



THE WINDOW OUTFITTERS

## Voodoo Robotics Revolutionizes Inventory Management for The Window Outfitters

VOODOORobotics  
Warehouse Automation

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MRP and ERP Systems were way too expensive and complicated. SKU-Keeper is much simpler and does more than what we need for a fraction of the cost.

- Ryan Fitzgerald  
Executive Vice President  
The Window Outfitters

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### Abstract

The Window Outfitters was seeking a solid, yet affordable Enterprise Resource Planning or Material Requirements Planning system that would easily integrate with their complex manufacturing process. They found the perfect solution to fit their needs and their budget with SKU-Keeper, the latest product suite from Voodoo Robotics.

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## Background

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An International company with headquarters in Dallas, Texas, The Window Outfitters is the top provider of high-end window shutters and has been for over fifteen years. They manufacture and distribute a full line of both wood and aluminum window furnishings worldwide.

TWO's business model consists of offering both residential and commercial products wholesale to retailers, distributors and contractors who in-turn sell window furnishings to end-users. TWO's well known hottest seller is their patented and exclusive Weatherwell line of aluminum shutters.



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It was so easy to integrate with our process, and now everyone knows where everything is!

- Jason Erickson  
Operations Manager  
The Window Outfitters

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Every shutter TWO sells is unique!

Each shutter has to be manufactured individually to precise specifications.

At the Dallas headquarters, TWO employs upwards of 50 people with many more at facilities in Brisbane, Australia and Milan, Italy.

## Challenge

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After a recent doubling in size with a four-fold increase in manufacturing complexity, TWO found itself in the position of needing to know the exact status of all inventory in their warehouse and on their manufacturing floor.

They needed to know what they had in raw materials—SKU's, colors, types, quantities, etc. They needed to know how much was currently being used for work in progress. They further needed to know which orders were complete, which orders were behind, which orders had shipped and which orders were still pending.

Most of all, they needed to instantly calculate, based on pre-production and post-production orders in the pipeline, what and how much to order from their suppliers: TWO purchases supplies on the International market by container-load, so often **the excess from one order is used for another.**



## Solution

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Keeping track of all inventory in all orders was becoming a nightmare!

Did TWO need an expensive Material Requirements Planning (MRP) or Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to integrate with their complex build process? Perhaps they could use a simpler Warehouse Management System (WMS). But the risks seemed enormous given that any system would have to integrate seamlessly with their already complicated process.

Along came Voodoo Robotics with its SKU-Keeper suite of products.

### HARDWARE

TWO deployed 150 SKU-Keeper tags on their key inventory items - their long aluminum extrusions. These tags keep track of the quantity of each extrusion, the color, and type.

The tags were easily attached to the racks with industrial double-sided tape. Anyone can push the button on the tag to see exactly what extrusion is stored in that slot.

### SOFTWARE

Accounts were created for those needing access to the system and the roles/privileges were set appropriately. Users can log into their own accounts from their desktops, their tablets, or their cellphones at [www.sku-keeper.com](http://www.sku-keeper.com) to interact with the system.

Pickers can activate the tags to find inventory: tags light up with a picker's name and play a custom tune.

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Figuring out what to order from our suppliers is way easier now with SKU-Keeper.

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- Kramer Bailey  
Procurement Coordinator  
The Winow Outfitters



## Results

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Not all at once, but gradually, TWO began using the SKU-Keeper system for more and more of their operations: TWO started by adding all their inventory information into the system, but held off on entering picklists. Only after they became more comfortable with the features, did they move forward with adding accounts for pickers. But now that the system has proved so useful and reliable, everybody's using it.

## Results

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### ACCURATE INFORMATION

All employees now know where the supplies they need are at all times. No more wandering around looking for some critical item. SKU-Keeper tags show inventory information immediately and directly, right where the materials are stored. Cycle counts are far easier, saving countless hours.

### EASE OF USE

Employees can use their desktops, their tablets or even their cellphones to find what they're looking for. And the auto-complete function makes entry of SKU's or product names very simple. The cloud-based Interface is intuitive and easily understood.

### FLEXIBLE

Data can be imported and exported as needed. In particular, the custom software that TWO uses to create cut-lists, outputs spreadsheets that are directly importable into SKU-Keeper. SKU-Keeper is like Excel on steroids! TWO uses the powerful custom reports to help anticipate shortages and facilitate ordering from suppliers.

### MOBILE

SKU-Keeper tags were exceptionally easy to install and associate with a location. Because they're battery-driven (with long battery life), they can be moved to anyplace they're needed. If shelving configurations change, the tags can be simply detached and reattached where needed. More tags can be added at any time, and tags that aren't needed can be returned.

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SKU-Keeper saves us tons of time every month when it's time to do cycle counts. For the most difficult items, all we have to do is push the button on the tag to verify the count!

- Kramer Bailey  
Procurement Coordinator  
The Window Outfitters

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### AFFORDABLE

At a fraction of the price of an ERP or MRP system, the SKU-Keeper model of hardware and software as a service, works well for TWO. At just \$5 per month per tag, TWO has a system that's almost as fast as a pick-to-light.

### RISK FREE

TWO did not make a huge financial commitment. They didn't have to buy an expensive server. They are using the SKU-Keeper software and tags, as needed, month-to-month with no long-term contract, and if a better solution comes along, they're not locked-in.

But Voodoo Robotics and TWO plan to grow together. As TWO increases capacity, they plan to add more tags. And Voodoo Robotics plans to keep updating the SKU-Keeper software, adding more features and making the software ever easier to use.

TWO sees the move to SKU-Keeper technology as a huge win for the company, and Voodoo Robotics is delighted to serve them as a customer.