

## Manual Kanban vs. electronic Kanban

Some Lean experts are telling us that a Kanban system have to work in a classic way without any software support. Of course, a manual Kanban system is perfect to train the employees how is a PULL system is working and how the Kanban cards have to be handled in daily business. Absolutely!

But when a company in following a "Lean Strategy" it will use Kanban for more and more internal business units and external suppliers.

In such a situation typical weaknesses of a classic manual Kanban system come up. Typical problems are sending of Kanban signals over long distances, bad information about the Kanban situation at the shop-floor, increasing human errors , lost Kanban cards, higher effort for Kanban data management, no interface to existing ERP/MRP system etc. etc.

In such situations it makes sense to support the Kanban system by a specialized software, an electronic Kanban system!

But do not understand this wrong:

**Our e-Kanban system IKS does not "digitalize" your Kanban processes!**

In such an IKS supported Kanban system you will still have physical Kanban cards, you have to follow the Kanban rules and all principles of Lean Production are still in place.

**IKS supports your Kanban processes to make them better, faster and more simple!**



MANUAL KANBAN	ELECTRONIC KANBAN
The use of Access, Excel or other software tools which have not been developed for Kanban systems causes data management difficulties	Data management based on a stable specialized system which has been developed especially for Kanban systems
Time consuming design and printing of Kanban cards	Simple and fast printing of Kanban cards in different designs (size, data, layout)
Very difficult to manage a huge number of Kanban loops and Kanban cards. A higher number of Kanbans will cause a higher number of human errors.	Simple and easy management of thousands of Kanban loops and Kanban cards.
Difficult sending of Kanban signals over long distances ⇒ difficult to connect external suppliers	Automatic sending of important information worldwide ⇒ simple and stable connection of external suppliers
Kanban information are only visible at the shop-floor; transparency will decrease dramatically when number of Kanbans is increasing	Full visualization of all Kanban information
Using of pure manual Kanban boards without automatic sorting of Kanban loops by priority	"Real-time" information via electronic Kanban boards inclusive automatic sorting of Kanban loops by priority plus other helpful functionalities
Less possibilities to measure the performance of a Kanban system (Inventory, Lead-Times, Delivery Reliability etc.)	Measuring of each single Kanban movement and extensive possibilities to analyze KPIs to optimize the Kanban system continuously
Often manual processes to book Kanban items to the ERP/MRP system (inventory bookings etc.)	Automatic material bookings via ERP/MRP interface (Kanban tracking via IKS, data transfer into the ERP/MRP system)
No support of "special situations" (like lost Kanban cards, demand peaks etc.)	A lot of possibilities to support the Kanban Analyst in "special situations"

**Please contact us for an IKS presentation!**

#### About manufactus

manufactus designs and develops innovative software solutions to optimize production and logistic processes.

Our goal is to supply software tools to support internal production processes, optimize the supply chain and to enable the customer to improve the processes continuously. Hereby we strongly support the principles of Lean Manufacturing, Kanban and the Toyota Production System.