

Sheet Metal Fabricator Hidaka USA Automates Inventory Processes with AIM Mobility Physical Inventory App



Highlights

- Hidaka USA replaced its manual inventory processes with AIM Mobility Physical Inventory App.
- The company reduced direct labor man-hours from 320 to 160 for the physical inventory.
- AIM Computer Solutions delivered the training and launched the go-live quickly with no further on-site support or training needed the following year.
- Now Hidaka USA has an automated and easy-to-use inventory process to count raw, WIP and finished goods with insightful audit records and documentation.

"We knew our inventory counts were off and looked for an accurate automated solution that would be easy to train and use, with a good ROI."

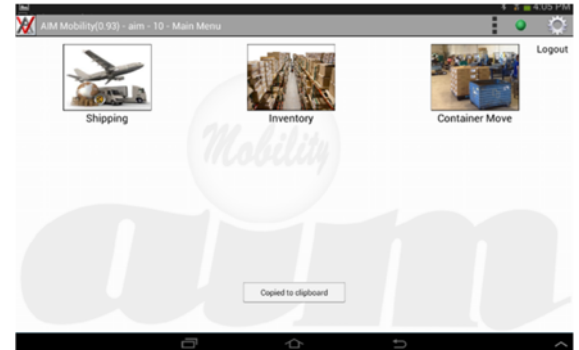
Diane Rosso, *DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIONS*, Hidaka USA, Inc.

The Challenge

Management at Hidaka USA, Inc. realized that its physical inventory processes were time consuming, draining resources, prone to manual errors, and disruptive to the production process. They determined to find an accurate and streamlined process.

Among the challenges with manual inventory, Hidaka identified these:

- Physical manual inventory required between 16 and 20 employees working non-stop over two days to complete the inventory. This added up to 320 man-hours of direct labor.
- Manual ticket writing often led to mistakes from handwriting errors.

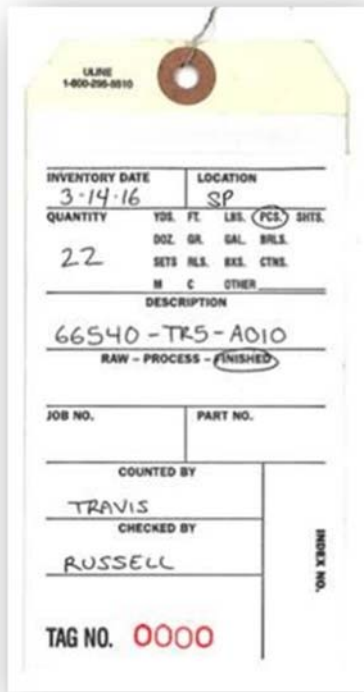


Users launch the AIM Mobility Physical Inventory App from an Android-based tablet.

About Hidaka USA, Inc.

Hidaka USA, Inc. was established in 1989 to fulfill a clearly defined need – to supply customers with high quality prototypes. Over the years, it has expanded its workforce, equipment lineup, technical expertise and infrastructure to support mass production and quality sheet metal fabrication demands. Hidaka USA's customers come from a diverse range of industries, including automotive and transportation, requiring a wide array of parts and assemblies. They are experts in prototype and mass production parts where the customer's parts come first.





Sample: Manual Count Tag

The Challenge (continued)

- Manual entry of handwritten tickets similarly suffered from errors.
- Inaccurate counts often surfaced weeks or months after the manual inventory.
- Like many manufacturers of their size and production levels, Hidaka uses their inventory levels as collateral for loans. An inaccurate inventory can be a detriment to positive bank audits for future capitalization.
- Because manual physical inventory is best performed during production downtimes, the production team was idled during the process, negatively affecting production schedules.

“We knew our inventory counts were off and looked for an accurate automated solution that would be easy to train and use, with a good ROI,” commented Diane Rosso, Hidaka USA, Inc.

The company’s overarching goal was to improve the process for a full physical inventory of raw, WIP and finished goods in the shortest time possible with the highest level of accuracy.

“Even better than the dollars saved, we now have an accurate inventory process that informs our production and scheduling needs. The audit record gives us timely and actionable insights.”

Diane Rosso,
 DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIONS,
 Hidaka USA, Inc.

The Solution

After reviewing multiple options, Hidaka USA selected AIM Mobility Physical Inventory App. The app integrates seamlessly with the AIM Vision physical inventory utility.

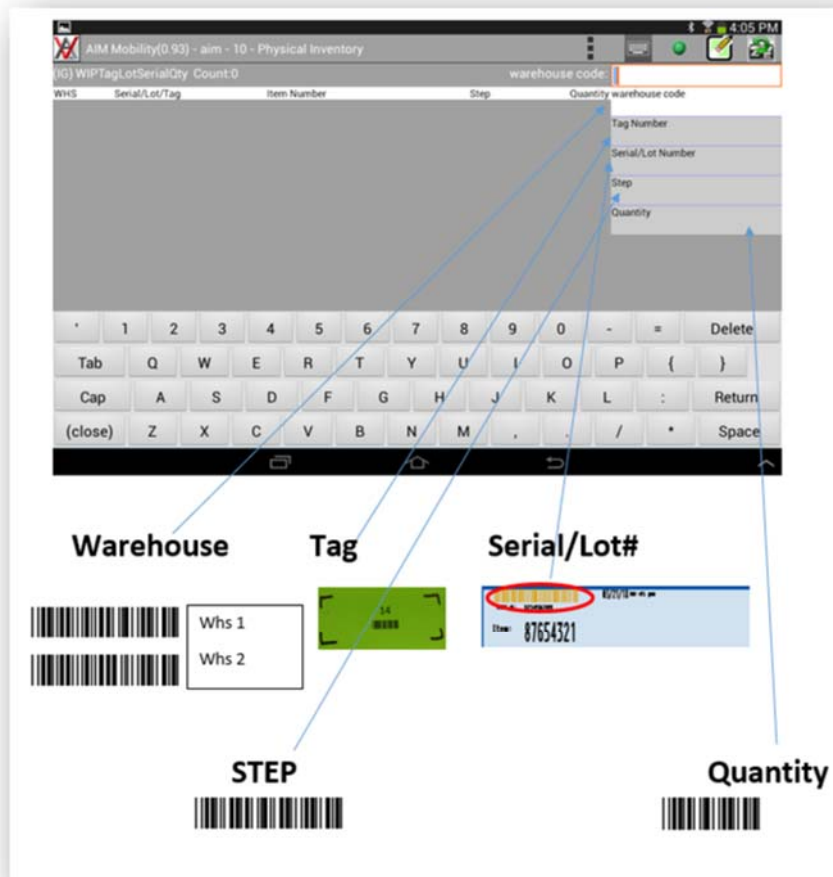
AIM Mobility is a series of manufacturing productivity apps integrated with AIM Vision ERP software. They deliver tablet touchscreen technology directly to the shop floor. The apps bring improved data visibility and real-time user feedback. Their error-checking functionality and real-time validation methods improve production scheduling and productivity.

AIM Mobility apps run on Android-based tablets. Utilizing Wi-Fi and Bluetooth technology, the tablet, scanner and AIM Vision software communicate with each other in real time. The apps produce cycle and physical inventory counts and reduce time and labor requirements. They increase efficiency with automatic data collection and create an inventory audit record.

The Results

The AIM Computer Solutions team introduced the new inventory process and delivered one hour of scanning training prior to the go-live. Implementation was accomplished in just one day.

For the first inventory go-live, the Hidaka USA team borrowed 8 tablets from AIM Computer Solutions. Two employees were deployed with each tablet. The team scanned serialized barcodes on all products on the production floor, scanning approximated 4200 items. The tablets are programmed to prevent typing errors and give immediate feedback on retired or disqualified products. The AIM Mobility Physical Inventory App delivers real-time tracking of product variances so that suspect variances can be double checked on-the-spot during the scanning process rather than after the inventory process is completed.



AIM Mobility Physical Inventory App
WIP Lot Tag Serial Quantity Entry Screen
with sample barcodes.

The process was deemed a success. Diane Rosso of Hidaka USA stated, “Even better than the dollars saved, we now have an accurate inventory process that informs our production and scheduling needs. The audit record gives us timely and actionable insights.”

The Results (continued)

AIM Computer Solutions guided Hidaka USA to a streamlined inventory process with these measurable improvements:

- Direct labor for inventory was reduced from 320 man-hours to 160 man-hours
- To prepare for the second-year full physical inventory using AIM Mobility Physical Inventory App, Hidaka USA purchased tablets the morning of the scheduled inventory and used them that afternoon, highlighting how intuitive they are to configure and how easy they are to use.
- The second-year full physical inventory was accomplished in eight hours. Many of the employees who performed the first inventory remembered how to use the process and did not need any retraining.
- For the third-year full physical inventory, Hidaka USA has indicated that no on-site support will be needed and that the employees are fully trained in the use of AIM Mobility Physical Inventory App.

About AIM

AIM Computer Solutions, Inc. provides business software solutions for manufacturers with three distinct solutions to meet specific ERP needs. The AIM Vision® ERP solution is designed for small to mid-size repetitive automotive suppliers. AutoCOR is an ERP solution for mid-size to large automotive suppliers. AIM is an Epicor Silver Partner and provides Epicor ERP solutions and implementation assistance for project-based manufacturing. For the latest news and updates, connect with AIM on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and follow [@aimcomERPnews](#) on Twitter. For more information go to www.aimcom.com.



34673 Bennett Drive
Fraser, Michigan 48026
Phone: +1(586) 439-0300