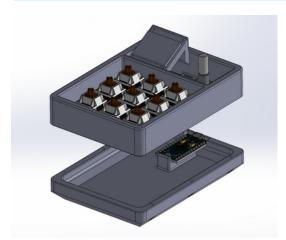
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Alec Chen

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?

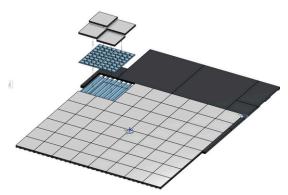
- Designed a 3D-printed enclosure with heat inserts to mount a microcontroller, rotary encoder, and OLED screen.
- Designed and ordered a custom PCB for the switches using KiCAD.
- Developed custom firmware for communication between components.



Outcomes

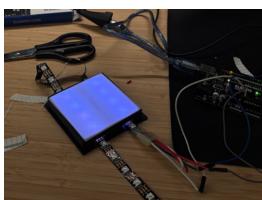
- Created a custom macropod with 39+ programmable functions.
- Gained a end-to-end product design experience, from CAD modelling to electronics integration and firmware development.

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

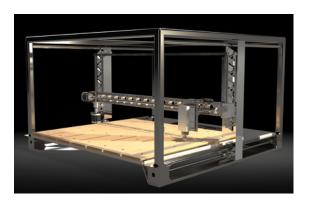
- Designed and manufactured a LED-embedded chessboard with a thickness of 7.7mm and a deflection of less than 2mm.
- Chessboard contains 1024+ LEDS with little to no light diffusing between the grids.

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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?

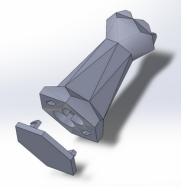
- Researched components to optimize for cost-efficiency and performance based on design specifications.
- Developed and delivered Google Slides to communicate key design features and trade-offs, effectively securing approval during engineering design briefing.

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.