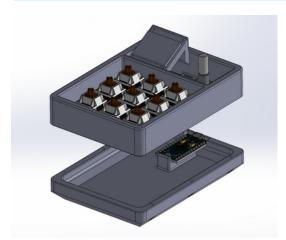
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Alec Chen

Mechanical Engineer at the University of Toronto

3x3 Custom Keyboard - Personal Project



What?

- Designed a custom keyboard for optimizing my workflow in SolidWorks.
- The objective was to increase efficiency while maintaining an intuitive and visually appealing design.



How?

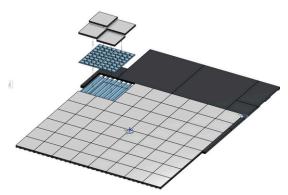
- Designed a 3D-printed enclosure with heat inserts to mount a microcontroller, rotary encoder, and OLED screen.
- Designed and ordered a custom PCB for the switches using KiCAD.
- Developed custom firmware for communication between components.



Outcomes

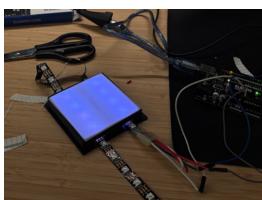
- Created a custom macropod with 39+ programmable functions.
- Gained a end-to-end product design experience, from CAD modelling to electronics integration and firmware development.

Custom LED Embedded Chess Board - Spark!



What?

- Designed an LED-embedded chessboard for my design team's Smart Chess project.
- The objective was to optimize the board thickness, ensuring structural strength while maintaining a thin profile for reliable magnetic attraction on opposite sides of the board.
- Light from LEDs also had to diffuse minimally between board pieces.



How?

- Designed a system with three layers: a topper that connected to other toppers and prevented light bleed to other positions, a diffusion layer and a layer for holding LED strips.
- Used OnShape to prototype and test
 10+ iterations during the design process.
- Tested light diffusion using the FastLED Arduino library.

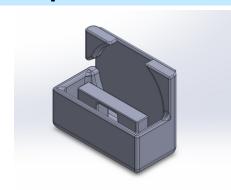


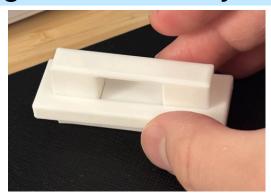
Outcomes

- Designed and manufactured a LED-embedded chessboard with a thickness of 7.7mm and a deflection of less than 2mm.
- Chessboard contains 1024+ LEDS with little to no light diffusing between the grids.

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Airpods Dock/Charger - Personal Project







What?

- Designed and modelled a custom dock and charger for my AirPod Pros to encourage myself to charge my AirPods more.
- The objective was to maximize access speed, intuitivity and simplicity.

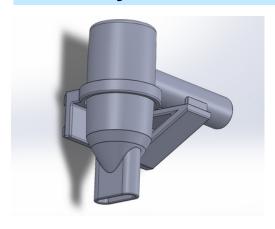
How?

- Researched and developed a print-in-place mechanism so that the entire part can be printed without assembly, despite containing two separate parts.
- Designed, and modelled 2
 prototypes to ensure perfect fit for
 Magsafe Charger and Airpods.

Outcomes

- AirPods have never been uncharged when leaving the house in the last 6 months.
- All relevant files and print instructions are open-source on Thingiverse.
- Link to project: https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:7143 822

Hair Dryer Holder - Personal Project







What?

- Designed a hair dryer holder so that I can hide my hair dryer within my bathroom closet.
- The objective was to design something with sufficient support while remaining simple and fast to print.

How?

- Measured and modelled hair dryer to test fitting within a SolidWorks Assembly.
- Strategically designed model to ensure no supports were needed, thus saving filament and keeping print times low.

Outcomes

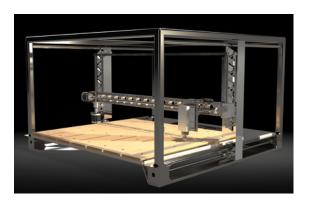
- Space beside bathroom sink is now 50% less cluttered.
- Project received positive feedback, with 47 likes and 8 saves on Thingiverse.
- Link to project: https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:7 116034

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Custom CNC Machine - University of Toronto







What?

- Designed and modelled a large-format three-axis CNC router with a combination of custom-designed parts and McMaster-Carr components.
- The objective was to maximize utility, modularity and repairability while keeping costs low.

How?

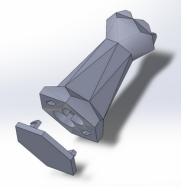
- Researched components to optimize for cost-efficiency and performance based on design specifications.
- Developed and delivered Google Slides to communicate key design features and trade-offs, effectively securing approval during engineering design briefing.

Outcomes

- Designed and modelled a custom CNC router with 229 parts and 400+ mates in SolidWorks.
- Created a comprehensive design report, including engineering specifications, component justification and a bill of materials outlining all components required to assemble the router.

Custom Chess Pieces with Magnets - Spark!







What?

- Designed four unique chess pieces with internal magnets for my team's Smart Chess project.
- The objective was to design something with a low-poly aesthetic that could house internal magnets.

How?

- Designed and modelled the chess pieces in Blender.
- Created renders of the design in Blender for marketing purposes.
- Created a **Blender to SolidWorks workflow** to utilize both organic modelling and technical refinement in both software.
- Designed a 3D printable clip-on cover and magnet slots within SolidWorks.