

## Datalogic Scans Highlights for the Home

*Rudolf Möbel improves customer satisfaction with increased visibility of material flow in the production process.*



Interior furnishing is a question of personal style and this is reflected in the furniture market. Customers place great desire for individualisation of furniture in terms of size, design and functionality. These demands coupled with greater cost pressure, due to increased imports from low-wage countries for example, place furniture manufacturers in front of new challenges. Today a continuous process from order entry through production to shipping is a competitive factor, because only when manufacture is kept under control, can efficient deliveries as far as possible be achieved and customers kept satisfied.

The company Fr. Rudolf & Sohn GmbH + Co. KG, a German furniture manufacturer, was founded in 1895 and today employs around 120 people. In 1977 a second company was formed: Rudolf Systemmöbel GmbH + Co. KG, and with this a new and highly modern concept of manufacture and sales of furniture, with emphasis on the quick manufacture of customer specific kitchens and bathrooms. The furniture is brought to market exclusively on a regional level by the existing furnishing house. The core of manufacture is an innovative composition of production control and CNC-controlled machinery.

Even the company Möbelfabrik Fr. Rudolf & Sohn GmbH + Co. KG wishes to remain competitive and accomplishes potential via the implementation of cordless bar code readers. In the location of Schlüchtern, Rudolf achieves visibility for its material flow by implementing a system based on radio frequency to closely follow the production process. The company achieves customer satisfaction via the subsequent spot deliveries, because with the new system the

- Customer**  
Fr. Rudolf & Sohn GmbH + Co. KG
- Industry**  
Manufacturing
- Application**  
Warehousing
- Country**  
Germany
- Datalogic Business Solution**  
Warehouse Management Systems
- Datalogic Product**  
Gryphon Mobile™, Dragon Mobile™
- Datalogic Partner**  
Barcodat GmbH

*The Gryphon™ M100 and Dragon™ bar code readers from Datalogic provide mobility in the warehouse and online communication with the warehouse management system.*

furniture for apartments and juvenile rooms is immediately reported when it is ready and is placed in a shipping area to be dispatched.

The Gryphon™ M100 and Dragon™ bar code readers from Datalogic provide mobility in the warehouse and online communication with the warehouse management system. The system was integrated by Barcodat GmbH, a German partner of Datalogic, specialised in IT services.

Communication between the IT system and the production planning and control systems occurs via radio frequency. The entire warehouse including shipping and loading areas are covered. The Gryphon™ readers are used to report furniture which is ready while the Dragon™ readers help to organise the best loading of the delivery trucks.

Finished goods are transported on a conveyor. Each item is accompanied by a supply note which includes a series of data including item number and bar code. At the end of the conveyor an operator equipped with a Gryphon™ reader removes the articles and reads the bar code. In this way the items are recorded in the system as being ready and are placed in the shipping area. The system receives the information in a split second; besides saving time there is a greatly reduced error-rate - the number of errors is practically zero.

For delivery, the goods in the shipping area are loaded onto trucks. Prior to this the articles are sorted as far as possible, since the order of loading plays an important roll. While loading the truck, the operator reads the bar code on the articles with the Dragon™ mobile reader with display. If the article being loaded is incorrect, then notification is given from the IT system and shown on the display of the reader, so that the operator can correct the error. In this way it is assured that goods are loaded into the correct truck and in the right order. By avoiding errors, operative costs are reduced and control of the delivery service is optimised. As a result of error-free and smooth deliveries, customer satisfaction is enhanced.

With the new system, time-intensive manual procedures are eliminated, such as collecting, forwarding and inputting. The system now automatically knows in real-time the status of things in production and shipping. There are no more errors due to manual data entry. Wrong deliveries are a thing of the past and the entire flow of material is optimised. All this up to the last link in the chain - the customer. Improved service leads to satisfied customers, and satisfied customers increase success.



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