



Design Linear Travel Paths

How many miles of travel are required to produce the product? In any manufacturing environment, parts and assemblies travel various distances across the shop floor during production. Greater distance adds time and cost.

WONDERMENT® Project Steps:

1. Choose a simple and a complex product type.
2. Trace the physical route of the manufacturing process through the building, from the location where the raw materials are received to the location where the finished product is completed.
3. Draw a map.
4. Identify the major equipment and the flow of each product type using a different color.
5. Draw the process to scale to show actual distances of inventory and production on the map.
6. Note the location of any large volumes of inventory or work in process.

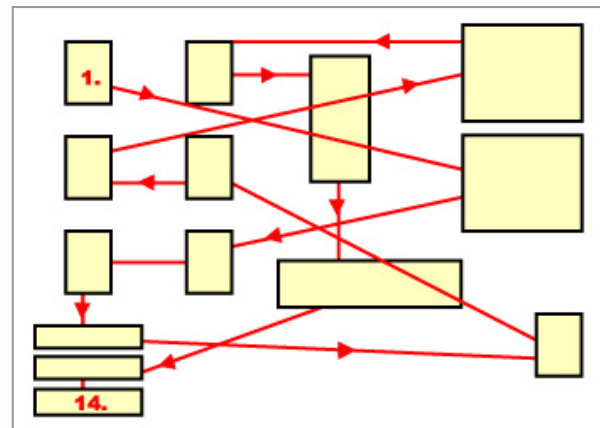
Note:

As manufacturers grow, new processes and equipment are added where space is available. Because of time constraints, consideration is rarely given to relaying out a process to improve flow and increase the impact of the new capability.

Example: Is this you?

Tom, the Operations Manager of a manufacturing company, thought he had done a good job positioning his company's operations for growth. He had recently added a number of new pieces of equipment to meet the budgeted increase in sales. As demand began to increase, however, production began to regularly miss their customer's delivery dates.

After receiving a call from one of his key customers complaining about a late delivery, Tom decided to take matters into his own hands. Tom spent 30 minutes looking for the order out on the shop floor and finally gave up and called his production staff for a meeting. Together they drew a map of his shop floor, resulting in the diagram shown at right. Tom discovered that he had 14 steps with a total travel distance of .8 miles.



What questions does this raise?

- What does your map look like?
- Are there any outside contractor steps?
- What are the process steps? Which do not add value?
- How much travel distance is involved? Why?
- How does this affect inventory?
- Why is the inventory at these locations?

Please tell us what you think. Log on to www.jacquard.com or call 847.945.8700.