

A wide-angle photograph of a large industrial warehouse. The space is filled with tall, metal shelving units that stretch into the distance. These units are densely packed with numerous cardboard boxes, which are stacked high on pallets. The floor is a smooth, dark grey concrete. The lighting is bright and even, highlighting the scale and organization of the facility.

Finding Balance: How One Manufacturer Created Their Level Best.

Who is WEGMANN Automotive?

WEGMANN is the world-leading producer of balance weights (wheel weights) designed for use in passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, buses and a variety of industrial applications. They are a supplier to all the major automotive companies, as well as major spare parts retailers and battery bushing industry. The group, which is based in Munich, Germany has a global workforce of more than 5,000 employees.

The Situation

Prior to meeting Barcom, WEGMANN was managing their inventory using a manual, paper-based process. As their business grew, it became increasingly difficult to manage demand in an efficient and cost-effective way.

- Order picking included the use of a dot matrix printer to print pick lists, and six Honeywell label printers dedicated to printing labels.
- Palletizing and labeling is done by hand.
- A staging room with dedicated personnel ensures that labels print correctly.
- A hand-written 3-part bill of lading (BOL) is used when shipments are picked up.

Warehouse Workload:

- Over 2,500 SKUs in inventory
- 65,000 square foot warehouse (with additional warehouses in AZ & Canada)
- Over 44,000 boxes shipped daily

WEGMANN not only needed a way to automate the labor-intensive labeling work, but also needed a more efficient way to track inventory, easily locate product, and streamline the picking, packing and shipping process.

The Solution

Barcom's **transACTION** software suite integrated with their ERP solution to accommodate the inventory functions they were performing manually. "Physical inventory used to be an ordeal," said Matt Jones, VP Operations. "Prior to the new process, we hired temps to help us key in all the counts; now it's done in about 4 hours with our existing team and reports are sent to the auditors with a click of a button," said Jones.



The Technology

Time consuming transactions were simplified using **Honeywell CK71 Mobile Computers** to automate processes. These devices greatly improved inventory accuracy, reduced order errors, and gave worker productivity a boost when performing these warehouse functions:

- Order Picking
- Inventory Transfers
- Cycle Counting
- Putaways
- Loading & Staging
- Receiving

To make customer compliance labeling easier, Barcom developed a custom mount for their **Honeywell PX4i Industrial Bar Code Label Printers**. This allowed them to attach the printer directly to a pallet jack, which simplified order picking down to a “peel and present” process, so all the worker has to do is affix the label to the carton.

“Barcom really helped us create a more cost-effective, efficient solution for our order processing,” said Jones. “So much so that we’ve even gained more space—what was once our labeling room is now a conference room where all our trainings are held.”

The Result

- ROI achieved in under 12 months
- Inventory accuracy improved dramatically—big cost savings
- Warehouse productivity improved 250%
- Totally paperless, down to the bill of lading
- Cycle counts are routinely taken instead of shutting down for a physical count.
- Everything integrates into their ERP system

“With a project like this, you want a provider who will be there for you from beginning to end,” said Jones. “Barcom’s motto is ‘We Make IT Work,’ and they mean it. We truly appreciate their partnership.”

Would you be willing to make improvements in your warehouse if you could recover your costs in 12 months or less?

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