

# Scrumban Blend Designer

When implementing Kanban, it may be useful to include elements of Scrum in the team setup. Experience has shown that Kanban teams can benefit from many of the same roles, events, and concepts that provide benefit to Scrum teams.

In the following table, elements commonly associated with Scrum and Kanban are arranged according to their approximate parallels. The Scrumban column contains recommendations for a blended approach, based on a general view of conditions that are often present. As always, consider your particular situation before following the recommendations of any framework.

Scrum	Kanban	Scrumban Blend Recommendation	Notes
Sprints	Continuous Flow	Continuous Flow	
User Stories	Work Items	User Stories, Work Items	User Story format may be overkill for simple, easily understood work items, but can support shared understanding where there is more complexity.
Estimates		As needed	Story point estimating is a significant unnecessary overhead for Kanban. However, if work items are not all comparable and small, it may be helpful to classify them – for example, into small/medium/large – and track metrics separately by class. It may also be helpful to learn to break down work items into smaller pieces.
Velocity	Cycle Time, Lead Time	Cycle Time, Lead Time	
Product Backlog	Open & Ready Queues	Open & Ready Queues	
Priorities at Planning	Priorities always adjustable	Priorities always adjustable	In addition to business prioritization, work item priorities can be regulated with Classes of Service and Service Level Agreements. In some cases FIFO may be appropriate.
Sprint Planning	Pull work as capacity allows	Pull work as capacity allows	
Sprint Backlog	Work in Process (WIP)	Work in Process (WIP)	
Sprint commitment	WIP Limits	WIP Limits	WIP limits support throughput and provide a guide to capacity on an ongoing basis, not just at sprint intervals.
Tasks usually or often created within stories	Usually no tasks	Discretionary	Team choice; more useful for larger work items. Remember that a task is a procedural step, not a subset of delivered value.
Definition of Ready, Definition of Done	Process Policies	Process Policies	Policies can in principle be applied to any queue. DOR and DOD are examples of policies for specific queues.
Story Board	Kanban Board	Kanban Board	A Kanban board is a story board with WIP limits and policies.
Sprint Review, Per-Item Demo		Per-Item Completion Review, Periodic Review	Each item should be demonstrated to the Product Owner or responsible stakeholder at the time of completion. It may be beneficial to also assemble stakeholders periodically to review and provide feedback on the cumulated work delivered in the period.
Daily Stand-Up		Daily Stand-Up	This is not a status report but a highly granular planning mechanism to help the team self-organize on a daily basis.
Retrospective	Kaizen	Retrospective	All teams can benefit from a regular discipline of attention to self-improvement. Retrospectives and Kaizen are in a similar spirit,

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			but the recommendation here is to take advantage of the focusing function of a recurring retrospective cadence.
Product Owner		Product Owner	Product Owner may be unnecessary if items are served FIFO and there is limited need for work item clarification, stakeholder negotiation, or prioritization.
Scrum Master		"Flow Master" or choice of term	The Scrum Master helps the team understand practices; facilitates the team's activities of continual improvement; and supports their engagement with the containing environment. These services are equally beneficial to Kanban teams.
Burn-Down or Burn-up Chart	Continuous Flow Diagram, Cycle Chart	Continuous Flow Diagram, Cycle Chart	Burn-Up charting may also be also valuable when working toward larger releases.

A version of this table was originally presented at the 2014 Pacific Northwest Software Quality Conference, in a session titled "Scrumban: Adjusting the Sliders."

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*For a worksheet to help you choose Scrum or Kanban as the baseline framework for teams in a particular workflow, see [Scrum-Kanban Selector](#)*

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