Overview of the Crib Reduces Machine Downtimes

The TDM Tool Crib Module organizes everything that is in stock for tools and production resources. Even tools that are located off-site are recorded. By doing so, the module flexibly adapts itself to each crib structure. TDMstoreasy, the intelligent software for tool cabinets, supports this in praxis.

The TDM Tool Crib Module can map each physical crib and adapt itself to the customer," says Regional Account Manager Andreas Maier from TDM Systems, adding: “The software offers all of the possibilities." At the same time, it integrates easily in terms of Tool Lifecycle Management into higher level systems.

Different Crib Systems

The positive aspect for the software's flexibility is that it is able to cope with the most diverse crib systems. Essentially, there is a distinction between electromechanical and conventional systems; the latter is also divided into "controlled" and "guided" withdrawals. Controlled, individual withdrawals of tools allows for what is known as vending machines, similar to vending machines for food. Maier: "They have experienced a boom in recent years and are mainly used for round-the-clock supply in multi-shift operation." Here, it depends on the shortest possible access times.

In centralized tool cribs, it also operates with paternoster and lift systems. They make use of the expensive manufacturing area very well, because they can be built all the way up to the ceiling of the manufacturing hall. A combination of chaotic and fixed location coded storage strategies, in turn, has the advantage that the company can utilize the available space in the most ideal manner possible. It requires planned allocation so that one knows where the tools, measuring and inspection equipment, and fixtures are located. The cabinet management, TDMstoreasy can control all types of cabinets and can be coupled with the TDM Tool Crib Module or used as a stand-alone system. As a result, controlled tool dispensing and centralized evaluation for all of the connected cabinets is possible.

Tool Management According to Status and Location

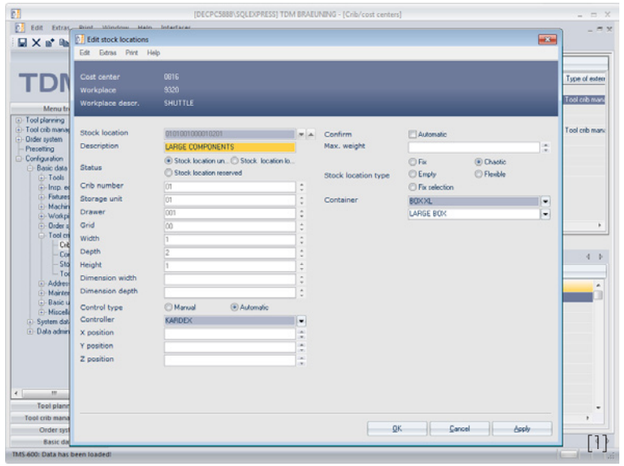
The TDM Tool Crib Module maps all of the upstream and downstream processes of a tool crib. TDM itself forms the connection between the systems (ERP and MES) and supports them with status information about the actual status of the production resources. The software records the status and location for each tool. Thus, it is clear whether they are tools that are new, used, or in need of repair. It is also apparent whether an item is being ordered, has been partially delivered, or has been delivered. With the booking functions, the tools are booked on the cost centers, for example on a machining center. Moreover, it is always clear in which tool assembly, individual items are installed and where exactly the tools are.

Tool assemblies are either mounted or dismantled and placed in storage for reverse bookings. The TDM Crib Module supports the withdrawal process and provides the necessary instructions automatically. During disassembly, the employee is able to view what is to be done with each part. Maier: "The TDM module is practically the assistant who thinks along with you."

TDM can summarize up to eight tool statuses under one identification number, makes resource-oriented planning possible, and eliminates bottleneck situations or even machine downtimes due to lack of tools. The example of Norbert Kempf GmbH (Page 10) shows how well this works in practice.

Crib Management as Resource Planner for Tool Lifecycle Management

Crib Management is an important basic function in the overall Tool Lifecycle Management process. Gathering the tool and production resource stocks and giving information about their status and location form a solid basis for planning tools, orders, and machine uthilization. The TDM Tool Crib Module even supports the ordering process or can handle order management of the tools in combination with the TDM Ordering Module. If the colleagues from the NC programming also have access to the TDM Tool Crib Module, then this information enables scheduling of the available tools early on during the planning phase. The tool variety does not grow exorbitant and the available tools are used in the most optimal way possible. In one sentence: The TDM Tool Crib Module creates transparency and economic efficiency for your tool organization.



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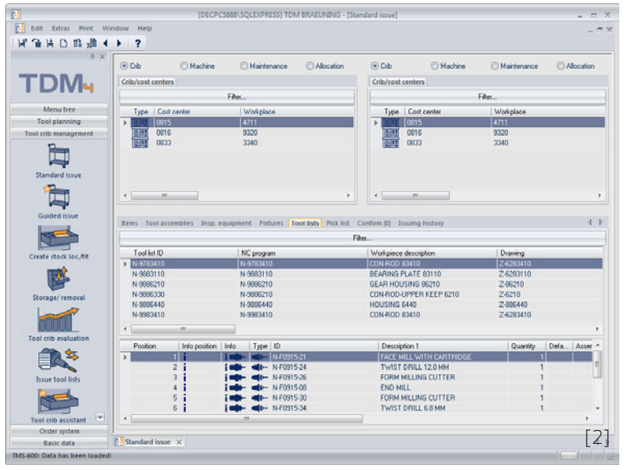

[2]

[1] Stock locations can be edited in the TDM Tool Crib Module.

[2] Standard issue in the TDM Tool Crib Module.