



Making Life Easier

Automation ensures comfort and is easy on the wallet

The roller shutters open in the morning as the sun begins to shine, and the patio awning automatically extends as the sun blazes down in the afternoon – the trend towards roller shutter and sun protection automation looks likely to continue. Where once the ultimate selling point was “comfort”, today the principal of “energy saving” is also a reason for purchasing automation systems. It is the high-technology behind the scenes that enables this level of comfort.

Whether cooker, coffee machine or heating system – almost everything in modern homes works at the push of a button or fully automatically. Consequently, roller shutters are now rarely individually opened and closed by a belt, but at the push of a button. The first generation buttons were quickly joined by electronic solutions which raise and lower roller shutters fully automatically at the desired time. “This enables additional functions such as a holiday function, which, by automatically opening and closing roller shutters, creates the perception that your home is occupied even when you are away, thus deterring burglars,” explains Erwin Pauwels, head of marketing at Becker-Antriebe GmbH. The German company offers roller shutter and sun protection drives with the corresponding control units and automation systems.

Energy efficiency demands progress

These high-tech features were initially purchased by homeowners who wished to treat themselves to a bit of luxury. However, in 2002, the first energy saving regulation (EnEv) came into force in Germany. This regulation specifies how energy efficient a building must be and has been gradually tightened over the years. The latest regulation came into force on 1 January 2009, and the – even stricter – energy saving regulation EnEV 2012 is already on the starting blocks.



The regulation presents a convincing argument for automation: During the winter, closed roller shutters reduce heat loss through windows by up to 40%. And in the summer, sun protection systems and roller shutters reduce the temperature in homes, meaning air conditioning systems are often unnecessary. The energy saving potential is enormous: According to a study by the Physibel-Institute Maldegem in Belgium, modern sun protection systems can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) required for the heating and cooling of buildings by approximately 111 million metric tons throughout Europe.

Value enhancement due to energy saving

But also homeowners who wish to rent out their properties – i.e. where energy costs are generally paid for by the tenants – would be well advised to take a closer look at the actual heating costs when constructing a new building or renovating an old one: The Deutsche Energie-Agentur GmbH (dena) and the German Rental Association (DMB) stress that tenants should always ask to see the building passport (Energieausweis), which the new EnEV demands for almost all buildings, before signing a rental agreement. “This creates additional selling points for roller shutter specialists: An investment in automation systems also increases the actual value of the property thanks to the favourable energy consumption values specified in the building passport,” says Erwin Pauwels.

Outstanding comfort

Roller shutter automation systems make energy saving even more comfortable, e.g. with the aid of the timer Centronic TimeControl TC511. The standard version of this timer opens and closes roller shutters at the precise time in the mornings and evenings – if desired, it also functions according to sunrise and sunset times. The roller shutters can travel to intermediate positions from either the top or bottom position. And with the retrofittable light and twilight sensor SC43 the rooms can even boast automatic sun protection.



Automation in its most attractive form: The handheld transmitters of the Centronic-II series are not only practical ...

Automation systems are easy to use and available in stylish designs. Both these criteria are fulfilled by Becker handheld transmitters of the Centronic-II series, which have just won an international design prize: The MC441-II and its big brother the TC445-II have been awarded the “red dot design award”. It is one of the most coveted design awards worldwide. Becker-Antriebe has always placed great emphasis on the style and effectiveness of its

products. “We are overjoyed by this tribute – it underlines the high quality which we offer all of our customers“, says Erwin Pauwels

The key: High-tech

Save more energy and increase the comfort of your home – this is only possible with sophisticated technology. Example: The handheld transmitter TC4410. It offers 10 freely assignable channels – and can therefore be used to control roller shutters, sun protection systems, lighting control systems and radio controlled sockets. In the best-case scenario, just one handheld transmitter can be used to operate all the roller shutters throughout a house or apartment. However, the TC4410 can also be used to program scenarios: At the push of a button, the roller shutters travel to the intermediate position and a standard lamp is switched on – allowing you to watch TV without the annoying glare of the sun on the screen. “These exclusive comfort features can also be used to attract more discerning customers,” comments the marketing manager.



reddot design award
winner 2010

... but have also been awarded the "red dot design award" for their impressive design.

Today, there are numerous easy ways to install home automation. Furthermore, the retrofitting of existing electrical drives with respective automation systems does not have to be expensive: "Radio-controlled solutions are easy to install – and provide outstanding comfort without having to lay messy cables throughout the house", explains Erwin Pauwels.

Building automation is in trend

In almost all new commercial buildings, the roller shutters, awnings and blinds are integrated in the same central control system that coordinates the air-conditioning, lighting and security systems.

Becker-Antriebe therefore offers most of its drives as SMI versions.

SMI stands for "Standard Motor Interface": Eight years ago, seven innovative industry manufacturers – including Becker-Antriebe – developed these digital interfaces specifically for electrical drives in roller shutter and sun protection systems. SMI drives can be easily integrated into building automation systems equipped with the bus system EIB/KNX (European Installation Bus) – i.e. the standard for digital building automation. "The idea of networking building automation is now also popular in residential properties – incentive enough for our development department to design innovative solutions for the automation systems of tomorrow," claims Erwin Pauwels.



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