

Solution Guide

Cross Picking

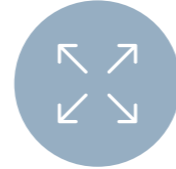




Better batch picking

As demands on the modern warehouse grow, companies typically look for ways to expand operations to keep up. Fulfillment operations using a batching strategy, barcode scanning and light or voice directed picking technologies usually look to expand by adding another work zone or increasing work hours.

Adding another work zone requires more space (and usually a capital investment), while increasing working hours can quickly exhaust your existing labor pool. Warehouse operations already using a batch picking strategy for order fulfillment can implement a Cross picking system to instantly double the number of orders in a batch - in the same footprint, with no additional labor. Cross picking allows orders to be filled from two zones simultaneously, saving time and increasing throughput.



Double batch sizes



Up to 30% increased picking productivity



Eliminate zone to zone tote movement



No floor space expansion

Double batch sizes

Cross picking systems can boost productivity in automated batch picking applications by doubling batch sizes within the same footprint. This “batch picking on steroids” approach boosts picking performance by approximately 30% over traditional batch picking strategies, such as pick-and-pass. Cross picking allows orders to be filled from two zones without physically moving the order totes from zone to zone. This eliminates travel time, increases operator productivity and dramatically improves throughput.

The concept is simple: two existing pick zones — usually utilizing automated storage and retrieval systems (ASRS) such as Vertical Buffer Modules Kardex Compact Buffer, Vertical Lift Modules Kardex Shuttle, Vertical Carousel Modules Kardex Megamat and Horizontal Carousel Modules — are positioned face-to-face. In the middle of the two pick zones is a batch station consisting of a side-by-side roller conveyor with a series of alternately angled flow racks (also called slides) on top. Atop the conveyor and beneath the slides sit two rows of order totes, back-to-back — one for each pick zone. The entire system is light-directed and managed by Kardex Power Pick System inventory management software.



A powerful solution

Just as in standard batch picking:

- The WMS first groups orders into batches and releases them for fulfillment.
- The operator in each zone sets up the batch, using a scanner to match the order tote with the batch station location.
- When ready, each operator starts to pick in their work zone. The lights on the machines direct the operator to the correct location and indicate the quantity of items required. The operator performs the pick and confirms on the machine.

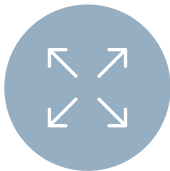
With cross picking:

- When the operator turns to the batch station to distribute the picked items among the waiting order totes, they are directed by put lights under each order tote (as in standard batch picking) AND put lights on a second level above the order tote and below the slide.
- As directed by the put lights, the operator drops the correct number of items into each order tote AND onto each slide — sliding required parts into orders located in the opposite zone.
- When an order tote has been filled with all the required items from both work zones, the put lights indicate the order is complete. The operator pushes the completed order tote onto the next area.

Because of the face-to-face configuration and the angled slides, items are picked from the work zone in which they are stored but can be used to fill orders in both work zones without physically moving the order totes. Cross picking eliminates the need to pass an incomplete order from one pick zone to the next as required with pick and pass strategy. Cross picking allows operators to fill orders from two zones at the same time, saving time and increasing throughput.



Cross picking systems deliver:



Double batch sizes for faster throughput



Increased picking productivity by ~30%



Eliminate wasted time transferring totes from zone to zone