

Lean Assembly: The Nuts and Bolts of Making Assembly Operations Flow

By Michel Baudin

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With examples drawn from aerospace, electronics, household appliance, personal products, and automotive industries, *Lean Assembly* covers the engineering of assembly operations through:

1. Characterizing the demand in terms of volume by product and product family, component consumption, seasonal variability and life cycle.
2. Matching the physical structure of the shop floor to the demand with the goal of approaching takt-driven production as closely as possible.
3. Working out the details of assembly tasks station by station, including station sizing, tooling, fixturing, operator instructions, part presentation, conveyance between stations, and the geometry of assembly lines as a whole.
4. Incorporating mistake-proofing, successive inspection, and test operations for quality assurance.*Lean Assembly* differs from most other books on lean manufacturing in that it focuses on technical content as a driver for implementation methods. The emphasis is on exactly *what* should be done. This book should be the "dog-eared" and "penciled-in" resource on every assembly engineer's desk.

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Review
It differs from other lean manufacturing books in that it focuses on technical content as a driver for implementation. -- *Industrial Engineer, December 2003*

Takt time, line balancing and assembly cells are presented in great detail... Virtually every page contains clear drawings or photographs. -- *Quality Progress, November 2003*

This book is a welcome and much needed study of many cases and techniques for assembly line design. -- *Target (the journal of the AME). 3rd Quarter 2003*

From the Inside Flap
"Lean Assembly will be a vital resource to those at the forefront of Lean implementation. It shows the reader how to properly analyze and design assembly systems, while working out all the details such as incorporating mistake-proofing concepts. Lean Assembly will find itself on the desk of the Lean implementer rather than on a bookshelf collecting dust."
Dale Bayley, Lean Champion, Racor Division, Parker Hannifin

"Designing and implementing lean production systems presents a never-ending host of curious puzzles. Experienced practitioners as well as novices will find Michel Baudin's Lean Assembly full of creative solutions."
Tom Berghan, Lean Specialist, Korry Electronics

About the Author
Since 1987, Michel Baudin has consulted for such clients as Honda of America, Dell Computer, Canon Virginia, Boeing, Raytheon, Unilever, MetalEurop, the CIADEA automotive group, Hoechst, and others on lean manufacturing implementation, and for high-technology companies like Hewlett Packard, Intel, Motorola. Winbond, and National Semiconductor on production scheduling, process transfer from R&D to production, and computer system architecture for manufacturing applications. He also designed the MS/X OnTime production scheduler marketed by Tyecin Systems and led the EU-funded INRECA research project.

Since 1995, he has taught short courses on the details of lean manufacturing, the management of lean manufacturing implementation, the lean approach to quality, and lean manufacturing for small and medium-size companies, as well as customized in-house seminars for consulting clients. These courses have been offered to the public through UC Berkeley extension, the University of Dayton's Center for Competitive Change, and the Hong Kong Productivity Center, and have been used in house by Honda, Boeing, Canon, Raytheon, Applied Materials, VDO, Siemens, and others.

His prior experience includes being a director of the Menlo Park Technology Center of Teknekron Corporation, leading a group at Schlumberger/Fairchild that designed, tested, and supported maintenance management, production scheduling, and quality control software that is in use in semiconductor factories; giving technical support for CIM installations in Japan on behalf of Consilium corporation; and implementing the OPT scheduling system in two General Motors factories.

Mr. Baudin is author of Manufacturing Systems Analysis, with Application to Production Scheduling, a textbook available from Prentice Hall. His academic background includes a Master's Degree in Engineering from the Ecole des Mines, Paris; work at the Hahn-Meitner Institut of Berlin; and research at the University of Tokyo. He is a senior fellow of the University of Dayton's Center for Competitive Change, and a member of the IMSE External Advisory Board of Ohio University. Michel Baudin is fluent in French, Japanese, and German, and is learning Spanish.

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