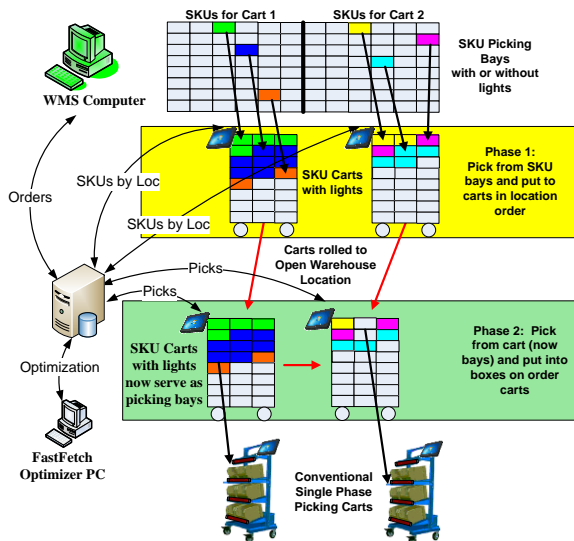


2-Phase Dynamic Slotting while Picking (US Patents 6,775,588 / 8,019,463)

Innovatively combines Voice, Bluetooth barcode scanning and **coupled** Light-Directed picking to improve operations in distribution and manufacturing environments.



Slot Products during Each Wave

Slotting is sometimes used by progressive companies to reduce picking time by moving commonly ordered products (aka “high velocity SKUs”) to a few aisles of the picking area and consequently reduce walking time during picking.

The primary drawbacks to traditional slotting are the labor to physically relocate products and the cessation or slowdown of picking while products are being moved. Because of these drawbacks many companies never or rarely slot their inventory.

Summary

FastFetch Corporation has developed a picking method that slots products for each wave of orders without relocating inventory. Using its patented, light directed hardware that simultaneously uses light modules on both picking bays and large “bulk carts” with tablet PCs, FastFetch uses a variation of its 2-Phase picking method to perform dynamic slotting.

Phase 1

- Dispatch a collection of large carts (“bulk carts” with perhaps 50 or more slots on each cart) to mutually exclusive partitions of the picking area (computed by FastFetch to balance the picking load) to gather required products in aggregate to satisfy all orders in the wave.
- Pick products in bulk required for all orders in the wave and place the picked products into cart slots. A tablet PC will illuminate light modules adjacent to each slot to designate placement location and quantity.
- Move these bulk carts to an empty area of the warehouse and park them for Phase 2.
- The onboard tablet PC directs the cart electronics to become picking bays with light modules on each slot. These bulk carts now become a small, perfectly slotted forward picking area!

Phase 2

- Dispatch a set of “order carts” containing multiple totes or shipping containers to the warehouse area containing the bulk carts.
- Roll the order carts in to the slotted area of picking bays (formerly bulk carts during Phase 1).
- The tablet PC detects when a target bay is reached and verbally directs the picker to “STOP”.
- The tablet PC sends an infrared command to the target bay to illuminate bay light module(s), designating which product(s) should be picked, and illuminates cart light modules (adjacent to customer orders) designating where to place the picked products.
- This “cluster picking/putting” process (simultaneously using lights on both bay and cart locations) continues until all picking from bays in the slotted area has been completed.

Selected Clients



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

