

**Kanban Made Simple: Demystifying and Applying Toyota's Legendary Manufacturing process (with CD)**, John M. Gross, Kenneth R. McInnis, AMACOM, 1601 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. 2003. ISBN 0-8144-0763-3 ;259 pages; Listed \$49.95.

This book provides down to earth details of what is and how to implement a Kanban system in the factory floor. Kanban in Japanese means “visual board”, which was originated in Toyota for the control of the production flow and as a result to manage the WIP inventory. It is a pull system.

This book pointed out that in order to implement the Kanban system, the implementer needs first to understand the following information; number of parts produced by the process, changeover time, downtime and scrap levels. This process of understanding the current process status is addressed in one of the seven steps in implementing Kanban system; that is data collection. Of course, the step of data collection goes beyond just collecting the data, it includes identify the data to be collected, how it should be collected and analyze the information in the data. In addition to the data collection, following are the steps to complete the implementations, which are: Forming a Kanban Team, Calculate the Kanban size, Design the Kanban, Deploy the Kanban, Train everyone, Audit and maintain the Kanban, Improve the Kanban.

In Appendix, this book provides valuable information about the comparison of the Kanban versus the other production Control approaches, such as MRP and EOQ. The authors pointed out that Kanban as a production control approach is not a replacement for the other production control system, in stead, it is complimentary to the other systems, since each system has its strong area for the application.

This book will be useful for production managers, production control personnel, and for quality professional who is responsible for improving production process in order to have an effective Kanban system.

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