



## The Bazaar, Inc.

**Consolidates Facilities to Increase Throughput and Decrease Dock to Stock Time by 25 Percent**



**The Bazaar Inc. is a family-owned business that has been leading the charge in purchasing name-brand closeouts for the secondary retail market for 60 years. They move hundreds of thousands of units of CPG goods to small and medium retailers and wholesale partners around the world. The Bazaar is a trusted name and provides a unique and valuable inventory asset-recovery re-processing service that is unmatched in the marketplace. They work with a variety of product lines, like health and beauty, housewares, hardware, household, office and school supplies, automotive, toys, food, cleaning supplies, and more. They've seen a lot of change over the past six decades, but continue to thrive because of their dedication to service and unmatched ability to adapt and grow.**

### The Challenge ►

### Downsizing and Maximizing Warehouse Efficiency

In early 2019, The Bazaar was at a crossroads. Despite adding a second facility to help process a growing volume of merchandise a few years earlier, the company was at capacity and unable to cost-effectively scale and engage in new opportunities. Space itself wasn't the issue, The Bazaar actually knew it could do more with less and had a goal of eliminating one 100K sq ft facility. They just weren't quite sure how to make it happen.

The Bazaar was also focused on making changes that could improve employee morale. Finding labor and retaining good labor is always a challenge for busy distribution centers, so anything they could do to improve processes and the working environment would increase their ability to recruit and retain employees.

Alpine Supply Chain Solutions, experts in warehouse design and layout, was selected to help The Bazaar achieve their goals.



Alpine jumped right in, they gathered and studied data to gain better insight into orders, items, product types, and quantities. They also completed a detailed process flow for each return processing area. According to Ryan O'Connor, SVP of Operations at Bazaar, "It wasn't until all data and processes were validated, that Alpine and Conveyor Solutions developed several alternatives for us to review. Each alternative included equipment costs, estimated labor, and ROIs for us to evaluate. Their data and solution-based approach gave us a lot of confidence from the start."

In the end, Alpine created a solution that enabled The Bazaar to consolidate two facilities into one, allowing them to operate in 20 percent less space overall. How? By eliminating duplicate administration, management, transportation tasks, and developing a more efficient layout for the remaining facility. Best of all, the overall solution required a very minimal investment in new equipment. In fact, The Bazaar was able to remove three small conveyor loops for item consolidation and replace them with one medium and one small loop.

## The Outcome ▶

**The Bazaar was able to consolidate all their distribution operations under one roof, eliminate the need for their 100K sq ft facility (and associated transportation costs), realize a 25% decrease in dock-to-stock time, and increase throughput through the new (larger, more flexible) processing lines. Overall labor costs were reduced by 30% upon completion. According to O'Connor, "Alpine's data-centric approach provided Bazaar with a real-world solution to address our need to be flexible. The team was collaborative from the beginning, and did not try to sell us anything till they determined exactly what we needed. In the end, they developed a very simple solution to handle a very complex problem."**

**The new solution has also enabled The Bazaar to:**

- **Uncover additional wholesale opportunities by increasing the number of pallets that could be processed at a time from 20 to 90.**
- **Cross-train employees to create a flexible workforce that can support vacations and time off and accommodate a second shift as needed.**
- **Improve employee morale and work environment with the addition of open skylights, improved lighting, and a new standard of cleanliness.**
- **Improve board culture by demonstrating a strong project ROI to historically risk-averse board members.**

**Notably, the new systems within the improved facility have allowed The Bazaar to scale a sustainable veteran and disability inclusion program by simplifying processes and tasks. Today, The Bazaar Inc. is honored to employ over 40 team members who are veterans or individuals with disabilities, representing over 30% of their workforce.**