Performance Report

Steren Electronics

Challenge:
The stock area was moving to a new warehouse. Needed to reduce the number of picking errors of similar looking products.

Solution:
Install horizontal carousel system solution consisting of 2 pods of WH-50 horizontal carousels; one pod of three and one pod of two - 5 total with personnel lifts, Lightree, Sortbar and software.

Result:
Reduced the time to pick a days worth of orders by approximately 3 hours and reduced picking personnel from 9 to 2 for loose piece orders.

White Horizontal Carousel Systems provided greater productivity with increased pick rates, improved inventory control and reduce floor space.

Steren Electronics manufactures products for broadband cable and satellite TV operators, cabling and telephony systems contractors, and building contractors, among others. Steren offers one of the largest electronics product portfolios and constantly develops new, advanced products. Based in San Diego, they are a leader in the design, engineering and manufacture of high quality communication products. 2006 marked Steren's 50 year anniversary of service to the industry.

Steren first heard about White Systems when they purchased a pre-owned White carousel system. At the time they contracted White Systems to perform the installation at their new facility. Now with a total of 5 White horizontal carousel systems on the floor they have realized greater productivity with increased pick rates, improved inventory control and dramatically reduced floor space requirements.

Making 8 hours of work fit into 5

The Horizontal carousels are the perfect fit for Steren's type of products. They often pick individual pieces, inner cartons, or full cases and the horizontal style lends itself well to that application. Steren reduced the number of picking personnel from 9 to 2 for loose piece orders and they have reduced the time to pick a day's worth of orders by approximately 3 hours.

Space Savings and Pick Accuracy

Steren needed to concentrate their open stock area into a smaller footprint for moving into a new warehouse along with four of their sister companies. The carousel systems allowed them to save over 30% space. They also provided greatly improved picking accuracy. Their large number of similar looking items would lend themselves to mistakes since pickers would often grab an adjacent item by mistake.

The vertical Lightree III systems, aligned with every shelf level on their Horizontal Carousel, show operators where to pick and how much to pick from the carousel to providing Steren the highest levels of productivity and accuracy. Each module has a large, one-inch, dual color, 10 character alphanumeric display plus two direction arrows.

The horizontal Sortbar III shows the operator where to place a product to complete an order, increasing accuracy and picking speed. A light activates to indicate the tote position on the workstation. Each module has a large one-inch, dual color, 6 character alphanumeric display.

"The increased productivity we get from the White carousels has really benefited our business – a major improvement in our material handling operations" -**Joe Gold, IT Manager of Steren**

"The increased productivity we get from the White carousels has really benefited our business – a major improvement in our material handling operations", said Joe Gold, IT Manager of Steren. "And the service and support we receive from White Systems is outstanding."

Advanced Software Solutions

Steren uses the Warehouse Librarian Software ™ a flexible and scalable warehouse control application that can be used to perform all tasks associated with carousel bulk storage management such as picking, stocking, counting, and inventory tracking. It runs on the latest Microsoft Windows™ operating systems, and features a SQL database as the heart of the system. Warehouse Librarian is designed to eliminate the paperwork normally found in non-automated warehouse systems and is a perfect fit for the Steren installation. Their operators need only to pick or store items as directed by the system. When an operator confirms that a task has been completed, the software's positive acknowledgement feature reports the activity to the host, keeping the valuable inventory information up to date.

Steren utilizes JD Edwards ERP software to manage the business side of the solution. Warehouse Librarian Software ™ provides the interface to JD Edwards which allows full real time control in the warehouse to manage inventory, cycle counting, RF, receiving, and consolidation.

White

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