



## RF/BAR & RF/ID: *Simplifying Software, Inc.*



### Combining Receiving, Subcontracting, & Quality Assurance: Helping Leatherman Tool Group Provide the World with the Best Multi-Tools for Every Job

**Company:** Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.

**Facilities:** Portland, Oregon (Also home of Simplifying Software, Inc.)

**Operation:** Utility Multi-Tool, Knives, Pruners manufacturer

Leatherman Tool Group, Inc is a privately held, Portland-based utility tool company focused on delivering the highest quality, most useful utility tools everywhere around the world.

**The Challenge:** Leatherman needed an integrated Purchase Order Receiving, Subcontract Work Order Backflushing & Incoming Inspection solution that would promote quick delivery of incoming components to manufacturing cells. Previously, the company's receiving, subcontracting, and quality assurance functions were only tied together with "stale" paper-trails (reports, non-bar-coded supplier labels, quality assurance results cards, etc.).

**The Solution:** The excellent quality of Leatherman Tools demands thorough, rapid inspection. Monica Gutierrez & Minh Luu, Leatherman's Receiving & QA Managers, say that the most important criteria for the new Receiving & Inspection solution were that it be bar-code driven (for accuracy) & well integrated (for efficiency).

Leatherman purchasing team members worked hard to persuade their suppliers to implement bar-coding of shipment boxes received at Leatherman, and the speed of receiving has paid off, with over 90% of suppliers complying. Integrated Receiving, Backflushing and Inspection processes move the assured components to the proper manufacturing lines quickly and accurately. Also, by integrating QA's "skip-lot" statistical inspection logic into the receiving program, each lot that requires inspection is defined in the MFG/PRO database as a separate Quality Order.

RF/BAR PO Receiving  
Screen-shot

```
PONbr: 108328
PKSlp: 333333
Inv#EXP. ./MasterInv#
RcvDt: 05/13/08
Part 271830
THRUST BLOCK, VENDOR,
Ln 7 Opn 2977.0
#Ctns 1
PksQ 2977
RcvQ 2977
Locn 41
Lot# BFX-23456-A2
-1 Cmnt no
```

Simplifying Software's RF/BAR Purchase Order receiving function "de-codes" all suppliers' different formats of bar-coded labels. Subcontract work orders are backflushed as they are received. As each lot of components is received, the receipt updates the status of the skip-lot statistics in a Skip-Lot File. A later phase of integration is to store the quality assurance results in MFG/PRO's quality order test-results.

**The Result:** The time from Material & Subcontract Receiving through Incoming Inspection has been cut by at least 30%. Leatherman is working with Simplifying on Phase 2.0 of their RF/BAR Receiving & Inspection processing, which is adding receipt reversal skip-lot back-tracking, handling of multiple suppliers for same components, supplier certification, and production component failure reporting.

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