

# Benji Welner

## WORK

### Fellow @ [Recurse Center](#) (Present)

- \* Developing independent projects at the intersection of hardware and software on a programming sabbatical.
- \* Collaborating with fellow batch members to engage in building-as-learning via open-source code.
- \* Exploring varied technologies such as augmented reality, version control systems, 3D printing, computational art, algorithm design, new programming languages, etc.

### SwiftUI Engineer @ [Envelope](#) [YC S23] (2024)

- \* Increased conversion of app downloads by redesigning the onboarding flow and money transfers through Plaid.
- \* Improved experience of existing users by automatically allocating deposits into user "envelopes" and enabling categorization of transactions from the home page.
- \* Triaged high impact issues, including complex auth errors.

### Software Engineer @ [Beeper](#) [YC S21] (2023)

- \* Shipped a physical messaging device built from off-the-shelf parts in collaboration with SQFMI.
- \* Modified a popular Matrix chat client to fit on a small screen and run smoothly on embedded hardware.
- \* Created a bespoke tool for end-to-end device setup and continued management.

## PROJECTS

### [figbert.com](#) (2020-Present)

- \* Authored over 75 blog posts on technology and society, which received 250+ upvotes and 200+ comments across Hacker News and Lobsters.
- \* Built a fast and lightweight website using open standards and a modern, minimal tech stack. Served alongside other personal services (email, calendar, etc.) from a personal server.

### [Roll Call](#) (2024)

- \* Automated the printing of effective morning briefing using a receipt printer and Python scripts. Sourced relevant and up-to-date information for briefings from iMessage, Ōura, and my reminders/calendar.
- \* Produced promotional material (a poster and a 90-second commercial) and extensive design sketches to pitch the use of my receipts to the Fall '24 DESIGN11 cohort.

### [Mabel](#) (2021-23)

- \* Disrupted the previous status quo of obtuse and dated torrenting tools through the creation of a beautiful app, using Charm's terminal libraries. Received more than 400 GitHub stars to date.
- \* Wrote clear documentation for configuration and customization of the application on macOS and Linux.

### [Blind Date A Book](#) (2025)

- \* Adapted an offline tradition to a digital context through the creation of an e-shop where books are sold purely based on quippy one-line descriptions.

## ABOUT

I am an Israeli-American designer and programmer building secure, clean, and effective systems as an undergraduate student at Stanford University. I use modern tools to build solutions that avoid bloat and unnecessary complexity. I enjoy real and interesting problems in challenging areas that matter.

## CONTACT

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City: San Francisco, CA

## EDUCATION

### Stanford University

Class of: 2027

GPA: 3.67

Major: Design

Track: Physical + Manufacturing

Advisor: David Kelley

Minor: Political Science (International Relations)

## LANGUAGES

### Human

Fluent: *English, Hebrew*

Proficient: *Arabic, Chinese*

### Computer

Fluent: *Golang, Swift, CAD*

Proficient: *Ruby, Python, HTML/CSS/JS*

## TECHNOLOGY FOCUS

**Passive technology.** How can we shape devices that enrich users' lives and disappear into the background? How can we make software as intuitive as the physical world?

**Next-gen user interfaces.** The window system was a huge innovation to a text-only world. What is the next big leap that will supplant this paradigm and in retrospect feel obvious?