

EWTN TELEVISION SET FACILITY

Executive Summary

EWTN is a Catholic television network operation located in Irondale, AL. They produce television shows that are complete with the television set design. They air their shows 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

The issue was a set warehouse that was too tight, much disorganized, lost set pieces and excessive damage to their set furniture. A new facility was designed behind their exiting television facility. We also added in Warehouse Management System (WMS) software to allow for the tracking of SKU's. We added in racking for set storage pieces and to all but eliminate lost pieces and set piece damage. The results were tight inventory control, damage dropped by 99.5%, no lost inventory, delivery to the studio dropped from an advance of two weeks to the same day and the ability of the set designers to make substitutions to a set. Return on investment was 2 years not including the new facility.

Details

EWTN engaged Distribution Consulting to determine the size of the new facility and to correct the excessive set damage and losing of set pieces. Since set pieces are made up of all sizes it was impossible to take the existing SKU base and convert to storage types. The other part of that issue there was no existing SKU base set up in their business system side. Therefore, we went to the old warehouse measured and counted pieces. After this was done we determined that we needed a variety of storage type. All of the set pieces were stored vertically in cubby hole compartments. All of the ill shaped pieces were storage on wire decks within the selective rack. All of the furniture pieces were stored on solid decks

To make all of this work properly it was determined to add a Warehouse Management System (WMS) into the warehouse. This WMS was supplied by HAL Systems.

<http://webserver.halsystems.comwarehousemanagementsystem.aspx>

We took every set piece and applied a bar coded license plate/master unit label to each piece. Along with this we took a picture of each set piece. Each set piece then became a unique SKU and we gave the entire set a unique SKU. Under this scheme a set designer could look up a set and make any modifications they wanted to the set. Once the designer was satisfied with the set an order was issued to the warehouse using the WMS.

In the warehouse the locator system was set up on a floating slot with no fixed forward positions. This allowed us to store any given SKU anywhere within the storage system as long as it fit the slot. The order came to the warehouse from the WMS and the order picker then went

to each location and scanned the unique license plate/master unit label to confirm that he had the right piece. We mounted set staging location bar codes and the warehouse personnel would scan the staging location attaching the set piece to the staging location. The warehouse personnel would continue this process until all of the set pieces was staged. Once all of the set pieces were staged the warehouse personnel would confirm completion on the radio frequency device and send an Email notification the set designer that the set was ready for pick up.

The architectural firm that did the building was Design Form and their web site is www.designforminc.com

The outcome of design was solid inventory control, keeping the set department from building another piece of a lost SKU, damage was reduce by 99.3%, purchasing of new furniture dropped by 99.8%, ability of a set designer to make changes on the fly and have a set ready and deliverable in today's business cycle.