

How Leafcutter works in practice

Leafcutter connects the way work really happens to a controlled model, repeatable tests and a practical management decision.

ILLUSTRATIVE BUSINESS

UK mattress manufacturer

A realistic example, not a named client case study

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THE LEAFCUTTER PROCESS

From operating problem to tested decision

The business remains responsible for the decision. Leafcutter makes the evidence, assumptions, experiment and trade-offs visible.

- 1 Frame the decision**
 Agree the question, owner, boundary and success measures: increase completed mattresses without excessive labour cost or lower quality.
- 2 Map how work really flows**
 Follow an order through cutting, sewing, assembly, inspection, packing and dispatch - including queues, exceptions and rework.
- 3 Gather operating evidence**
 Use orders, completions, step times, staffing, machine availability, queues and quality records. Label every estimate and source.
- 4 Build the baseline twin**
 Translate the agreed flow into steps, routes, people, equipment, capacity and rules. Freeze a revision of today's operating model.
- 5 Validate it with the business**
 Compare modelled completions, queues and constraints with observed results. Approve only the uses for which the baseline is credible.
- 6 Test feasible changes**
 Run controlled options: add an operator or machine, extend a shift, reduce changeover time or improve first-pass quality.
- 7 Compare the consequences**
 Review throughput, work in progress, lead time, utilisation, cost and quality - and see whether the constraint moves downstream.
- 8 Decide and hand over**
 Select a real-world pilot using model results plus cost, risk and staff insight. Record the model, evidence, limits, owner and refresh date.

THE BUSINESS RECEIVES

A credible baseline, fair scenarios and a clear decision record

Make the assumption visible. Make the experiment repeatable. Make the trade-off explicit.

