



## GCI Outdoor stands up for Sage ERP MAS 200

When outdoor enthusiasts are ready to relax, they turn to GCI Outdoor. This successful en-year-old company designs, manufactures, and distributes a variety of outdoor chairs, including its best-selling Everywhere Chair® that adjusts to balance on hillside terrain. In addition to making chairs that balance, GCI Outdoors is now efficiently balancing its supply and demand with Sage ERP MAS 200.

As GCI Outdoor grew, its entry-level QuickBooks accounting software became a limiting factor. “We couldn’t track future orders,” explains Liesje Smith, financial coordinator at GCI Outdoor. “As soon as an order was created, QuickBooks considered it a sale.” In addition, the company needed sophisticated inventory-control features such as multiple warehouse and material requirements planning (MRP) functionality. “We were relying on dozens of spreadsheets to track sales and stock levels—it was becoming unmanageable,” recalls Smith.

### Sage ERP MAS 200 Rises to Meet the Challenge

After a comprehensive review of available midmarket solutions, including Icode Everest, Microsoft Dynamics GP, and Oak Street, GCI Outdoor decided on Sage ERP MAS 200. “Sage ERP MAS 200 offered the best value for the money, and has the flexibility to add additional modules as our company grows and our needs change,” says Smith.

GCI Outdoor’s Sage business partner imported the company’s customer database, general ledger data, and open invoices from QuickBooks into Sage ERP MAS 200. “The entire process went very smoothly, and we had the historical data we needed to run the business from the onset,” says Smith.

### Order Processing Time Halved

Sage ERP MAS 200 has enabled GCI Outdoor to cut its order processing time in half. Under the old system, salespeople would write their orders by hand and pass them to accounting for data entry. Now, salespeople enter their own orders into the Sales Order module, and have the benefit of real-time available-item quantity information that they can share with their customers. “Too often, in the past, we’d have to call a customer and apologize for promising an item we didn’t really have in stock,” recalls Smith. “No more—now we know exactly what we’ve got all the time.”

Warehouse personnel work in the Shipping Data Entry screen, scanning a bar-coded order number to recall the order details and record the quantity shipped of each item.

### Customer

GCI Outdoor

### Industry

Outdoor Accessory Distributor

### Location

Higganum, Connecticut

### Number of Locations

One

### Number of Employees

11

### System

Sage ERP MAS 200

### Modules in Operation

- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Bank Reconciliation
- Inventory Management
- Sales Order
- Purchase Order
- Materials Requirement Planning
- Return Merchandise Authorization

### Challenge

GCI Outdoor’s entry-level QuickBooks accounting software lacked the sophisticated inventory-control functionality needed to manage the company’s growth.

### Solution

Sage ERP MAS 200 provides an end-to-end solution to manage GCI Outdoor’s growing sales and distribution operation, meeting today’s needs and providing growth potential for tomorrow.

### Results

Order processing time has been halved—orders now ship the same day they are received. The RMA module streamlines returns and enables the company to monitor potential manufacturing defects. MRP provides accurate supply and demand data for lean operation.

The shipping process generates an invoice for each order, meaning the accounting department simply reviews the day's orders, prints the invoices, and posts them. "It used to take us 24 hours to get a new order out the door. Now our orders ship the same day they are received," says Smith.

### Return Processing Streamlined

Return processing used to be a cumbersome manual process involving three-ring binders and much paper shuffling. The Sage ERP MAS 200 Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) module has not only streamlined the process, but through its ability to assign a Reason Code to each return, GCI Outdoor has a tool for measuring its product quality and identifying potential manufacturing defects.

"Returns are inevitable," says Smith, "yet Sage ERP MAS 200 automates much of the process, automatically creating a credit memo for returns and a new sales order for replacements."

### Mastering Sales Projections

The Sage ERP MAS 200 MRP module helps GCI Outdoor produce monthly sales projections, as well as generate supply and demand estimates from the Sales Order, Purchase Order, and Inventory Management modules and allocate incoming products to its open orders. "It used to take a collection of spreadsheets and way too much time to do what the MRP module does for us automatically," says Smith.

Demand increases for the company's outdoor products during the summer season. The ability to review sales numbers from the same period of the prior year enables GCI Outdoor to make smart ordering and manufacturing decisions to support this seasonal demand fluctuation. As a result, there are fewer out-of-stock situations that might jeopardize sales.

### Delivering Strategic Business Information

Sage ERP MAS 200 gives GCI Outdoor the tools and information it needs to make strategic decisions about its sales efforts and its products.

## About Sage North America

Sage North America is part of The Sage Group plc, a leading global supplier of business management software and services. Sage North America employs 4,000 people and supports 3.1 million small and mid-sized business customers. The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs 13,100 people and supports 6.2 million customers worldwide. For more information, please visit the website at [www.SageNorthAmerica.com](http://www.SageNorthAmerica.com).

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Reports and inquiry screens identify which products are selling best—and who is buying them. "Before we knew sales were up, but couldn't easily identify where those new sales were coming from," says Smith. "With Sage ERP MAS 200 we can look at our inventory and sales history from many angles and decide where to focus our efforts."

### Integration With Contact Management

GCI Outdoor has used the ACT! by Sage contact management solution for several years, to help manage its marketing efforts. Smith is thrilled about new ACT! Integration that supports two-way data exchange between the Sage ERP MAS 200 and ACT! solutions. "We're gearing up to implement ACT! Integration now. It will allow our customer service and sales staff to do all their work within ACT!, with access to the accounting data they need to help our customers."

Sage ERP MAS 200 provides GCI Outdoor with the tools and the data it needs to operate efficiently while delivering excellent customer service.