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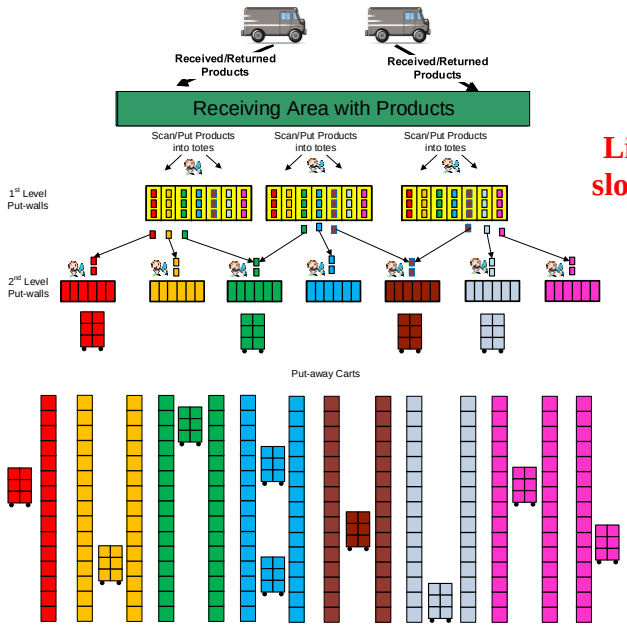
Reverse Logistics and Putaway

(US Patents 6,775,588 / 8,019,463)



Simple, Efficient, Affordable Received/Returned Product Putaway

Lighted displays tell where to put product into put wall slots. Carts and bays with lights make putaway efficient.

Features

- **Sorts incoming products using put walls**
- **Put walls use low-cost LED strips that illuminate to designate location for putting scanned product**
- **Supports multiple putters using different color LEDs**
- **Uses wireless Bluetooth scanners**
- **Optional cascaded put walls enable sorting to as fine a putaway granularity location as desired**
- **Putaway process can use FastFetch lighted carts with optional lighted picking bays**
- **All light directed hardware designed by FastFetch**

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

1. **Step 1:** ***Map putaway area into "sections"***
   a. Each section is comprised of one or more contiguous picking bays.
   b. Each section will correspond to a slot in a put wall.
2. **Step 2:** ***Sort products into totes targeted for putaway sections***
   a. Gather products from receiving or from returns department after inspection.
   b. Tote and put wall location barcodes are scanned as empty totes are placed into put wall slots.
   c. Each product piece is scanned and an LED segment adjacent to one of the put wall slots is illuminated with a color associated with a scanner used by a put wall worker.
   d. The worker places the product piece into a tote in the put wall adjacent to the illuminated LED segment corresponding to the putter's scanner color. Scan of the next product, or a command barcode, extinguishes the illuminated LED segment.
   e. Several workers, each with a different scanner color, can scan items from the same or different receiving containers to increase throughput speed.
   f. When a tote is full the worker pushes the tote to the rear of the put wall slot and onto a downward slanted track that holds several totes waiting for cart pickup. An empty replacement tote is placed in the put wall slot and the empty tote and slot barcodes are scanned.
   g. Depending on the number of putaway sections, a single or multiple, cascaded put walls can be used to sort the product into a finer level of granularity for putaway.
3. **Step 3:** ***Put products in putaway locations using carts***
   a. Carts with light modules adjacent to cart locations are used to move product from the rear of the put wall to the putaway area.
   b. When a sufficient number of totes in put wall tracks are available, a cart worker loads the totes into cart locations.
   c. As totes are loaded, tote and cart location barcodes are scanned to inform the cart tablet of products in totes on the cart.
   d. When all totes have been loaded, the worker presses a "Start" button on the tablet screen to begin the process.
   e. The cart tablet uses verbal and visual instructions to direct the worker in an efficient path to the first putaway section.
   f. When the tablet reaches the section, if the section bays have locations with FastFetch lights of LEDs, the cart will say "STOP!" If the section bays have no light or LEDs, the worker will read location barcodes to determine the putaway location.
   g. The worker will retrieve and scan a product from any tote and, using verbal and visual communications, the tablet will direct the worker to place the product in a target putaway location. If the section has FastFetch light or LEDs, an LED segment will be illuminated telling the worker where to place the product.
   h. When all products from the tote have been placed, the worker will scan another tote barcode and continue at ***3.e*** above.
   i. The process will continue until products in all totes have been putaway.

Selected Clients

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

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