

FREE FIELD GUIDE

5 Places AI Is Quietly Saving Manufacturers Money

For shops that still quote and enter orders by hand. Copy the prompts straight into ChatGPT or Claude.

First, the 3 habits that make AI actually useful

1. **Tell it who to be.** Start with "You are my estimator" or "my purchasing manager." It answers sharper in a role.
2. **Show it an example.** Paste a couple of your real past quotes or POs. It copies your style far better than from a blank slate.
3. **Make it show its work.** End with "list anything you're unsure about," so it flags guesses instead of burying them.

1 Quoting and estimating

Every custom job is priced from scratch, thirty to sixty minutes each, and most quotes never close.

COPY THIS PROMPT

You are my estimator. First, learn how I price from these past quotes:

paste 3 recent quotes here. Now write a quote for this new job in the same style and pricing logic: **paste the new RFQ here**. Give me the quote, then list every assumption you made so I can check it before it goes out.

Tip. The more past quotes you paste, the closer it matches how you actually price.

2 Typing orders off PDFs

A customer PO lands as a PDF and someone retypes it by hand. Every typo becomes a wrong part or a reprint.

COPY THIS PROMPT

You are my order-entry assistant. Read this purchase order: **paste or attach the PO here**. Pull every line item into a table with columns for part number, description, quantity, unit price, and due date. If anything is missing or unclear, flag it instead of guessing.

Tip. It reads a photo or a scan too, not just typed files.

3 Buying materials

Prices come in from a few suppliers and get compared in someone's head. On thin margins, buying a little smarter is straight profit.

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You are my purchasing manager. Compare these supplier quotes for the same material: **paste all the quotes here**. Work out the true cost per unit after freight and minimums, tell me which is cheapest and by how much, then draft a short reply accepting the best one.

Key question to ask it. "What would change your answer?" catches hidden costs you forgot to mention.

4 Following up on quotes

Three out of four quotes never close, and almost nobody chases them. That is revenue sitting on the floor.

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You are my sales assistant. Here is a quote that hasn't closed: **paste the quote or the details here**. Write a short, friendly, no-pressure follow-up email, two or three sentences, checking if they still need it and whether the price still works.

Tip. Add "match this tone: **paste an email you'd actually send**" and it sounds like you, not a robot.

5 Certs and paperwork

Mill certs, certs of conformance, and packing docs get matched to shipments by hand, then dug out of email later.

COPY THIS PROMPT

You are my quality clerk. Check whether these documents match before this order ships: **paste the mill cert and the packing list here**. Compare the heat and lot numbers and the quantities, and list anything that does not line up so I can fix it.

Tip. Ask it to "quote the exact text you compared," so you can trust the check at a glance.

Which one should you fix first?

That depends on where your hours actually go, and that is hard to see from the inside. The free audit is one hour in your office: I follow one order from the email to the floor and hand you a short list of where AI saves you the most, with a real number next to it.

Book a free audit at audit.withmagic.ai • or email audit@withmagic.ai