

How to Set Up Fixtures and Parts: A Guide to Choose What Works for You

Every system you manage in Sytewise starts with the same question: *how deep do you want to go?*

That question isn't rhetorical. The answer shapes how you set up your fixtures and parts, how your maps look, what your vendors see when they arrive on site, and whether your reference articles light up at the equipment level or the system level. Get it right and Sytewise becomes a genuinely powerful service management tool. Get it wrong and you'll spend an afternoon reorganizing things you set up in a hurry.

Let's walk through the options using a real example: a Conference Room AV System. It could just as easily be a building automation system, a lighting control network, or a security system -- the logic is identical. But AV is a good sandbox because most of us have stood in a conference room and counted the pieces.

The system: Conference Room AV

For our example, the system lives in a single conference room and includes five pieces of equipment: a monitor, a DVD player, a projector, an electric screen, and a control system. Five distinct pieces of hardware, one room, one purpose. How should they live in Sytewise?

The answer depends on three questions:

- Do you need to locate each piece of equipment separately on a map or floor plan?
- Do you need to track internal components -- things like a projector lamp -- at the maintenance level?
- Do you want Reference Article support tied to each individual piece of equipment?

Your answers will point you to one of two approaches.

Approach one: The system as a single

fixture

If you manage AV systems to the *system level* -- meaning you dispatch a vendor to service the whole room, you track the system as a unit, and you don't need to pinpoint individual pieces of equipment on a floor plan -- then the cleanest setup is a single fixture.

Create one fixture called "Conference Room AV System."

Then add each piece of equipment as a part of that fixture:

- Monitor (make, model, serial number)
- DVD Player (make, model, serial number)
- Projector (make, model, serial number)
- Electric Screen (make, model, serial number)
- Control System (make, model, serial number)

Each part carries its own make, model, and serial number, so you have full documentation of what's in the room. Warranty lookups, replacement ordering, and service history all live on the fixture record. The entire system gets a single map marker, which is clean and uncluttered.

This approach works beautifully when:

- Your vendors service the system as a whole
- You don't need component-level maintenance tracking (no projector lamp replacement schedules, for example)
- One map pin for the room is all you need

The tradeoff is that Reference Articles in Sytewise are written at the fixture level, not the part level. So if you want a Reference Article for your projector -- installation notes, configuration specs, the vendor's quirks -- the projector needs to be a fixture, not a part. In this approach, your reference articles cover the system as a whole, not the individual pieces. If you install many duplicate systems, write a reference article for the entire system and let it support every location you install.

Approach two: Each piece of equipment as its own fixture

If you need to locate equipment separately on a floor plan, track internal components like a projector lamp, or attach Reference Articles to individual pieces of equipment, then each piece of equipment should be its own fixture.

In this setup your property might be labeled something like **"2022 Smith Street - Conference Room"**

(more on that in a moment), and your fixtures look like this:

- Monitor
- DVD Player
- Projector
- Electric Screen
- Control System

Each fixture gets its own map marker, its own parts list, its own service history, and its own Reference Articles. The projector fixture, for example, can carry a part called "Projector Lamp" with a replacement schedule. The control system fixture can have a Reference Article with programming notes and reboot procedures.

Here is where the map gets interesting. Instead of placing these fixtures on a satellite view, you can use a floor plan image as the map background. That means each fixture marker lands on the actual floor plan of the conference room, showing management and vendors exactly where each piece of equipment lives. That is genuinely useful when a technician is standing in a building they have never been in before.

Group these fixtures together under a fixture group called "Conference Room AV System." Grouping lets you manage all five fixtures as a named system within the property, dispatch work orders against any fixture in the group, and keep the system organized as your portfolio grows.

This approach works beautifully when:

- You need component-level maintenance tracking
- Vendors need to locate specific equipment on a floor plan
- You want Reference Articles written at the equipment level
- You manage multiple systems on the same property and want them organized separately

A note on property naming when you go deep

Here is something worth knowing: in Sytewise, multiple properties can share the same address. That is not a bug -- it is a feature.

If you manage several AV systems at 2022 Smith Street and you want to maintain each one to the component level, you can create a separate Sytewise property for each system:

- 2022 Smith Street - Conference Room AV System
- 2022 Smith Street - Lobby Digital Signage
- 2022 Smith Street - Executive Boardroom AV System

Each property gets its own set of fixtures, its own floor plan, its own vendor assignments, and its own service history. They all share the same physical address, which causes no confusion in the system whatsoever. It is a clean way to separate complex installations at the same site without tangling their records together. If you want all of your Systems as one Property, then add the component for each system to the same property, and use fixture grouping as a way to assign each piece of equipment to the right system.

How to decide

If you find yourself staring at a blank property and wondering which approach to take, here is the honest one-sentence answer: **set up fixtures at the level you want to manage them.**

You can use both methods across your portfolio, but you should consider how you want to search for equipment. If you need to do portfolio searches for a specific model number that has been discontinued and needs a replacement, make sure you know how to get to each instance of that equipment. To keep your data easily accessible and the most impactful, I recommend standardizing on a method,

If a projector is something you service as part of a room, it is a part. If a projector is something you service on its own schedule, with its own lamp replacement history and its own reference documentation, it is a fixture.

The same logic applies to any system you manage -- HVAC, building automation, security, fire suppression. The platform does not care what the system is. It cares how granular you want to get.

Get that question right and everything else follows naturally.

Related: [Fixtures - Parts - Creating and Managing Fixtures - Adding Parts to Fixtures and Why It's Worth Doing Right](#) - [Grouping Fixtures](#) - [Naming Fixtures and Parts](#) - [Reference Articles](#)

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