

Re: MANUFACTURING SOFTWARE

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2007-05/msg03792.html>

- *From:* "Michael A. Terrell" <mike.terrell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 29 May 2007 19:47:38 GMT
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Joerg wrote:

Yes, that's a different scenario. Yet even there a pull system can work well. If the guy in production thinks he'll need 50 feedthroughs during the day plus some other stuff he could just go and get them. Provided there is an ironclad thoroughness in checking the stuff out in the computer. Otherwise Kanban can land you in really hot water. I had the impression that companies sometimes clung to the old concept of kitting because only very few people would be trusted with materials management. That's one of the things I changed when I was "da boss".

We had three people in the stockrooms pulling all parts for each job. The parts and paperwork were put into an antistatic tray and moved in the computer from planning to production. If each assembler pulled their own parts there would have been 75 people in each other's way. This system prevented a job being started that was missing parts. It also allowed the head of production to walk up to someone and hand them a critical order that had a higher priority than what they were already working on. This usually only happened when a work order had parts on backorder, and the parts had just cleared incoming inspection. Common parts were in the main stockroom, while bulk parts and sheet metal were stored across the hall in the secondary stockroom.

The assemblers had to be certified for each item they could build. When they finished a job it was moved in the computer to the next level, and they picked up their next job from a list for their department, based on required lead times for shipping and what they were certified to build. Some items were a single level, while others were multiple levels. Single level would be the wire room or cable line, but PC boards were mounted into their cases and the harness attached. Then it went to the module line for testing and calibration or alignment. It was a complex MRP system, but management, the head of production, and the workers could track the location of everything in the company.

The test department was allowed to keep a small stock of parts for

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select in test and production repairs. These were exchanged when your stock was depleted. Customer support and out of warranty repairs were considered a separate division, and had their own inventory. It was moved from California to Florida, which turned out to be a wise choice. The old man who ran it died about six months later, and it would have been a nightmare to shut it down and move it if he had still been out west.

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Service to my country? Been there, Done that, and I've got my DD214 to prove it.

Member of DAV #85.

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