

PRODUCTION ORDERING SYSTEM AND PRODUCTION ORDERING METHOD

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a system used when production orders for products are placed with a factory or the like.

BACKGROUND ART

A conventional system used when a production order for a product is placed with a factory or the like will be explained below for (1) a case in which an order is modified, and (2) a case in which an order is placed with a plurality of factories.

(1) A case in which an order is modified.

An example of a system used when a production orderer modifies the content (for example the quantity or delivery date) of an order for a product for which a production order has already been placed with a factory will be explained using Fig. 12. Clothing stores X, Y, Z are equipped with store side computers 612, 614, 616 which are connected to the Internet. A clothing production plant which produces clothing A is equipped with a factory side computer 622 which is connected to the Internet.

When clothing A is out of stock (or is about to go out of stock), clothing store X



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connects the store side computer 612 to the factory side computer 622 and places a production request for clothing A, specifying product number, quantity, date of delivery, and so on ((1) in Fig. 12).

The clothing production plant considers whether the necessary quantity of clothing A can be produced by the delivery date, and if production is possible, sends notification that the production request has been accepted and information about the delivery date, price and so on from the factory side computer 622 to the store side computer 612 (or contacts clothing store X via telephone or the like) ((2) in Fig. 12).

When production of clothing A has begun in the clothing production plant, clothing store X purchases clothing A in a predetermined quantity at a time ((3) in Fig. 12).

Thereafter, if sales of clothing A slow such that clothing store X decides to modify the production quantity of clothing A, the clothing store X sends notification of this decision from the store side computer 612 to the factory side computer 622 ((4) in Fig. 12).

Upon receipt of the production quantity modification request, the clothing production plant informs the clothing store X by telephone or the like of the quantity of clothing in production, the amount of purchased materials and so on, and makes arrangements concerning the production quantity ((5) in Fig. 12). Clothing store X considers cost performance on the basis of the quantity of amount materials, the quantity of clothing in

production and so on, and determines a post-modification production quantity. The clothing production plant modifies production plans in accordance with the post-modification production quantity.

In this manner, the clothing store is able to determine production quantity following modification through being informed by the clothing production plant of the quantity of clothing in production, the amount of purchased materials, and so on. Besides conducting modification requests concerning production quantity, similar procedures are undertaken between the clothing store and the clothing production plant when making requests such as delivery date modifications, production cancellations and design modifications.

(2) A case in which an order is placed with a plurality of factories.

An example of a system used when a production orderer places a production order with a plurality of factories will be explained using Fig. 13. The clothing store is equipped with a store side computer 712 which is connected to the Internet. Clothing production plants X, Y which produce clothing B are equipped with factory side computers 722, 724 which are connected to the Internet.

When clothing B is about to go out of stock, the clothing store connects the store side computer 712 to the factory side computer 722 of the clothing production plant X and places a production request for clothing B, specifying product number, quantity, date of

delivery, and so on ((1) in Fig. 13).

The clothing production plant X considers whether the necessary quantity of clothing B can be produced by the delivery date, and if production is possible, sends notification that the production order has been accepted and information about the delivery date, price and so on from the factory side computer 722 to the store side computer 712. However, if it is judged impossible to produce the necessary quantity by the delivery date, the clothing production plant X informs the clothing store of the quantity (the shortfall quantity) that can be produced by the delivery date and so on ((2) in Fig. 13).

Having received this message, the clothing store connects the store side computer 712 with the factory side computer 724 of the clothing production plant Y and places a production request for clothing B, specifying the shortfall quantity, delivery date, and so on ((3) in Fig. 13).

In this manner, the clothing store is able to place a production request with another factory through being informed by the clothing production plant X of the shortfall in production quantity.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

However, in the aforementioned system (1), it is difficult for a production orderer to

grasp in a timely and detailed fashion the quantity of clothing in production, the amount of purchased materials and the like in the factory, and hence, the production orderer has been unable to modify the content (quantity, date of delivery, design, etc.) of the order speedily.

Furthermore, in the aforementioned system (2), it is difficult for a production orderer to grasp in a timely and detailed fashion the quantity of clothing in production, the amount of purchased materials and the like in the factory, and hence, the production orderer has been unable to place production orders with a plurality of factories efficiently.

It is an object of this invention to solve such problems by providing a system for production orders in which the production orderer is provided with the state of progress relating to the production of products so that production order procedures can be conducted smoothly between the production orderer and the factory.

(1) The production ordering system of this invention is equipped with a production side device for receiving production order instructions, and an order side device capable of communications with the production side device via a network, the aforementioned production side device comprising progress information storage means for storing production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible, progress information transmission means for transmitting the production progress information to the order side device, and order instruction reception means for

receiving a production order instruction from the order side device, and the aforementioned order side device comprising order instruction transmission means for transmitting a production order instruction to the production side device, and progress information providing means for receiving the production progress information from the production side device and providing the production orderer with this production progress information.

In this manner, the production orderer is able to use the production progress information obtained from the production side device as helpful data when issuing a production order instruction or a production order modification instruction. For example, a production order modification instruction such as a delivery date modification or production cancellation may be issued on the basis of the production progress information relating to a product for which a production order has already been placed. Furthermore, production progress information may be obtained before placing a production order, thereby enabling the delivery date and quantity to be determined and the production order to be placed on the basis of this information.

(4) In the production ordering system of this invention, the production side device is equipped with product information transmission means for transmitting to the order side device information relating to products for which production order reception is possible.

Accordingly, the production orderer is able to use the information relating to

products for which production order reception is possible, as well as the production progress information, as helpful data when issuing a production order instruction or a production order modification instruction. The information relating to products comprises, for example, product number, product materials, product performance, product application, product dimensions, etc and it is a concept that also comprises stock information or production schedule information, etc.

(5) The production ordering system of this invention is characterized in that the progress information transmission means of the production side device transmits to the order side device the production progress information concerning a product for which a production order has been received from the order side device, this production progress information serving as information by which the production orderer ascertains the state of production progress concerning a product for which a production order has been placed, or by which the production orderer issues a production order modification instruction; whereupon the progress information providing means of the order side device provides the production orderer with this production progress information.

Accordingly, the production orderer is able to issue a production order modification instruction such as a delivery date modification or production cancellation on the basis of the production progress information concerning a product for which a production order has

already been placed.

(6) The production ordering system of this invention is characterized in that the progress information transmission means of the production side device transmits to the order side device the production progress information for each constitutional element of a product, this production progress information serving as information by which the production orderer ascertains the state of production progress concerning a product for which a production order has been placed, or by which the production orderer issues a production order modification instruction; whereupon the progress information providing means of the order side device provides the production orderer with this production progress information.

Accordingly, modifications of the delivery date and so on can be considered in more detail on the basis of production progress information for each constitutional element of a product. Moreover, in cases where the delivery date of a particular constitutional element (a part, material or the like) is delayed and so on, the production order can be placed with another company in advance.

(7) The production ordering system of this invention is characterized in that the order instruction transmission means of the order side device transmits production order modification instructions to the production side device, and the order instruction reception means of the production side device receives these production order modification instructions.

Accordingly, the production orderer is able to issue instructions such as a delivery date modification or production cancellation to the production side device.

(8) The production ordering system of this invention is characterized in that the product information transmission means of the production side device transmits production capacity information, product stock information or production schedule information to the order side device as information relating to products for which production order reception is possible.

Accordingly, the product orderer is able to use production capacity information and so on, as well as production progress information, as helpful data when issuing a production order instruction or a production order modification instruction.

In this invention, “production side device” indicates a device on the producer side for receiving production order requests, and in the following embodiments corresponds to the factory side server 11, also corresponding to the factory side servers 511, 521 in the system illustrated in Fig. 11. “Order side device” indicates a device on the production orderer side for placing production order requests, and in the following embodiments corresponds to the client side terminal 21, also corresponding to the client side terminal 531 in the system illustrated in Fig. 11. “Order side computer” indicates a computer on the production orderer side for placing production order requests, and in the following embodiments corresponds to

the client side terminal 21, also corresponding to the client side terminal 531 in the system illustrated in Fig. 11.

“Production progress information” indicates information about the state of progress relating to production (the volume of production at each production process, the packaging quantity, the shipping quantity and so on), and in the following embodiments corresponds to the state-of-progress screen shown in Figs. 6, 7 and 8. Further, the production plan screen shown in Fig. 9 discloses “actual production quantity” as well as “scheduled production quantity”, and hence corresponds to “production progress information”. “Production schedule information” indicates information relating to product production plans, and in the following embodiments corresponds to the production plan screen illustrated in Fig. 9.

“Production order instruction” indicates an instruction for requesting a production order, and in the following embodiments corresponds to ST40 (transmission of order form) in Fig. 2. “Production order modification instruction” indicates an instruction for modifying the content of an order, for example, instructions relating to a modification of the delivery date, a production cancellation, a production quantity modification and so on. In the following embodiments, this corresponds to ST90 (transmission of the order form) in Fig. 5.

In the following embodiments, “progress information storage means” corresponds to a state-of-progress table which is stored in the factory side server 11. In the following

embodiments, “progress information transmission means” corresponds to ST76 in Fig. 5.

In the following embodiments, “order instruction transmission means” corresponds to ST40 in Fig. 2 and ST90 in Fig. 5. In the following embodiments, “order instruction reception means” corresponds to the processing of the CPU 111 of the factory side server 11 which receives the order form of ST40 in Fig. 2, and the processing of the CPU 111 of the factory side server 11 which receives the order form of ST90 in Fig. 5.

In the following embodiments, “progress information providing means” corresponds to ST78 in Fig. 5. In the following embodiments, “product information transmission means” corresponds to ST34 in Fig. 2. Information (product number, materials) relating to the product is also included on the order form which is transmitted in ST34 in Fig. 2.

“Production progress information for each constitutional element of a product” indicates production progress information for all of the constitutional elements, such as materials, parts and so on, which constitute a product, and in the following embodiments corresponds to the state-of-progress screen shown in Fig. 8.

“Recording medium on which a program is recorded” indicates a general concept including a flexible disk, CD-ROM, hard disk, memory card, ROM, punch card, tape and so on. Furthermore, this is a general concept that not only includes a recording medium on which is recorded a program that can be directly executed by a computer, but also includes a

recording medium on which is recorded a program designed to be executable when installed in another recording medium (a hard disk or the like), or a recording medium on which an encoded or compressed program is recorded.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a diagram showing the overall construction of the production ordering system in one embodiment, and the hardware constructions of the factory side server 11 and the client side terminal 21;

Fig. 2 is a flowchart of the procedure when placing an order;

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing the top page in one embodiment;

Fig. 4 is a view showing an order form in one embodiment;

Fig. 5 is a flow chart of the procedure when inspecting the state of progress and amending the order form;

Fig. 6 is a view showing the state-of-progress screen in one embodiment;

Fig. 7 is a view showing the state-of-progress screen in one embodiment;

Fig. 8 is a view showing the production plan screen in one embodiment;

Fig. 9 is a view showing the production plan screen in one embodiment;

Fig. 10 is a view showing the order form details screen in one embodiment;

Fig. 11 is a diagram showing an outline of the overall construction and processing of the production ordering system in one embodiment;

Fig. 12 is a diagram showing an outline of the overall construction and processing of a conventional production ordering system; and

Fig. 13 is a diagram showing an outline of the overall construction and processing of a conventional production ordering system.

BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

1. Overall construction, hardware construction of factory side server/client side terminal.

The overall construction of the production ordering system in one embodiment is illustrated in Fig. 1. The factory side server 11 is installed in a clothing production plant and is connected to the Internet. Further, the client side terminal 21 is installed on a client side which places orders for clothing with the clothing production plant, and is capable of communications with the factory side server 11 via the Internet.

A CPU 111, a display 112, a mouse/keyboard 113, a hard disk 114, memory 115, a CD-ROM drive 116, a communications interface 117 and so on are connected via a bus line in the hardware construction of the factory side server 11.

On the hard disk 114 are stored: a state-of-progress table for storing the state of progress relating to the production of a product which the client has ordered; a state-of-progress management program for storing the state of progress in the state-of-progress table; a product information table for storing information (product number, materials and so on) relating to a product; an order form table for storing the content (product number, quantity, delivery date and so on) of an order form; a client information table for storing information relating to a client for whom user registration has been performed; an operating system (OS), and so on. In this embodiment, the state-of-progress management program and so on work in cooperation with the operating system to execute the above functions.

A CPU 211, a display 212, a mouse/keyboard 213, a hard disk 214, memory 215, a CD-ROM drive 216, a communications interface 217 and so on are connected via a bus line in the hardware construction of the client side terminal 21. A browser program (for example Microsoft Internet Explorer or the like), an operating system and so on are stored on the hard disk 214.

2. Flowchart

Processing (2.1) for when a client places an order with the clothing production plant, and processing (2.2) for when the client inspects the state of progress of production in the

plant so as to amend an order form, will be explained below.

2.1 Processing when placing an order

Processing in the factory side server 11 and the client side terminal 21 when a client places an order for clothing A with the clothing production plant is shown in Fig. 2.

The client accesses the factory side server 11 from the client side terminal 21 via the Internet (ST12). The factory side server 11 transmits a user authentication screen (not shown) to the client side terminal 21 (ST14). The client inputs a user ID and password into the user authentication screen displayed on the client side terminal 21 (ST16, 18) and transmits this from the client side terminal 21 to the factory side server 11 (ST20).

Having received the user authentication screen, the factory side server 11 authenticates the client based on the client information table (not shown). If the client is judged to be valid, the factory side server 11 transmits the top page shown in Fig. 3 to the client side terminal 21 (ST22, 24 in Fig. 2).

The client clicks the “fill out order form” button 311 on the top page displayed on the client side terminal 21 (ST28, ST30, ST32). Thereby, the client side terminal 21 requests an order form from the factory side server 11. Having received this request, the factory side server 11 transmits the order form shown in Fig. 4 to the client side terminal 21 (ST34 in Fig. 2).

The client selects the desired product (product number R23-3162) and inputs the date of delivery (12/20) and the quantity (600) on the order form displayed on the client side terminal 21, and then clicks the send button (ST36, ST38). The delivery dates of materials, subsidiary materials and so on are also inputted at this time. Thereby, the client side terminal 21 transmits the order form to the factory side server 11 (ST40). Having received the order form, the factory side server 11 stores the content (product number, quantity, delivery date and so on) of the order form in the order form table (not shown) (ST42).

Then, once the production of clothing A has begun in the clothing production plant, clothing A is delivered to the client in a predetermined quantity at a time. During production, the factory side inputs the state of progress concerning the production of the clothing A into the factory side server 11 whenever necessary, and the state of progress is stored in the state-of-progress table. The state of progress indicates the production volume at each production process (knitting, stitching, inspection), the packaging quantity, the shipping quantity and so on.

In this embodiment, a case in which, thereafter, sales of clothing A slow such that the client decides to modify the production quantity of clothing A will be explained in 2.2 below.

In ST22, if the client is judged to be invalid by the authentication processing of the

factory side server 11, the factory side server 11 conducts error transmission to the client side terminal 21 (ST26). The client side terminal 21 receives the error transmission, and an error screen (not shown) is displayed thereon (ST28, 44).

2.2 Processing when inspecting the state of progress and amending the order form.

Processing in the factory side server 11 and the client side terminal 21, undertaken when inspecting the state of progress of production in the clothing production plant and consequently amending the order form, is illustrated in Fig. 5.

Similarly to the aforementioned 2.1, the client side terminal 21 accesses the factory side server 11 such that the top page shown in Fig. 3 is displayed (ST52 to 70 in Fig. 5).

The client clicks the “inspect state of progress” button 312 on the top page displayed on the client side terminal 21. Thereby, the client side terminal 21 requests the state-of-progress screen from the factory side server 11. Having received this request, the factory side server 11, by means of the user ID inputted on the user authentication screen, extracts from the state-of-progress table the state of progress for the products (including clothing A) ordered by the client (ST74). Then, the factory side server 11 creates the state-of-progress screen illustrated in Fig. 6 and transmits it to the client side terminal 21 (ST76 in Fig. 5).

The client inspects the state-of-progress screen displayed on the client side terminal

21 and ascertains the state of progress for clothing A (ST78). On this screen, information relating to the state of progress at each production process (knitting, stitching, inspection) is disclosed, as well as the state of progress relating to packaging quantity, shipping quantity, amount of materials used, the production content (indicating whether sample production or regular production is taking place) and so on. Further, by displaying the quantity of ordered goods with ten * symbols, and displaying the production volume at each production process with ten or less © symbols, the state of progress at each production process can be known as a percentage. Considering the state-of-progress screen in Fig. 6, for example, it can be learned that the knitting, stitching and inspection processes are already complete, and that 80% of the packaging and shipping processes are complete. Furthermore, it can be learned from the “amount of materials used” and “status” columns that 50% of the materials have been used, and that regular production is taking place.

Having finished ascertaining the state of progress, the client returns to the top page shown in Fig. 3 and clicks the “order form amendment” button 313 (ST80 in Fig. 5). Thereby, the client side terminal 21 requests order form amendment from the factory side server 11. Having received this request, the factory side server 11 extracts the order form from the order form table by means of the user ID (ST82) and transmits the order form to the client side terminal 21 (ST84).

The client views the order form displayed on the client side terminal 21 and the state-of-progress screen shown in Fig. 6 so as to amend the content of the order form (ST86, ST88 in Fig. 5). In this embodiment, the order quantity of clothing A is reduced. Subsequently, the client side terminal 21 transmits the amended order form to the factory side server 11 (ST90). The factory side server 11 receives the order form and stores the order form in the order form table (ST92).

Accordingly, when conducting order form amendments, the state-of-progress screen can provide helpful data. Particularly, since the state of progress can be inspected at each process, detailed inspection is possible.

3. Other embodiments

The state-of-progress screen is not limited to the single example shown in Fig. 6. The state of progress may also be disclosed by means of, for example, a bar graph, a pie chart, a line graph, percentage values and so on. An example of a state-of-progress screen using a bar graph is shown in Figs. 7A, B. The quantity of ordered products is rendered as a white outlined bar, and the production volumes at each process are displayed as diagonally shaded bars, and thus the state of progress at each process can be learned as a percentage.

The factory side server 11 may also provide the client side terminal 21 with the state of production relating to the respective parts, materials and the like constituting the finished

product. An example of a state-of-progress screen in this case is shown in Fig. 8. The state of progress at each production process (process 1, process 2, process 3) for each part (part numbers A-111, A-112, A-113) constituting the finished product (product number B-100), as well as the quantity of assembled parts (assembled quantity), can be learned from this screen.

The factory side server 11 may also provide the client side terminal 21 with a production plan screen (see Fig. 9) showing the production plan for the ordered product. In each column of the “week 13” section of this screen, the “scheduled production quantity” (“plan” section) and the “actual production quantity” (“actual” section) are disclosed for each day. It can be ascertained from the production plan screen shown in Fig. 9 that a production plan of 2 items per day in each of the knitting, stitching, inspection, packaging, and shipping processes has been established. Furthermore, the “actual production quantity” which is disclosed for each day on this production plan screen can be used by the client side as data when considering a modification in the day of delivery.

Order form amendments (modifications of the day of delivery, order quantity and so on) are fixed following approval of these amendments by the factory side. Consequently, when the factory side is unable to comply with the content of the amendments on the order form transmitted from the client side terminal 21, the factory side informs the client side to this effect, whereupon the client side considers alternative amendments to the order form.

On the top page shown in Fig. 3, by clicking the “account results” button 314, a statement of accounts (not shown) can be inspected. Further, by clicking the “order form list” button 315, the client can inspect a catalog of transmitted order forms (not shown). By clicking the “order form details” button 316, the order form details screen in Fig. 10 can be inspected. By these means, the detailed content of an order form can be grasped.

An example was explained in the above embodiment of a case in which a production quantity modification request was made. However, the state-of-progress screen in Fig. 6 may also be used for production cancellation requests, design modification requests and so on. Furthermore, when the client views the state-of-progress screen and predicts that the production plant will not be able to produce the necessary quantity of products by the date of delivery, the client is able to place a production request with another factory.

The factory side server 11 may also provide the client side terminal 21 with production capacity information (for example the monthly production capacity) or stock information for each product. Information such as product performance, product application and product dimensions may also be provided to the client side terminal 21. Such kinds of information, along with the state of progress, prove useful when amending the content of an order.

Also in the aforementioned embodiment, the factory side server 11 provides the state

of progress for products on order. However, the factory side server 11 may also provide the state of progress for products which are in speculative production rather than ordered products alone. The overall construction and an example of usage of a system in this case will be explained using Fig. 11.

Factory side servers 512, 522, installed in factories 511, 521 respectively, are connected to a client side terminal 531 via the Internet. The client side terminal 531 places a download request for the state of progress with the factory side server 512 before placing an order ((1) in Fig. 11). The factory side server 512 transmits a screen showing the state of progress for products in speculative production in the factory 511 to the client side terminal 531 ((2) in Fig. 11). The client inspects this state-of-progress screen, taking into consideration the product to be ordered, the quantity thereof, the delivery date thereof, and so on. Then, if the client predicts that the factory will not be able to produce the desired quantity of products by the date of delivery, the client reduces the quantity in advance and places an order with the factory 511 ((3) in Fig. 11), and then accesses the factory side server 522 of the factory 521 from the client side terminal 531 to order the shortfall quantity ((4) in Fig. 11). In this manner, orders may be placed efficiently with a plurality of factories.

CLAIMS

1. A system for production orders comprising a production side device for receiving production order instructions and an order side device capable of communications with said production side device via a network, characterized in that:

said production side device comprises progress information storage means for storing production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible, progress information transmission means for transmitting said production progress information to said order side device, and order instruction reception means for receiving a production order instruction from said order side device; and

said order side device comprises order instruction transmission means for transmitting a production order instruction to said production side device, and progress information providing means for receiving said production progress information from said production side device and providing a production orderer with this production progress information.

2. An order side device capable of communications via a network with a production side device which stores production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible, said order side device comprising:

order instruction transmission means for transmitting a production order instruction to said production side device; and

progress information providing means for receiving said production progress information from said production side device and providing a production orderer with this production progress information.

3. A production side device capable of communications with an order side device via a network, said production side device comprising:

progress information storage means for storing production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible;

progress information transmission means for transmitting said production progress information to said order side device; and

order instruction reception means for receiving a production order instruction from said order side device.

4. The system for production orders, order side device or production side device according to any of claims 1 through 3, wherein

said production side device comprises product information transmission means for

transmitting to said order side device information relating to products for which production order reception is possible.

5. The system for production orders, order side device or production side device

according to any of claims 1 through 4, wherein:

said progress information transmission means of said production side device transmits to said order side device said production progress information for a product for which an order has been received from said order side device, said production progress information serving as information by which a production orderer ascertains the state of production progress concerning a product for which a production order has been placed, or by which the production orderer issues a production order modification instruction, and

said progress information providing means of said order side device provides the production orderer with this production progress information.

6. The system for production orders, order side device, or production side device

according to any of claims 1 through 5, wherein:

said progress information transmission means of said production side device transmits to said order side device said production progress information for each

constitutional element of a product, said production progress information serving as information by which a production orderer ascertains the state of production progress concerning a product for which a production order has been placed, or by which the production orderer issues a production order modification instruction, and

said progress information providing means of said order side device provides the production orderer with this production progress information.

7. The system for production orders, order side device, or production side device according to any of claims 1 through 6, wherein:

said order instruction transmission means of said order side device transmits a production order modification instruction to said production side device, and

said order instruction reception means of said production side device receives this production order modification instruction.

8. The system for production orders, order side device, or production side device according to any of claims 1 through 7, wherein:

said product information transmission means of said production side device transmits to said order side device production capacity information, stock information, or production

schedule information, which serves as information relating to products for which production order reception is possible.

9. A method for production orders which is realized using:

a production side device for storing production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible; and

an order side device which is capable of communications with said production side device via a network, said method for production orders being characterized in that:

said production side device transmits to said order side device information relating to products for which production order reception is possible;

said order side device provides a production orderer with this information relating to products for which production order reception is possible;

said order side device transmits a production order instruction to said production side device;

said production side device transmits to said order side device said production progress information concerning a product for which a production order has been received from said order side device, said production progress information serving as information by which a production orderer ascertains the state of production progress of a product for which

a production order has been placed, or by which the production orderer issues a production order modification instruction; and

said order side device provides the production orderer with this production progress information.

10. A method for production orders which is realized using:

a production side device for storing production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible; and

an order side device which is capable of communications with said production side device via a network, said method for production orders being characterized in that:

said production side device transmits to said order side device said production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible, said production progress information serving as information by which a production orderer decides whether or not to place a production order, or for which product to place a production order;

said order side device provides the production orderer with this production progress information; and

said order side device transmits a production order instruction to said production side

device.

11. For a computer which is capable of communications via a network with an order side computer provided on the production orderer side, and which stores production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible,

a recording medium on which a program is recorded for transmitting to said order side computer via a network said production progress information concerning a product for which a production order has been received, said production progress information serving as information by which a production orderer ascertains the state of production progress concerning a product for which a production order has been placed, or by which the production orderer issues a production order modification instruction.

12. For a computer which is capable of communications via a network with an order side computer provided on the production orderer side, and which stores production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible,

a program for transmitting to said order side computer via a network said production progress information concerning a product for which a production order has been received, said production progress information serving as information by which the production orderer

ascertains the state of production progress concerning a product for which a production order has been placed, or by which the production orderer issues a production order modification instruction.

13. For a computer which is capable of communications via a network with an order side computer provided on the production orderer side, and which stores production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible,

a recording medium on which a program is recorded for transmitting to said order side computer via a network said production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible, said production progress information serving as information by which the production orderer decides whether or not to place a production order, or for which product to place a production.

14. For a computer which is capable of communications via a network with an order side computer provided on the production orderer side, and which stores production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible,

a program for transmitting to said order side computer via a network said production progress information concerning products for which production order reception is possible,

said production progress information serving as information by which the production orderer decides whether or not to place a production order, or for which product to place a production order.

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