

# KAIZAN KORNER

## Implementation of the Dual-Monitor System in the Pre-Production Cell



This month's spotlight is on a Kaizen in the Pre-production Cell. When the Cell is overloaded, work takes longer to reach Prep and that interruption of flow tends to have a ripple effect as the job moves through the shop. The faster and more efficient the Cell can get the cut lists and plans out into the shop, the more productive and efficient the shop floor can work. We all know efficiency has been our key to success over the past 18 months. Here is an example of how one idea, two monitors and a couple of cords will help us make a significant impact in improving a process.

### Q) Where did the idea come from?

A) *Mitch* – When I worked for a former employer, everyone had a minimum of two monitors and some as many as four. I worked there for two years, using a dual monitor system, and really saw the difference it made with the output of our kind of work. Bob and I happened to talk about it one day and we both concluded that a dual monitor system could help the cell, too. One thing led to the other and ...

### Q) What is the goal of investing in the hardware?

A) *Mitch* – I see this as a major quality issue. Before we would pull up a screen, see the data, minimize the screen, bring up another screen and try to remember what it was we were going to insert. Now we transfer some information with a click and a drag from one screen to the other. Or we pull up a spreadsheet on one screen and copy it to the other screen.

### Q) Is it too early to know if you are realizing that goal yet?

A) *Mitch* - No, we can already see that it is saving on time and reduction of errors.

### Q) Is using two screens taking some getting used to?

A) *Mitch & Bob* – No!

A) *Bob* – It took all of about 15 minutes to get the knack of it.

### Q) Are there any unexpected benefits of the setup?

A) *Bob* – we are finding that it is much quicker to transfer and modify copies of cut lists for customers with repeat orders.

### Q) Is there a way of measuring the benefits to the dual-monitor system?

A) *Bob* - Things are a little erratic now with vacations, shop coverage and such but when I do the next standard skid or valve, I can compare the hours that went into preparing for the last one with only one monitor and then we'll have some concrete numbers to compare.

### Q) What else can you tell me about the system?

A) *Bob* – we have a phase II of this project coming up and that is to make brackets for the monitors and keyboards. They will lift everything up and off the desk so we can put large drawings right in front of us. It will be much easier and faster than twisting to the side to look at the drawings then turning front to see the computer.

### Q) Who is doing the work?

A) *Bob* -- The guys in the shop are cutting and forming the metal brackets, Mitch and I will fabricate and install them.

It really is clever how the two monitors work together. With a click and a drag, information is moved or copied from one file to another. It is possible to open both monitors to the same drawing and see a much larger version. Thanks to Mitch and Bob for spearheading this positive change in the Cell!