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# JUGGLING TIPS

A newsletter for users of

***Juggler by Jambalaya***

**October 2001**

## **FEEDBACK WORKS – THE PALM INTERFACE IS HERE!**

Following feedback from the June newsletter, Jambalaya has developed an optional interface that allows you to download your Juggler schedule to a PalmOS® PDA.

Take your schedule to the shop floor!

## **UTILIZATION CALCULATOR**

One of the key benefits of using intelligent software to schedule your shop is to increase the utilization by optimally scheduling current work to maximize the opportunity to accept additional jobs. Utilization can vary significantly depending on the nature of the shop which might be “fast turnaround with many short jobs” to “standard production with long planning horizon”. In many cases the utilization can be < 40% and the impact of measuring and increasing it can be very positive. It is easy to estimate your Utilization by using the **Utilization Calculator** on our site at:

[www.jambalaya.ca](http://www.jambalaya.ca).

Privacy: Jambalaya does not collect the data you enter into the calculator or the results.

## **GRAPHING**

Once you start using Juggler to schedule your shop a database of all work performed is automatically created. Jambalaya has added a Graphing capability to Juggler 1.3 that allows you to select a date range for data and then create, for the whole shop or an individual machine, a chart of Utilization on a monthly basis. The data may also be imported into Microsoft Excel where it can be analyzed using Excel capabilities either directly or with a number of Excel macros provided by Jambalaya.

## **DRILLING & TREPANNING**

While Juggler was initially designed for use with laser cutting machines, the architecture of the program was structured to make it relatively easy to apply it to additional processes. As an initial expansion of its capabilities, Juggler 1.3 now includes Cutting, Drilling and Trepanning processes, which can be selected in the job input screen.

## **INTERACTIVE DEMO**

At Jambalaya, we recognize that in a job shop environment it is difficult to find the time to test new software with current shop data, even if it can lead to improved performance for your shop. To allow you to efficiently assess what Juggler can do, we have developed an Interactive Demo which allows you to try all the key elements of the product using pre-loaded laser cutting machines and a number of representative jobs.

One side benefit of the Interactive Demo is that it goes through the process of determining which machines to shut-down and still enable all the work to be completed when a shop is more lightly loaded.

The demo is available on a CD-ROM from:

[www.jambalaya.ca](http://www.jambalaya.ca)

and is accompanied by a short tutorial.

## ***Juggler* - The Decision Support System for Laser Job Shops**