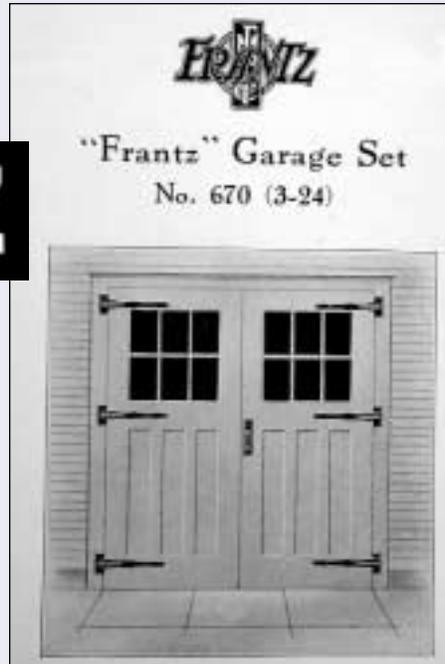


Frantz Manufacturing Company



ca. 1995



Frantz garage door hardware, 1922.



The 1959 Filuma helped to put Frantz on the national garage door map.



The Frantz plant in Sterling in 1979. The darker section in the front center is the oldest portion of the plant.

Milestones

- 1909 Frantz Specialty Mfg. Co. is chartered in Sterling, Ill., by Peter Frantz and others, making "Lightning Lamp Adjusters."
- 1911 Reorganizes as Frantz Mfg. Co. and begins making glide hanger and barn door track, as well as gate latches, hinges, and rollers.
- 1920s In addition to other hardware, Frantz makes a variety of hardware for swinging and folding barn and garage doors.
- 1940 Converts production to cots, cot hardware, and ammunition box handles for the war effort.
- 1950 The firm begins making sectional garage door hardware and selling wood door sections from Quality Wood Products of Merrill, Wis.
- 1956 Purchases Quality Wood Products, changing its name to Northern Door Corporation, a Frantz subsidiary.
- 1958 Buys controlling interest in Sedcon, a maker of residential and commercial garage door operators in nearby Rock Falls, Ill.
- 1959 Introduces Filuma, the first successful lightweight fiberglass garage door. Their first door produced in Sterling, Filuma maintains a dominant position in the fiberglass door market for more than 30 years.
- 1973 Purchases Rowe Mfg. Co. of Galesburg, Ill., a garage door manufacturer. The acquisition allows Frantz to (1) develop a network of professional installing dealers instead of lumber yards, and (2) add Rowe's steel door to Frantz's wood and fiberglass product lines.
- 1981 Builds a wood door factory and distribution center in Roseburg, Ore., closer to the wood supply. The move enables the growth of Frantz's western market. The Merrill factory eventually closes in 1990.
- 1988 Purchases Century Wood Door's Canadian door division and sells wood garage doors under the Canadian Garage Door name.
- 1993 Its building products division encompasses about 700,000 square feet and employs about 200, selling its (mostly residential) wood, steel, and fiberglass doors throughout North America. Its primary market is the retail chain, selling through smaller dealers, regional chain stores, and lumber yards.
- 1994 Wayne-Dalton purchases the Frantz Building Products Division. The acquisition allows Wayne-Dalton to advance further into retail markets.

Sources: History of Frantz Mfg. Co., by Bill McNinch, 1994.