

Typical mistakes	Our tips to avoid these mistakes
<p>Selection of wrong Kanban parts The items have not been analyzed (correctly) and the criteria for Kanban parts haven't been defined. So parts are managed by Kanban which make no sense or can only be handled with difficulties.</p>	<p>Start with an ABC-XYZ analysis! Especially an ABC analysis can normally be realized in a fast and easy way. Such an analysis is a great tool to get a "better feeling" of your own parts.</p>
<p>No Kanban Coordinator There is no person defined which is responsible for the management and optimization of the Kanban system. The Kanban coordinator is normally also the contact person no. 1 for all operators and people at the shop-floor.</p>	<p>Define a Kanban Coordinator at the beginning! Organize training courses for this person, give him/her the right tools for the Kanban data management and guarantee the required support in case of problems. Especially during the Kanban implementation phase this is not a "part time job"!</p>
<p>No stable basis to manage Kanban data The Kanban data are managed in an (complex) Excel-Spreadsheet or a similar tool. The management of the Kanban data gets more and more complex and is very time consuming.</p>	<p>Start with a stable Kanban data basis. Use a Kanban tool which is prepared for Kanban requirements and approved by other Kanban users to reduce the required time for Kanban data management, card printing and Kanban controlling to a minimum.</p>
<p>No standardized Kanban cards The Kanban cards are created and printed with Word, Excel or another similar tool. There is no clear standard defined and the Kanban data on the cards are not complete or not 100% correct.</p>	<p>Define standard Kanban cards (maybe also different sizes of the Kanban cards for different container types). Make sure that the Kanban cards can be created and printed in a fast and easy way.</p>
<p>The production lot-sizes are too huge The production lot-sizes of the Kanban parts are too big. This causes a huge amount of Kanban cards which cannot be handled in an easy way in operation. We will not talk about all other negative aspects of huge production lot-sizes now and here!</p>	<p>Work continuously on the reduction of your production lot-sizes and your set-up times. This is a very important topic for a successful Kanban system, for the flexibility of the production and for all other processes. Sometimes production lot-sizes can be "cut off" and the production is running without any problems.</p>
<p>The processes are too complex The processes are too complex and human errors are guaranteed. This results in "lost" Kanban cards and a bad transparency.</p>	<p>Define easy and clear processes which can be handled by each employees. Define clear responsibilities and transparent processes (Kanban collection points, visualization of information, Kanban rules,...).</p>
<p>No required KAIZEN activities A Kanban system expose existing weaknesses very fast (bad quality, high production lot-sizes and set-up times etc. etc.) but no activities are defined and realized to solve this problems to prepare the required environment.</p>	<p>Make a note of all problems and weaknesses! Discuss all topics inside a team and define the required actions and projects! Start with the required optimization activities fast! Please do not forget: Kanban is a strong tool, but it is only one part of the big LEAN puzzle and Kanban does not solve all of your problems automatically!</p>

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.