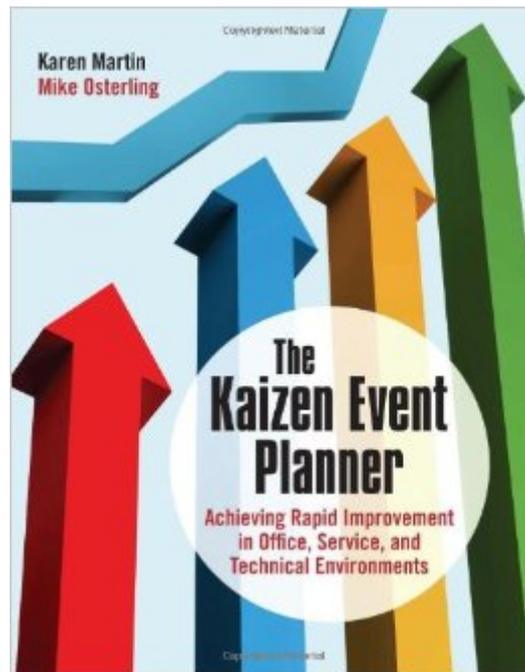


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# The Kaizen Event Planner: Achieving Rapid Improvement In Office, Service, And Technical Environments



## Synopsis

Kaizen Events are an effective way to train organizations to break unproductive habits and adopt a continuous improvement philosophy while, at the same time, achieve breakthrough performance-level results. Through Kaizen Events, cross-functional teams learn how to make improvements in a methodological way. They learn how to quickly study a process, identify and prioritize improvement opportunities, implement change, and sustain their gains. Most importantly, they learn how to work with one another to solve problems rapidly and in a highly effective way. In *The Kaizen Event Planner: Achieving Rapid Improvement in Office, Service, and Technical Environments*, authors Karen Martin and Mike Osterling provide a practical how-to guide for planning and executing Kaizen Events in non-manufacturing settings, and conducting post-Event follow-ups to sustain the improvements made. Geared to continuous improvement professionals and leaders within the office areas of manufacturing, the service sector and knowledge-worker environments, this book provides the methodology and practical tools for generating measurable results, while building a motivated workforce and laying the foundation for continuous improvement. *The Kaizen Event Planner* provides those responsible for improving office, service, and technical processes with the skills to effectively scope the activity, engage the right people, and facilitate successful Events! An accompanying CD provides immediate access to a number of Excel-based tools.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

People who are just starting on their Lean journey can shave a year off their learning curve by

putting the pointers this book offers into practice. The writing is clear, flows in an easy-to-follow sequence, and provides numerous useful summary tables. There are also multiple nuggets of wisdom for experienced Lean practitioners as well. Plus, the book offers a CD with many of the forms that are critical to kaizen success. Even if your company already has its own Lean toolbox, you can make it better by getting ideas from these templates. This is a great 'sharpen the axe' book for beginners and experts alike.

This authors provide a comprehensive guidance to Kaizen Event. Specifically, I like the arrangement of chapters in accordance to the event process (Preparation, Execution, Wrap-up, and Follow-up). Chapter 12-15 are the best part of the book because these chapters describe clearly about the roadmap of office Kaizen project. Excellent. I expect to see a real example of Kaizen Event planner in Appendix in future.

I bought the "The Kaizen Event Planner" about 12 months ago and was so impressed with Karen Martin's methodology and approach for Kaizen style events, that I purchased a copy for all my team of green and black belts. We have very successfully followed the MBPM approach to run intensive 5 day Kaizens within our organisation. I would recommend the book and the approach to anyone involved in Business Process Improvement initiatives. The templates provided in the included CD are easy to use and provide a professional standard look to all the communications needed as part of a Kaizen event.

Karen & Mike provide a wonderful roadmap for success. I can't recommend this book enough. In addition to great content they also provides a wonderful CD with tools to get started quickly. Simply get the book, read it, and start learning by doing!

The Kaizen Event Planner is a practical, how-to guidebook for any organization undertaking a Lean journey. The book outlines the preparation, planning, and follow-up that is critical for kaizen event success. The templates and step-by-step explanations are thorough and well explained. Even the organizations that are well versed in Lean implementation will benefit from this book. This book is ideal for managers at all levels of the organization and Lean facilitators. This book should be in every organization's Lean library.

Kaizen events seem easy but they are not. And one of the most neglected aspects is planning. For

a kaizen event to be successful, it is important to have a standard method of setting up the event, gathering the data, assigning the teams, getting the practicalities organized, and engaging the sponsor. Similarly, during the event it is vital to have a clear-cut, standardized method of addressing the problems, root causes, possible solutions, rapid experiments, and so forth. This book does an excellent job of showing you how to do this. It also has an emphasis on kaizen in the office & service functions, rather than manufacturing. And it has a CD with all kinds of templates you can use. I have used this book with my own customers so they have a clear step-by-step formula. It works and it works well.

If you are planning a Kaizen event, this is a great resource / tool. I'm a Six Sigma Green Belt and recently went thru Lean training. Our company recently held 2 Kaizen Events and used this planner as our foundation tool. This tool made the event a breeze to conduct, easy to document and follow-up on key post-event activities and deadlines a snap. Solid resource...now they need to create a Six Sigma version...

Thank you for your work on the book, it has been an extremely helpful and insightful tool to me, even having worked with Toyota and Honda many years ago before my transition to healthcare. It's easy step by step approach and included tools make planning and executing a kaizen event such an ease.

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