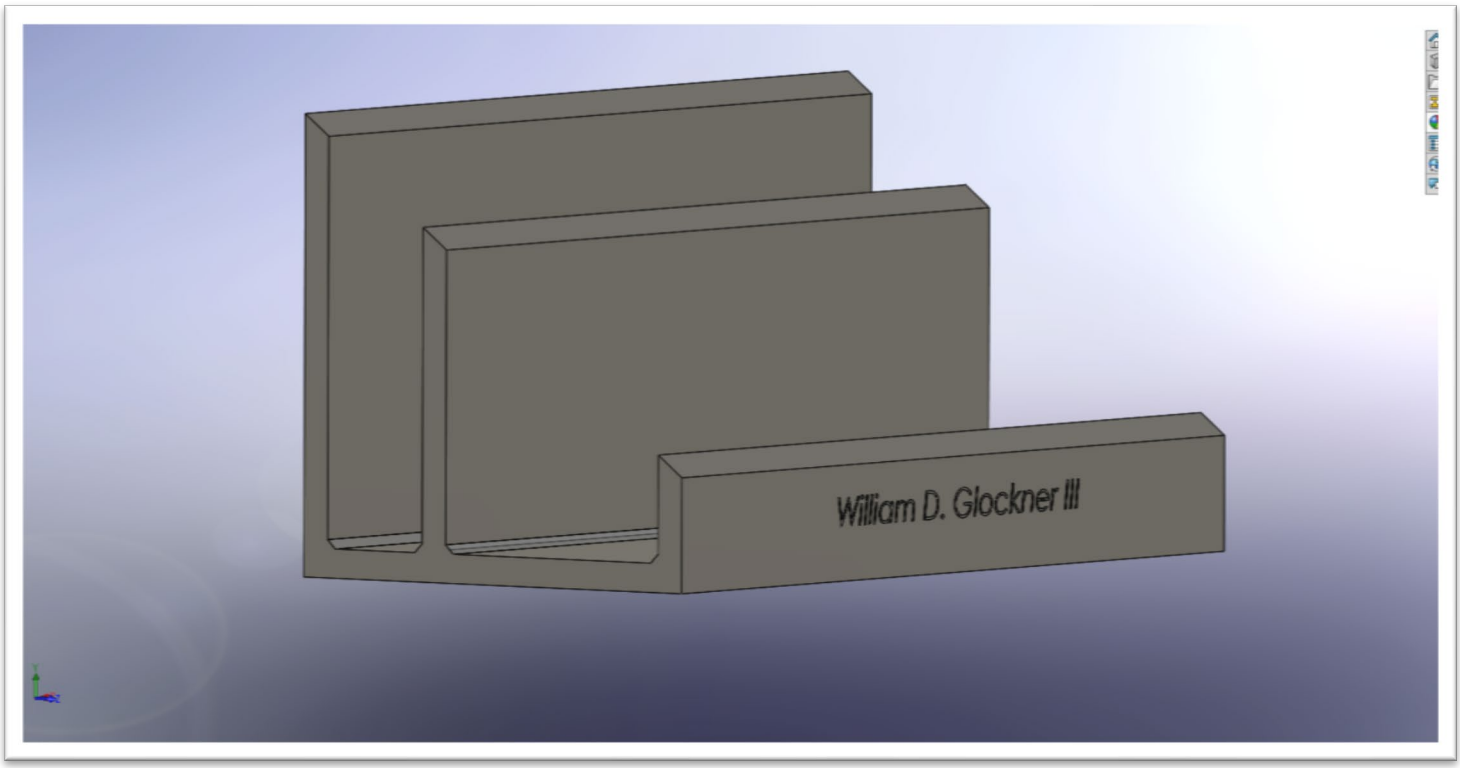
Personalized Business Card Holder



Background

I had used SOLIDWORKS before; however, I have not used it in some time. I found that shaking off the rust was a more difficult process than I had imagined. I enjoyed getting back to the program and learning more of the tools the program offers. SOLIDWORKS has a tool for everything. The skill comes from knowing which tool to use.

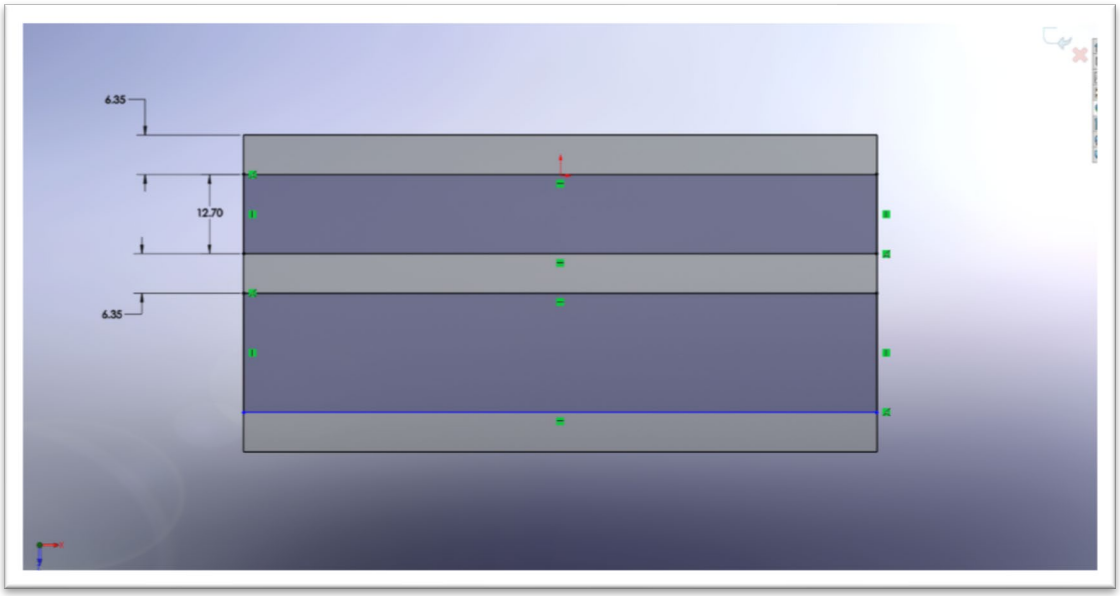
Design Process

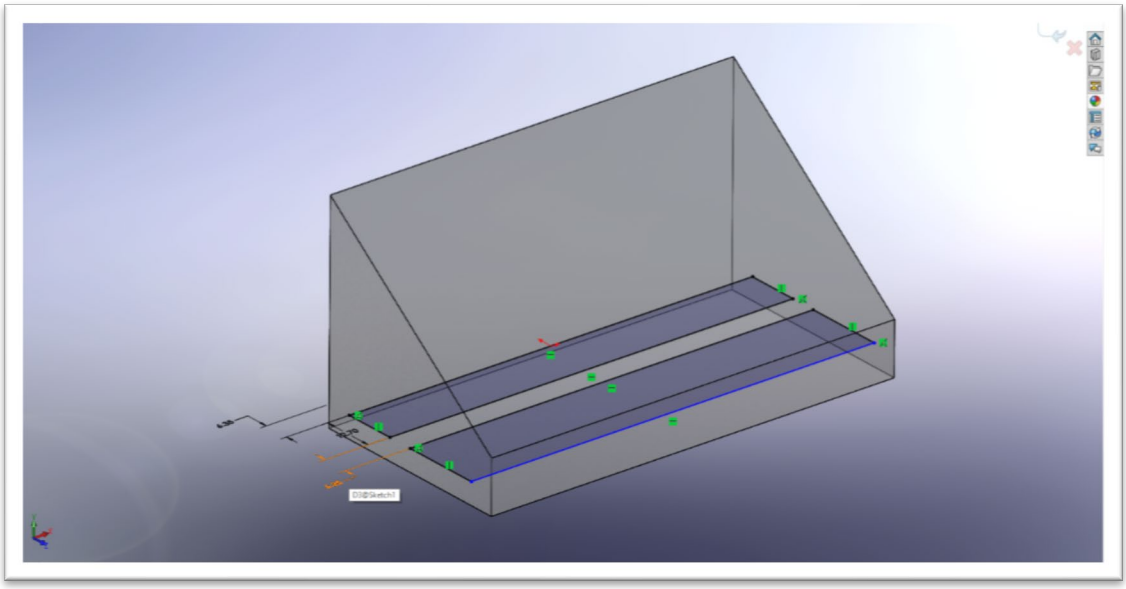
I knew I wanted to make business card holder and monogram it. I am a fan of modern design and wanted to build something I would use in the future. I measured some business card holders and decided my dimensions accordingly. After taking the raw measurements, I spent roughly thirty minutes looking at preexisting concepts for business card holders. I believe that understanding what already exists is a useful way to analyze what concepts work. After researching these designs, I began visualizing what I wanted to design and began sketching in a note book. After four designs, I settled on one I liked and switched to SOLIDWORKS.

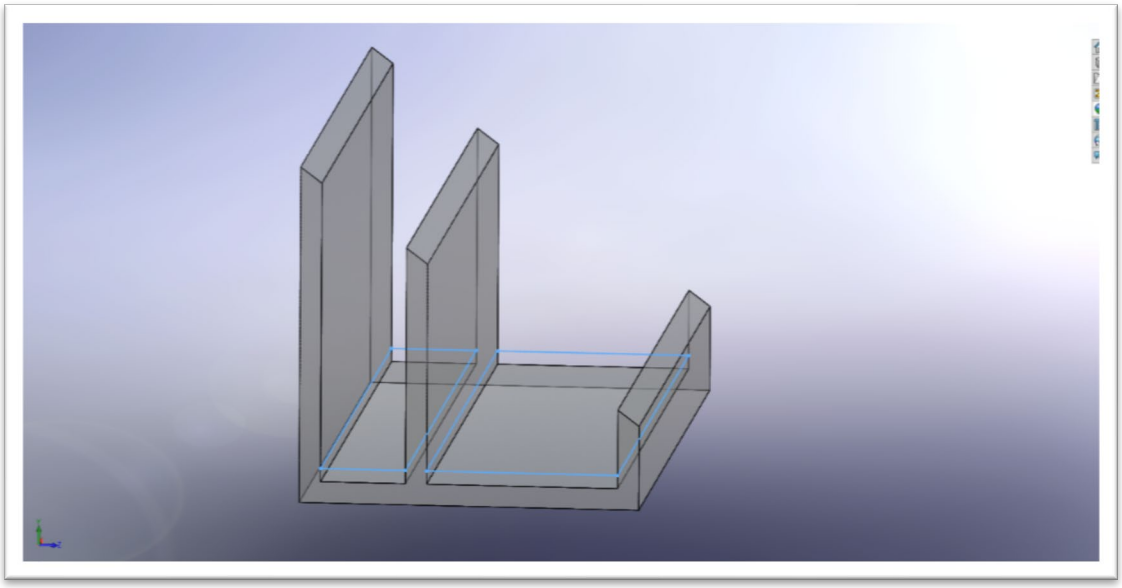
Solidworks

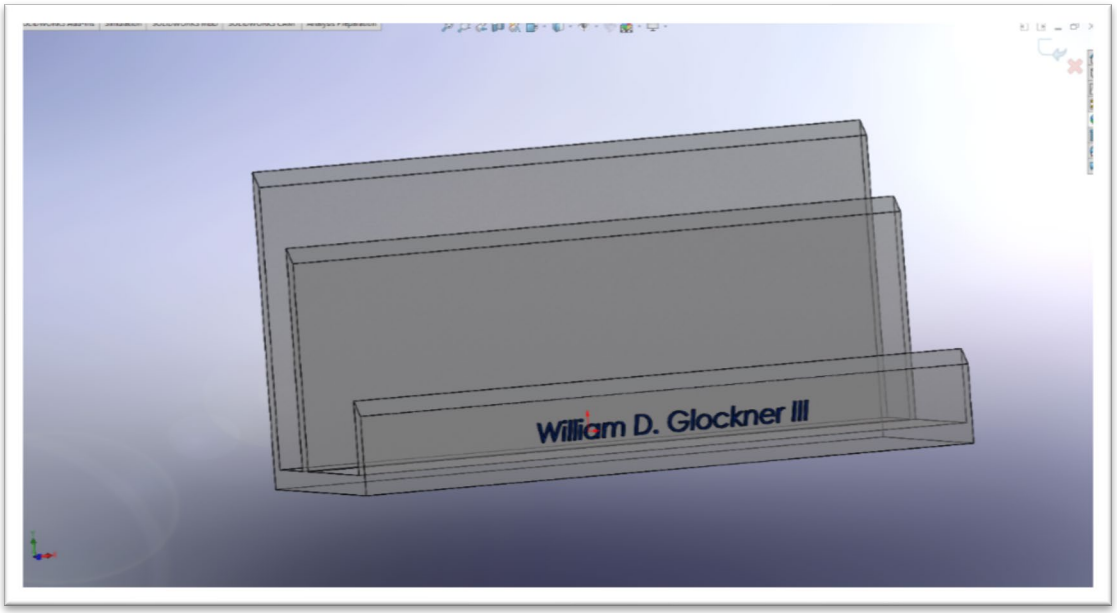
At first, I struggled to remember even the baser functions of the program. It is incredible at how much information you forget when you do not continuously use a program or skill set. I was struggling to remember how to select planes for extrusion and eventually turned to the internet for some advice. After I better understood the program, I began designing my work. It is fun to use the modeling software and I was pleased with my design. After extruding and extrude cutting my way to a shape, I began playing with the chamfer tool and SOLIDWORKS writing object features. I continued this work until I had a pleasant design and spent the rest of my time trying to improve its artistic appeal. The chamfer tool was only used in the base of the business card holder because distinct edges were part of the styling elsewhere.

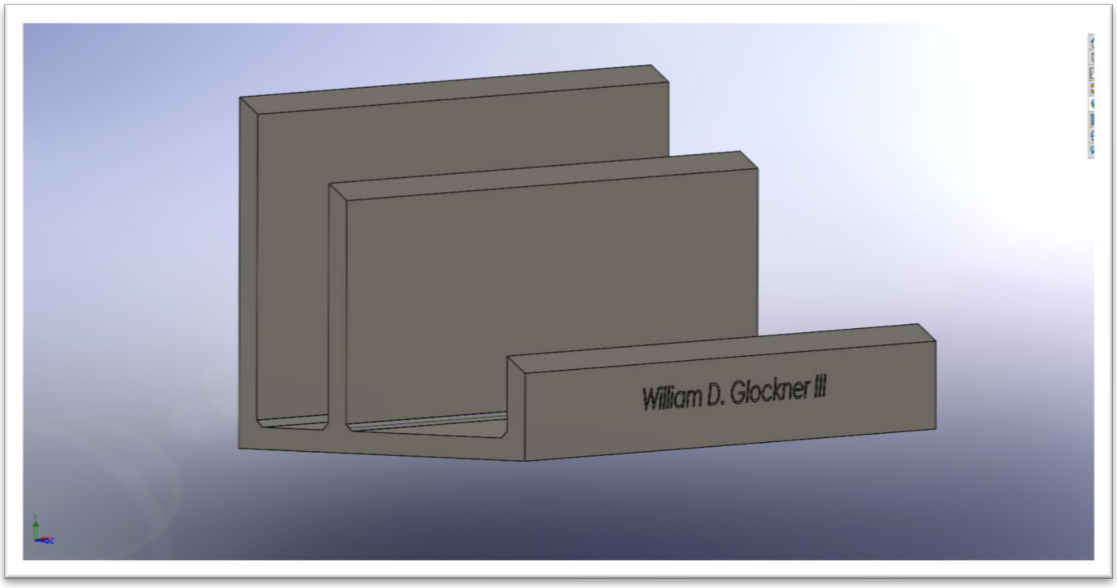
Images








William D. Glockner III



Questions

1. Which software packages did you try?
    a. AutoCAD
    b. SOLIDWORKS
2. Which software did you use in the end and why?
    a. SOLIDWORKS
        i. I had used it once in high school and vaguely remembered the process.
3. What was hard?
    a. SOLIDWORKS is geared to more experienced designers and, consequently, it was difficult to find answers to the simple questions.
4. What do you need to learn to advance further?
    a. More time.
        i. As I was playing around, I discovered the chamfer tool and I think that SOLIDWORKS is full of unique tools that I do not yet understand.
    b. I want to learn more about how to use reference frames better. I believe that SOLIDWORKS allows users to define their own design planes.