

One of the most advanced warehouses in the Benelux

Kruitbosch is a committed and progressive family business from Zwolle (the Netherlands). Since 1955, it has been the supplier of a very wide range of bicycle-related parts and accessories, serving bicycle stores in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. In addition, Kruitbosch is a manufacturer of the bicycle brands Cortina and Alpina.

The challenge for Swisslog was to install an AutoStore with SynQ software within the existing walls of the warehouse. In addition, the warehouse had to remain operational during the installation. The aim was to increase the warehouse's storage capacity, reduce the number of operations during the process and make orders run more smoothly.



A pick station equipped with screen for SynQ.

» We are very satisfied with how this project went. It was a very pleasant and professional cooperation. The Swisslog employees are real AutoStore specialists who know what they are doing. They kept us well informed and guided us through this project from beginning to end. We were particularly impressed with the quality of the installation and the aftercare offered. As icing on the cake, the short completion date was also fully respected.«

Ronald van der Hulst, Project Manager Logistics at Kruitbosch

» Thanks to the integration of AutoStore, the storage capacity of our warehouse has increased by about 30%, and that without expanding the surface area. It currently stores about 15,000 articles, where we can grow to about 20,000 article numbers. The peak cycling season is yet to come, but there is certainly plenty of room for that. AutoStore offers a lot of flexibility and that is a big advantage for our business.«



Ronald van der Hulst, Project Manager Logistics at Kruitbosch

The AutoStore has a storage capacity of 29,000 totes.



The Solution

Kruitbosch was looking for a scalable and flexible solution to expand its storage capacity. For this reason, the wholesaler of bicycle parts & accessories turned to Swisslog. Specifically, as an AutoStore integrator, Swisslog offered this solution together with its own SynQ Software as the most suitable for Kruitbosch's challenges.

AutoStore forms the basis of Kruitbosch's modernized warehouse which has an area of 10,000 m². Thanks to its compactness, the AutoStore solution itself takes up only 1,000 m². It is a unique system where the goods are stored very close together. The warehouse includes 29,000 totes and 65 robots, which drive on top of the grid (aluminum profiles) and retrieve totes. These totes are taken one by one to the picking stations where employees pick products from totes and pack the order into boxes for shipment.

The benefits for Kruitbosch

The installation of the AutoStore solution offered many advantages for Kruitbosch. Kruitbosch's warehouse was able to grow in storage capacity without enlarging the building. The AutoStore also offers a lot of flexibility. This allows Kruitbosch to scale up more easily in the peak season. In addition, the bulk stock in the remaining warehouse was reduced by increasing the picking stock in the AutoStore. The number of operations between picking and packing has also been reduced. Finally, there has also been a reduction of up to 15% in total packaging by combining large and small parts.

About Kruitbosch

Kruitbosch is a committed and forward-thinking family business from Zwolle, the Netherlands. Since 1955, it has been the supplier of a very wide range of bicycle-related parts and accessories, serving bicycle stores in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

In addition, Kruitbosch is a manufacturer of bicycle brands Cortina and Alpina.



» Our products are scattered in our warehouse. The inner and outer tubes of bicycles, for example, are in different places. It used to take a long time to put together an order for someone who wanted an inner and outer tire. Those orders were therefore usually shipped separately. Thanks to AutoStore, we are able to combine these orders more often and send them all at once. That saves us a lot of time.«

Ronald van der Hulst, Project Manager Logistics at Kruitbosch

Facts and Figures

Benefits for Kruitbosch

- Efficient, state-of-the-art technology
- Control over the processes, minimal error rate
- Increased storage capacity, without enlarging the premises
- Easy scaling up and great flexibility
- Reducing bulk stock by increasing picking stock
- Reduction in number of operations between picking and packing
- Possibility of expanding the AutoStore

Swisslog's Services

- Design and realization of a compact storage and order picking system.
- Spare parts package
- Support contract (since 1st of January 2023)

As logistics main contractor, Swisslog was also responsible for the integration of all systems.

LOGISTICS INSTALLATION

AutoStore Robots	65
AutoStore Picking Stations	13
AutoStore Inbound Stations	6

STORAGE CAPACITY

Maximum storage capacity	29.000 totes
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WMS/CONTROL

SynQ
Interface with WMS

Pick stations

