



So i want to build a sorting system to help with inventory for this project i already have shelves how would i go about getting separators and would a picture be helpful

Short answer: yes, a picture helps. But you can start now.

Here is a fast, low-cost way to stand up a clean sorting system on your existing shelves, tuned for printer supplies.

1) Pick a location code

Use Aisle.Shelf.Bin. Example: H2.3.C means Hutchins aisle 2, shelf 3, bin C. Put this code on the shelf edge and on the QR label you already use in Django.

2) Choose bin sizes

Three sizes usually cover printing supplies.

Small: chips, waste-box seals, maintenance kits parts.

Medium: most toner boxes.

Large: drums and bulky items.

Rule of thumb: each bin holds a single SKU only. Overflow bin is allowed on the same shelf with a “↳ overflow” label.

3) Separators you can get today

Wire shelves: zip-tie corrugated plastic “fences.”

Cut 4 mm corrugated plastic to shelf depth. Height 10–15 cm is plenty.

Drill or poke two holes top and bottom, then zip-tie to the front and back wires so it cannot slide.

Make slots every 5–7 cm so you can move a removable tab between SKUs.

Flat shelves: use bookend-style metal dividers or plastic shelf dividers that clamp to the shelf. If you have plywood available, rip 6–8 cm strips and screw from underneath through pocket holes for permanent lanes.

DIY in a pinch

Foam board works for tests, but it sags. Corrugated plastic is better, cheap, rigid, and washable.

For label rails, stick a 2 cm wide strip of clear packing tape along the front edge and slide paper tags under it.

4) Labeling and QR integration

Front of each lane shows

SKU code large, human name under it, color band for brand or color family, QR code to your Django item page, location code.

Put min and max on the label. Example: Min 2, Max 6. Your reorder views can use that.

5) Two-bin Kanban where it matters

For fast movers, use two identical bins in the same lane.

Rear bin stays sealed until front bin empties. When front bin is emptied, scan the QR on a Kanban card that creates a reorder request, then slide rear bin forward.

Kanban card needs fields: SKU, supplier, typical lead time, min, max, last order date, who scanned.

6) Physical layout pattern

Top shelves: light and low-use items.

Middle shelves: the fast movers so anyone can grab safely.

Bottom shelves: heavy drums and fusers.

Group by brand first, then by device family, then by color. For color lasers, set lanes left to right K C M Y to keep consistency with how boxes are usually printed.

7) Quick bill of materials

Corrugated plastic sheets, 4 mm

Zip ties, medium

Oil-based paint marker or label tape for high-contrast lane letters A, B, C

Clear tape for ad-hoc label rails

A cheap hole punch or awl for tie holes

8) Simple build steps for one shelf

Measure shelf width and depth.

Cut enough plastic panels to the shelf depth.

Tie one panel every 20–25 cm of width to create lanes.

Add lane letter stickers A B C across the front wire.

Print QR labels that include the location code and stick them to the front wire or to a small tag hanging from the wire.

What to include if you send a picture

One straight-on photo of the whole rack.

One close photo of a single shelf showing the wire pattern and current box sizes.

Optional: a quick list of the five most common SKUs and how many boxes you want accessible at once.

With those, I can spec exact divider spacing and a cut list.