

Sebastian Funk and Timo Schiemer „in their element“

The Tradition Parts Team is delighted when, somewhere in the world, someone discovers a particularly rare spare part for a classic model. But logging these used parts is no mean feat...

Vintage spare parts managed with a modern SAP system

Providing for old-age

At its Audi Tradition Parts Shop depot, AUDI AG uses mobile data entry with simultaneous product photography to consolidate its 400,000 or so classic spare parts from Wanderer, Horch, DKW, Auto Union, NSU, and of course, Audi. The parts – sometimes used, often vintage and usually only available in small quantities – are managed with images in the SAP system and presented to the market in an online shop. Each part is logged with a software solution based on the Mobisys Solution Builder (MSB), on modern handhelds with integrated digital cameras. The MSB enables a direct WiFi connection to the MDE devices on the SAP ERP system and ergonomically summarises the complex transactions for the warehouse's everyday processes. The solution paid for itself with a six-fold increase in warehouse production within just a few months.

Not finding the parts they need for their beloved vintage cars is a nightmare for lovers of old timers. But it's also getting harder to find spare and wear parts for the younger four-ring classics, such as the DKW Junior, the NSU TTS, the Audi quattro and many more. The reason behind this is that the car industry usually only offers a full back-catalogue of spare parts about 15 to 20 years after the end of series production. And it's even harder for AUDI AG to supply the Tradition Parts market because of the group's hundred-year old, extremely diverse history with its traditional brands Wanderer, Horch, DKW Auto Union, NSU and Audi. Committed to its historical heritage, the premium brand from Ingolstadt, Germany, set up an Audi Tradition warehouse and online shop specialising in vintage and classic spare parts.

End customer:	AUDI AG - Audi Tradition Parts D-74172 Neckarsulm - www.audi.de/tradition
Industry:	automotive, warehouse logistics, spare parts sales, online shop
Application:	mobile data entry with product photography for SAP warehouse management
Products:	handhelds: CASIO IT-800 software: MSB - Mobisys Solution Builder
Partner:	mobisys - Mobile Informationssysteme GmbH D-69190 Walldorf - www.mobisys.de



Managing classic spare parts is very time-consuming

Spare parts for the very old classics have to be recorded and catalogued by referring to old parts lists, before storage. A photo of each individual part helps the customer to assess its condition.

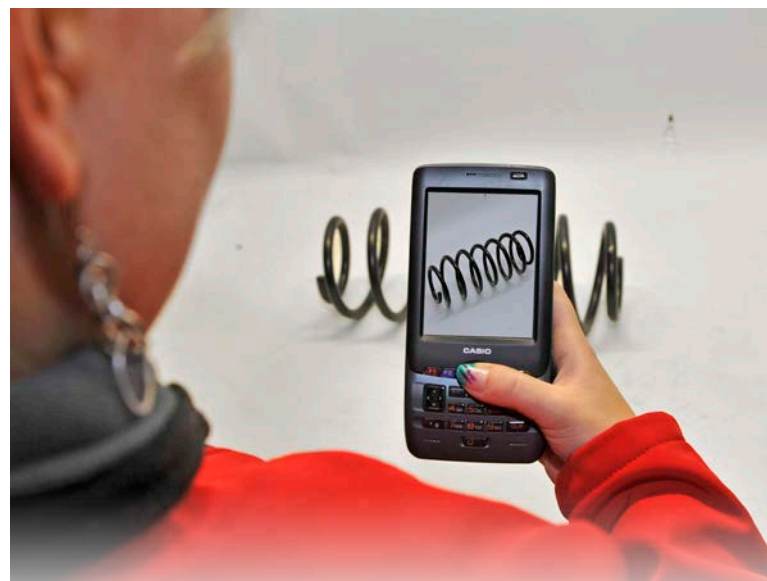
Hundreds of thousands of spare parts, and counting

Tradition Parts now stores around 400,000 spare parts for the Audi brands. The body parts, windscreens, trims, chassis and engine parts, as well as interior accessories are spread across a number of buildings. Sebastian Funk, who manages the purchasing and sales of the old parts knows only too well that, „It’s tricky keeping track of it, but getting an overview or perspective on it all is a thousand times harder“. „For a number of recent models, we’ve been able to take the spare parts lists and data records from the factory’s computers. But it’s a different story for vintage cars. We often need to conduct painstaking research, which demands a great deal of experience in classic automotive technology“. Most of the spare parts supplied come directly from the factories and are sent to Audi Tradition Parts a few years after the end of series production. Other parts are bought back by Audi dealerships and workshops when a particular series has become obsolete. Unfortunately, this is not as straightforward as you’d think, because it’s in those younger vehicles that Audi parts are identical to VW parts. And it gets even more complicated for spare parts for the very old classics. These are often purchased by the box load from collectors’ garages and cellars and returned to

the warehouse. Apart from the costs for re-purchase and storage, supplying old parts eats up manhours. As such, it’s the job of a number of Tradition Parts Team members to catalogue repurchased parts by referring to classic parts lists. For the online shop, they need to be described for the modern reader and photographed from different angles, to make the condition of the spare parts clear to the potential buyer.

Recognising streamlining potential

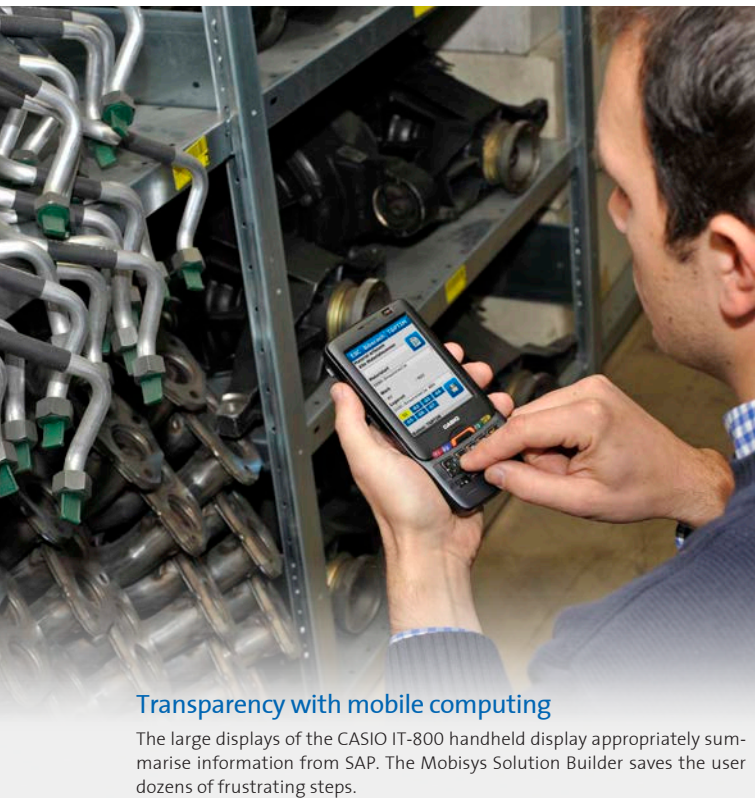
„To make Audi Tradition’s complex supply of spare parts reasonably economical, and to keep the customers’ valued objects affordable, we streamline our warehouse processes as far as possible for parts like this“, explains Managing Director Thomas Frank. As SAP is established as the company-wide ERP system in many Audi divisions, SAP was also the obvious candidate for Audi Tradition’s intralogistics. But it soon became clear that certain inventory and warehouse management processes, right up to sales on the online shop, had to be automated or simplified as far as possible. Lightweight handheld computers with optimum functionality and easy control had to be implemented everywhere that featured logistics processes, such as logging incoming goods, picking, etc., . In this case, Audi IT specialists recommended CASIO IT-800 devices, as they have already proved themselves in other areas of the factory and, in addition to the usual range of functions, have a large, high-contrast VGA colour display and an integrated digital camera with excellent photo properties to capture the spare parts.



Perfect product images with the CASIO handheld

For the online shop, spare parts must be accurately described and photographed from different angles at the incoming goods stage. The photos are captured on the CASIO handheld and transferred directly into the SAP system.

The mobile devices are connected to the SAP system via the Mobisys Solution Builder (MSB), a cost-effective software solution from mobisys Mobile Informationssysteme GmbH, Walldorf, Germany. The MSB summarises extensive SAP transactions across multiple entry screens in such a way that you can handle complex tasks in just a few clicks on your handheld; it's use is situation-specific and very simple.



Transparency with mobile computing

The large displays of the CASIO IT-800 handheld display appropriately summarise information from SAP. The Mobisys Solution Builder saves the user dozens of frustrating steps.

Handhelds communicating with SAP

MSB Runtime and MSB Developer were installed in the backend of the SAP system to streamline the MDA solution. Based on these certified modules, business processes on the mobile devices can be consistently and directly run on the platform of the SAP NetWeaver Application Server. The ABAP Add-On module, MSB Runtime, is the main link between the Casio handheld and the SAP system, without having to install middleware or intermediate servers. The MSB client is installed under Windows Mobile on the CASIO handheld. A well-arranged, function key or touch panel-operated menu was designed for controlling intralogistics pro-

cesses. The MSB client can display selection lists (list boxes) in any size and colour, making it very easy for the user to select the right entry from a set of data. You can also have image capture fields integrated into the screens; just create a bitmap that can be sent along with other data to SAP where it is processed as required. You can then display the photo in the online shop, for example, with a link to the item. The decisive criterion for using the Mobisys Solution Builder with Audi Tradition Parts was the guarantee of a rapid and secure implementation of the MDE project by using prepared standard transactions. These ready-to-use transactions accommodate frequently occurring processes in application areas such as intralogistics, and can be used immediately in a productive process or applied as a template and customised for your project.

Happy staff, fast pay-back

All warehouse staff are now working with these practical MDE devices. Data entry and product photography with the „SAP handheld“ is something nobody would want to do without. „Although we're now processing six times as many spare parts in the same amount of time, my colleagues are happier“, confirmed team member Melanie Scherf. „For example, recording purchased spare parts in the SAP system is a much faster and easier process now, because the handheld instantly logs the scanned data and images of the parts in one go, in just a few clicks“. From a commercial point of view, Sebastian Funk added, „Increasing our intralogistical efficiency has significantly improved



the cost-effectiveness of our spare parts service, thereby benefiting our customers“. All in all, the investment in the MDE solution paid itself back within a few months.

*Timo Schiemer,
Audi Tradition Parts*



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