

EBOOK

# 10 Graphical Functions a Production Planning Table Should Offer



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## Introduction

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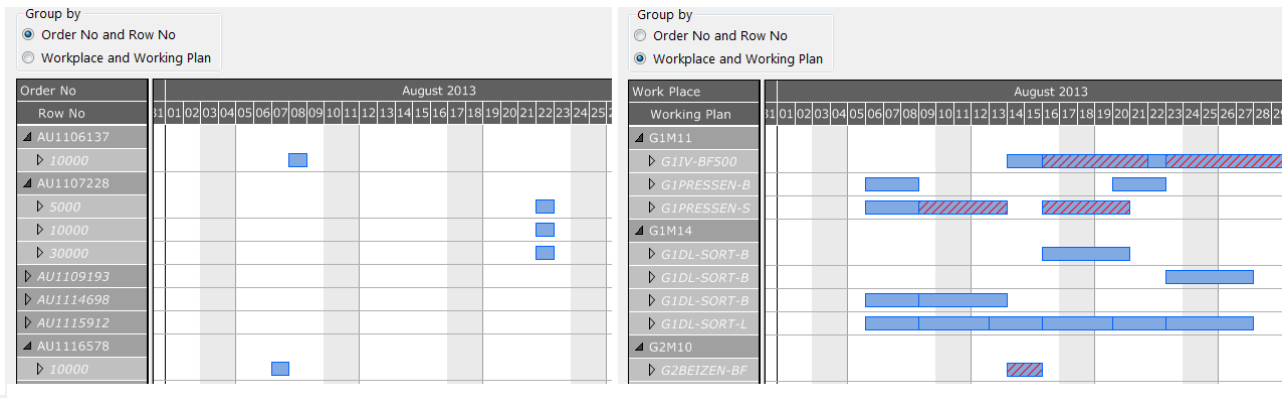
As NETRONIC, our main focus is on developing and providing Gantt charts for planning and scheduling. According to our experience, manufacturing companies highly benefit from intelligent planning tables, since, when it comes to production planning, graphical planning tables provide valuable assistance as to visualizing complex contexts and bringing transparency to production planning data. Visual planning boards are proven tools for controlling and managing your production, and for scheduling production orders

Yet, you may ask yourself how to recognize an intelligent and powerful planning board. What are the "basic functions" a graphic planning table for use in manufacturing companies needs to offer to convey meaningful information and support decision makers and production planners in the best possible way? How can a planning table ease the typical daily work of a production planner as it helps him focus on relevant information?

In our e-book we have compiled and outlined for you 10 key features an intelligent planning board should offer.

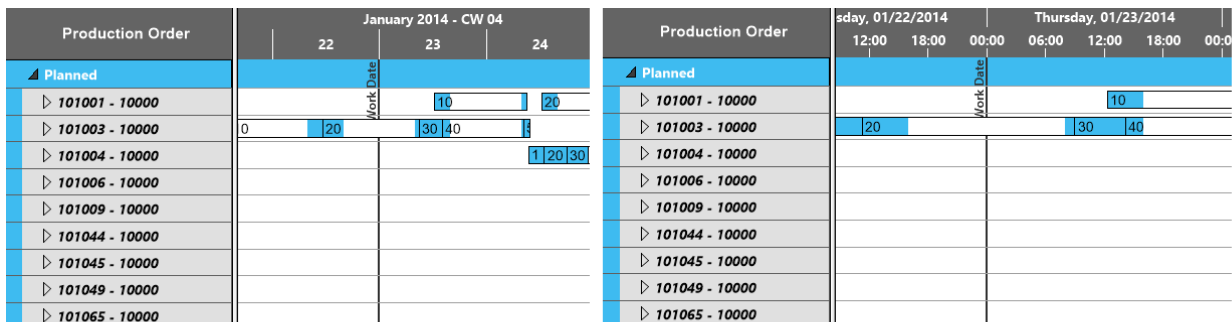
# 1. Switching between a machine and an order view

Production is no one-dimensional process - so use multi-dimensional views and keep track of the delivery dates in an order view and manage the resource load in a machine view.



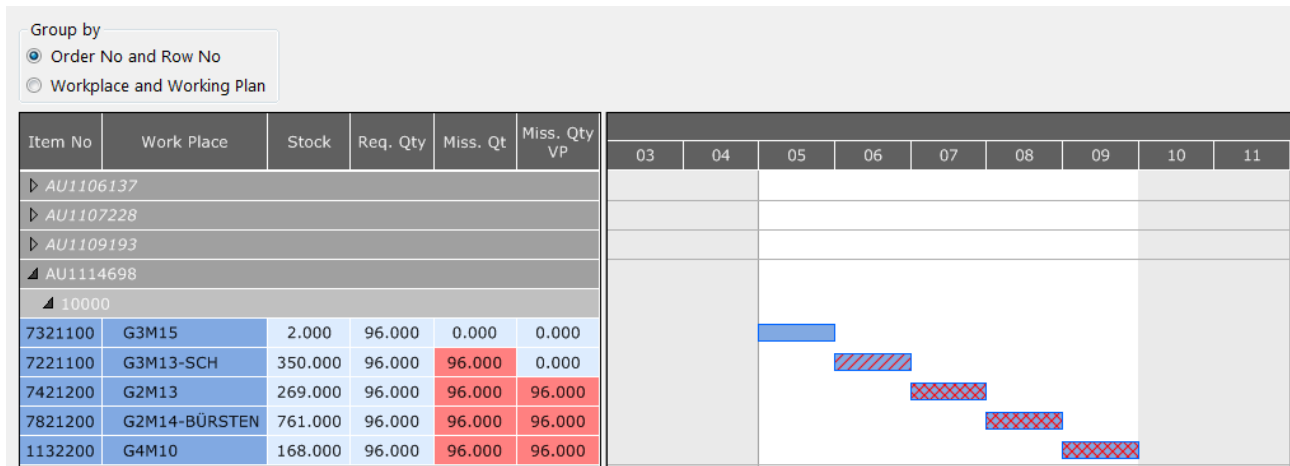
# 2. Flexible and infinitely variable timescale

Planning horizons are never static. Sometimes you may need a rough overview of what to expect in the next weeks while other occasions and decisions needs require that you immediately delve into the daily details. Expand or shrink the timescale with the mousewheel and zoom stepless from a long-term overview into short-term planning.



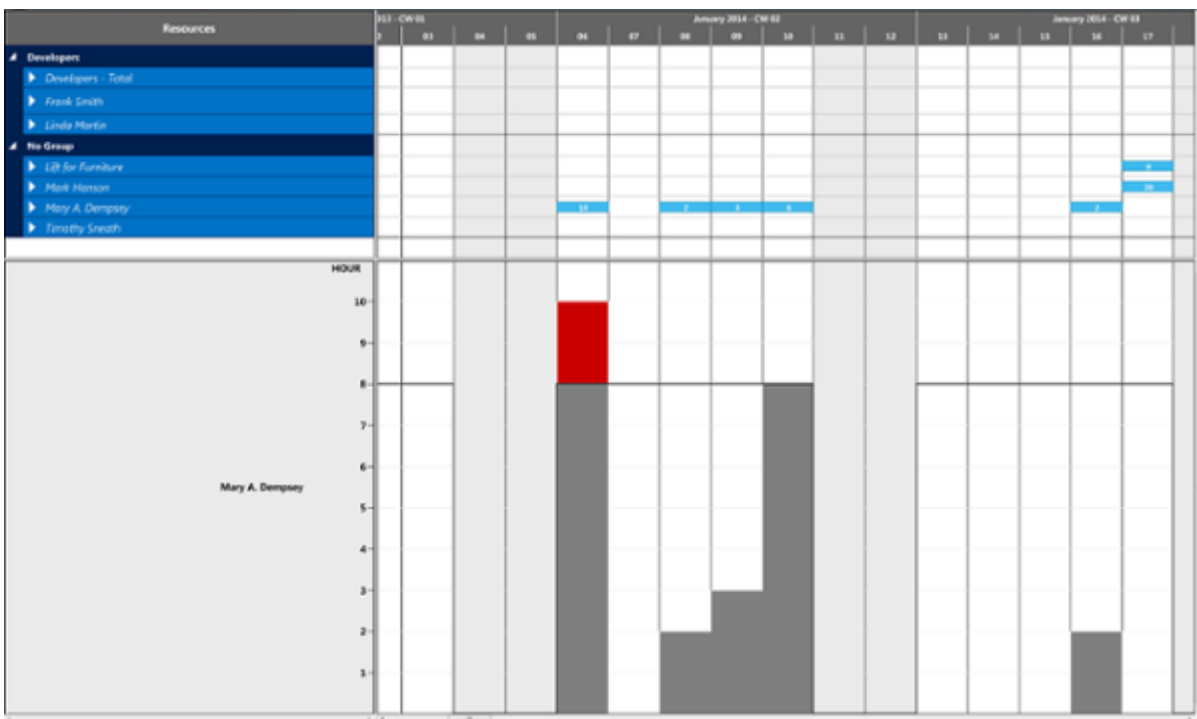
### 3. Visualization of groups

Summarize information according to contents: Production orders together with suborders and operations; departments with work groups and work centers. Use one-, two- or multilevel grouping for creating a general overview and at the same time accessing detailed information after having expanded the respective levels.



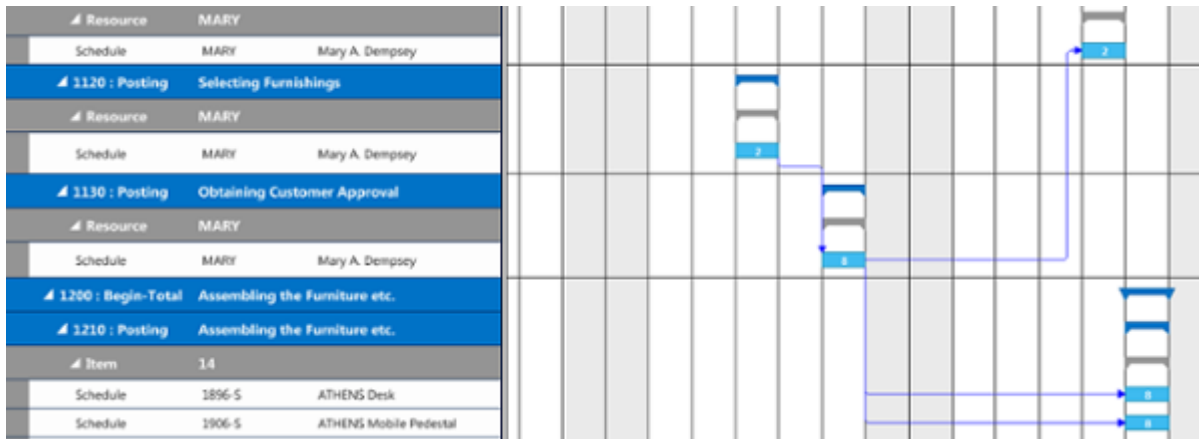
## 4. Histogram for displaying capacities

Optimizing the machines' capacity utilization is one of the key challenges in production planning, so that visualizing the machine load in a capacity graph ("histogram") is definitely a must have. Bottlenecks as well as unused resources can be recognized immediately and our live-update function is the perfect tool for rescheduling resources. The effects of a mouse interaction are being visualized immediately during the operation and not only upon ending it. Every mouse movement results in updating the node, the consequences of the interaction for the overall planning becoming visible in the histogram at once so that the planner can quickly find the new optimum position for the job respectively the resource.



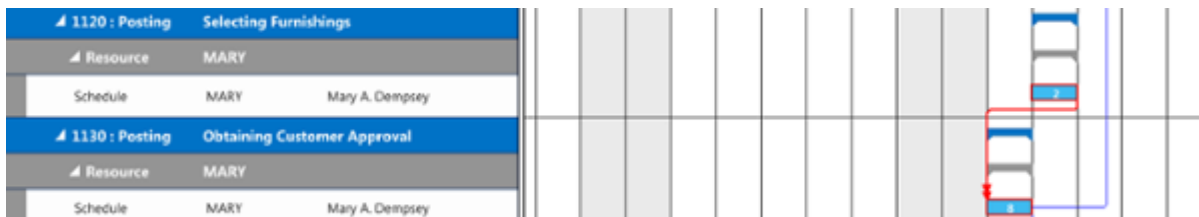
## 5. Visualization of dependencies

If multi-level production is concerned it will not do to plan the single operation only. It's important to know the effects the modification will have on the succeeding and the preceding operations. Recognize and plan interlinked operations or order networks by making links visible. Reschedule successors automatically if a predecessor has been moved.



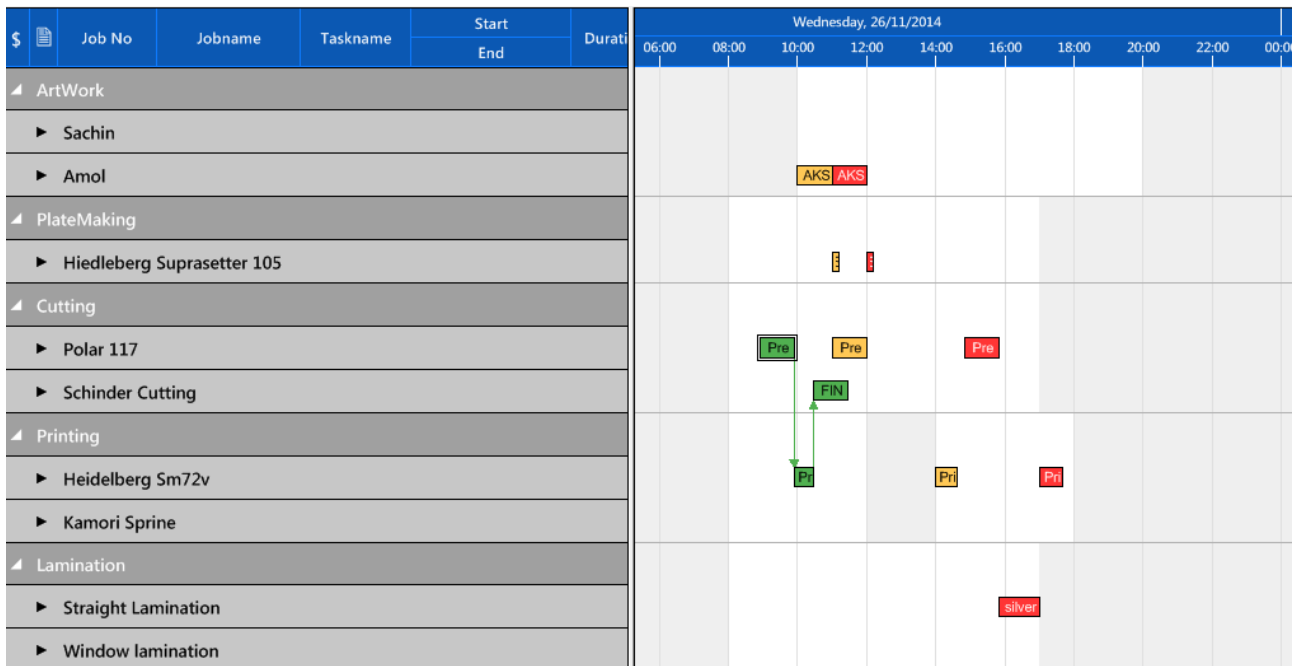
## 6. Visual alerts

Visual alerts translate your business rules into the planning board and thus bring them to the planner's attention. They are the "soul" of visual planning. Use data-driven visualization and send signals to warn the planner if there's a risk of not keeping a delivery date, if operations on machines could overlap or if rescheduling violates the sequences of operations.



## 7. Individual calendar settings

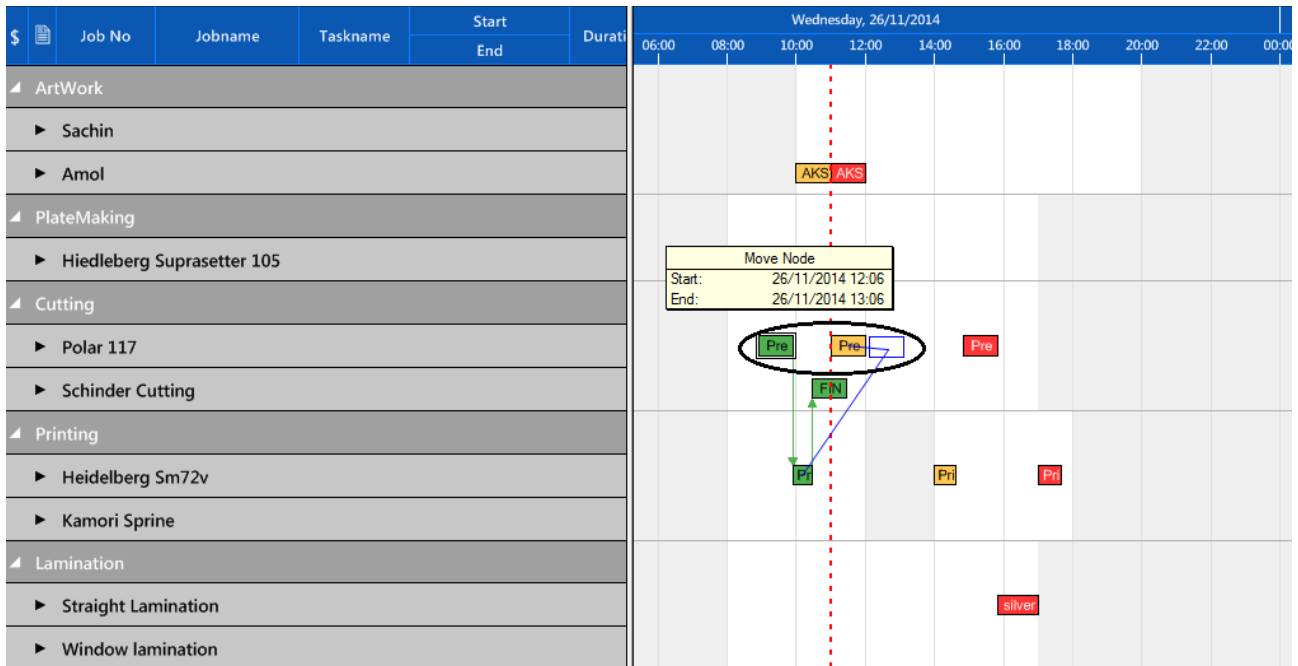
One-, two- or even multi-shift work? No problem for a state-of-the-art planning board. Define individual calendars with different working times for each machine or resource. It goes without saying that the individual calendars will not only be visualized but will also take effect on the (re)-scheduling.





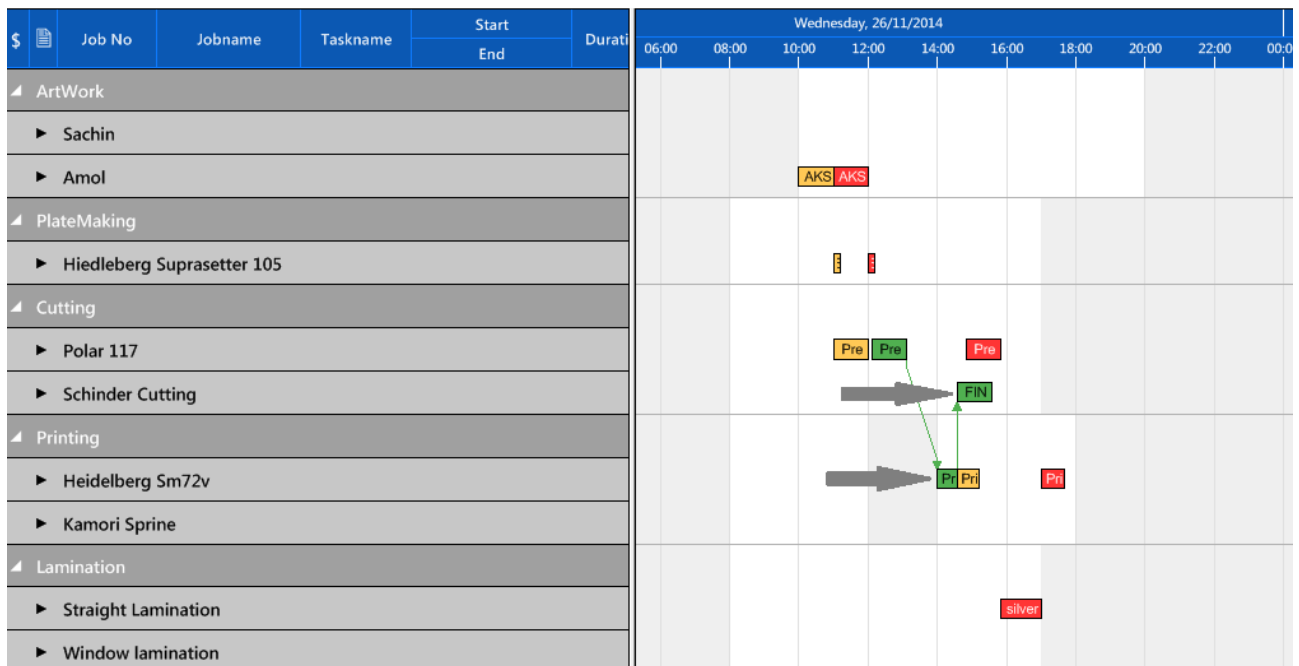
## 8. Interactive moving of operations

Only a plan that can be adjusted to reality is vivid and hence can be called a good plan. Drag and drop allows for intuitive, quick and simple planning while never losing track of the modifications' effects on the overall plan.



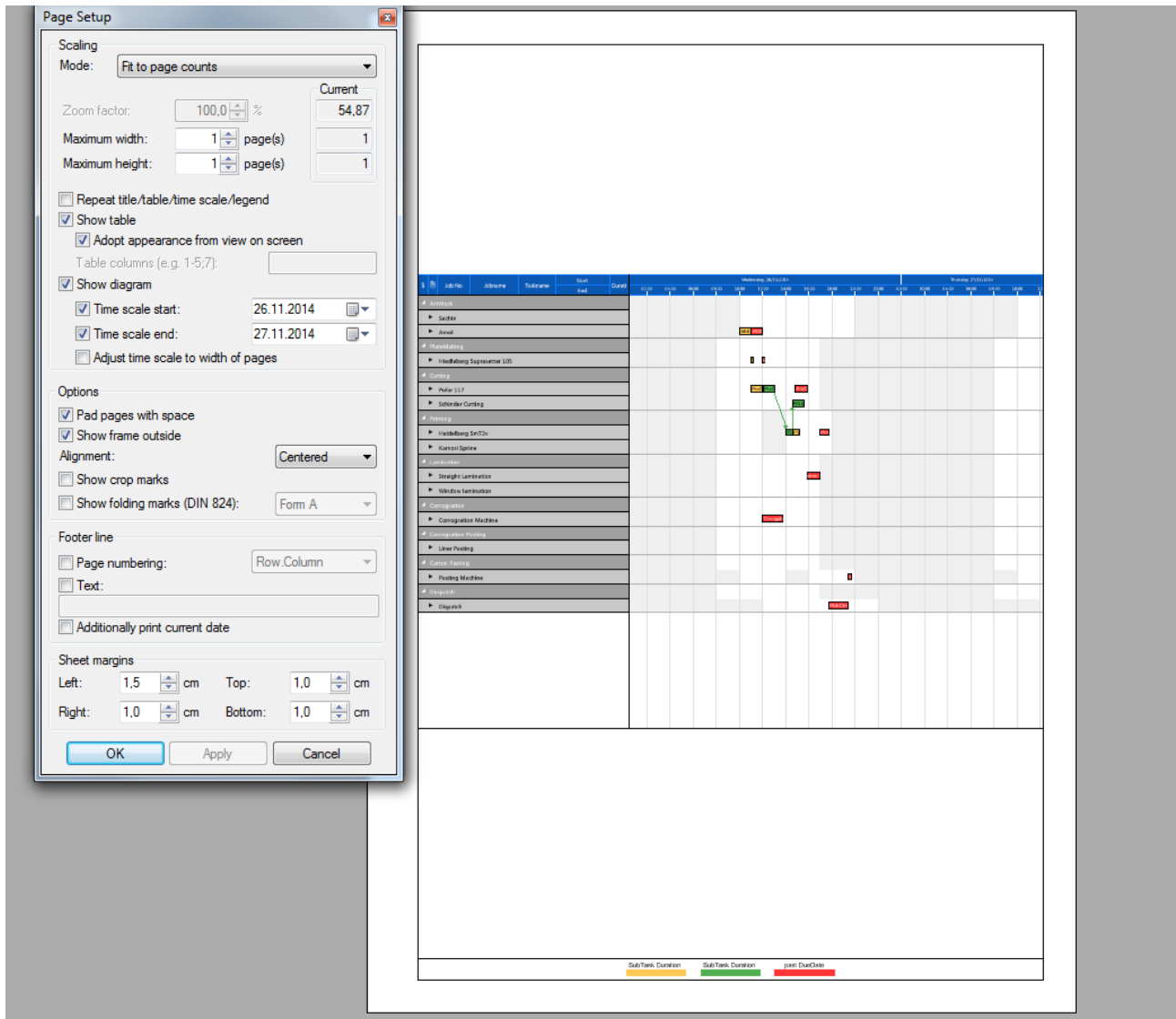
## 9. Automatic scheduling

Don't only visualize dependencies but also take them into account while rescheduling. Interlinked, i.e. dependent operations will move automatically when a node of the chain or the net is moved.



# 10. Print functionality

Print versions of planning boards are a valuable means of communication in meetings and presentations. The print functionality enables printing of complex plans spanning several weeks for managers as well as a production execution plan for the next work week.



## Free Trial: Empower Your Scheduling Application

Do you want to know more about the powerful features of VARCHART XGantt or would you like to try yourself and benefit from our vivid samples?

[Download](#) our free trial version of VARCHART XGantt and have a look at the included sample collection.