

7 Steps to Creating a Framework

a self-guided tour

What's a Framework?

A framework is a holistic system which goes beyond single issue tools like design patterns and design guidelines.

Tell me more...

A framework focuses on how and why things should work; guiding a user through a task/experience.

A Framework
is not an



(easy button)

A Framework
is a tool



A Framework

saves you from re-answering the
same questions on every project



A Framework

allows you to focus on the fun stuff

...the experience

7 Steps to Creating a Framework

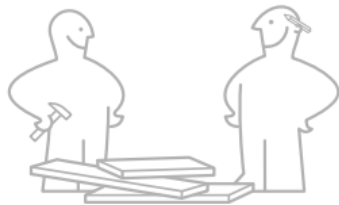
1. Researching
2. Analysis & Concepting
3. Testing
4. Refining
5. Selling
6. Building
7. Using & Adapting



1

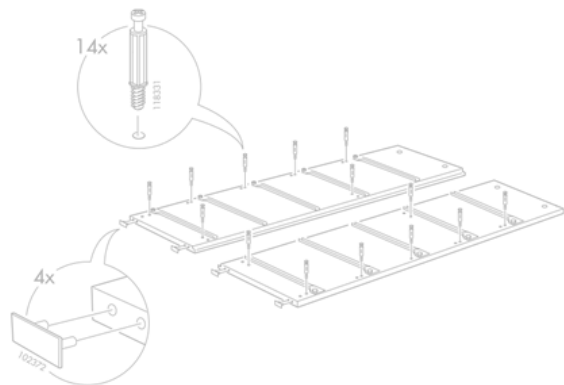
Researching

Conducting your research is a critical part of beginning the framework process. During this time, you should gather assets and ask questions. Be sure to gather input from every stakeholder, large and small. Take the time to examine the competitive landscape, as well as to determine what external influences will affect your framework.



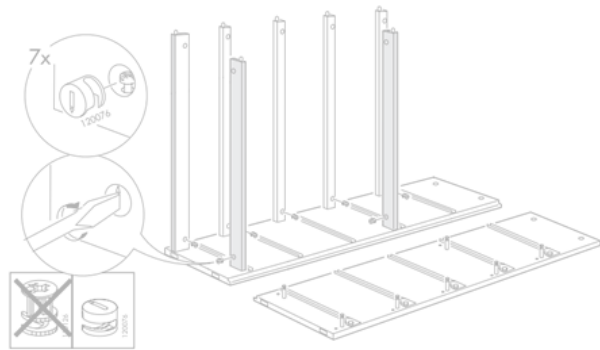
2 Analysis & Concepting

This step is just as much about critical thinking as it is about reviewing your problem from every possible angle. At this point in the framework process, you should be looking at your work from a 10,000 foot view all the way down to the details.



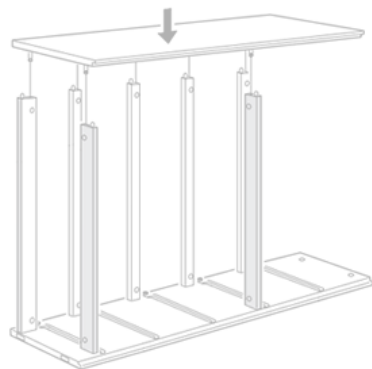
3 Testing

Take a step back and remember that this isn't about egos or skill sets. Rather, this is about gaining a fresh perspective on your problem. To find the best solutions you'll need to test it in real world settings.



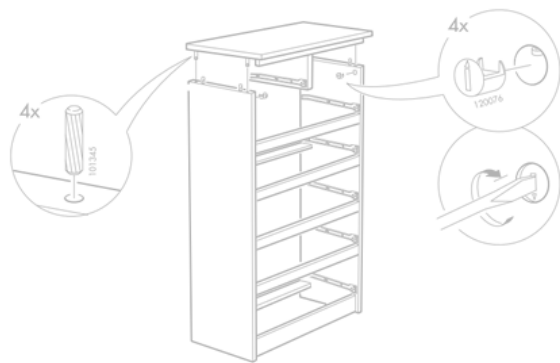
4 Refining

By now you have your fresh perspective, but it's useless if you don't listen and adapt to your new data. Should you decide to opt out of using this new information, you'll need to have some solid rationale as to why you're disregarding it.



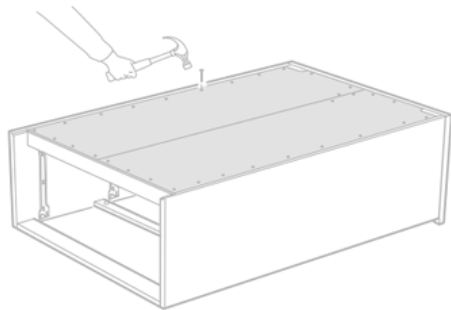
5 Selling

Having a great framework is a solid starting point, but not being able to explain the benefits to back it up is a major deal breaker. The key to getting your concepts into production is being able to sell it to others, especially senior leadership.



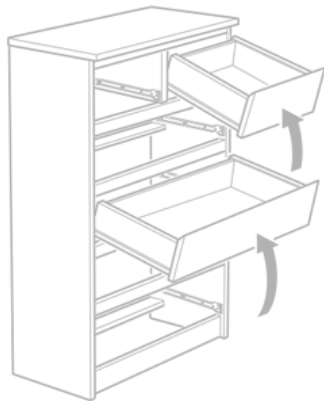
6 Building

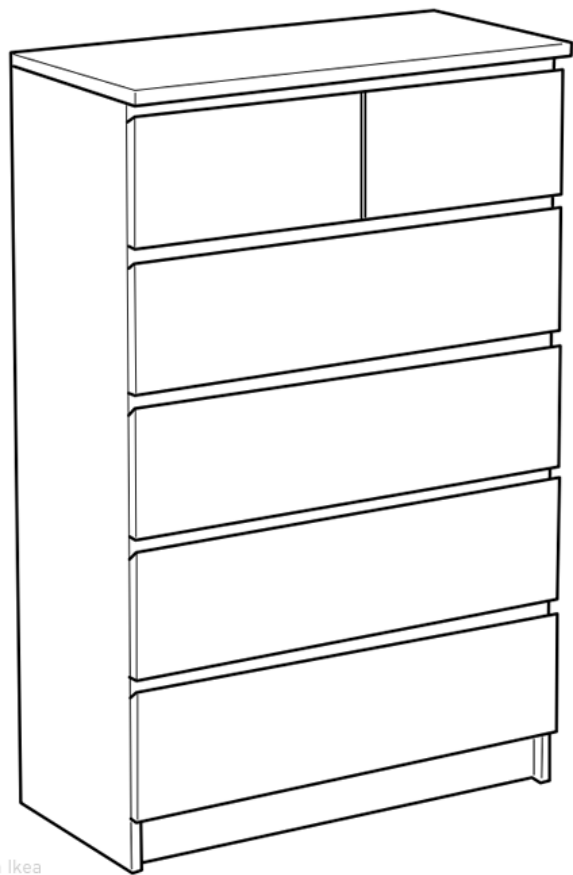
During the production stage, your concept is at risk of being endlessly tweaked as it gets handled by other teams. Your role here is to be readily available to defend and adapt your vision.



7 Using & Adapting

Your framework is a living, breathing system. Once it goes live, you'll need to keep it up-to-date, and adapt it to support future needs. If you don't use your framework, all of your hard work and the efficiencies of having a framework will be lost. If you don't maintain your framework, it will just become a dated burden.





Well...that was easy



In all reality, building a solid framework takes time and effort. Some frameworks may take months to come together while others may only take a little over a week. It really depends on the scale of the project.

Additional Information

Web Anatomy: Introducing Interaction Design Frameworks

BY ROBERT HOEKMAN, MISKEETO

http://www.uie.com/articles/web_anatomy_frameworks/

Eight questions to ask before building out a Pattern or Component Library

BY NATHAN CURTIS

<http://boxesandarrows.com/view/so-you-wanna-build-a>

You can find me here:

<http://robertfrancis.com>

@Robert_Francis