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LEAN THOUGHTS

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Accessories for Lean Practitioners

During the years of facilitation and actively being involved doing Lean Enterprise implementations our contact list has grown with a list of companies and products that just seem to work better than others. For many just starting the journey or if you are already well established in your journey some of these products may work for you ... us we just take them for granted so the following is acknowledgements to our hidden supplier network who have helped make our Lean Transformations world class.

At the heart of any Lean Enterprise is making things visible so that you can support the 15 second 50 foot rule ... within 15 seconds from 50 feet we should be able to understand what is supposed to be happening is actually happening. Of course this involves creating and monitoring visual indicators within your working environment.

White Boards

Sure you run to your local Staples office supply store to get you started but experience has shown that you will want to get a magnetic white board. We came across Martack several years ago. Mark is an awesome individual who by the way understands Lean. They will manufacture custom sized boards for you and have a ton of options available.

What we really like is their track mounting system for white boards and other accessories. If you adopt the use of the track system in the plant you can take a panel with you to the floor to collect your data and then bring it back to the meeting room for a more effective problem solving exercise. They have a slick easel pad holder and then a very cool system for holding individual easel sheets ... which will quickly give you a pay-back if you are purchasing those 3M post-it easel pads.

Give Mark a call or visit their web site to see what they can offer for your Lean Enterprise. mnixon@martackspecialties.com , web site www.martackspecialties.com Unfortunately they cannot custom mark a template onto the boards unless it is significant volume ... but contact us and we can probably help you.



LEAN CONSORTIUM MEMBERS:

- CFN Precision
- CGL
- CTS Canada
- EATON Cutler Hammer
- KRAFT
- LA-Z-BOY- Residential
- MESSIER-DOWTY
- MORRISON LAMOTHE
- ORENDA
- NESTLE WATERS CANADA
- STACKPOLE



Where “Lean Thoughts”
Become Reality



Vidpro Document Holders

I just love this product ... it will be the last document holder you will ever purchase.



I will warn you up front ... these are not cheap. These document holders are made from a robust clear plastic and can be made to many custom sizes in either a portrait or landscape format.

Here are the features that really impress us. First the document gets sealed by using the patented track system. The track comes with many options ... it comes with an adhesive strip or you can order it with a magnetic strip but we recently found out that you can mount these using a wire or thin rod. The track system allows you to cascade several document holders ... great for all of those visual work instructions.

As shown in the picture they can also be ordered as a window pocket where the operator can lift the flap to update data ... great for production charting or your TPM sheets.

These document holders are great for outdoor applications, food industry applications where you need to be able to clean the walls without harming the documents or use in dusty environments or just to really help you create that professional image.

Unfortunately Vidpro does not have a web site but they have a great customer service representative that can help you. Call Laurie Senra at 800 363-5425 ext. 217 or email lsenra@vidpro.ca

Arrangements have been made with these suppliers that will enable Lean Thoughts readers to get special discounts so make sure you mention us when you contact them.

Labels Labels Labels ...

A fundamental tool during your Lean Enterprise transformation is the purchase of a label making system. Yes there are many kinds of systems out there but usually most people will settle on using the Brady system. Within the Consortium most members have standardized on using the Brady Global Mark system which costs around 5K to purchase.

Brady has just announced a newer more cost effective product called the Mini Mark for under 2K. It uses the same supplies that the Global Mark system uses. Although we have yet to use the new label maker Scott has assured us that we will be pleased with the performance and the results.

In order to use the machine you will need to load the software onto a computer dedicated to the machine.

If you decide to purchase a Brady machine we strongly suggest that you also purchase the Lockout Pro software with your system. We have found that this is an excellent and robust system to create your own internal Lock Out, Tag Out (LOTO) system.

Scott Peaker from Brady is familiar with nearly all of the consortium members and 5S applications so he can quickly get you started. You can reach Scott by dialing 800 833-3251 ext. 7008 or by email at scott_peaker@bradycorp.com

LEAN ON ME

Contact me if you need coaching or facilitation help in the areas such as but not limited to; 5S, Value Stream Mapping, Set-up Reduction, Problem Solving or Policy Deployment and Consortium Development



Feel free to contact us for potential suppliers for other challenging applications you may be facing either us or someone else in our Lean Community may have an answer. We currently are testing an alternative to aisle tape which shows some great promise ... but we want to try using it a bit more ... so stay tuned.

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Consortium Event Schedule



Tour Workshop Conference

January	February	March	April	May	June
<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 24 <u>Eaton Electrical</u>, contact Joe Fisher, JoeRFisher@eaton.com</p> <p>W</p> <p>La-Z-Boy Corporate Monroe MI February 14 & 15 <u>Enterprise Value Stream Mapping</u> How to use the VSM tools to map admin processes. Contact Richard Kunst for info. Richard.kunst@la-z-boy.com Register at www.ame.org</p>	<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 14, <u>CFN Precision</u>, contact Paul Kaulback, pkaulback@cfn-inc.com</p>	<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 21, <u>Nestle Waters</u>, contact Mariela Castano mcastano@perriergroup.com</p>	<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 18, <u>CTS Corp.</u>, contact Bob Garces, Bob.Garces@ac.ctscorp.com</p> <p>C</p> <p>Lean Design & Development Conference Wed 18 to Fri 20 Chicago Contact www.iirusa.com/lean</p>	<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 16, <u>Stackpole CSD</u>, contact Don Barber Don.Barber@stackpole.ca</p> <p>Consortium Shareshowcase</p> <p>Saturday 05 <u>CGL Guelph</u>, Contact Cindy Grolleman Grolleman@canada.com or Dave Deskur daved@cglmfg.com</p>	<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 20, <u>Morrison LaMothe</u>, contact Tony Vita tvita@morrisonlamthe.com</p> <p>C</p> <p>AME Regional Conference Mon 18 to Thur 21 Edmonton, Alberta Contact www.measureupforsuccess.com</p>
July	August	September	October	November	December
		<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 26, <u>Kraft Foods</u>, contact Hanif Jivraj hjivraj@Kraft.com</p>	<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 10, <u>CGL Manufacturing</u> contact Dave Deskur daved@cglmfg.com</p> <p>C</p> <p>AME National Conference Mon 29 to Friday Nov 2 Chicago Contact www.ame.org</p>	<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 14, <u>Messier-Dowty</u>, contact Mike Smith Mike.Smith@Messier-dowty.on.ca</p>	<p>T</p> <p>Wednesday 12, <u>Orenda</u>, contact Brenda McIntosh brendamcintosh@orenda.com</p>