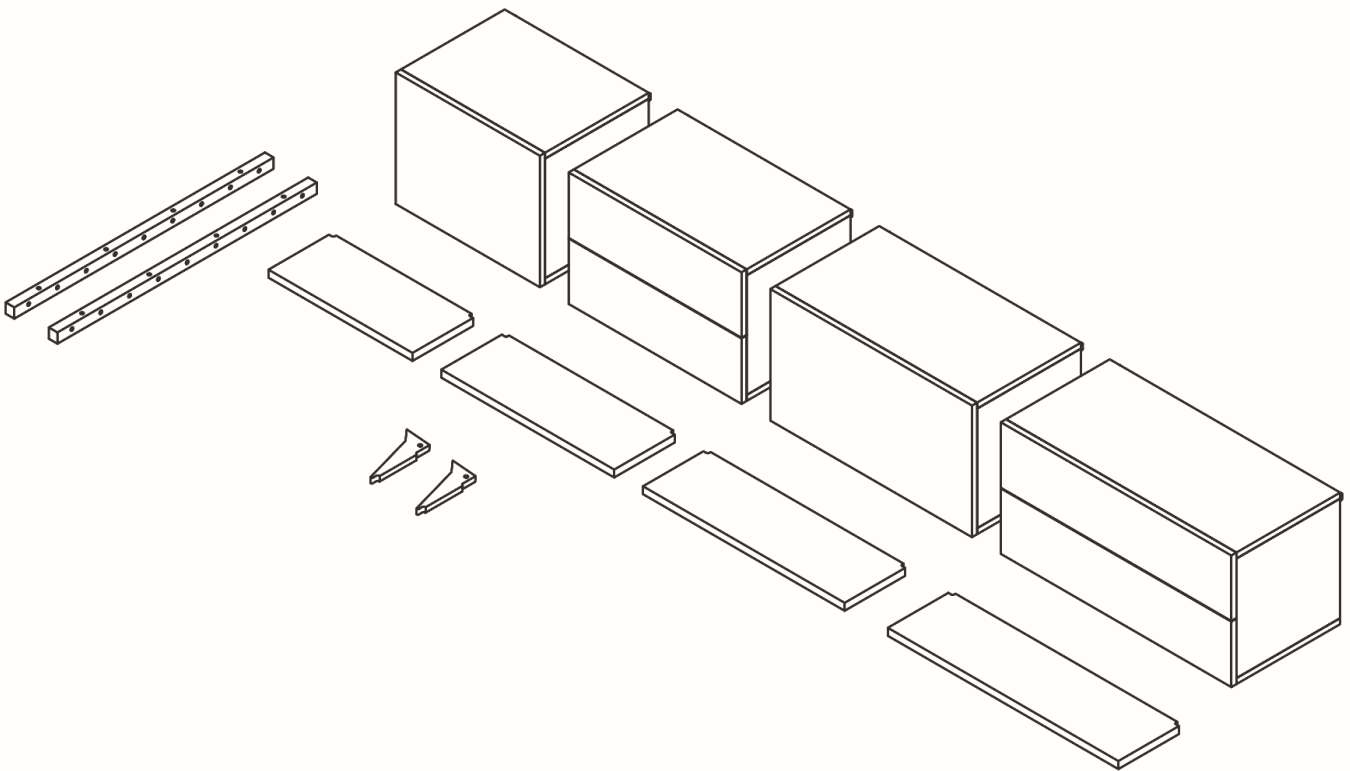


Planning Guide

Measuring the room, identifying the wall, understanding the components, and planning shelf positions and loading.



How planning works

This guide covers the information needed before manufacture. You can start from a pre-configured layout, design your own, or ask us to plan it with you.

01	Understand the system	Review parts, dimensions, clearances, connections, wall types, and loading limits.
02	Measure the wall	Record the full wall, fixed features, obstructions, wall type, and intended loading.
03	Choose a route	Customise a pre-configured layout, design your own, or ask for a free review.
04	Review and confirm	Check final dimensions, wall suitability, fixings, configuration, and price.

IN THIS GUIDE

Know the system	3	Wall and loading	8
Key dimensions	4	Bay widths and shelf spacing	9
Space requirements	5	Plan what it needs to do	10
How it works	6	Compare finishes	10
Measure the wall	7	What to do next	11

The Mestra system

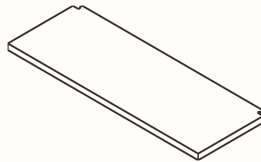
Rails create the bays. Shelves and storage modules connect between them, so the layout can be planned around your wall and what you need to keep.

STRUCTURE



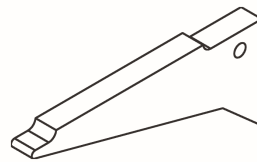
Rail

900mm or 1800mm high.
Some layouts use a low 395mm rail.



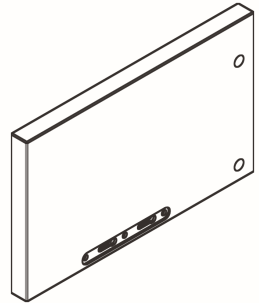
Shelf

220mm or 300mm deep.
Between bookends, also 360mm.



Shelf bracket

Two per shelf, each pinned to a rail.

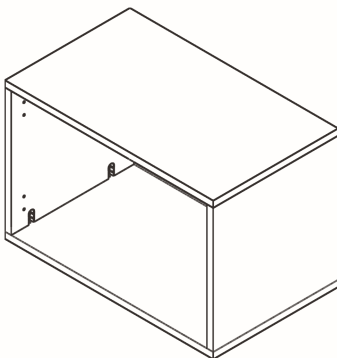


Bookend

A pair replaces the brackets and holds the shelf between them.
154mm tall.

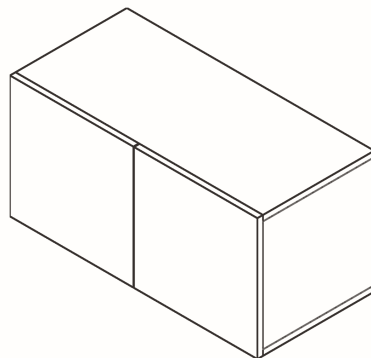
STORAGE MODULES

All cabinet types are 360mm deep and 395mm high, and as wide as the bay: 500mm to 800mm in the configurator, or 300mm to 900mm by quote.



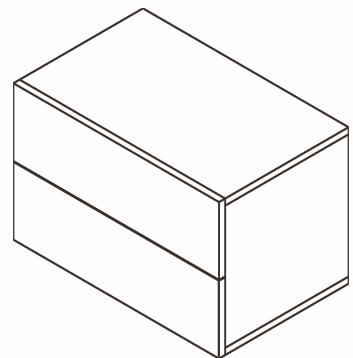
Open cabinet

Open-fronted storage.



Cupboard

Two-door closed storage.



Drawer cabinet

Available with one or two full-width drawers.

Dimensions that shape the plan

Use these dimensions for an early layout. The configurator or our review provides the final component sizes and price for the chosen arrangement.

Rail height

395 / 900 / 1800mm

900mm and 1800mm suit most walls, and 1800mm is the tallest we make. Some layouts use a low 395mm rail.

Bay width

500–800mm

Standard and in-between widths within this range use instant pricing.

Rail positions

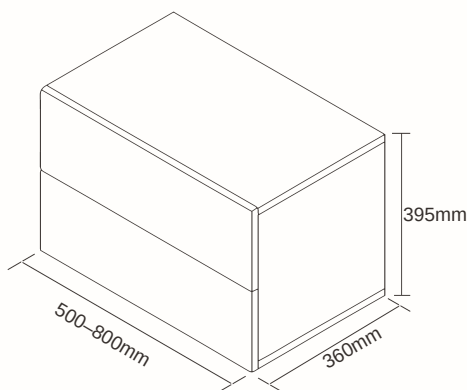
Every 100mm

Shelves and cabinets hang at positions every 100mm. Page 9 shows the spacing books and records need.

Shelf depth

220 / 300 / 360mm

18mm birch plywood, 220mm or 300mm deep, or 360mm between bookends. Shelves stand 20mm off the wall, or 34mm when bookended.



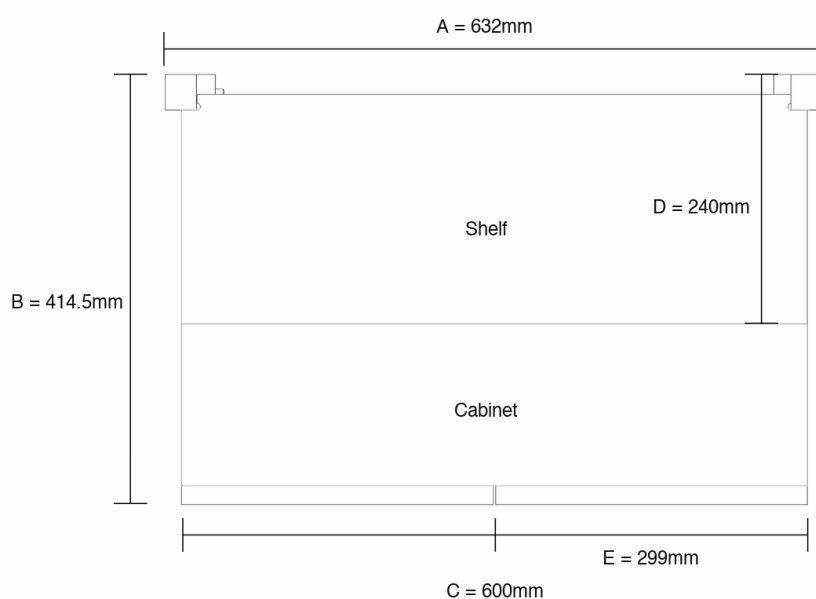
CABINET REFERENCE

Every cabinet is 360mm deep and 395mm high, and as wide as its bay: 500mm to 800mm in the configurator, or 300mm to 900mm by quote.

Space requirements

Cabinet width is not the same as the overall rail width. Allow installation clearance when a system sits between adjacent walls.

600MM CABINET, SEEN FROM ABOVE



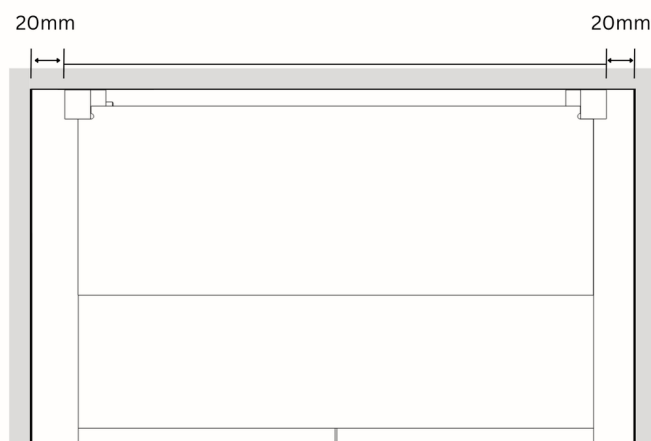
Reference dimensions

- A** Outside width of two rails
632mm
- B** Wall to cabinet front
414.5mm
- C** Cabinet width
600mm
- D** Wall to shelf front
240mm, or 254mm bookended
- E** Cabinet-door width
299mm

CABINET SPACING

Each cabinet stops 1mm short of the rail centre, leaving a 2mm gap between cabinets.

BETWEEN TWO WALLS, SEEN FROM ABOVE



Minimum clear width

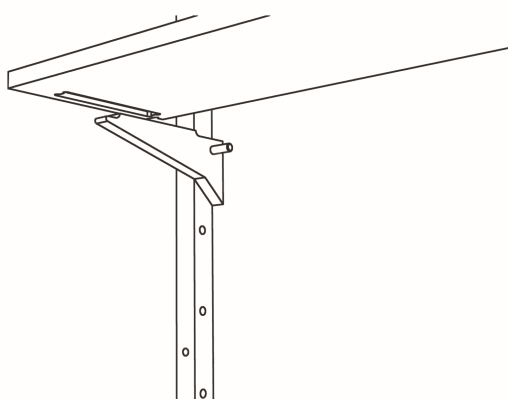
672mm

632mm overall width
+ 20mm clearance
at each side.

Use the narrowest
verified wall width.

How components connect

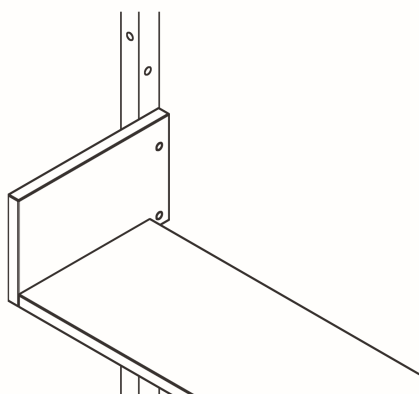
Shelf brackets, bookends, and cabinets locate at repeated 100mm positions along the rails using steel pins.



SHELVES

Shelf connection

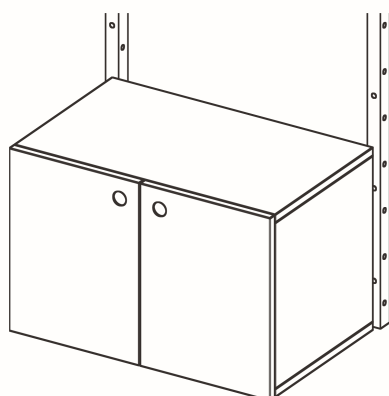
Each shelf rests on two brackets. Steel pins locate the brackets at indexed positions along the rails. The shelf can be removed and repositioned after installation.



BOOKENDED SHELVES

Bookend connection

A pair of bookends takes the place of the brackets. Each bookend hangs on two steel pins, 100mm apart, and KNAPP connectors join the shelf between them.



CABINETS

Cabinet connection

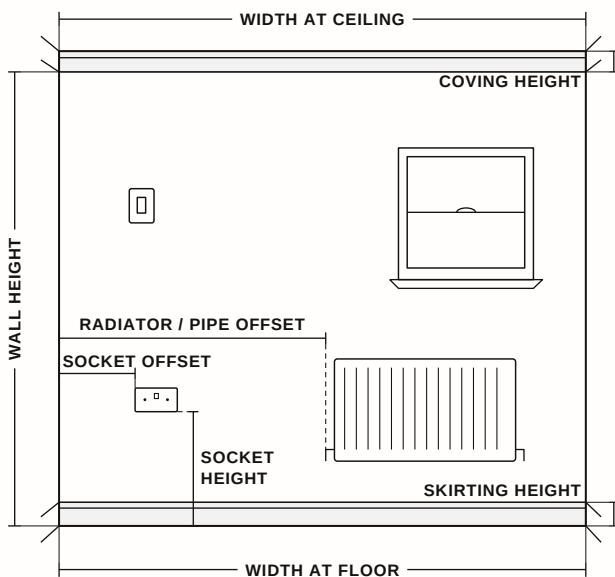
Open, door, and drawer cabinets use the same steel pins. The cabinet hangs at the selected rail position between adjacent rails.

Measure the whole wall

Record the wall width and height, then note fixed features and obstructions. Rough measurements are enough for an initial plan.

- ✓ Overall wall width and height
- ✓ Skirting board and coving size
- ✓ Sockets, switches, radiators, doors, and windows

- ✓ Alcove returns, sloping ceilings, or other obstructions
- ✓ Wall type, if you know it
- ✓ One clear photo taken straight on



OTHER THINGS TO FLAG

Alcoves

Measure the clear space between skirting boards. Check that both alcove sides are vertical.

PIR burglar alarms

Shelves near a passive infra-red detector may affect coverage. Check with your alarm specialist.

Exposed corners

Keep fixings at least 80mm from an exposed corner; otherwise the wall may fail.

Curtains

Tell us if curtains will be fitted after installation. They can change how centred the shelving appears.

IMPORTANT

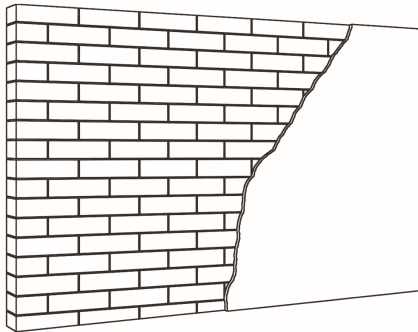
Rough measurements are fine for planning.
Final dimensions, wall suitability, and the fixing approach are confirmed before manufacture.

Wall construction and loading

There is no single kilogram rating. Safe loading depends on the wall, fixings, installation, bay width, and how the weight is spread.

WALL IDENTIFICATION

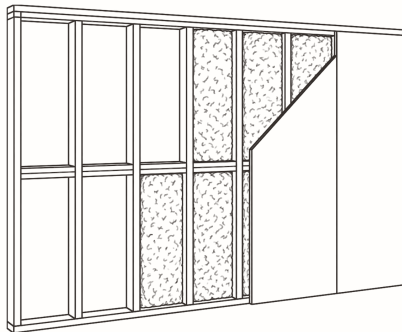
Knock across and up the wall, then compare the pattern below. This is only a screening check; if unclear, confirm the construction before drilling.



Solid masonry

Knock pattern
Solid and consistent, with no broad hollow areas.

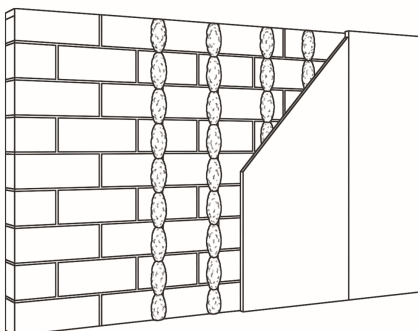
Suitable for heavy loading.



Stud wall

Knock pattern
Mostly hollow, with firmer lines over studs or noggin.

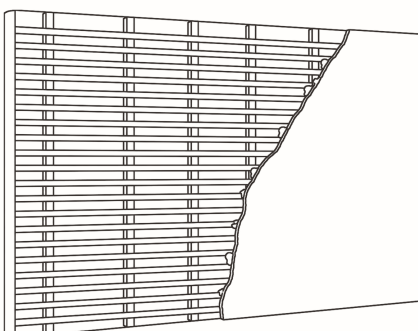
Suitable for light to medium loading.



Dot and dab

Knock pattern
Hollow areas alternating with isolated firm spots.

Suitable for light to medium loading.



Lath and plaster

Knock pattern
Hollow and inconsistent across an uneven surface.

Not suitable for this shelving system.

LOADING GUIDE

01

Light

Display objects, a few smaller books, and lightly filled storage.

02

Medium

Books and files across most, but not all, of the shelf.

03

Heavy

Large books, vinyl, dense files, or other heavy items across most of the shelf.

HEAVY LOADING

Use bays no wider than **600mm** for heavy loading. Shorter spans reduce deflection. Spread heavy items evenly.

WALL CONDITION

We are not responsible for failure or damage caused by an unsuitable or poor-condition wall, or work that differs from the agreed fixing method, unless we are at fault. Statutory rights are unaffected.

Unforeseen conditions

Concealed defects may change the fixing method or layout. Extra work or materials may cost more and will be agreed before proceeding.

Turn the wall into useful bays

A bay is the space between two vertical rails. Choose the width of each bay first, then the spacing between its shelves.

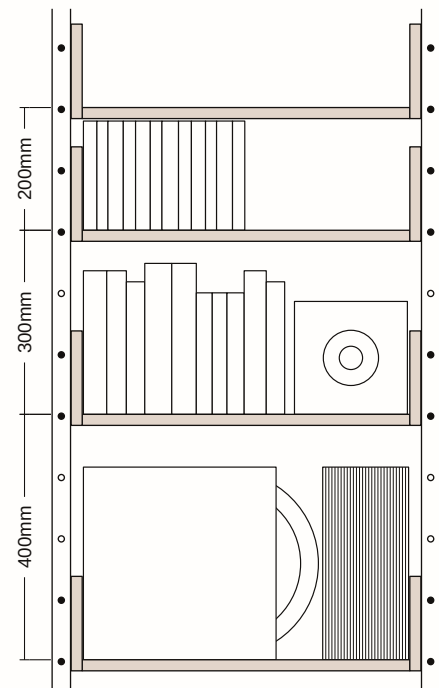
BAY WIDTH

The online configurator takes any bay width from **500mm to 800mm**, including in-between sizes.

Standard production widths are 500mm, 600mm, 700mm, and 800mm. Narrower or wider bays need a formal quote.

SHELF SPACING

Shelves hang at positions every 100mm, so between shelves of the same style the spacing goes up in 100mm steps, measured from one shelf top to the next. **Most books need 300mm. 12-inch records need 400mm.**



200mm spacing Small paperback A-format Only 4mm to spare. Choose 300mm to tip books out easily.	182mm clear 178mm
300mm spacing 7-inch single Paperback B-format Hardback Large hardback	282mm clear 184mm 198mm 216–234mm 246mm
400mm spacing 12-inch LP 324mm in an outer sleeve. LPs also need the 360mm-deep shelf, between bookends.	382mm clear 314mm
Anything else: measure the tallest item, add 18mm for the board, and round up to the next 100mm. The bay is drawn to scale, with bookended shelves.	

Shelves on arms sit 36mm higher than bookended shelves at the same position on the rail, so a gap between the two styles is 36mm more or less than shown. Their arms also hang about 80mm below each end of the shelf.

A USEFUL FIRST DRAFT

- ✓ Choose the number of bays that fits the usable wall width
- ✓ Mark where open shelves, cabinets, and drawers would be most useful
- ✓ Keep some shelf positions adjustable for changing storage needs
- ✓ Flag any bay width outside the configurator range

Give every item a sensible place

Start with what the shelving must hold.
The arrangement can then be refined around real objects rather than an abstract grid.



STORAGE CHECKLIST

- ✓ List the tallest and widest items
- ✓ Separate display from closed storage
- ✓ Note anything that needs a drawer or cabinet
- ✓ Mark desk, media, or cable zones
- ✓ Leave room for future changes

YOUR ROUGH BRIEF

Main storage needs

Closed storage needed

Finish shortlist

COMPARE FINISHES IN THE ROOM

Screen colours change with lighting.
Compare samples beside your walls, floor,
and furniture.

A wood sample pack costs **£27** and a colour pack costs **£24**. Both prices include VAT, and we deduct the pack price from your first shelving order.



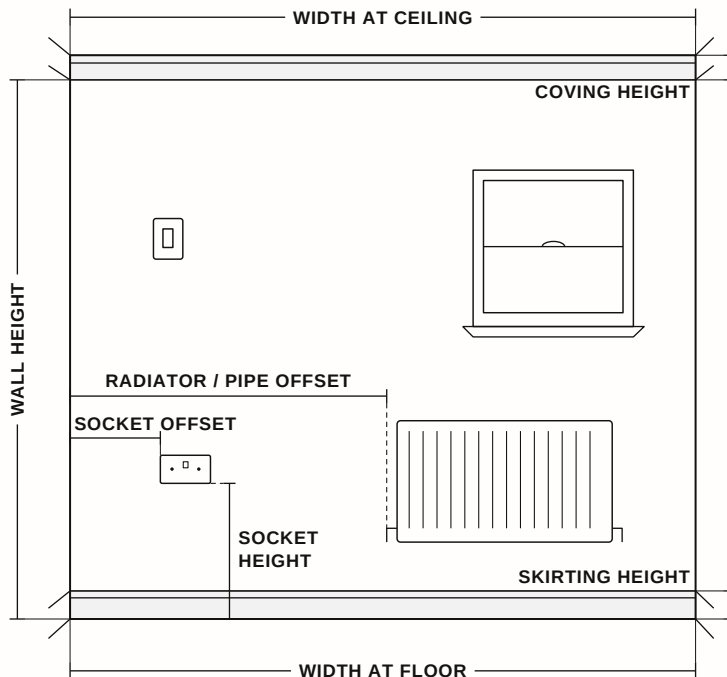
What do I do next?

Once you understand the system, use these steps to prepare and confirm a plan.

01

Measure and photograph the wall

Record the full wall width and height, skirting and coving, fixed features, obstructions, and wall type.



PHOTOGRAPHS

- ✓ One straight-on view of the complete wall
- ✓ A side or corner view showing depth and adjacent walls
- ✓ Show where sockets, switches, radiators, pipes, and other obstructions sit on the wall

02

List what it needs to hold

Note books, records, display objects, closed storage, media, cables, and likely loading. Compare finish samples if needed.

03

Choose a planning route

A. Start from a layout

Customise one of our pre-configured layouts to fit.

BROWSE LAYOUTS

mestrasheleving.com/products/mestra-shelving

B. Configure it yourself

Build the layout in 3D and see the price update as you configure.

OPEN CONFIGURATOR

mestrasheleving.com/configurator

C. Plan it with us

Send photos and rough measurements. We return a starting layout and indicative price.

REQUEST A FREE REVIEW

mestrasheleving.com/fit-review

04

Review and confirm

Final measurements, wall and fixing suitability, configuration, and price are confirmed before manufacture. The order then proceeds to production and delivery.