

# Lean Tips

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*The articles and knowledge tidbits  
about Lean Management and  
Quality Management were  
collected by me over the years. I  
hope that along with me, you will  
enjoy reading, practicing, and  
preaching them in your journey  
towards quality improvement.*

*Lean Tips source:  
<http://www.aleanjourney.com/>*

**Quality Circle Forum of India**  
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## Better to go an Inch Deep Instead of a Mile wide

Some teams take a "shot-gun" approach to Leaning-out their organization. The result? Slow progress. Getting the "low-hanging-fruit" is fine, especially if there is financial "bleeding" going on somewhere in the organization. However, teams need to realize that running from one end of the shop to the other with Kamikaze Kaizen tools can actually add to the time necessary to transform a company. It has been said that you cannot Kaizen your way to lean. Kaizen is a tool much like any other tool in the World-Class Manufacturers toolbox. Of course the techniques of Kaizen should be used where appropriate, but this is not a one-size-fits-all tool. A better approach is to drill to the bedrock, preferably within a model-line (selected as a major value stream within the organization). Apply as many of the tools as possible in a controlled atmosphere. Then you will have a meaningful model upon which you can build, while training other teams within your organization.

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## Think Outside the Box.

Job shops are often owned by entrepreneurs. Free thinkers who started their business in a garage or rented warehouse. Once becoming successful these same free thinkers often become their own enemy. They are so good at what they do that they ignore the fact that others may have discovered a better approach. Just like Tiger Woods might hire a golf-pro to help him improve his short game, recognizing a need for coaching does not diminish or call into question a person's ability. On the contrary, it shows intuitiveness and wisdom. It can help move your company to the next level of performance.

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## Create Sense of Ownership for Employees

Many companies try to use money as the primary factor to drive employee ideas. This usually doesn't work well. Employees also need the feeling of ownership—a sense that it is their duty and their right to be involved. Taking pride in their company and knowing that their ideas are helping the company succeed are important motivating factors.