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How does FastFetch Compare to Other Picking Technologies?

FastFetch Leapfrogs These Competing Products!

Pick-to-Light: Uses numeric displays to direct employees to retrieve products for one order at a time. Picking is confirmed using push buttons on the storage bays.

Put-to-Cart: Uses numeric displays on picking carts to direct employees where to place products for multiple orders. Picking is confirmed using push buttons on the carts.
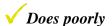
Voice Picking: Uses Radio Frequency (RF) communication between a central host computer and pickers wearing headsets to verbally direct them to the storage bays and tell them the required quantities to pick. Picking is verbally confirmed by computer recognition of spoken words uttered by the pickers.

Description	FastFetch	Pick-to-Light	Put-to-Cart	Voice
Does not require a costly, central control computer	✓	✗	✗	✗
Does not require a hardwired link with control computer	✓	✗	✓	✓
Does not require an active RF link to control computer	✓	✓	✗	✗
Can train users new to the technology in about 10 minutes	✓	✗	✗	✗
Controls all picking or putting with a standard Windows-based Tablet PC	✓	✗	?	✗
Combines voice, light-directed and wireless barcode scanning technologies	✓	✗	✗	✗
Directs pickers to fill multiple (batch) orders on a cart with one trip through the picking area	✓	✗	✓	✓ (poorly)
Recognizes when a target picking location is reached and says "STOP" to alert the picker	✓	✗	✗	✗
Clusters pick/puts for 1-to-many operation	✓	✗	✓	✓ (poorly)
Clusters picks/put for many-to-1 operation	✓	✓	✗	✓ (poorly)
Senses when other pickers are in a bay and automatically "skips" to return for picking later	✓	✗	✗	✗
Senses equipment problems and automatically changes to a backup method, e.g., barcode scanning	✓	✗	✗	✗
Uses separate picking technologies that match the needs of high and low-velocity items, reducing total system cost	✓	✗	✗	✗
Uses a speaker or headset to give voice commands telling pickers what quantity to pick	✓	✗	✗	✓
Does not require speaking each word several times to "train" the system to recognize each picker's voice	✓	✓	✓	✗
Does not have problems with speech recognition due to noise or changes in the picker's voice	✓	✓	✓	✗
Uses "buttonless" proximity switches to confirm picks instead of mechanical push buttons or voice confirmation	✓	✗	✗	✗

Legend: ✓ **Does Well**   ✗ **Can't do**   ? **May be able to do**   ✓ **Does poorly**

Description	FastFetch	Pick-to-Light	Put-to-Cart	Voice
Uses infrared transmissions from a Tablet PC to change firmware in light modules/controllers/transceivers - without opening these components	✓	✗	✗	✗
Can be configured for multiple modes of operation: pick-from-bay (standard logistics), put-to-bay (Put-to-Light or reverse logistics) and conventional Pick-to-Light (pick to box on conveyor)	✓	✗	✗	✓ (yellow)
Picks multiple units of measure and confirms accuracy	✓	✗	✗	✓ (yellow)
Picks different SKUs from the same location and confirms accuracy	✓	✗	✓	✓ (yellow)
Expands system without degradation in performance (scalable)	✓	✗	✗	✗
Can force retrieval of correct lot (serial) number or capture of lot number during picking	✓	✗	?	✗
Includes a real-time, web based Performance Reporting System to monitors productivity/status of pickers, orders, departments or products	✓	?	?	?
Optimizes batching of orders to reduce picking time	✓	✗	✗	✗
Supports "Dynamic Slotting"	✓	✗	✗	✗
Supports "Dynamic Put Walls"	✓	✗	✗	✗
Supports LEDs used as light modules	✓	✗	?	✗
Can speak any language (defaults to preferred language of the picker)	✓	✗	✗	?
Uses "bucket brigade" methodology for dynamic pick zone assignment with picker accountability	✓	?	?	✗
Directs early offloading of completed orders (e.g., onto a conveyor) at strategic points in the picking path	✓	✗	✗	✗
Requests download of next "best" order to replace offloaded order, based on the fastest order completion time	✓	✗	✗	✗
Relative system costs	$	>3 x $	>2 x $	>1.5 x $
Typical ROI (varies widely by client company)	3-12 months	24-36 months	18-24 months	12-24 months

Legend: ✓ *Does Well*   ✗ *Can't do*   ? *May be able to do*   ✓ *Does poorly*