

Customer case studies

PROVEN JOB SHOP SCHEDULING BENEFITS



Introduction

What this Ebook is about and who should read it.

If you are reading this Ebook, chances are you're either a production scheduling professional or a machine/ job shop owner who understands the importance of proper scheduling.

Most likely, you have experienced the pain of late deliveries. Of course, this did not happen on purpose. It is just, that you have too much stuff going on at the same time. Means: too many changes to existing orders, too many rush orders and too little insight into what exactly happens on your shop floor.

You came to the conclusion that software might be a bit of help for you. However, "typical" advanced scheduling software programs seem to be too heavy-weight and seem to be made for large-volume producers, but not for machine shops like yours. Likewise, you sense that a homegrown Microsoft Excel-based system will fall short of your requirements.

This Ebook is meant to provide you with tangible proof points that there is a reliable way that brings you out of this dilemma. It provides you with examples why companies like yours decided for just plan it, how they use it and what they achieve with it.

About the author of this Ebook



Martin is CEO & Co-Owner of NETRONIC Software. Our mission is to enable every SMB organization to gain operational agility with visual scheduling.

At NETRONIC, Martin is responsible for innovation, go-to-market and Marketing. When it comes to just plan it, Martin calls himself the "chief enthusiast".



Click here to follow him @mkarlo



Ciovita

**CIOVITA ACHIEVES A
25% INCREASE IN
ON-TIME ORDERS**

Visual scheduling: the hidden key to maximizing the throughput



Ciovita achieves a 25% increase in on-time orders

ABOUT CIOVITA

(www.ciovita.co.za)

Ciovita was founded, and is run, by like-minded individuals with a wealth of experience in the sportswear, and fashion industries.

We are a premium manufacturer of cycling apparel for both the mountain and the road. We product booth core range for our own retail as well as custom product for teams and events.

The name, Ciovita, is a combination of Italian and Latin words meaning “Life in Motion” and this philosophy underpins our approach to an industry that is always pushing itself to go further and faster.

Executive summary

Ciovita is a premium apparel manufacturer from South Africa. The company has been using an ERP system, but worked with Microsoft Excel for scheduling purposes. This approach did no longer scale, and Ciovita decided for just plan it.

Results are:

- 25% increase in on-time deliveries
- Efficiency gains through better transparency

“ I looked for a solution that is simple to use. Most important is that each department can see the impact their efforts have to keep a job on track. ”



Andrew Gold
CEO, Ciovita

The challenge & resulting requirements

Ciovita has been successfully using the apparel-specific ERP system iSync for all financial and administrative processes. However, production scheduling always happened outside the ERP system. For that purpose, Ciovita built a homegrown system with Microsoft Excel relying on a lot of exports and re-imports.

Andrew Gold, CEO of Ciovita concludes: *“This worked for a while, but did not scale with the company’s growth. It was not visual and most importantly, it was not dynamic. In addition to this, a spreadsheet program like Excel misses any drag & drop functionality.”*

Consequently, Ciovita started to search for a production scheduling software that was visual, and easy-to-understand on the one hand. On the other hand, the velocity of their business also required a relevant degree of scheduling automatism.

Andrew remembers: *“I looked for a solution that seems simple to use. I required a simple interface with a Gantt chart feel, but importantly also drag and drop ability to move dates and determine optimal capacity.”*

just plan it – functionalities used by Ciovita

Plan subscribed to

- Full plan

Modules used

- Starter
- Reports
- Templates
- Execute Mode
- Advanced Scheduling II

Custom functionality

- Bi-directional interface to ERP system iSync

The just plan it benefits

- Transparency of shop floor (execution & plan)
- Reliable delivery commitments
- Maximization of throughput
- Optimization of capacity utilization

The just plan it philosophy

- Focus: Built for SMB make-to-order manufacturers
- Visual: Easy to understand
- Effective: Automatic, priority based finite scheduling
- Pragmatic: Fast & productive
- Efficient: Standardized
- Made-to-fit: Modular structure
- State-of-the-art: Cloud based
- Affordable: SaaS-Pricing

Learning and using just plan it

Initially, the Ciovita team started to work with just plan it by exporting data from the iSync ERP system, and then importing it to just plan it via the standard Excel interface. This made them familiar with the software. Based on the experience gained, both Ciovita, iSync and the just plan it team were able to precisely define a bi-directional interface between iSync and just plan it.

This getting started process went rather seamless as Andrew Gold states: *“The learning curve was reasonably quick.”*

Today, Ciovita makes daily use of just plan it. The production schedule software has become the cornerstone of managing the daily production operations. In that regard, just plan it contributes both with its scheduling capabilities and with its operator app that allows to collect feedback from the shop floor.

Andrew Gold: *“We use just plan it daily by a production planner, but hourly by the shop floor.”*

Benefits gained by using just plan it

With the transparency provided just plan it, Ciovita managed to get a better alignment towards production goals. In addition to this, just plan it enables faster and better scheduling decisions resulting in increased on-time deliveries. Andrew Gold summarizes: *“just plan it helped us most in making sure we deliver on time. We have seen a 25% increase in on-time orders. Most important is: Each department can see the impact their efforts have to keep a job on track.”*



Loynds International Ltd.

**ON-TIME DELIVERIES UP
37% - DRIVEN BY FIRMER
HANDLE ON SHOP-FLOOR
WORKLOAD**

Scheduling paired with shop-floor execution as growth driver



On-time deliveries up 37% - driven by firmer handle on shop-floor work load

ABOUT Loynds Intl. Ltd. (<http://www.loynds.com/>)

Loynds supplies machinery for the confectionery industry, specializing in chocolate and candy manufacturing.

We build our own equipment as well as modify, upgrade and repair a range of equipment coming from other suppliers.

Our customer base is predominantly small to medium size confectionery makers. Our machinery is now reliably operating in over 100 countries worldwide.

We are a family company and have been in operation for nearly 30 years.

Executive summary

Loynds designs, manufactures and upgrades candy and chocolate machinery to customer's exact requirements. The family-owned company has a long-term history and used to plan on spreadsheets and paper lists.

They were lacking a clear view on shop-floor capacity, and had a hard time manually updating the schedule to keep track of everything. Hence they decided for just plan it.

Results are:

- On-time deliveries up 37%
- Firmer handle on shop-floor work load
- Realistic view of capacities

“ I would highly recommend any user to utilize the operator mode as this has shown us the most benefit of having always accurate schedules. ”



Richard Loynds
Managing Director,
Loynds Int. Ltd.

The challenge & resulting requirements

Before using just plan it, Loynds relied on spreadsheets, paper lists and *“lots of head scratching in order to calculate delivery times and ensure our engineering team had up-to-date work lists”*, as Richard Loynds, Managing Director at Loynds, remembers.

The challenge was the missing transparency on what was actually happening on the shop-floor combined with rapidly changing processes: *“Our biggest issue was always having a clear view of our shop-floor capacity and keeping on top of this as things would change so quickly.”*

Hence Loynds required a production scheduling software that on the one hand would come with a clear and easy-to-understand visualization. In addition to this they needed a system that allowed to keep track of any progress on the shop-floor.

Richard Loynds: *“The most important features for me were the ability for engineers to log on and off tasks and update the schedule in real time.”*

just plan it – functionalities used by Loynds Intl. Ltd.

Plan subscribed to

- Starter plan

Modules used

- Starter
- Reports
- Execute Mode

Custom functionality

- None

The just plan it benefits

- Transparency of shop floor (execution & plan)
- Reliable delivery commitments
- Maximization of throughput
- Optimization of capacity utilization

The just plan it philosophy

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Learning and using just plan it

Loynds began the just plan it experience with a “dual working mode”. They used the software to schedule the production plan, but also worked with the Reports module to generate and print work sheets.

For Loynds it was important to get everybody aligned with JPI, as Richard recalls: *“The biggest obstacle was getting all users adopt the operator mode and to log individual tasks. It has taken around 3 months to properly embed this into our culture. The result is a much leaner process.”*

Building encompassing scheduling routines was crucial for Loynds to unleash the scheduling and execution value from the just plan it software. Today, a reliable execution is driven based on this process.

“We rely mostly on the operator mode so engineers can see their work lists and the view of production: Job View for calculating lead times and Resource View for distributing an even workload. We have nine engineers using the operator mode hourly, and our production manager who keeps all work lists up to date daily.”

Benefits Loynds International Ltd. gained

With just plan it Loynds gets a clear picture of the shop-floor execution and can manage the production schedule in almost real time. This helps them to better utilize their resources and hence to achieve a higher throughput without adding capacity. Richard summarizes:

“Now we have a firmer handle on the load of work on our shop-floor. Our on-time deliveries have improved by 37%, and our window into our capacity is realistic for the first time ever.”



Giro Engineering

**GIRO ENGINEERING'S
CUSTOMERS ENJOY
IMPROVED OTD
PERFORMANCE**

Improved delivery time commitments through proper scheduling



Giro Engineering's customers enjoy improved on-time delivery performance

ABOUT Giro Engineering Ltd (www.giroeng.com)

Giro manufacture sheathed fuel injection pipes for the marine market. They have a wealth of experience in the bespoke design of these complex systems and have the capability to ensure your requirements are met.

Giro's design team utilize class leading computer software to create products that are compliant with the latest SOLAS regulations.

Giro's attention to detail is endemic throughout the company. We are proud of our product documentation and traceability which has proved invaluable over the last 30 years.

Executive summary

Giro Engineering Ltd specializes in the design and manufacture of fuel injection pipes. Their Excel-based scheduling could no longer cope with the company's growing operations. Hence, the decision was made to take production scheduling to the next level; they adopted to utilize a bespoke software package.

Results are:

- Improved on-time delivery
- Improved throughput by merging split batches

“ Our planning and scheduling of resources is hugely improved through just plan it. ”



Jonathan Stent
Giro Engineering Ltd
Production Director

The challenge & resulting requirements

For some years, Giro Engineering has been scheduling all production processes with a homegrown scheduling based on Microsoft Excel. De facto, these were two systems which weren't linked with each other: one for the CNC scheduling and one for the fuel injection pipe manufacture.

Jonathan Stent, Production Director of Giro recalls: *"The entire process was awkward to manage. There was lot of manual work, prone to errors. Also, we didn't have a consistent nor a comprehensive view of all our orders and resources."*

Consequently, Giro aimed at replacing Excel by a dedicated production scheduling software that would combine ease-of-use with the power of automatic scheduling. The fact that just plan it was able to meet these requirements became obvious imminently.

Jonathan concludes: *"We were able to sample the software. It was apparent within a short space of time that the just plan it product had the flexibility and ease-of-use we needed to greatly aid production planning and control."*

just plan it – functionalities used by Giro Engineering

Plan subscribed to

- Full plan

Modules used

- Starter
- Reports
- Templates
- Execute Mode
- Advanced Scheduling II

Custom functionality

- None

The just plan it benefits

- Transparency of shop floor (execution & plan)
- Reliable delivery commitments
- Maximization of throughput
- Optimization of capacity utilization

The just plan it philosophy

- Focus: Built for SMB make-to-order manufacturers
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- Affordable: SaaS-Pricing

Learning and using just plan it

Giro Engineering started with defining their job templates in Microsoft Excel and uploading them from there. While doing so, the team applied successfully applied a pragmatic 80-20 rule and hence could use the software productively quickly.

Jonathan confirms the rapid implementation: *"The just plan it team helped greatly. Within a relatively short time we had entered templates for the vast majority of our products and could start scheduling our shop productively."*

As of now, the team at Giro uses just plan it daily to control all production work as Jonathan summarizes:

"We use just plan it daily and rely on it to control all production work. We have multiple users but have split the system over two sections allowing two users to monitor and control output from two separate sections of the business."

Our planning and scheduling of resources is hugely improved through just plan it."

Benefits Giro Engineering gained

With the comprehensive view of the entire production schedule and the capability to quickly react to unplanned incidents, Giro Engineering can run the shop smoother ... resulting in happier clients. Jonathan Stent states: ***"We have improved delivery performance considerably to the point many of our customers enjoy a 100% on time delivery performance (rolling 12 months). We have also been able to improve throughput by merging split batches designed to be built at a future date - JPI allows us to see whether combining these jobs can be managed in the time available."***



Canada Rubber

LEAD TIMES CUT;
THROUGHPUT
INCREASED; ON-TIME
DELIVERIES IMPROVED

Scheduling paired with shop-floor execution as growth driver



Lead times cut; throughput increased; on-time deliveries improved

ABOUT Canada Rubber Group

(www.canadarubbergroup.com)

Since 1987, Canada Rubber Group Inc. (CRG) has been the supplier of choice for gaskets, sealing solutions, automotive/OEM solutions, and custom fabrications. CRG is a rubber/plastic/fiber converter and molder that serves a wide variety of industries.

With a state-of-the-art production process which fully conforms to ISO 9001:2015, we provide our customers with the very best products fabricated from elastomers, engineered plastics, and other materials.

Executive summary

Over twenty-five years ago, CRG set out to build a company that would provide their customers with the very best products, made from a wide variety of materials.

As result of consistent growth, the company has over 35,000 SKUs and had hard times scheduling and tracking orders. Hence, CRG integrated their ERP software with just plan it.

Results are:

- On-time deliveries improved
- Lead times cut
- Throughput increased

“ The flexibility of moving the schedule is invaluable to us. ”

Guillermo Gardoso
Canada Rubber Group
Global Supply Chain
Manager



CANADA RUBBER GROUP



The challenge & resulting requirements

Offering more than 35,000 SKUs while simultaneously managing to promise and achieve short delivery times became a challenge for CRG. Especially an improper scheduling process started to create serious issues.

Guillermo Cardoso, Global Supply Chain Manager, remembers: *"We were having a hard time scheduling and tracking all orders. This was resulting in a loss of efficiencies. Consequently, we explored several job shop scheduling software systems."*

CRG involved both the operations and the plant manager as well as the scheduler into this process. The requirements were clear as Guillermo states:

"The flexibility, pricing and support were crucial in selecting just plan it." Especially the support provided by the respective software vendor was key for the team at CRG: *"We always felt we had fast, reliable and amicable support."*

just plan it – functionalities used by Canada Rubber Group

Plan subscribed to

- Full plan

Modules used

- Starter
- Reports
- Templates
- Execute Mode
- Advanced Scheduling II

Custom functionality

- One-directional integration with Sage ERP system

The just plan it benefits

- Transparency of shop floor (execution & plan)
- Reliable delivery commitments
- Maximization of throughput
- Optimization of capacity utilization

The just plan it philosophy

- Focus: Built for SMB make-to-order manufacturers
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Learning and using just plan it

After a short trial, Canada Rubber started with an on-boarding process which included the one-time development of a one-directional interface to their Sage system. The entire process from start to productive usage took less than two weeks.

Guillermo summarizes their getting started experience: *"JPI met our expectations as soon as we started using it. It is the most user-friendly solution available. It took us under two weeks to completely migrate our scheduling to JPI. The JPI team was an invaluable resource and helped to get our company's system hooked up with JPI in order for us to do automatic data dumps."*

Today, the software is used every day and is core for Canada Rubber to manage the entire schedule and sync with the execution, as Guillermo confirms:

"Our scheduler uses just plan it on a daily (hourly) basis coordinating regular production with rush orders. The flexibility of moving the schedule is invaluable to us."

Benefits Canada Rubber Group (CRG) gained

CRG regularly syncs their new jobs from the ERP system with just plan it. Then the scheduler takes over and manages both standard and rush jobs – always with having full transparency on delivery time commitments and resource utilizations. Hence, he can make decisions fast and firm. The result according to Guillermo is:

"We have become more proficient at scheduling in the job shop, it is a visual, easy system for all involved to understand. Our on-time deliveries increased, our lead times were cut significantly and hence the throughput increased."

Tenco DDM

PROPER SCHEDULING
DRIVES MORE EFFECTIVE
WAY OF WORKING

Scheduling drives better resource utilization



Proper scheduling drives more effective way of working

ABOUT Tenco DDM

(<http://tenco-online.com/>)

At Tenco DDM we aim to co-create high-end solutions with our customers, by means of 3D printing or CNC machining. We proof that our small business is a perfect fit to ensure a personal and tailor-made service and support in additive manufacturing and innovative finishing techniques.

Major added value is created by continuous investments in state-of-the-art equipment and technologies. Particularly our combined high precision processing and finishing competences are considered an innovative asset.

Executive summary

Founded in 2008 as a 3D prototyping company with a focus at the highest level of car sports (F1, WRC rally), Tenco DDM quickly grew into other areas such as product design, industrial applications and MedTech.

This company growth made the previously whiteboard-based scheduling system to reach its limits. Hence the company introduced a visual scheduling software.

Results are:

- More effective way of working
- Integration of scheduling and execution

“ We never make the same part twice. Planning in our company is a nightmare. just plan it can handle it all. ”



Tom Castermans
CEO, Tenco DDM



The challenge & resulting requirements

Initially, scheduling was done on a whiteboard. However, as each and every production order at Tenco DDM is fully unique, this manual approach failed to scale with the company's growth.

Tom Castermans, CEO at Tenco: *"As the team started growing, projects became more complex and lead-times more critical."*

Not only projects become more complex, but also new target markets, new types of customers and new machines drove the complexity. In addition to this, Tenco started to outsource and had to add external processes into the scheduling equation.

Tom summarizes: *"A true planning software became necessary so we could plan machine occupation, finishing capacities and even lead-times at subcontractors. We wanted to use a 'Gantt chart-type' scheduling."*

just plan it – functionalities used by Tenco DDM

Plan subscribed to

- Starter plan

Modules used

- Starter
- Reports
- Execute Mode

Custom functionality

- None

The just plan it benefits

- Transparency of shop floor (execution & plan)
- Reliable delivery commitments
- Maximization of throughput
- Optimization of capacity utilization

The just plan it philosophy

- Focus: Built for SMB make-to-order manufacturers
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- State-of-the-art: Cloud based
- Affordable: SaaS-Pricing

Learning and using just plan it

Tenco started with a demo of the software, followed by a short trial. This was accompanied by regular coaching of a just plan it scheduling specialist. All in all, it took the company not more than a week to start using the scheduling software productively.

Tom remembers: *"Getting used with the powerful capabilities of JPI takes about a week. The test account made it possible for us to push the system to limits ... and find out how good it works."*

Nowadays, the scheduling software is used daily by a variety of people. Production planners use it to efficiently schedule, project managers and sales people follow the status of a project and can better communicate with their clients, and machine operators use the operator "app" to provide data from the shop-floor.

"The planner gets more time", says Tom, "as planning per order now just takes 5 minutes although each part has it's own unique workflow."

Benefits Tenco DDM gained

With just plan it Tenco has a holistic view on what is happening on the shop-floor. The sales team gets more reliable information to communicate with the customer, the production planner saves time (Tom: *"it's really easy and comprehensive"*) and the people on the shop-floor *"look at the planning and know what to do"*.

The overall result according to Tom is:

"With the use of just plan it, we started working in another, more effective way."

MANAGE YOUR GROWTH WITH PROPER SCHEDULING

just plan it is a software that is made to help small make-to-order manufacturers with an easy production scheduling.

It all starts with a free consulting session
with a production scheduling specialist.

BOOK YOUR FREE MEETING NOW.