures."

Minimized components

Conventional pedals use a stand-alone sensor connected to the foot plate's movement. Caldaro has an entirely new mindset for the technical solution. When you look closely inside the pedal, it looks boring because of the protected and non-visible mechanical components. However, fewer loose parts means fewer ways to break down.

"It is one reason as to why this pedal is prepared to meet future safety demands," adds Kauppi. "Another

reason is that the P11 offers two independent output signals, meaning two separate systems in a single body."

Dream pedal

When Caldaro presented the P11 pedal at the Bauma 2019 trade fair, it garnered a lot of interest and positive feedback. Many machine designers are intrigued by the simplistic design and appreciate that it will make it easier for them to integrate it into the machines they design.

Caldaro's enduring focus on creative solutions to both mechanical and electronic engineering issues allows the company to offer truly distinctive products that are unparalleled in the industry.

"The P11 pedal is so unique that we have applied for the European Union Intellectual Property Office," says Talamo. "We care intensely about design, and it matters that all our products are extremely well thought-out. Design and function are at one." iVT



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