

APPLICATION BRIEFING

Multi-Color Picking to Workstation

When batch picking doesn't meet your throughput needs, options for faster picking can push operations into larger automated material handling systems (that come with significant price tags)—but not anymore. Multi-color batch picking allows facilities to add more workers into their existing batch picking operations for increased throughput. Utilizing a flexible labor concept, the system enables operations to add labor to a workstation at peak times to meet order demand.

Facilities batch picking from a pod of automated storage and retrieval machines—including horizontal or vertical carousels or vertical lift modules (VLMs)—to a workstation can implement multi-color light-directed batch picking that supports as many as eight pickers simultaneously. The result is a dramatic increase in throughput levels.



Integrating multi-color light-directed picking within a pod provides:

- Increased system throughput
- Flexible labor to handle peaks in demand
- Lower cost of automation per picker



How it works:

- The WMS groups and releases batches of orders to the pod of automated storage and retrieval machines.
- Each order is associated with a specific position (tote or cubby hole) on the workstation. Multi-color light-directed put modules on the workstation display up to eight different colors (red, blue, green, purple, etc.).
- Each picker working within that pod is assigned a specific color (red, blue, green, purple, etc.).
- When order picking begins, each picker follows the direction of their assigned color.

For example, the system directs the green picker to machine 2 using a green pick light while the red picker is directed to machine 4 using a red pick light.



- At the machines pick-to-light technology directs each picker to the specific SKU to pick and the quantity required. Each operator confirms their pick on their assigned machine.

For example, the green operator picks 9 units of a SKU and confirms the pick at the machine, while the red operator picks 4 units of a SKU and confirms the pick at the machine.



- Just a few steps away, the light modules at the put workstation illuminate with the put location and required quantity to place in the order.

For example, the green operator places 5 units into order 2 and 4 units into order 6, while the red operator places 2 units into order 3 and 2 units into order 9.



- Confirmation of the put at the workstation triggers the next SKUs to be picked. The pickers follow their assigned color to pick the next waiting SKU from the machines and place them into the orders on the workstation as directed by the colored put lights.
- The process repeats for every operator until all the picks are completed within the pod.

Kardex Remstar, LLC
41 Eisenhower Drive, Westbrook, ME 04092
800-639-5805 www.kardexremstar.com info.remstar.us@kardex.com