

Mechanical Overview

Year: 2017

Project: Guitutar

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Item	Score (0-5)	Weight	Points	Notes
Assignment-Specific Items				
Commercial Packaging Analysis 1		x2		
Commercial Packaging Analysis 2		x2		
CAD Model Illustrations		x4		
Project Packaging Specifications		x2		
PCB Footprint Layout		x2		
Writing-Specific Items				
Spelling and Grammar		x2		
Formatting and Citations		x1		
Figures and Graphs		x2		
Technical Writing Style		x3		
Total Score				

5: Excellent 4: Good 3: Acceptable 2: Poor 1: Very Poor 0: Not attempted
Comments:

1.0 Commercial Product Packaging

We compared two products to Guitutar that are electric guitars with LED capabilities. These products were another senior design project by Andrew Garza and the Fretlight electric guitar.

1.1 Product #1: Andrew Garza Senior Design Guitar

This particular design is not in commercial production, but was found on YouTube as Andrew Garza's senior design project. His electric guitar design is controlled by an Arduino that uses a microcontroller (unspecified) to control his LED matrix. He takes the fretboard and frets off the guitar neck, drills holes for each discrete LED and each fret "push button", and then solders the LEDs together in a matrix form.



Comparatively to our design, we will not be cutting the frets to make push buttons and we will have surface mount LEDs that will be controlled by a shift register. Using the shift registers will decrease the amount of input pins we will have to use. Although we will be removing the fretboard from the guitar neck, we will not be milling the actual fretboard. Instead, we will be using the PCBs as the fretboard itself with a plastic covering to protect the electronics. The frets will then connect through the side of the PCB instead of being cut into buttons.

The Arduino and user interface for Andrew's design is placed on the front of the guitar, and the microcontroller for the LEDs is placed on the back of the guitar. The Arduino has a shield on top for the user interface that consists of a digital display and three push buttons for his three settings: Chords, Scales, Song Builder. His Chords setting displays any version of chord with the LEDs once selected, and the Scales setting displays any selected scale with LEDs. Song Builder allows the user to input up to 20 different chords that the user can make into a song. There is also a Capo feature that treats each chord the same way, but will shift it up to whichever spot the user would place a capo.



We will be including this capo feature into our design, in order to be inclusive to any song that the user may want to play. Since we will have an instructive mode and a full playback mode though, the app will instruct the user which fret to place the capo before beginning, and LEDs will light up where the capo should be placed.

1.2 Product #2: Fretlight Wireless Guitar

The Fretlight guitar is more similar to the original idea of Guitutar. Both have an app for the user interface that connects through Bluetooth and both have a USB charging port for a Lithium-ion battery. While most of the outer features are similar to ours, the company does not explain how the LEDs or the strumming patterns work inside. Some ideas that we will include from fretlight are the light-up nut that will indicate which open strings should be played, as well as an ON/OFF button that can be included near the USB charging port. One of the downsides to Fretlight is that they seem to expect a certain level of experience from the user. Fretlight is especially beneficial for experienced players who are looking to do improvisation or who can already play along with songs in a real time mode.



3.0 Sources Cited

[1] A. Garza, (2011, April 16). *GuitArduino Senior Design Project*. [Video]. Available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2s5c1RcswA&t=3s>

[2] A. Garza, (2011, April 5). *GuitArduino Update April 5 2011*. [Video]. Available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hd-d87yq7kg>

[3] Fretlight Wireless. *FG-621 Wireless Guitar*. [Online]. Available: <https://fretlight.com/collections/guitars>

Appendix 1: CAD Model Illustrations

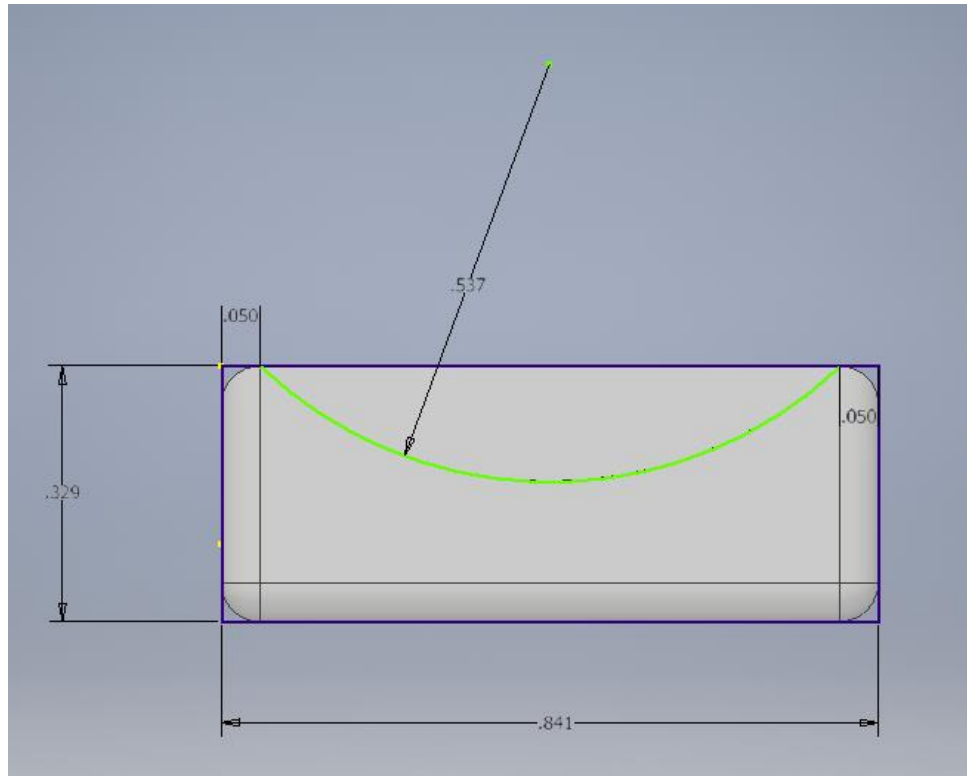


Figure 1: Front view of PCB mount

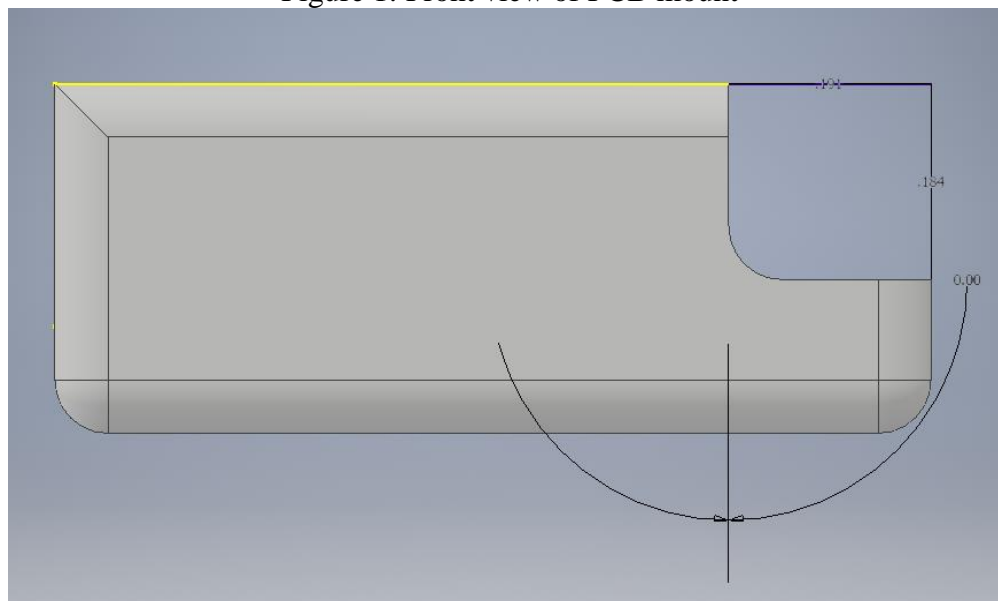


Figure 2: Side view of PCB mount

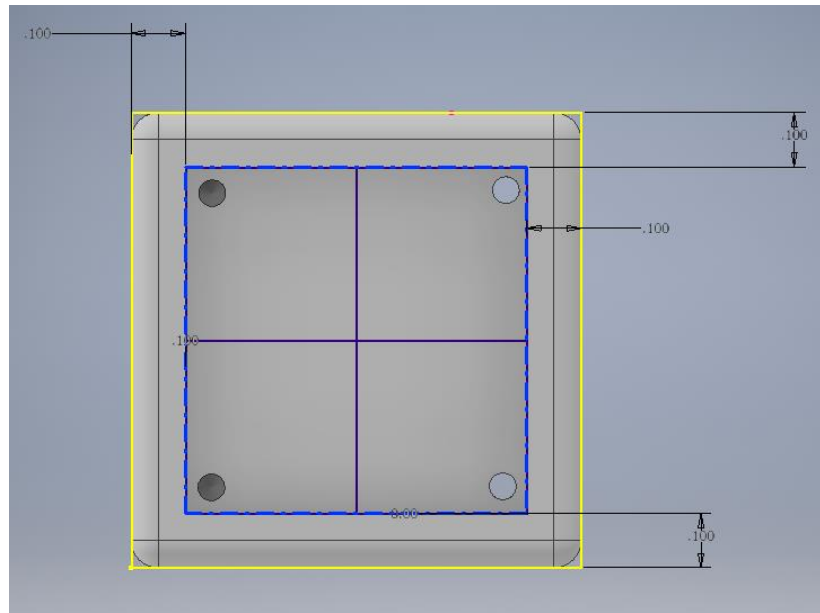


Figure 3: Bottom view of PCB mount

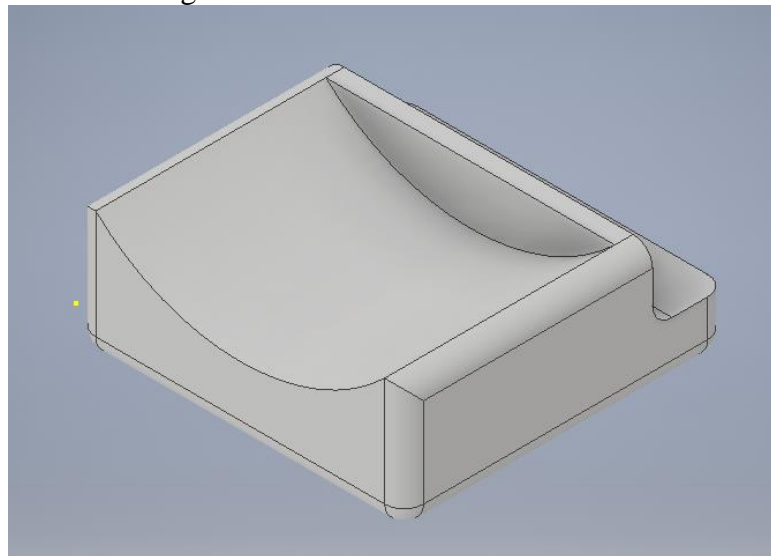


Figure 4: Isometric view of PCB mount

3D printed PCB mount modeled in Autodesk Inventor Pro:

Placed near body on back side of guitar neck. Attached by glue.

Dimensions in screenshot were auto-converted to inches from millimeters.

Length 21.05mm x Width 21.05mm

Curve has a radius of 5.36mm

Recessed section in the back is to compensate for the slope in height from the neck to the body.

Slope height is 4.68mm.

Recessed section on bottom for PCB: 0.05mm from the edges, 0.1mm depth (depth may change depending on total height of PCB).

Appendix 2: Project Packaging Specifications

Materials	Purpose	Tooling Requirements	Estimated Weight (oz)	Estimated Unit Cost (\$)
PLA**	PCB mount	3D printer**	2.00	2.00
Acrylic sheet	Neck cover	Dremel*, Laser cutter*	6.00	20.00 / sheet
Glue	Attach PCB mount to neck	Hot Glue gun*	0.50	0.50 to adhere 3.00 / package
Screws	Attach PCB to mount	Screwdriver*	0.50	1.54/bag of 4
Velcro	Attach PCB to neck (can use hot glue as alt)	Scissors*	1.00	18.00 for 10ft
String Sleeves	Isolate strings from shorting battery	Scissors*	0.20	4.25

Table 1: Project Packaging Materials, Weight, Cost, and Tooling

* Tools will be borrowed and not affect cost.

** 3D printer use and PLA could be donated by Austin or Brian.

Appendix 3: PCB Footprint Layout

