University of Moratuwa
Faculty of Engineering
Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering

EN 1190: Engineering Design Project

SLAP Innovators

SLAP Sonic ParkAssist

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1 Problem Description

1.1 Arriving at a Problem

In the realm of automotive safety, the issue of blind spots poses a significant concern. Despite the presence of mirrors, certain areas around a vehicle remain unseen, potentially leading to accidents involving pedestrians or objects. While parking cameras have been introduced to mitigate this risk, their efficacy in reducing accidents remains limited, with a mere 5% improvement. Conversely, integrating parking assist systems has shown a remarkable 42% reduction in parking-related incidents [1].

1.2 Arriving at a solution

Recognizing a gap in the market, particularly among older generation vehicles and newer cheaper vehicles lacking built-in proximity sensors, our solution aims to address this safety concern. Existing third-party proximity sensor options typically lack directional auditory feedback, presenting a challenge for drivers navigating parking and congested traffic situations. SLAP Sonic ParkAssist offers a tailored solution - an audio-feedback based parking assist system with directional audio, adaptable to vehicles without built-in proximity alarms.

Powered by the vehicle's battery, SLAP Sonic ParkAssist triggers a buzzer or siren when the vehicle nears a solid object. Four buzzers positioned at each corner of the vehicle activate upon detecting a barrier, intuitively guiding the driver away from potential hazards.

1.3 Justification

Conducting thorough market research, we discovered a prevalent need for parking assistance among respondents.

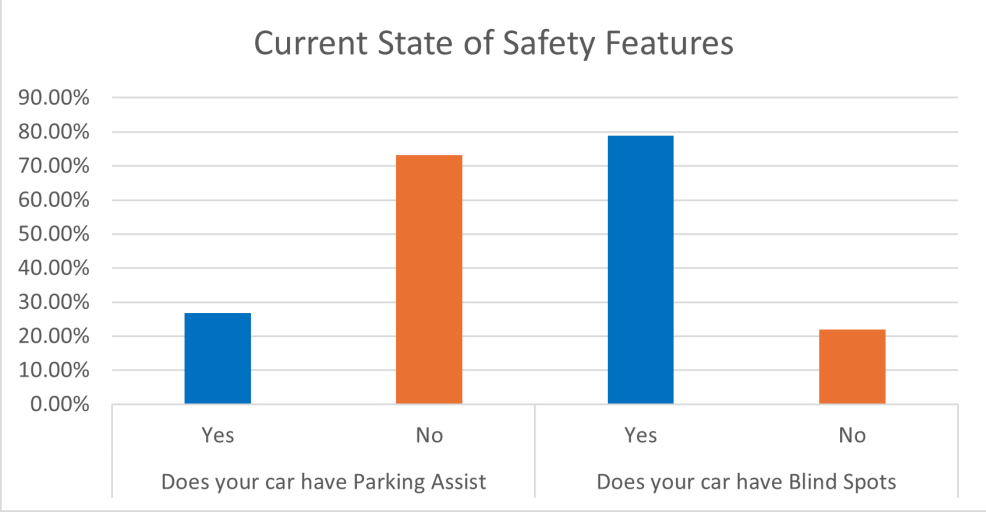

Figure 1: Current State of Safety Features

The survey overwhelmingly favored the implementation of parking assist systems for both parking and navigating congested traffic scenarios, irrespective of whether they had experienced accidents due to blind spots.

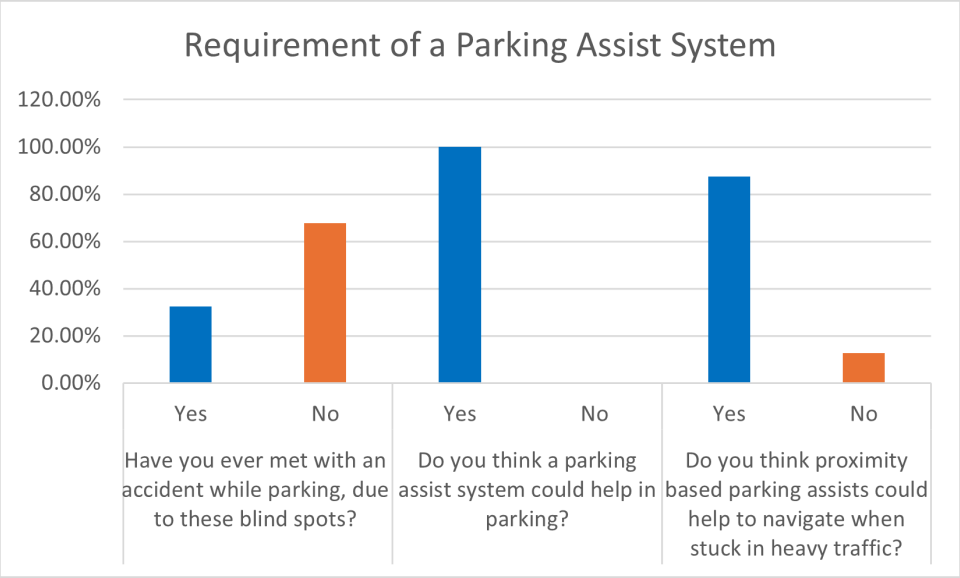

Figure 2: Market Availability

Our survey also revealed a clear preference for audio-feedback based systems, with a significant amount of respondents being willing to invest between Rs. 8,000 and Rs. 10,000.

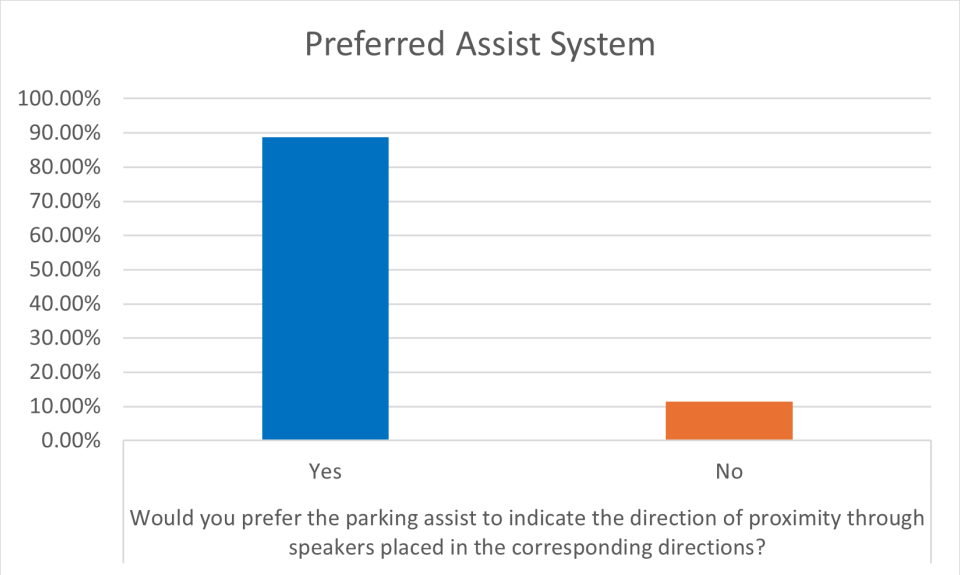

Figure 3: Market Preferences

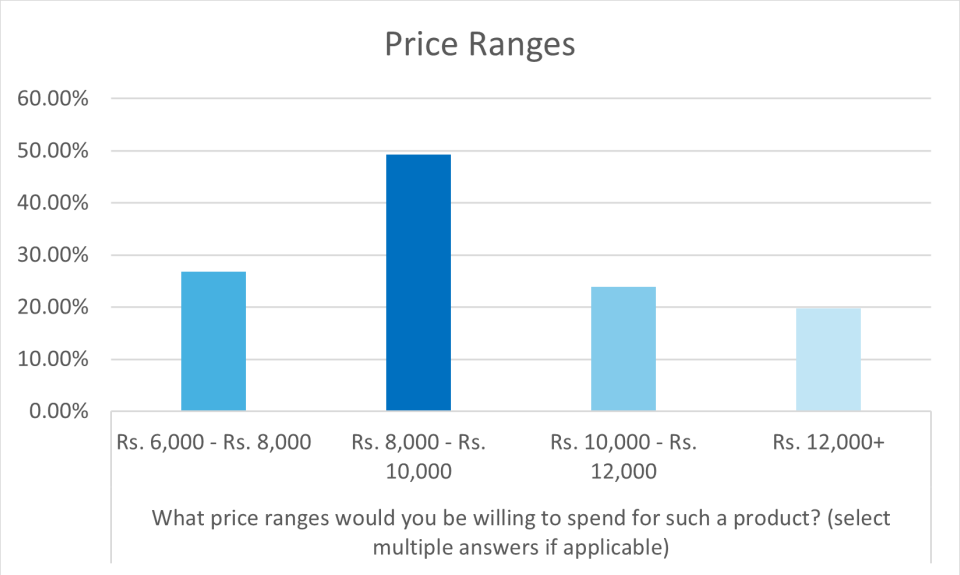

Figure 4: Price Ranges

In summary, the demand for our audio-feedback based parking assist system, along with the willingness of consumers to invest in such technology, highlights the tangible market potential for SLAP Sonic ParkAssist.

2 Feasibility

2.1 Technical Feasibility

The SLAP Sonic ParkAssist project is technically feasible, with all necessary resources successfully acquired and implemented. Our product utilizes an ATmega328P microcontroller, integrated with JSN-SR04T ultrasonic sensors, to provide precise parking assistance. The system is designed to enhance the parking experience by delivering accurate distance measurements and alerts.

We designed the PCB using Altium and outsourced the manufacturing to JLCPCB, ensuring high-quality and reliable circuitry.

For the enclosure, we opted for a custom design using Solidworks. This enclosure was 3D printed using PLA filament, providing durability and a sleek appearance, with the services provided by Rysera.

All soldering and assembly were meticulously performed by us at the soldering room, ensuring robust connections and adherence to safety standards.

2.1.1 Hardware Feasibility and Justifications

We made sure to chose cost-effective, quality components for our products to ensure longevity and a low price point.

- Microcontroller: Atmega328p
- LM7805 Voltage Regulator for Power Supply (12V to 5V)
- Main PCB to interconnect modules and microcontroller
- JSN-SR04T Waterproof Ultrasonic Sensors
- JST XH-2.54mm connectors
- Active Buzzers

Justification for micro-controller

We decided to use the Atmega328p for our prototype as it has the necessary number of inputs and outputs required for our project. Further it is a fairly common, inexpensive, easily programmable component with an abundance of documentation online.

Justification for JSN-SR04T Ultrasonic Sensors

JSN-SR04T sensors are waterproof, making it suitable to attach to the exterior body of a vehicle. It has a large measuring angle of 75 degrees, which allows it to detect obstacles in a wide region. The module is separate from the sensor, allowing us to house all the modules within the enclosure. Measuring range, accuracy and ability of the sensor is on par with our performance requirements.

Justification for LM7805 Voltage Regulator

Provides stable, accurate voltage conversion without extreme heat dissipation.

2.1.2 Software Feasibility

The software requirement for programming the microcontroller is C++. Our primary goal was to develop a stable program that runs continuously without being affected by delays from each sensor module. To achieve this, we utilized a series of interrupts and rigorously tested and adjusted the software until it worked seamlessly with our sensor modules and met our performance requirements.

2.2 Economic Feasibility

We believe that SLAP Sonic ParkAssist has significant potential for success in the automotive market. Our product introduces unique features, such as four strategically placed buzzers at the corners of the car, providing drivers with precise directional alerts when obstacles are detected. This enhances the parking experience by giving more detailed feedback on potential obstacles around the vehicle, setting our product apart from standard parking assist systems.

Our market research indicates a strong demand for advanced parking assistance systems, particularly among drivers who value safety, convenience, and the latest automotive technologies. We have identified specific target markets, including tech-savvy individuals

and safety-conscious drivers who are interested in investing in innovative solutions to enhance their driving experience.

Overall, we are confident in the economic feasibility of SLAP Sonic ParkAssist and believe it has the potential to become a profitable and successful product in the market.

3 Applications

- **Parking:** Our product eases the parking experience, alerting the driver of obstacles that may have gone unnoticed
- **Traffic Navigation:** Strategically placed sensors in the front of the car can ease navigation in heavily congested roads.

4 Product Architecture

The product architecture consists of the following subsystems:

- **Power Supply:** The 12V to 5V power step-down regulator provides power to all other subsystems.
- **Micro-controller:** Processes sensor outputs and decides which buzzers to activate and their beep frequencies.
- **Main PCB:** Interconnects all subsystems and modules with the Atmega328p.
- **Sensors:** JSN-SR04T Ultrasonic Sensors are used to measure distances to obstacles.
- **Buzzers:** Active buzzers used to alert the driver of obstacles.

The block diagram view of the product's architecture is shown below.

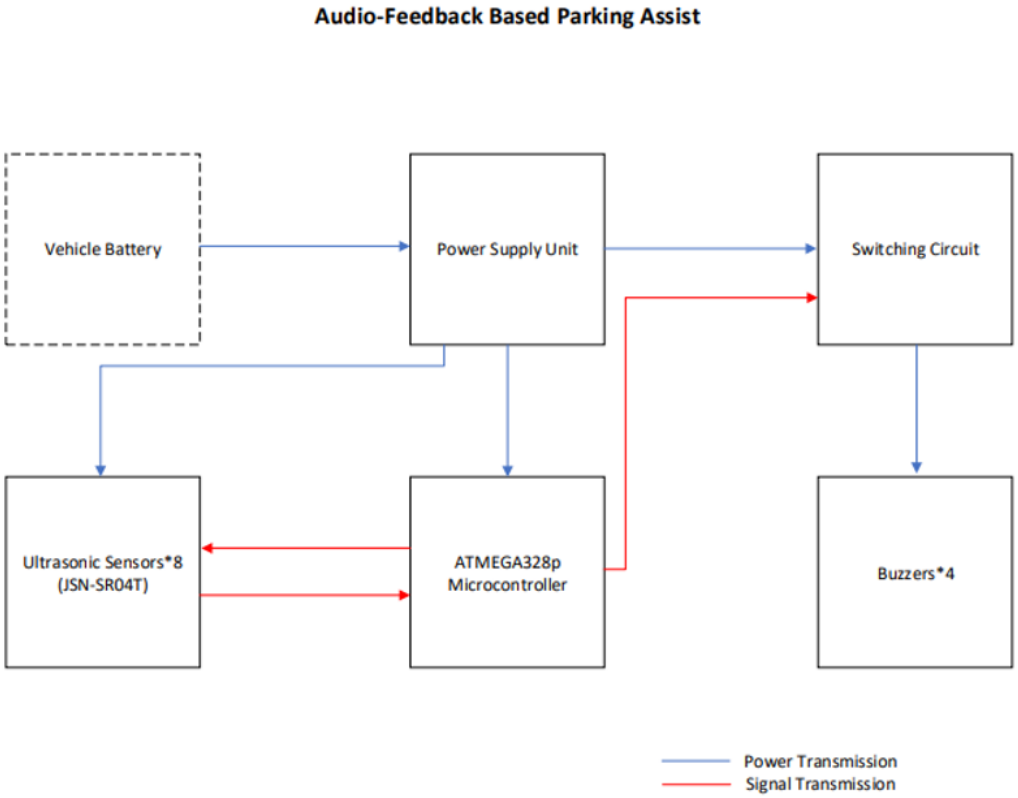

Figure 5: Block Diagram View

5 Enclosure Design

5.1 Initial Sketch

The initial sketch of the product enclosure is shown below.

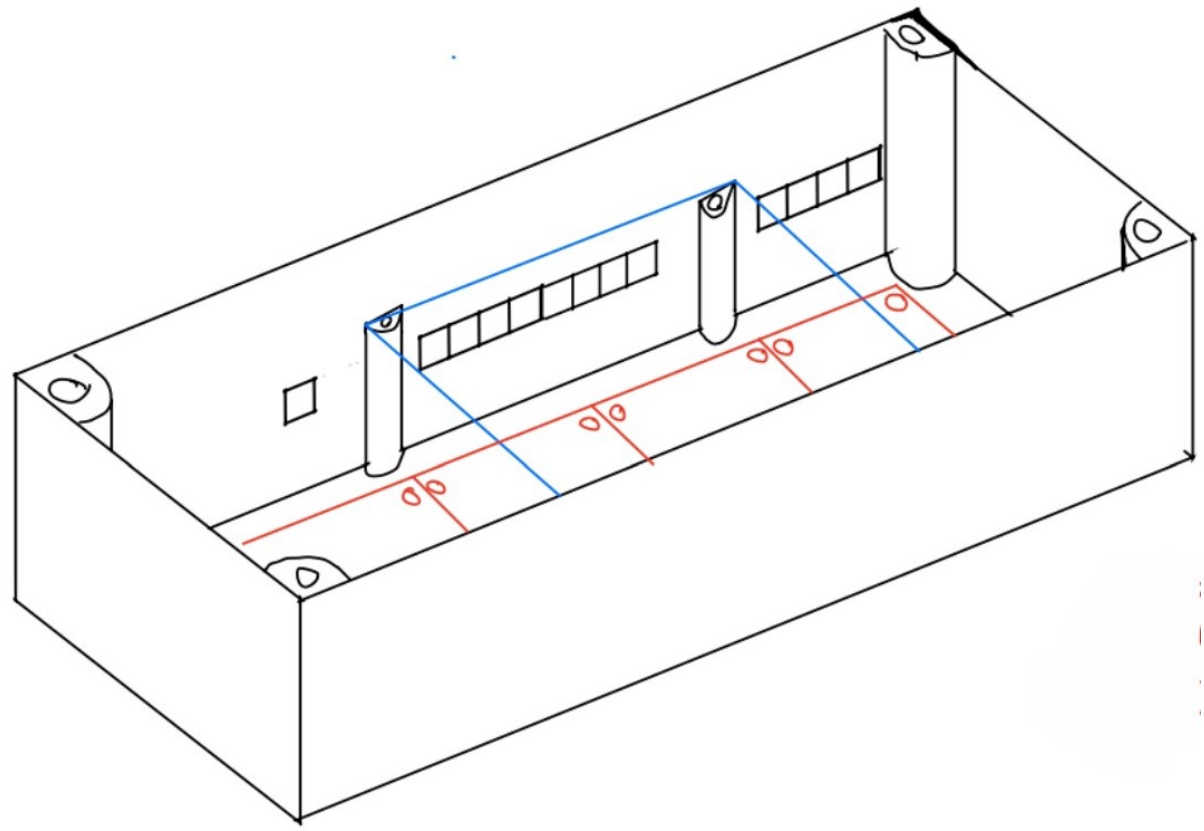

Figure 6: Enclosure: Initial Sketch

5.2 Final Sketch

The final sketch of the product enclosure is shown below.

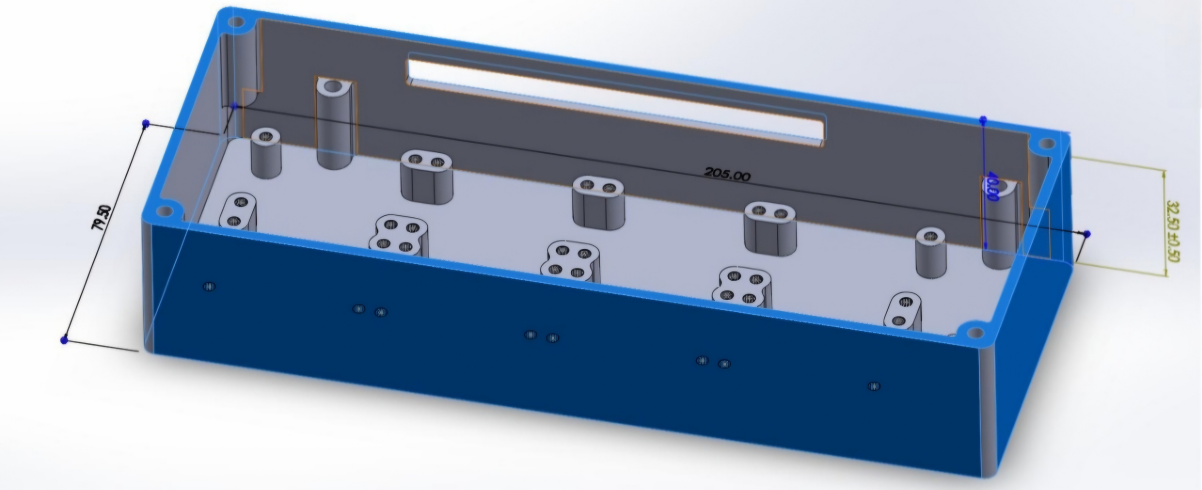

Figure 7: Enclosure: Final Design - External

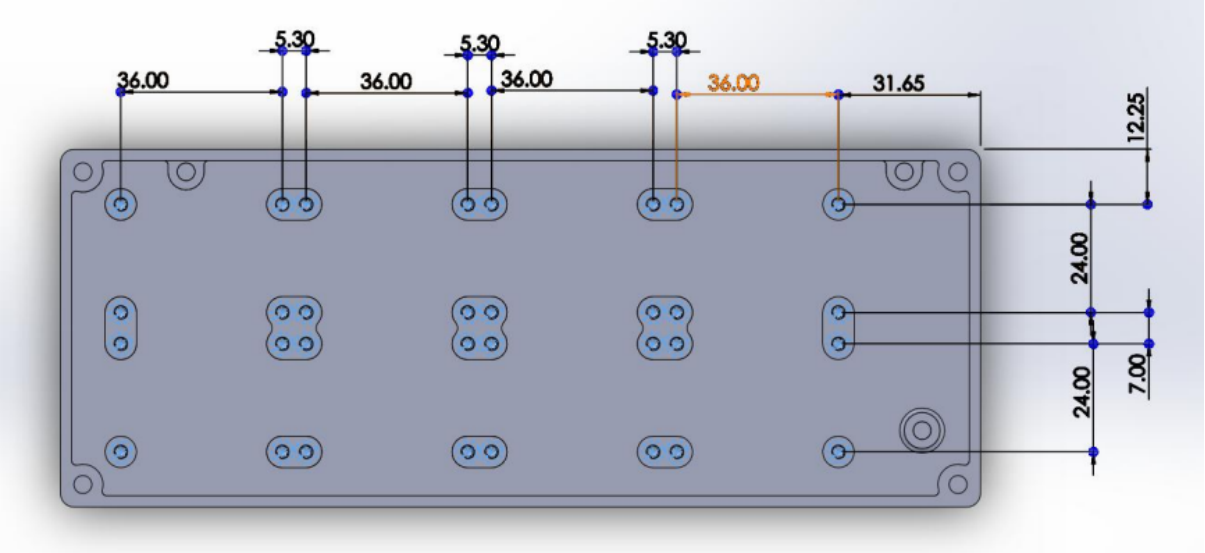

Figure 8: Enclosure: Final Design - Internal

6 PCB Design

The PCB design of our product is shown below.

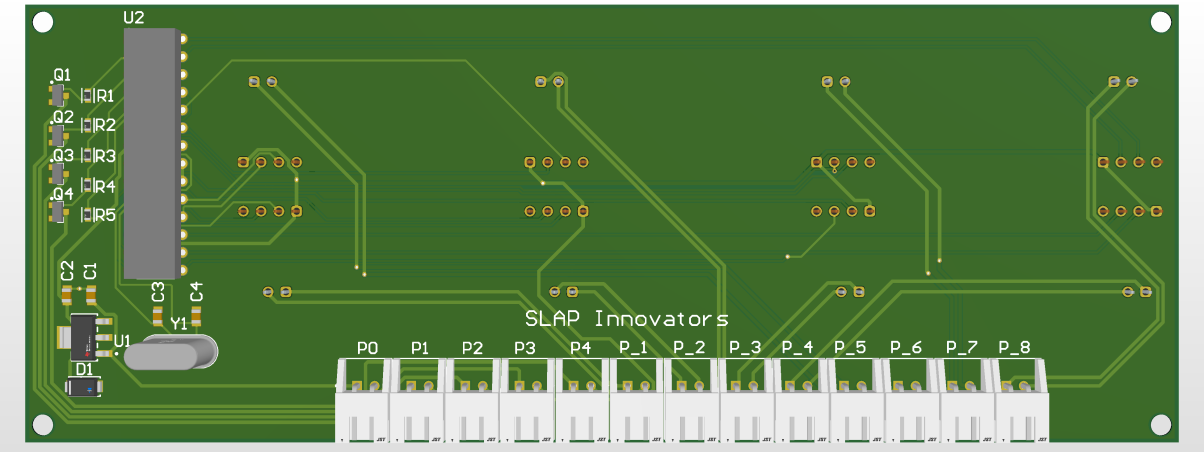

Figure 9: PCB-Top

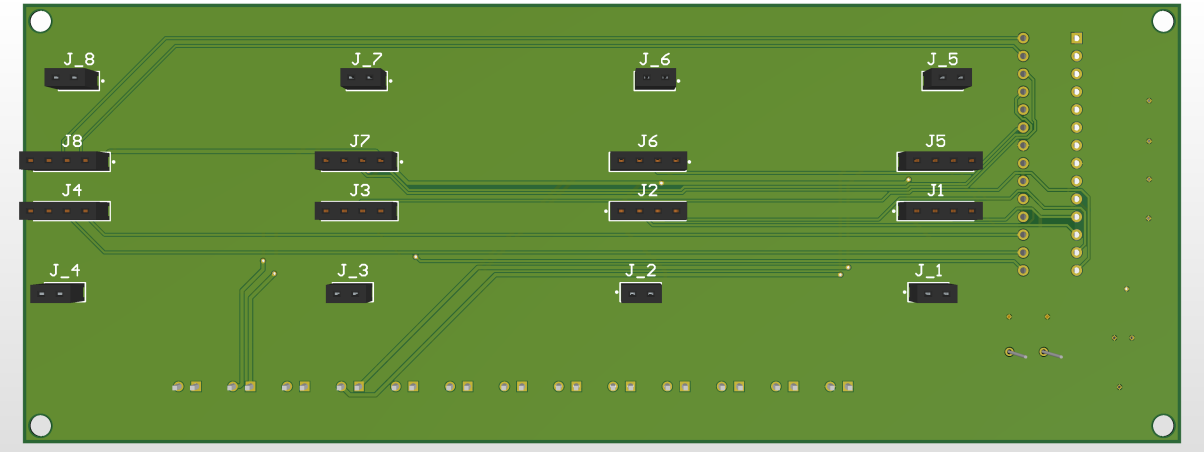

Figure 10: PCB-Bottom

7 Technical Specifications

7.1 Performance Specifications

- Rated Voltage : 12V
- Rated Current : 380mA
- Sensor Range : 20-80cm
- Sensor Accuracy : +/- 1 cm
- Ultrasonic Frequency : 40kHz

7.2 Power Consumption

- Power Supply : Reverse light power line/car battery
- Power Consumption :

7.3 Dimensions

- Length : 205mm
- Width : 79.5mm
- Height : 34.5mm

7.4 Warranty

- 6 months warranty for manufacturing defects or faulty components.
- Warranty time can be increased after further testing.
- Repairs covered under warranty.

7.5 Main Features

- Directional Audio
- Beep frequency inversely proportional to distance
- Wide FOV
- Range of 20-80 cm

8 Final Product

Figure 11: Final Product

9 Future Modifications

9.1 PCB

Due to the absence of schematics, we were unable to integrate the sensor module with the main PCB. This limitation necessitated a larger PCB and enclosure, leading to increased costs. With further research, we anticipate being able to integrate all 8 modules directly onto the PCB, enabling us to design a more compact PCB and enclosure, ultimately reducing costs.

9.2 Enclosure

Currently, the enclosure is large to accommodate the 8 modules and connecting wires. Once we integrate the sensor modules directly into the PCB, we will be able to design a more compact enclosure.

To reduce production costs and enhance structural integrity, we plan to manufacture the final product using injection molding. We have chosen polycarbonate for this purpose due to the following favorable properties.

- Impact Resistance - Enclosure must be able to withstand bumps and vibrations on the road and impacts from items kept in the trunk.
- Thermal Resistance - Enclosure must be able to withstand the high temperature inside the vehicle when parked under the sun.

- Stability

To reduce the effects of vibrations and bumps, rubber bushes will be added to the mounting surfaces.

9.3 Micro-controller

Currently, we are using the Atmega328p microcontroller because it provides the precise number of pins we need. However, we plan to transition to a more stable and reliable STM microcontroller once our product is launched.

10 Marketing, Sales, and After-Sale-Service Considerations

10.1 Market Analysis

Target Audience

SLAP Sonic ParkAssist is designed for drivers of older cars that don't have built-in parking assists, as well as those who own newer, more affordable vehicles without these features. Our target audience includes individuals looking to upgrade their parking capabilities without purchasing a new car. By offering an easy-to-install, effective parking assist solution, we aim to provide enhanced safety and convenience to a wide range of drivers.

Competitive Market

The competitive market for parking assist kits mainly consists of aftermarket products, with no established companies dominating the space. Cheaper solutions typically use either a display or a single buzzer. Displays can be distracting, as they divert the driver's attention from the mirrors. Single buzzers and displays only indicate the distance to the closest obstacle, lacking directional information. In contrast, SLAP Sonic ParkAssist offers both distance and direction indicators, providing a more intuitive alert system that allows drivers to stay focused on their mirrors while navigating.

Quality control

The final product would go through quality control before being delivered to make sure it complies with the standards. This could entail evaluating the sensor detection ranges, examining the buzzer functionality, and the finish of the enclosure.

Testing and Updating

As a product that is developed around the user to cater their needs, we will be putting our best effort to continuously test and improve our hardware and software to enhance the user experience. Also testing would incorporate different types of vehicles to increase inclusiveness and accessibility of our products. We will also test our product in various

weather and road conditions to ensure it's resistance to weather and bumps/vibrations.

Packaging and delivery

Once the product has passed quality control, it would be packaged and delivered to the customer. The packaging would be made out of recycled and hardened paper boxes. Bubble wrap padding will be included to keep the product inside the packaging safely. The sensors and buzzers will be packaged separately and labeled accordingly. A warranty card, an instruction manual, and drill bit will be included in the package as well.

Custom Features

Various colors of sensors to suit each vehicle type.

4 sensor and 8 sensor models to cover back or the front and back.

Toggle switch connected to power supply to have manual control over the operation of SLAP Sonic ParkAssist.

10.2 Marketing Strategy

Crowd Funding Campaigns

Empirically, it is a good move to seek capital through crowdfunding to scale the product. We can start a crowd funding campaign on "Kick Starter" to get the traction from the local and international community.

Influencer Marketing

Find and interact with influential members of the public. Introduce our product to these members and use their reach to market our product.

Paid Advertising

Use paid advertising channels to specifically target the target audience, such as Google Ads or social media advertising.

Customer Reviews and Testimonials

Encourage satisfied customers to leave reviews and testimonials on our website or social media channels. This is very helpful in building our credibility as a user friendly device.

Affiliated Marketing

Marketing through our sales partners to their existing customers.

Marketing Team

After increasing our revenue from the first few batches, we can invest in a marketing team to further boost our product with detailed marketting plans to target specific audiences.

10.3 Sales Strategy

Direct Sales

We will launch a dedicated website for SLAP Sonic ParkAssist, featuring a secure payment gateway for online purchases. This platform will serve as our primary sales channel, allowing customers to buy our product conveniently. In the future, our website will also offer customization options for an additional fee, enabling users to tailor the product to their specific needs.

Demonstrations

Additionally, we will directly engage with drivers through automotive events, car clubs, and dealerships. By offering hands-on demonstrations, we aim to showcase the effectiveness of SLAP Sonic ParkAssist in real-world scenarios. If customers are satisfied with their experience, they will have the opportunity to purchase the product directly from us.

Partnerships

We will create bulk purchase contracts with car accessory stores to market and sell our product to their customers.

10.4 After-Sale-Service Considerations

Repair Services

We will offer in house repair services which are covered under warranty.

Installation Services

We will offer in store installation services and online videos for users/retailers to install the product themselves.

10.5 Recycling

Mechanical recycling for polycarbonate involves grinding the plastic into small flakes, which are then melted down and molded into new products. This process can be effective for recycling polycarbonate, as it maintains the material's integrity and quality. Additionally, some facilities employ chemical recycling methods for polycarbonate, where the

plastic is broken down into its chemical components and reprocessed into new polycarbonate or other materials.

Currently, recycling printed circuit boards (PCBs) is challenging due to the complex mix of materials and the intricate processes required to separate and recover valuable components. However, as we increase revenue and scale up operations, we anticipate that advancements in recycling technologies and improved processes will make PCB recycling more feasible and efficient.

We plan to incentivize users to recycle by offering them a discount on future purchases if they return the enclosure to us at the end of it's lifetime.

10.6 Disposal

Since polycarbonate is not biodegradable, proper disposal is crucial to avoid environmental impact. Our product's instruction manual will provide detailed guidelines on how to dispose of the polycarbonate components, as well as the electronic circuits and sensors, in an environmentally responsible manner. This ensures that the materials are recycled or processed correctly, preventing them from ending up in landfills or polluting natural environments.

11 Task Allocation

The workload was fairly divided among all team members, and each person put in their best effort to achieve our goals.

Name	**Task**
Attanayake A.Y.	Circuit and PCB design and soldering
De Zoysa A.S.I.	Enclosure design and marketing
Goonetilleke P.	Sensor and buzzer research, and microcontroller programming
Perera A.L.C.K	Enclosure design and overseeing budget

12 Project Budget

Following is the project budget for the initial prototype

Item	Cost/Unit (Rs.)	Amount	Price (Rs.)
ATMEGA328p	900	1	900
JSN SR04T	1750	8	14000
Components - eTusker	570	1	570
Connectors - Daraz.lk	712	2	1424
Components - Pitakotuwa	90	1	90
Components - Pitakotuwa	265	1	265
4 pin connectors - Tronic.lk	30	8	240
PCBs	393.41	5	1967.04
PCB shipping	915.72	5	4578.60
Connectors - AliExpress	6.07	50	303.41
2 pin connectors	35	10	350
Enclosure	4150	1	4150
Wires	870	1	870
Total Price			**28838.05**

13 Product Pricing

Cost estimation is done considering a batch of 100 units. Component costs are estimated to be reduced by 40% when bought for 1000 modules. Bulk pricing for micro controller and Sensors obtained from Digikey. .

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Typically, profit margins for consumer electronics range from 5% to 20%, with some high-end products achieving even higher margins. We have allocated 10% of the budget for marketing expenses. However, we have not yet accounted for taxes, inventory costs, assembly costs, and personnel costs in our financial projections for the initial batch.

14 References

References

[1] J. B. Cicchino, "Real-world effects of rear automatic braking and other backing assistance systems," *Journal of Safety Research*, vol. 68, pp. 41–47, 2019, ISSN: 0022-4375. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2018.12.005. [Online]. Available: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022437518303451.