Designed by Aspect Furniture, the all new WorkTote allows staff to freely move about the fitout from their locker to workpoint whilst retaining their essential work tools nearby.

The unit is constructed from injected moulded plastic and is stocked in a range of 5 colours. Customised colours are available for production runs of 250 units and above. The slimline, foldable handle is constructed from black powdercoated aluminium.

WorkTote has also been designed to function as an underdesk drawer and easily slides into a swivelling bracket which is mounted under worktops.

One half of the unit has removable dividers for personal items and stationery, the balance is for storage of files and tablets.

Additional accessory options include the PaperTaco and Pen Bucket which are removable, enabling staff to locate these separately in lockers or on worktops.

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DESIGN STORY: WORKTOTE

Aspect designers Oliver Bucher, Ryan Geels and Hamish McIntosh share some retrospective thoughts on the creative process behind the latest addition to Aspect range.

“As it is with many Aspect products, the WorkTote was designed in response to market demand,” says Oliver. “A number of clients who’d made the transition to hot desking work environments asked us to find an easy way for staff to store key items and transfer them between desks and office lockers.”

Recognising a great design opportunity and challenge for some of the newly recruited designers, Aspect Managing Director Richard Simmons kick-started the process with a brainstorming session. Contributing his own experience and expertise while giving the team free rein to come up with the solution.

“In the months that followed we worked through a series of conceptual iterations,” says Ryan. “One time the boss returned from Auckland with the solution to a particular problem scribbled on an airline sick bag. It was great to know his mind had been ticking away as busily as ours!”
In developing the initial concept the designers worked in synch with the sales team to incorporate the features that their clients were looking for.

"These criteria formed the core of the project, but we also took the opportunity to expand on them with the aim of integrating additional functionality," says Ryan. "We wanted the new product to be a genuine reflection of the Aspect brand, and a recognisable part of our product family both aesthetically and functionally."

The WorkTote you see today, though simple in its final manifestation, is the result of many hours of fine tuning, evaluation, testing and retesting.

"Rapid prototyping is a great method for trialling early manifestations, but the real challenge comes later when transforming the finished design into an injection mouldable product," says Hamish.

"That's where our collaboration with the manufacturing team proved its worth. Together we came up with a way to create a product that is feasible and sustainable to manufacture, without sacrificing its design, usability and visual aesthetic as initially intended."

The creative process behind the WorkTote is typical of the 'Aspect way', highly collaborative, intensively researched and meticulously developed to meet all the criteria of good design, user appeal, practical functionality, efficient production and affordable price.

"We're very pleased with the end result," says Oliver. "It expresses our commitment to delivering flexible, innovative solutions and complements the rest of the Aspect range. We think it's a winner and trust that our clients will too."