

ONE-PAGE INFORMATION - KAIZEN No.47

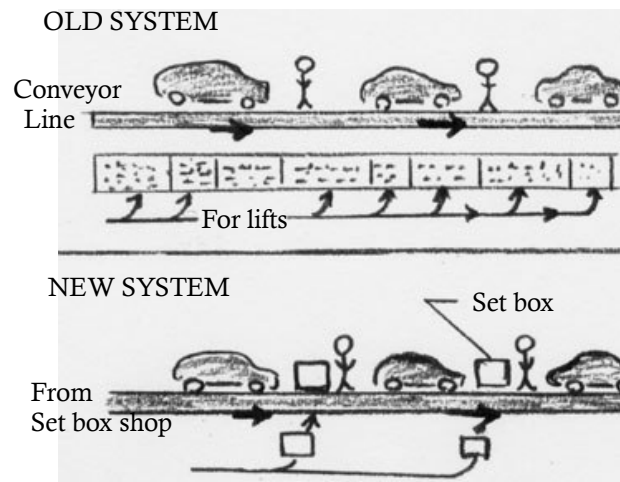
Published by S. Yoshida, GTR Institute, Tokyo Japan E-mail: gtr-inst@wta.att.ne.jp

□ Mazda Is Introducing a New Production System to Increase Productivity by 10%

According to the latest Nikkei Shimbun Newspaper (May 26, 2004), Mazda is starting a new assembly operation system with so-called “Kit Parts Supply,” in which necessary parts are selected and are put into a kit box in advance and the box is put on the moving conveyor belt behind the corresponding body to be assembled.

With this new parts supply system, vehicle assembly operator does not need to pick up the parts by selecting the specific model and specification of car from the conveyor-side parts racks.

He or she simply picks up the parts from the kit box to assemble them into the car without any mistake and less time. This system has been used widely for a long time in Japan and is known in more general term as “Set Box System”. But at Mazda, the Set Box System is being used in wider application with tremendous time-saving and mistake prevention.



□ MOT is becoming Popular in Japan Post Graduate Schools

Koichi Tanaka, an engineer of Shimazu Seisakusho of Japan, was awarded the Nobel Prize for physical science in 2003 for his outstanding discovery of a new measurement principle of protein molecular structure. Shimazu Seisakusho has designed a protein measuring device by using Tanaka's principle and marketed the apparatus world-wide. But Shimazu is listed as the smallest maker among the 3 major producers of the apparatus in global market. The two bigger foreign makers are more successful because they are better than Shimazu in designing, producing and marketing new products. This example gives us a shocking lesson : Japanese are not so good in using new scientific-technological inventions. Some people argue that the gap between new scientific-engineering discovery and product development must be narrowed by MOT. MOT is short of Management Of Technology. Today, at more than 20 graduate school of Japanese universities, increased number of engineers are taking-up MOT.

End of Report