**item in distribution centres**

 **How to build counting stations fast and customise them to requirements**

**Goods and products for the retail sector are mostly transported in reusable folding crates. STA.X counting stations are used as a quick and easy solution for recording stacks of empty collapsible crates in the incoming and outgoing goods areas of distribution warehouses, depots and service centres. The frame of these counting stations is built from item aluminium profiles, forming a stable basic structure with a minimal footprint. The stations are subdivided into several functional sections so they can be adapted to requirements. Quick and convenient assembly is another advantage of these aesthetically pleasing modules.**

Day in, day out, staff in logistics and distribution centres are tasked with counting an endless stream of empty collapsible crates which are then returned to the manufacturers, cleaned and used again. In the past, inventory management relied on manual counting, which is prone to errors and makes fully comprehensive stock control impossible. [STA.X counting stations from bci GmbH](https://www.bci-gmbh.de/stax-zaehlstation-klappsteigen/) are a game-changer, harnessing AI-based image processing to count and categorise the collapsible crates quickly and reliably. The collapsed crates, which have been stacked on a pallet, are positioned between the two panels in the STA.X system, where they are scanned by a high-resolution camera. The result of the count is then displayed on a monitor and the data made available to a higher-level system.

**A stable and versatile design**

The counting stations consist of two panels facing each other, each measuring 1500 mm wide, 400 mm deep and 2400 mm high and made from [item aluminium profiles](https://welcome.item24.de/mb-onepager) and panel elements. They are erected on an area measuring 3600 mm by 1900 mm and therefore take up very little space. The panels are divided into several sections and are designed with both transparent and opaque panel elements. Depending on the function of the section, impact-proof polycarbonate or 4 mm-thick plastic is used. These components are, for example, used to make the doors of a switchbox, secured by the item Locking System, Double Beard Lock. A Monitor Adapter from the item MB Building Kit System serves as a secure fixing for a screen. Additional components ensure the system offers flexibility when it comes to positioning or can be securely fixed to the floor, as necessary. The panels are interlinked by cable bridges – item aluminium profiles fitted with Conduit Profiles or Cable Guide Profiles providing maximum protection for the cables. bci therefore benefits from the extensive options in the [item building kit system](https://www.item24.de/en/productworld/). All components are perfectly coordinated, which allows for maximum design freedom.

**Close collaboration for the best results**

item went well beyond simply supplying the various components for the counting stations, working closely with bci to develop the solutions. The designs were tested before final installation. item, the pioneer in building kit systems for industrial applications, machined individual panel elements, modifying them with drilled holes and cut-outs, for example. Thanks to pre-drilled Profiles M, the customer can insert special light panels and swap them out, if necessary. The counting stations can therefore be modified flexibly, quickly and easily, as required.

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**Photos: 2** (source: bci)

**Caption 1:** The STA.X counting stations from bci GmbH consist of item aluminium profiles and numerous panel elements. Monitor Adapters from the item MB Building Kit System ensure that monitors can be securely attached.

**Caption 2:** The panels are interlinked by cable bridges – item aluminium profiles fitted with Conduit Profiles or Cable Guide Profiles providing maximum protection for the cables.

**About bci**

bci GmbH is a manufacturer-independent systems integrator for industrial image processing, identification and mobile data capture. For over 25 years, bci GmbH has been developing turnkey production and logistics solutions for customers in the automotive, electronics, food, furniture and medical industries. In addition to facilitating image processing and identification projects, the company also provides applications for the mobile and ticketing sectors.

**About item**

item Industrietechnik GmbH is the pioneer in building kit systems for industrial applications and a partner of the manufacturing industry across the entire globe. Today, the item product portfolio comprises more than 4,000 high-quality components designed for use in machine bases, work benches, automation solutions and lean production applications. The company has received a string of awards for products with ground-breaking industrial design and end-to-end ergonomics.

item is spearheading digital engineering by driving forward the digitalisation of processes with software tools developed in-house. The item Academy offers training at various levels, with on-demand training and online courses available in multiple languages.

Headquartered in Solingen, Germany, item has subsidiaries in various countries. Some 900 employees worldwide harness their know-how and passion to develop innovative solutions and services. Twelve sites make sure the company is always close to customers in Germany, with a global logistics chain ensuring swift delivery times for all components.

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