

“Beyond” Pick-to-Light Order Fulfillment System (US Patents 6,775,588 / 8,019,463)

Innovatively uses Bluetooth bar code scanning and Light-Directed picking to greatly improve operations in distribution and manufacturing environments.

Simple, Efficient, Affordable Order Fulfillment

Lighted displays tell where to pick products from DC locations and place into order containers

Features

- Ideal for eCommerce orders with limited SKU counts or store orders with mixed SKUs
- Supports barcode scanning of order boxes at first and any other picking bays to ensure sequence compliance
- Enables early removal of completed orders
- Requires no mechanical buttons (that eventually wear out) to be pressed to confirm picking completion
- Light modules with light proximity switches inside sealed Lexan shields enable use in wet or caustic environments
- Interfaces with existing customer WMS for order downloads and results uploads
- Can be used as part of FastFetch patented Pick/Put cart system
- Cost is low since all light directed hardware is designed and sold by FastFetch Corporation



How it works (many variations on the example below are available)

1. Setup
 - a. Raceways (black 3-sided channels with removable “slide on” red lenses) are attached above or below each shelf.
 - b. Light modules are inserted in the raceways and daisy chained together with inexpensive CAT5 cable with modular clips on the ends. One or more controller modules connect the light modules to a control PC.
 - c. Picking locations are associated with FastFetch light addresses.
 - d. FastFetch lights are “grouped” into sets based on an area covered (zone) by a picker.
2. Interfacing
 - a. Host to FastFetch
 - i. A set of order lines (a “Wave”) is sent from a host WMS, OMS, ERP or other automated system **OR**
 - ii. A 1-D or 2-D barcode is printed by the FastFetch or ...host system on a label attached to each carton.
 - iii. Each order line minimally contains order number, picking location and picking quantity.
 - b. FastFetch to Host
 - i. A set of order completion or shorted records is sent to the host system **OR**
 - ii. Scanning the barcode on the carton label by the host system signals order completion or shorted status.
3. Execution
 - a. When a carton enters the FastFetch Pick-to-Light system the barcode on the carton is scanned.
 - b. The required items to pick are retrieved from the FastFetch database or from the 2-D label on the carton.
 - c. Light modules in the zone are illuminated indicating which items and which quantities are to be picked.
 - d. An LED on each light module is flashed to call attention to the required item locations.
 - e. As each item is picked, the picker’s hand, or the picked item, is waved in front of the flashing LED to signal picking completion and extinguish the flashing LED.
 - f. If an item must be shorted, a barcode signifying “items with flashing LEDs were not picked” is scanned.
 - g. After all items in the zone have been picked or shorted, a special “message” light is illuminated with the word **ΠΑΣΣ** and an LED in the light is flashed. The picker will push the carton into the next zone and touch the flashing LED. The process is repeated from step 3c.
 - h. When the carton completes the last zone the words **ΔovE** or **HoAA** will be displayed in the light module indicating success or failure in completing the order.

Selected Clients



One of the big 3 auto manufacturers in Detroit
Not revealed due to confidentiality restriction

