

INCREASE WAREHOUSE EFFICIENCY +15%

Introduced in 1995 as part of National Products Inc. (NPI), RAM® Mounts is the leading manufacturer of rugged and versatile mounting solutions for nearly any application and device – including phones, tablets, cameras, GPS systems, laptops, marine electronics, printers, radios, and much more.

With over 5,000 sellable components, USA-based inventor and manufacturer RAM® Mounts needed to step up warehouse efficiency. RAM® Mounts realized a 15% overall increase in efficiency using ProGlove wearable barcode scanners. Spanning dozens of processes and touch points, RAM® has seen a nearly 100% increase in daily scans or products picked.

CHALLENGE

Handheld scanners impede productivity – and safety - at several stages of production

SOLUTION

ProGlove wearables, paired to a Samsung tablet on a RAM® Mount, optimizes workflows

RESULT

15% increase in overall warehouse efficiency and 100% increase for the picking team

In the team's experience at RAM® Mounts, it is rare that a simple technology upgrade can have such an immediate and positive impact on both productivity and people. Yet this was the case with the recent introduction of ProGlove wearable barcode scanners at the plant.

RAM® Mounts is the leading manufacturer of rugged and versatile mounting solutions for nearly any device in any location – including phones, tablets, cameras, GPS systems, laptops, marine electronics, printers, radios, display screens, and more.

For a lot of workers and workplaces, it's important to place that device exactly where it's needed – on a wall or a cart or next to the steering controls or above the entryway - and this is the purpose of RAM® Mounts. As the designer and manufacturer of these essential hardware interfaces, the company handles all aspects of production from the smallest component connectors to the largest bases and brackets whether milled or molded or soldered together. Building a mount – starting from a batch melt of plastic pellets, for example, to a completed order ready to ship – is a process that requires roughly 30 scans along the way. These scans help capture production vitals, prep assembly, populate inventory, and track fulfillment.

Given their role in the marketplace, helping workers put THAT device right THERE, the value of good ergonomics is well understood at RAM® Mounts. When Warehouse Manager Tristen McClellan approached Chad Remmers, COO, with a ProGlove demo device he knew there was value in piloting the solution throughout the different use cases in the production process and with both mobile team members and for those working at fixed workstations.



“Our team asked for a more reliable and efficient scanner to pair with their Samsung tablet; since we deployed ProGlove wearable scanners our warehouse team’s productivity has increased 15%.

The value proposition of ProGlove is an easy cost-benefit analysis to workthrough.”

Chad Remmers
COO RAM® Mounts



CHALLENGE

Handheld Scanners Impede Productivity

Scanning is an essential activity for documenting processes at RAM® Mounts, with more than 30 scans required to trace manufacture from inception to delivery. Handheld scanners posed certain challenges, either with the technology itself or with the utilization of it.

The biggest technology challenge identified with handheld scanners was reliability. This manifested in two ways: (1) dropped connections and (2) weak batteries. Both of these challenges disrupted workflows and frustrated workers. Connectivity issues between the scanner and the system required re-pairing the device. This could happen frequently and without warning throughout a shift, forcing a work stoppage. Similarly, device failure due to spent batteries was commonplace. Batteries did not last through an entire shift. This meant workers needed to carry spare batteries and the company needed to have substantial supplies of backup batteries on hand to cover all workers and shifts.

Technical issues with legacy scanners weren't the only disruption. The mere act of using a handheld is an impediment to the flow of work when compared to a wearable. To scan items with a handheld barcode scanner often means a pause to locate the scanner, remove it from its holster, scan the item, and replace it in the holster. This sequence is typically four seconds. This is not just a waste of time but a waste of attention which can lead to errors. Further, scanners positioned at shared workstations present a special threat in the time of COVID-19. With shared devices handled by multiple parties the opportunities for cross-contamination are compounded.



100% increase in efficiency
for warehouse picking team



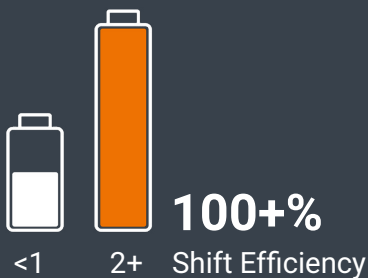
SOLUTION

ProGlove Wearables + Samsung Tablets + RAM® Mounts

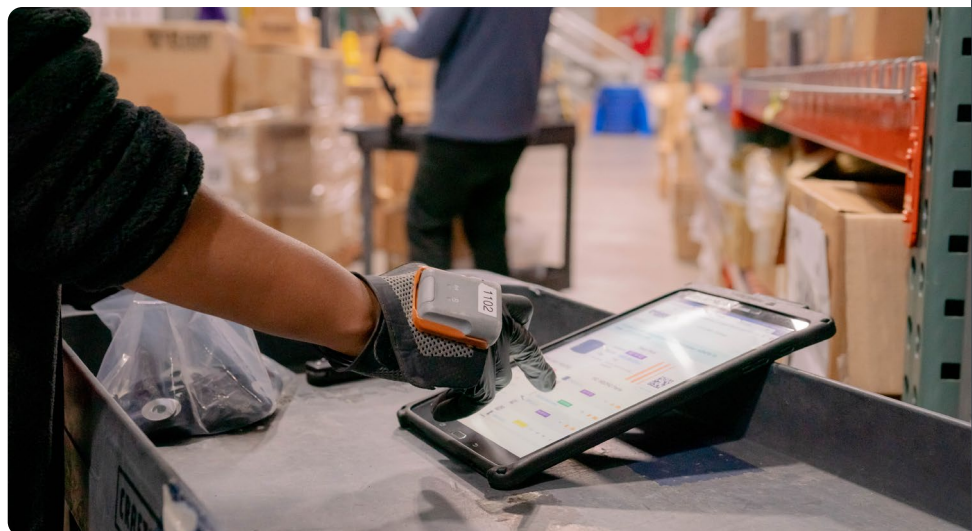
Based on a pilot test over the course of a few weeks at the Washington state headquarters, it was clear to the team that ProGlove wearable barcode scanners presented a vast improvement over the legacy technology. With input from frontline workers, the company rapidly deployed on a 1:1 basis the ProGlove wearable scanning solution everywhere scanning was done. Each employee involved in scanning received their own personal wearable Index Trigger hand wrap, which was paired to a Samsung tablet for easy access to the management system. In each case the optimum RAM® Mounts technology was deployed to meet the needs of the individual workstation or mobile workflow.

The scan kits deployed for each user included:

- Wearable ProGlove scanner paired to Samsung tablet
- RAM®-mounted Samsung tablet for pick cart or workstation
- IntelliSkin® rugged tablet case with shoulder strap and Hand-Stand™ for mobile workers
- GDS® multi-port device charging ecosystem for tablets
- ProGlove Charging Station for scanners



100+% increase in battery life covers more than two shifts on a single charge.



The deployment of the new ProGlove scanning solution was well received throughout the company. ProGlove scanners are both rugged and featherlight with a slim profile and an easy fit that make them a comfortable extension of the wearer's capabilities. "We are glad for the new wearable scanners and appreciate RAM® responding to our suggestions," says Picking Team Lead, Rosie Silvas. "The wearable scanners from ProGlove are more reliable and much more efficient."

RESULT

Warehouse Efficiency With Worker Ergonomics

Most notably, the company saw a 15% increase in overall warehouse efficiency, and an astonishing 100% increase in efficiency for the picking team. No longer were workflows disrupted by finicky legacy scanners. The team experienced zero drop-offs in connectivity, which had been a problem previously. There was also a 100% increase in battery life, from less than one shift of coverage previously to more than two shifts on a single charge with ProGlove. Workers hands were free with full dexterity to pick, pack, ship, and manage inventory processes. On average, the team achieved 227,000 scans over 30 processes per employee per month. This is impressive as a summary list:

- Zero drop-off connectivity with ProGlove
- Hands-free scanning for pick, pack, ship, and inventory processes
- Over 100% increase in battery life from <1 shift to 2+ shifts on single charge
- 15% increase in overall warehouse efficiency
- 227,000 scans over 30 processes per employee per month
- 100% increase in efficiency for warehouse picking team

“The total parts picked and scan metrics tell the story—our team is more efficient using ProGlove, including more parts picked and shipped, every day” says Warehouse Manager, Tristen McClellan.

It is clear an immediate and positive impact in team productivity may be achieved with the smallest change. The deployment of ProGlove wearable barcode scanners at RAM® Mounts did not require any change in the manufacturing process, facility layout, or digital management systems. Simply by changing from legacy handheld scanners to ergonomic wearable scanners the company saw a 100% increase in picking efficiency and an overall 15% improvement in overall warehouse efficiency. With each team member receiving their own scan kit, including the right RAM® mounts suited to the job to be done, the team is happier, safer, and more productive.



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