











## Comparison: aERP vs. Katana + QuickBooks — Manufacturing Focus









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### 1. Manufacturing Needs Today

Manufacturing Requirement	aERP (Active ERP)	Katana + QuickBooks
Fast adaptation to changing demand	 Native flexibility, no-code changes on the fly	 Limited, manual adjustments or API integration needed
Control over costs	 Transparent pricing, no hidden modules	 Subscription fees for both Katana and QuickBooks, can escalate with growth
Visibility from raw materials to finished goods	 Real-time visibility across all stages	 Basic tracking in Katana, accounting split in QuickBooks
Faster turnaround times	 Fast workflows, predictive planning	 Manual processes, limited automation
Supplier and distributor integration	 Built-in no-code integration	 Requires external integrations or APIs

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### 2. How They Support Modern Manufacturing

Capability	aERP	Katana + QuickBooks
AI-Augmented MRP	 Included natively	 Not available, basic MRP only
Capacity Planning	 Yes, dynamic planning included	 Manual planning, limited automation
Multi-location management	 Included out of the box	 Limited, requires workarounds or external integrations
Shop floor automation	 Automated workflows (AutoPilot engine)	 Manual processes, limited automation

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### ✅ 3. Inventory Management Excellence

Feature	aERP	Katana + QuickBooks
Real-time inventory tracking	✅ Included natively	✅ Available in Katana, syncing needed with QuickBooks
Multi-location inventory	✅ Standard feature	⚠️ Limited, requires external tools or workarounds
Lot/serial tracking	✅ Included	⚠️ Basic functionality, limited depth
Predictive reordering alerts	✅ AI-driven AutoPilot	⚠️ Manual reorder points
Inventory forecasting	✅ Linked to production schedules	⚠️ Manual processes, limited forecasting tools
Full audit trail	✅ Yes	⚠️ Split between Katana and QuickBooks

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### ✅ 4. Supply Chain Optimization & Automation

Feature	aERP	Katana + QuickBooks
Vendor performance tracking	✅ Included	⚠️ Manual tracking or external tools required
Dynamic lead time management	✅ Built-in	⚠️ Manual updates needed
AutoPilot-driven purchase recommendations	✅ Native AI-powered	⚠️ Manual purchasing workflows
Supplier collaboration portals	✅ Included	⚠️ Not available natively
Integrated forecasting	✅ Yes	⚠️ Requires external tools or manual processes

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## ✅ 5. AI & Automation Advantage

### Automation Feature aERP

### Katana + QuickBooks

Native AI engine	✅ AutoPilot included	⚠️ Not available
Smart workflows	✅ Built-in	⚠️ Manual workflows only
Predictive insights	✅ Included	⚠️ Not available

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## ✅ 6. Financial Strength for Manufacturers

### Financial Feature

### aERP

### Katana + QuickBooks

Multi-entity, multi-currency	✅ Included	⚠️ Limited, dependent on QuickBooks
Manufacturing cost accounting	✅ Included, with job and plant-level detail	⚠️ Basic, QuickBooks handles financials separately
Cash flow management	✅ Integrated with operations	✅ Available in QuickBooks
Integrated accounting	✅ Native, no third-party needed	⚠️ Relies fully on QuickBooks integration
Audit trails & compliance	✅ Included	⚠️ Split between platforms, fragmented view

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## ✅ 7. Integration & Customization

### Feature

### aERP

### Katana + QuickBooks

No-code customization	✅ Yes, data, UI, workflows	⚠️ Limited, requires API developers
Integration options	✅ Built-in no-code hub	⚠️ Requires third-party integrations or API development
Deployment flexibility	✅ Cloud and on-premises	⚠️ Cloud-based only, QuickBooks dependency

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## ✅ 8. Portals, Web Stores & CRM

Feature	aERP	Katana + QuickBooks
Customer portal	✅ Included	⚠️ Not available natively
Vendor portal	✅ Included	⚠️ Not available natively
Integrated web store	✅ Native B2B/B2C	⚠️ Requires external integrations
Built-in CRM	✅ Included	⚠️ Not included, external CRM required
Customer experience	✅ Real-time updates & self-service	⚠️ Manual processes, limited integrations

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## ✅ 9. Pricing & Contract Flexibility

Feature	aERP	Katana + QuickBooks
Transparent pricing	✅ Usage-based, fully transparent	⚠️ Separate subscriptions for Katana and QuickBooks
Contract flexibility	✅ No long-term lock-in, only 3 months' notice	⚠️ Monthly or annual contracts, separate vendors
Switch without delay	✅ Use now, pay after old contract expires (promo)	⚠️ Not applicable

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## ✅ 10. Implementation & Adoption

Feature	aERP	Katana + QuickBooks
Implementation speed	✅ Weeks to few months	✅ Moderate, setup and integrations needed
Training ease	✅ Simple, no-code UI	⚠️ Requires user training across two systems
Scalability	✅ Scales with business growth	⚠️ Limited scalability, dependent on QuickBooks limitations
IT burden	✅ Low, business-user driven	⚠️ Higher, integrations require ongoing support

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### ✓ Final Summary:

Category	aERP Advantage
Inventory Management	✓ AI-powered, predictive, fully integrated
Supply Chain Optimization	✓ Dynamic automation, vendor portals included
AI & Automation	✓ Native AutoPilot engine
Financial Management	✓ Manufacturing-specific cost tracking
Integration & Customization	✓ No-code, fast changes without IT dependency
CRM & Portals	✓ Built-in, real-time customer/vendor access
Pricing & Contracts	✓ Transparent, flexible, switch now/pay later
Implementation Speed	✓ Fast deployment and user adoption

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### ✓ Conclusion:

**Active ERP (aERP)** significantly outperforms Katana + QuickBooks for manufacturers looking to scale efficiently with automation, AI-driven workflows, and full operational integration. While Katana + QuickBooks may suit very small manufacturers with basic needs, their reliance on manual processes and fragmented systems limits growth. In contrast, aERP empowers manufacturers with predictive automation, real-time visibility, and seamless integration — all at a lower total cost of ownership and with greater flexibility.