

It all began with a hardware store in Hjo in 1841...



No. 55 Sandtorget, where alderman Synnergren started his hardware store in 1841. It was situated where the two-storey building is shown on the left of the photograph.

In 1841 alderman Emil Synnergren opened a hardware store in Sandtorget, Hjo, central Sweden. This was the very beginning of Josef Kihlberg AB. He could hardly have dreamed of what the little store would develop into.

What did Hjo look like in 1841? Small, low wooden houses, cobbled streets, activity and movement in the harbour. A lively and appealing market in the town square.

At that time there were laws to limit trade guilds and business, only permitting manufacturing and trading to take place in Sweden's cities.

From the middle of the 19th century rapid

changes began. The restrictive laws were abolished in 1864, after which trade could flourish in both city and country. By 1880 factories began to appear.

Also in 1880, Emil Synnergren bought the property then known as Långgatan 8 in Stora Torget, to which that same year he moved his hardware store.

Four years later, in 1884, August Källmark took over both the property and the store, which were renamed to "Aug. Källmarks Hardware Store". Business continued to prosper and a few years later August Källmark found he needed a new shop assistant. He took on his nephew Josef.

The year was 1887. At that time Hjo had a population of about 1500. The 16-year old Josef Kihlberg had just started work in his uncle's hardware store. He was hardworking and enthusiastic, and soon rose to become "head" of the shop. At the age of 28 he became a partner in the company.

In 1901

August Källmark died and Josef Kihlberg took over the business. A share agreement was drawn up between Källmark's widow and the young Josef Kihlberg. The partners would have equal shareholdings and divide the profits. Josef Kihlberg would run the company and receive an annual salary of 1,500 kronor.



Josef Kihlberg and his wife Signe in 1905

Josef Kihlberg soon learned to think independently and take his own initiatives. When a customer once complained about the price of wagon axles, it made Josef Kihlberg think:

"Why shouldn't a mechanical workshop in Hjo take up the manufacture of wagon axles? There are already suitable premises here, and plenty of skilled workers too."



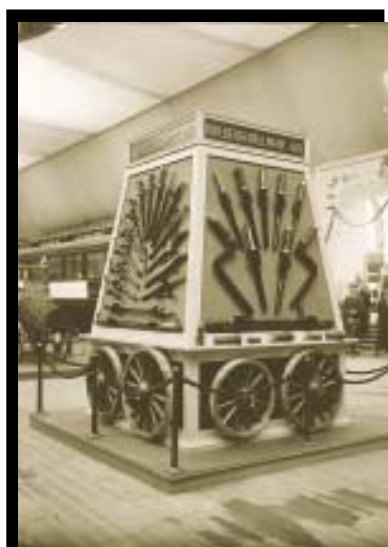
In 1907 the name was changed to "Kihlberg & Källmark Hardware Store".

He soon realized his dream

At the same time he started selling in bulk to hard-ware dealers all over Sweden. The sales reached such a pitch that in **1909** Josef Kihlberg decided the time was ripe to set up his own factory to manufacture wagon springs.

Josef Kihlberg's interests were not confined to small-scale production. In **1912** he began selling British-made Imperial typewriters. This was the foundation of a line of business that would soon become an extensive office equipment importing operation.

In **1918** Josef Kihlberg bought the Långgatan 8 property and also took over its business.



Josef Kihlberg's wagon axles and springs soon become renowned for their reliability.



Josef Kihlberg

WAGON AXLE SALES

increased so much that the factory was soon selling its entire production through Josef Kihlberg. This meant as a result that other small workshops wanted to join in, and so Josef Kihlberg quickly became a combination of wholesaler and the small company employer for the district.

SALES OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT were also highly successful and grew to include a number of brand names. Later these sales were transferred to a specialist distributor. Josef Kihlberg was never afraid to try something new, and in **1927** he also became the Skaraborg county agent for Ford cars.

Josef Kihlberg died in **1931** at the age of 60, and was succeeded by his 18-year old son Sven Kihlberg.

The company grew and developed further

1939 AB A Orton Machine Business, which had a sales organisation for office equipment, was taken over. This company also had thriving sales of stapling machines and staples, imported from the American company Bostitch.

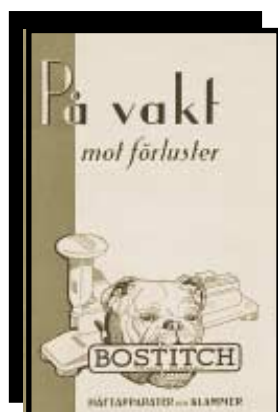


1942 The foundry that stood on the present factory site was purchased.

1943 Wartime caused great difficulties in importing. Josef Kihlberg AB thus started its own production of staplers and stapling machines. Soon the stapler production met all of Sweden's needs, and exports began.

1946 The first workshop on the present factory site was commissioned.

1949 Sven Kihlberg died, only 36 years old.



The cover of a Bostitch advertising folder



The "Handbook for treadle stapler" cover.

The emphasis was now definitely on staplers and staples



1957 Workshop no. 2 was erected on the present site



1982 The spring factory was shut down after unbroken production since 1909.

1965 Production of staples and tools by now represented 90% of the total sales.

1968 the Hjo hardware store was closed.

1970 Josef Kihlberg AB set up its own marketing company in Finland.

1981 In order to safeguard the supply of

1976 Josef Kihlberg's grandson Ove Larsson became the company's owner.



raw material for staples, the Sjötofta wire drawing works was purchased.

1984 Josef Kihlberg AB established its own sales companies in the USA and Norway.

1985 Haubold-Airfix GmbH was acquired. The sales companies in Belgium were also taken over.

1988 A new central warehouse of 3 000 m² was erected at Hjo.

The 150th anniversary in 1991

The anniversary was celebrated with customers and staff from all over the world. A memento was presented to each employee who had been with the company for more than 25 years.



1992 A distribution company, Haubold-Embrag AG was set up in Switzerland.

1993 The two sales companies in the USA were fused into one, becoming Josef Kihlberg of America, Inc., based in Syracuse, N.Y.

1995 Manufacture of the company's first stapler ended. This manual stapler had been in production for 50 years, during which time over 500.000 units were made.



Haubold 1897 – 1997

It is 1897. On Kaiser-Wilhelm Strasse in Leipzig two men, O. Hoppe and R. Reiter, start the company O. Hoppe & Co. At first they manufacture bookbinding and packaging machinery, followed later by wire stapling machines and staplers.

In 1906 R. Reiter died, and O. Hoppe decided to leave the company. R. Reiter's family continued the work and the company grew in pace with that of technical development, which was rapid at that time. In 1913 it obtained the German patent for glued staple strips and in 1914 adopted the trade mark Bukama, derived from the German words Buchbinderi and Kartonagen Maschinen. At

the end of the First World War exports could begin in earnest, mainly to the USA and Japan.



Ernst Haubold

Ernst Haubold was taken on as technical manager in 1922 and became a partner in the company two years later. At that time the first glued staple strips were manufactured, in accordance with the 1913 patent.



The patent application for glued staple strips dated 1913.

The company continued to grow and in 1932 Jakobowitz of Berlin was acquired, an enterprise that also manufactured staplers and staples. The operation was moved to Leipzig and merged into the existing business.



The wholly owned property on Könnertitzstrasse in Leipzig, where both the office and the factory were located after the First World War.

And then the Second World War started in 1939

Production was reduced and in 1944 several bombs hit the factory, being almost totally burned out. In 1946 work restarted on a limited scale, but Leipzig was now in East Germany and the company was nationalised in 1949.

Ernst Haubold's son Dieter had, prior to this, founded a successor to Bukama GmbH in Hannover. Machinery was taken from the Leipzig

factory, and manufacturing of stapling and nailing tools began, with three employees in a 60 m² locale. In 1949 Ernst Haubold joined them in Hannover. A nailing pistol was developed and achieved great success due to all the post-war building activity. This enabled a move to larger premises.



Manufacturing staples in the factory on Lütowstrasse.



Construction of the new factory at Hemmingen.

The new company developed quickly

1956 The company moved into larger premises on Lütowstrasse in Hannover. A compressed air driven pistol for the furniture industry was developed, under the name Bukama. In the same year **haubold®** a sales company “Company Dieter Haubold Industrial Nailing Tools” was founded and started selling compressed air driven pistols both in Germany and to other countries, with a workforce now exceeding 200.

1962 The present factory was built in Hemmingen, just outside Hannover. This was the year when the “G tool” was introduced, which paved the way for Haubold’s rapid growth during the 1960s and 1970s.

1975 The company now had 400 employees and owned subsidiaries in the USA, Canada, Belgium and Denmark.

1981 Hilti bought Haubold and merged it with a company it already owned in the same line of Business, Airfix GmbH. The new company was

named Haubold –Airfix GmbH and a product range for the building industry was developed.

1984. The office machinery range that had been marketed under the Bukama trade name but was outside Hilti’s core business was sold to Bostitch.

1985 Josef Kihlberg AB bought Haubold-Airfix GmbH and changed the name to Haubold-Kihlberg GmbH.

1986 In order to supply the American market, Haubold set up a sales company in the USA, Haubold of America, in Morristown TN.

1991 The Canadian production company ASM, located in Toronto, was sold.

1992 Wholly owned sales company Haubold-Embrag, was established in Switzerland and joint ownership was arranged with an Austrian sales company, Heftpohl GmbH.

1995 A number of partnership agreements were signed with German material suppliers, including Eternit and Fels.



The German Haubold-Kihlberg GmbH plant