Top Tier, Inc.
manufacturing facility

Hypertherm®

ProNest integration with MRP software saves time and money for manufacturer

Industry: Manufacturing
Equipment: ProNest®, pc/MRP™

The company and products

Top Tier, Inc. of Portland, Oregon is a manufacturer specializing in packaged goods equipment, most notably palletizers.

The problem

Top Tier's manufacturing facility nests 20 to 30 sheets at a time to meet its part production needs. However, with a wide variety of parts and different materials, that could mean a half day's work for the nesting programmer to import all of the CAD files and manually assign part properties such as quantity, material type, and thickness.

"We wanted to know if there was a way to link ProNest to our MRP system which already contained most of the part data," explained Programmer, Rick Kirkpatrick.

The solution

Top Tier contacted pc/MRP, their accounting and inventory software provider, and found that they were able to integrate directly with ProNest.

"Getting set up (with the integration) was a great experience," said Kirkpatrick. "The ProNest support guys virtually walked me through it right on my own computer. And they called me back the next day just to ensure everything was working. It's got to be the best tech support I've ever had."

Right away Top Tier was able to start importing entire spreadsheets of parts all at once from pc/MRP into ProNest. And the time savings have been significant.

The benefits

"This took a large burden away from the programming process," explained Kirkpatrick. "What used to take four hours to complete now takes only 20 minutes. It's not my only job to do the programming, so this frees me up to spend my time elsewhere. And at the end of the day that time translates into dollars and cents, and that's a huge cost savings."

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