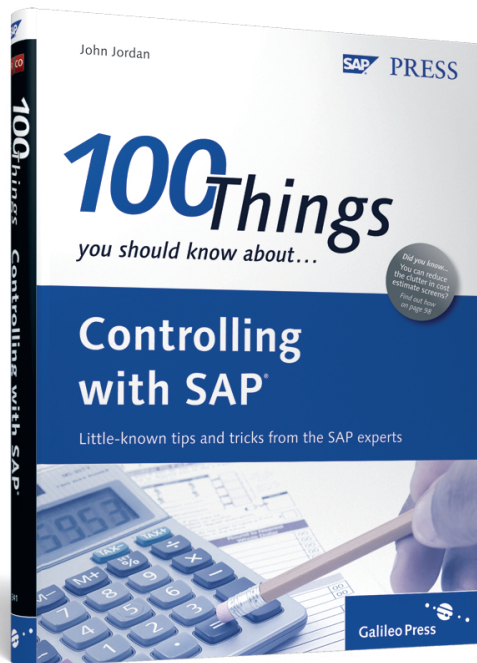


John Jordan

# 100 Things You Should Know About Controlling with SAP®



 Galileo Press®

Bonn • Boston

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# Introduction

This book is the first of a new series of SAP ERP books based on 100 ideas for various SAP software components. It is designed to make reading and understanding SAP ERP more interesting and accessible for your day to day work. You can flip through this book and search for ideas on each page to see if any of the 100 topics catches your attention. If so, you can read through the idea in a matter of minutes and decide whether you'd like to research the topic further. Most ideas are two pages long so you can see the entire idea on each open page. Since its limited how much information can be placed on two pages, each idea generally references other materials where you can do further research and reading.

SAP OSS notes are a great way to research topics, though knowing the best search terms to find relevant notes takes practice. The OSS notes referenced in this book will take you to exactly the right place to carry out further research. In a way you, can use this book as an index to OSS notes and other resources.

This book is designed to be useful for users, managers, consultants, and anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding of the controlling process. It contains many ideas that are simply not documented anywhere else. Some are gleaned from techniques that consultants and clients have figured out by themselves and I've been fortunate enough to work with them.

It contains easy-to-understand process overviews and detailed master data and configuration setup requirements. You can use this book as a reference, referring to specific sections when needed. For example, during master data setup, you can refer to specific ideas on master data. Or you can refer to ideas on costing sheets when configuring overhead.

The screenshots and menu paths in this book are taken from an SAP ERP Central Component, Release 6.0 system. Manufacturing order is used as an umbrella term for production and process orders throughout.

Since the subject of controlling is vast in scope this book is divided into nine categories, each a sub-module within Controlling. Sometimes an idea spans across several sub-modules, so if you don't find an idea in a particular category, try looking in a related category and you might find either what you're looking for, or a useful idea on a related topic. Let's discuss in more detail the contents of this book and how it is structured.

There are ten ideas on Cost Center Accounting and two each on the closely related Internal Order and Profit Center Accounting modules. There are useful ideas on working with the standard hierarchy and account assignment. The standard hierarchy is guaranteed to contain all cost centers and should represent your organizational structure. Account assignments determine which general ledger accounts and cost and profit centers are determined automatically during a posting. You'll also find ideas on cost center, internal order and profit center planning, price calculation and advanced reporting.

The next fifty ideas belong to the Product Cost Planning and Cost Object controlling sub-modules which are part of Product Cost Controlling. This module takes up half the book because it's such a large part of Controlling and because it's integrated with so many other areas such as manufacturing, materials management, financial accounting and sales and distribution. In this module you have to for example move from configuring general ledger accounts and movement types to assigning purchasing condition types to origin groups for delivery costs. You need to have a good idea of how at least six other modules work at a detailed level to be able to know Product Cost Controlling well. In fact there is nearly always a discovery phase during any Controlling implementation when you learn how the detailed functions of another module work that are integrated with Controlling. This book is designed to provide you with a head start during the discovery phase since many of these ideas are based on integration with other modules.

While there is much information available in online help documentation on the material ledger and profitability analysis, the ten ideas in this book on each of these sub-modules provide an overview of how to work with common issues. Some of the material ledger ideas reference information available from several OSS notes which you can read for more information. By reading the ten ideas on each of these two modules you'll gain a good understanding how both modules work.

There are six ideas on general controlling such as working with controlling areas, and closing periods for accounting, controlling and materials management. You'll also find information on navigating the Implementation Guide (IMG).

Finally there are ten ideas on reporting. Several ideas describe the types of standard reports available, and discuss some useful standard reports you may not be aware of. Finally you'll find some handy ideas on finding information with the data browser and technical help.

For more information on Controlling with SAP, visit [www.sap-press.com](http://www.sap-press.com), where you can find additional resources and companions for further reading.

## Part 4

# Product Cost Planning

### Things You'll Learn in this Section

15	Standard versus Moving Average Price .....	52
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Product cost planning allows you to automatically process large volumes of data in order to create cost estimates. It delivers cost-based data for material goods and intangible products and services, enabling you to make decisions such as:

- ▶ Inventory valuation
- ▶ Make or buy
- ▶ Lower price units
- ▶ Profitability analysis

Product cost planning supports the product throughout its life cycle, and ensures that the costing results are always available for analysis. Cost estimates are normally created automatically based on master data and configuration which you set up in the system:

- ▶ A bill of material (BOM) is a structured hierarchy of components necessary to build an assembly. BOM's together with purchasing info records or vendor quotations, provide cost estimates with the information necessary to calculate material costs of assemblies.
- ▶ A routing is a list of tasks containing standard activity times required to perform operations to build an assembly. Routings, together with planned activity prices, provide cost estimates with the information necessary to calculate labor and activity costs of products.
- ▶ A costing sheet summarizes the rules for allocating overhead from cost centers to cost estimates, product cost collectors and manufacturing orders. The components of a costing sheet include the calculation base (group of cost elements), overhead rate (percentage rate applied to base), and credit key (cost center receiving credit).

This section provides you with many useful and helpful techniques to optimize your setup of the above data as well as the setup and configuration of cost estimates. Because of the potentially large volume of data that cost estimates deal with, apparently small changes in configuration and/or master data can make large improvements to system performance and accuracy of the results.

## Tip 36

# Reduce the Clutter in Cost Estimate Screens

*You can simplify cost estimate screens by reducing the number of cost component views.*

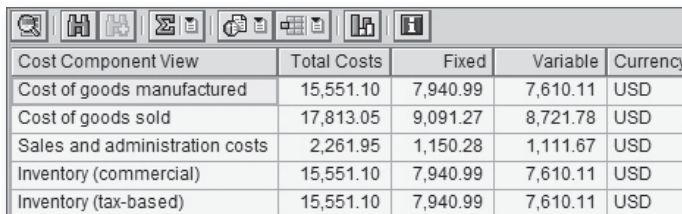
Although five cost component views are listed by default when displaying a cost estimate, you may not need to display them all. Continuing to list redundant cost component views clutters the cost estimate screen, which already contains a lot of information. You can easily control the number and order of cost component views listed in the COST ESTIMATE screen with the following procedure.

### ✓ Solution

You can display a cost estimate with Transaction CK13N or via the following menu path:

ACCOUNTING • CONTROLLING • PRODUCT COST CONTROLLING • PRODUCT COST PLANNING • MATERIAL COSTING • COST ESTIMATE WITH QUANTITY STRUCTURE • DISPLAY

Type in the Material, Plant, and Costing Variant and press  to display the screen shown in Figure 1.



Cost Component View	Total Costs	Fixed	Variable	Currency
Cost of goods manufactured	15,551.10	7,940.99	7,610.11	USD
Cost of goods sold	17,813.05	9,091.27	8,721.78	USD
Sales and administration costs	2,261.95	1,150.28	1,111.67	USD
Inventory (commercial)	15,551.10	7,940.99	7,610.11	USD
Inventory (tax-based)	15,551.10	7,940.99	7,610.11	USD

« **Figure 1**  
Cost Component View List in the Cost Estimate Screen

Double-click a COST COMPONENT VIEW to see the corresponding cost components and costs listed in the lower section of the COST ESTIMATE screen (not

shown). Cost components group together costs of similar type, such as materials, labor, and overhead, by cost elements.

Note that in Figure 1 the INVENTORY (COMMERCIAL) and INVENTORY (TAX-BASED) cost component views appear by default. The distinction between tax valuation and commercial valuation is not observed in the U.S. and in some European countries. If these are not relevant for your company, you can remove them from your COST ESTIMATE screen by selecting SETTINGS • COST DISPLAY from the menu bar. The dialog box shown in Figure 2 is displayed.

Costs for View	
1	Cost of goods manufactured
2	Cost of goods sold
3	Sales and administration costs
4	Inventory (commercial)
5	Inventory (tax-based)

« Figure 2

Choose the Cost Component Views to List in a Cost Estimate

Entries you make in this screen determine the number and order of the cost component views listed in the COST ESTIMATE screen. If you leave an entry blank, the corresponding cost component view will not appear in the cost estimate. In this example, let's delete entries 4 and 5 and press  to return to the cost estimate, shown in Figure 3.

Cost Component View	Total Costs	Fixed	Variable	Currency
Cost of goods manufactured	15,551.10	7,940.99	7,610.11	USD
Cost of goods sold	17,813.05	9,091.27	8,721.78	USD
Sales and administration costs	2,261.95	1,150.28	1,111.67	USD

⤴ Figure 3 Simplified Cost Component View List in Cost Estimate

Only the cost component views you selected in Figure 2 are now displayed in the COST ESTIMATE screen.

If you click the Note button (not shown) at the bottom of the dialog box in Figure 2, you have the option of saving these settings for only this cost estimate independent of the costing variant, or for all cost estimates dependent on the costing variant. ■

## Tip 37

# Unit Cost Estimate — Base Planning Object

*A unit cost estimate lets you calculate the planned costs for base planning objects without a bill of material (BOM) or routing.*

When you develop a new product, or modify an existing one, there are several stages:

- ▶ If you haven't yet developed any master data in the system, you can carry out initial cost planning by creating a base planning object.
- ▶ When you've created a material master you can create a cost estimate without a quantity structure to manually plan costs for the new material.
- ▶ After you've created the necessary BOM and routing, you can create a material cost estimate with a quantity structure.

### ✓ Solution

You can maintain a base planning object with Transaction KKE2 or via the following menu path:

ACCOUNTING • CONTROLLING • PRODUCT COST CONTROLLING • PRODUCT COST PLANNING • REFERENCE AND SIMULATION COSTING • CHANGE BASE PLANNING OBJECT

Enter a base planning object and press  to display a header information screen. You can create a basic structure and valuation in the Cost estimate section by clicking the Calculator icon to display the screen in Figure 1.

This screen is in a spreadsheet format, and it's easy to make modifications and analyze the resulting changes in total value. Let's examine the relevant columns.

- ▶ **ITEM:** You can modify existing items or add new items by clicking the green Plus sign icon. You can easily explore the functionality of the other icons in this screen by clicking them.

Base Planning Obj		R-1110		CPU-66									
Costing Items - Basic View													
M	Item	C	Resource	Plant/Activity	Purc...	Quantity	U	L	Value - Total	Description	Price - Total	Price Unit	Cost Elem
	4	M	R-1220	1200		1	PC		51.13	MEMORY, 8 MB	51.13		1410000
	5	E	4275	1423		4	H		28.41	Burn-in Hours	7.10		1623000
	6	M	R-1230	1200		1	PC		3.07	BIOS	3.07		1410000
	7	G							21.55	OS - Raw Material			655100
	8	S							195.98	Grand total			

❖ **Figure 1** Unit Cost Estimate for Base Planning Object

- ▶ **C (Category):** Right-click the C field and click POSSIBLE ENTRIES to display a list of item categories. The item category you enter in this field influences the entries you can make in the following fields for each item.
- ▶ **RESOURCE:** The resource you enter in this field corresponds to the item category entered in the C column. For example, if you enter item category M, you will be restricted to entering an existing material in the corresponding field in the RESOURCE column. Some item categories, such as V, do not require an entry in the RESOURCE column.
- ▶ **PLANT/ACTIVITY:** An entry you make in this field corresponds to the entries you made in the C and RESOURCE columns.
- ▶ **QUANTITY:** This entry refers to the quantity of resources required for this estimate. You can easily change quantities and see how this affects the total value of the base planning object.
- ▶ **VALUE – TOTAL:** The total value for each item is calculated by multiplying the quantity by the entry in the PRICE – TOTAL column. You should be aware of the value in the PRICE UNIT column when considering base planning object prices. Divide the PRICE – TOTAL entry by the PRICE UNIT entry to calculate the unit cost. You increase the price unit to increase the accuracy of the price.
- ▶ **COST ELEM (Cost Element):** The cost element identifies the type of cost in cost reports. You can see standard base planning object detailed reports via the following menu path:

ACCOUNTING • CONTROLLING • PRODUCT COST CONTROLLING • PRODUCT COST PLANNING • INFORMATION SYSTEM • DETAILED REPORTS • FOR BASE PLANNING OBJECT

# Tip 38

## Material Cost Estimate without Quantity Structure

*A material cost estimate without quantity structure lets you calculate the planned costs for materials without a bill of material (BOM) or routing.*

After you've carried out initial research on the cost of items in new products with base planning objects, you can create a material master to continue the development process. You can also take an existing material, copy the existing quantity structure, and manually make adjustments to carry out cost analysis.

### ✓ Solution

You can create a material cost estimate without quantity structure for a new or modified product with Transaction KKPAN or via the following menu path:

ACCOUNTING • CONTROLLING • PRODUCT COST CONTROLLING • PRODUCT COST PLANNING • MATERIAL COSTING • COST ESTIMATE WITHOUT QUANTITY STRUCTURE • CREATE

To create a cost estimate without the quantity structure, enter a Material, Plant, and Costing Variant, and press  to display the screen in Figure 1.

M	Item	C	Resource	Plant/Activity	Purch.	Quantity	U	L	Value - Total	Description	Price - Total
	1	B	100-100			10	PC		597.09	Spiral casing	597.09
	2								0.00		

⤴ **Figure 1** Create a Cost Estimate without Quantity Structure

This screen is similar to the unit cost estimate screen for a base planning object. Let's follow an example of how to copy existing structures and master data into a unit cost estimate. A base planning object 100-100 with a quantity of 10 has been entered and ITEM 1 selected. Select **FUNCTIONS • EXPLODE BASE PLANNING OBJECT** from the menu bar to display the dialogue box shown in Figure 2.

Item	C	Resource	Description	Quantity	UM	Cost Element
1 B		100-100	Spiral casing	10	PC	890000

« **Figure 2**  
Copy Base Planning Object  
with Reference

In this example, we'll explode the existing base planning object by selecting **NO. OF LEVELS** and entering 1, and then by selecting the base planning object item and clicking the Explode button, which brings you to the screen in Figure 3.

Material	P-100	Pump PRECISION 100									
Costing Items - Basic View											
M	Item	C	Resource	Plant/Activity	Purc...	Quantity	U	L	Value - Total	Description	Price - Total
	1	E	4230	1422		0.500	H		13.86	Setup Hours	2,772.36
	2	M	100-110	1000		10	PC		51.10	Slug for spiral casing	5.11
	3	M	100-120	1000		10	PC		230.00	Flat gasket	23.00
	4	M	100-130	1000		80	PC		80.00	Hexagon head screw	100.00
	5	E	4230	1420		0.833	H		22.18	Machine hours	2,662.54
	6	E	4230	1420		1.667	H		44.38	Machine hours	2,662.54
	7	E	4230	1420		0.833	H		22.18	Machine hours	2,662.54
	8	E	4230	1422		0.167	H		4.63	Setup Hours	2,772.36

⤴ **Figure 3** Base Planning Object Copied to Unit Cost Estimate

You can copy the existing quantity structures, or modify, add, or delete existing individual items to a unit cost estimate.

Once you've developed a unit cost estimate and are ready to progress to the production phase, you can develop BOMs and routings, and create cost estimates with quantity structure and standard cost estimates. ■

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