

Designing and Using Carousels in the Warehouse

Engineering Guide Synopsis

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One of the important challenges in the operation of a warehouse is the balancing of short-term and long-term demands on your time. All too often, the pressure to get orders out on a daily basis precludes the detailed study and analysis needed to truly optimize.

Opportunities abound for operations and engineering managers to broaden their horizons by membership in any of several professional societies and by visiting and learning from operations in other industries and other countries. Unfortunately, few can find the time to take advantage.

This engineering guide responds to these issues. It is one of a series of papers that distill accumulated knowledge gained from many warehouses spread across industries and nations into a single, concise form that can give operations and engineering management a head start on their work. It is designed to reduce the time that managers need to understand and evaluate technologies and, to some extent, to replace the need for expensive consultants.

Designing and Using Carousels in the Warehouse presents a detailed methodology for the initial design, proposal and purchase of a new carousel installation and for its continued maintenance after installation. This methodology is heavily illustrated and is accompanied by a Microsoft Access database¹ that contains the eight pre-written table definitions and twenty-eight queries used in the example. While the use of Access is not required by the methodology, the sample database provides a starting point and for those who are generally familiar with Access, it can significantly reduce the effort required. (VBA is not used and no programming skills are required.)

¹ Database not included when printed documents are ordered.

Designing and Using Carousels in the Warehouse
Table of Contents

About Precision Systems	Other Preparatory Work
Introduction	Determining the Ideal Carousel
Purpose of this Paper	Inventory
About the Author	Determining the Number of Pods,
Terminology	Carousels and Carriers
A Note About Illustrations	Designing Bins
Carousel Basics	Assigning Items to Bins
Horizontal Carousels	Specifying Software and Outlining
Vertical Carousels	Methods
Light Bars	Test the Design
Elevators	Create RFP and Get Quotes
Computers and Controls	Adapting a Used Carousel
Unit Load Carousels	Business Growth
Related Equipment	System Startup and Operation
A Note on Safety	Managing an Existing Carousel
Why Use a Carousel?	Installation
Productivity Improvement	The Break-In
Space Utilization	Maintenance
Picking Accuracy	Upgrading
Cost of Carousels	Maintaining a Productive Loading
Measurable Financial Costs	Profile
Non-measurable and Non-Financial	Getting Help
Costs	Appendix A – Terms
How to Design a Carousel Installation	Appendix B – Financial Evaluation of
Objectives and Vision	the Carousels