

Case Study

# Automated Parts Stockroom







# Automated Parts Stockroom

## Customer and task

The previous stockroom was split into two sections with the front section storing smaller parts and the back section storing larger parts. Using a list of printed labels, a worker would travel through the mezzanine bin shelving to each part location collecting the parts required.

With steady market growth and production operations at capacity, Plasser needed to expand production capacity to grow sales. They sought to consolidate the stockroom to make space for production.

## Solution

The stockroom replaced a sizable two-story mezzanine bin system with eight Kardex Shuttles integrated with pick-to-light technology and Kardex Power Pick System inventory management software. The original two-story mezzanine bin system had 19,000 square feet of shelving and occupied 4,875 square feet of floor space. With each VLM measuring just over nine feet wide and ten feet deep, the new stockroom with eight Kardex Shuttles and a pick area now occupies only 1,440 square feet of floor space, a 70% floor space savings.

With order volume and SKU count remaining the same, Plasser is picking with 20% less labor. "Since the parts are delivered to the operator for picking, our pick time per part has decreased, allowing us to pick the same number of orders with less labor" says Daniel Boone, Quality Manager. The manual stockroom required ten people while the new automated stockroom requires only eight people.

## Case at a glance

### How we took our customer from task to solution

Plasser American supports freight railroads and high speed intercity and commuter systems with machines designed to maintain, straighten and strengthen existing railroads and transit systems. Their facility in Chesapeake, VA houses a 35,000 square foot stockroom with over \$16 million in spare parts with the support of eight Vertical Lift Modules Kardex Shuttle with Kardex Power Pick System inventory management software.

**Saved**  
70% floor space

**Increased**  
accuracy  
to 99.7%

**Reduced**  
labor by 20%





### Scope of delivery



8 Kardex Shuttles



Kardex Power Pick System inventory management software



Pick-to-light technology