

# **Parting the Clouds: Moving Towards an Affordable Natural-Lighting Solution**

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Designing a modular, human-centric lighting system

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.0	Let there be Light . . . . .	1
1.1	Gap in the Market . . . . .	1
1.2	Aims and Objectives . . . . .	1
1.3	Project Management . . . . .	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Existing Work</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Lighting . . . . .	5
2.2	Circadian Rhythms . . . . .	6
2.3	Health Implications . . . . .	8
2.4	Cortisol and Attentiveness . . . . .	9
2.5	Mood and Lighting . . . . .	10
2.6	Summary of Literature . . . . .	10
2.7	Existing Solutions . . . . .	11
2.8	Implementation . . . . .	12
	<b>References</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Documents</b>	<b>29</b>
A.1	Device Requirements . . . . .	30
A.2	Gantt Charts . . . . .	31
A.3	Risk Assessment . . . . .	36

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.0. LET THERE BE LIGHT

*“God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘day,’ and the darkness he called ‘night’. And there was evening, and there was morning — the first day.” ~Genesis 1:3-5.*

Since the dawn of life itself, we have been exposed to the natural light of the sun, and the distinct separation of day and night. However, our modern, fast-paced lifestyle no longer allows for such long periods of time being wasted and unproductive in darkness.

As the literature reveals more and more ways in which this divergence harms our well-being, it seems that a serious re-think of our environments - and how we light them - is required.

### 1.1. GAP IN THE MARKET

Light has been shown to have serious ramifications on many facets of life: excess blue light in the evenings causing sleep deficiency; lighting affecting lifestyle-related diseases; insufficient blue-light exposure being a risk factor for depression and other mood disorders; and plenty more that are discussed in chapter 2.

Chapter 2.7 outlines why the existing products attempting to solve this problem are not

appropriate, and thus why a new solution must be developed.

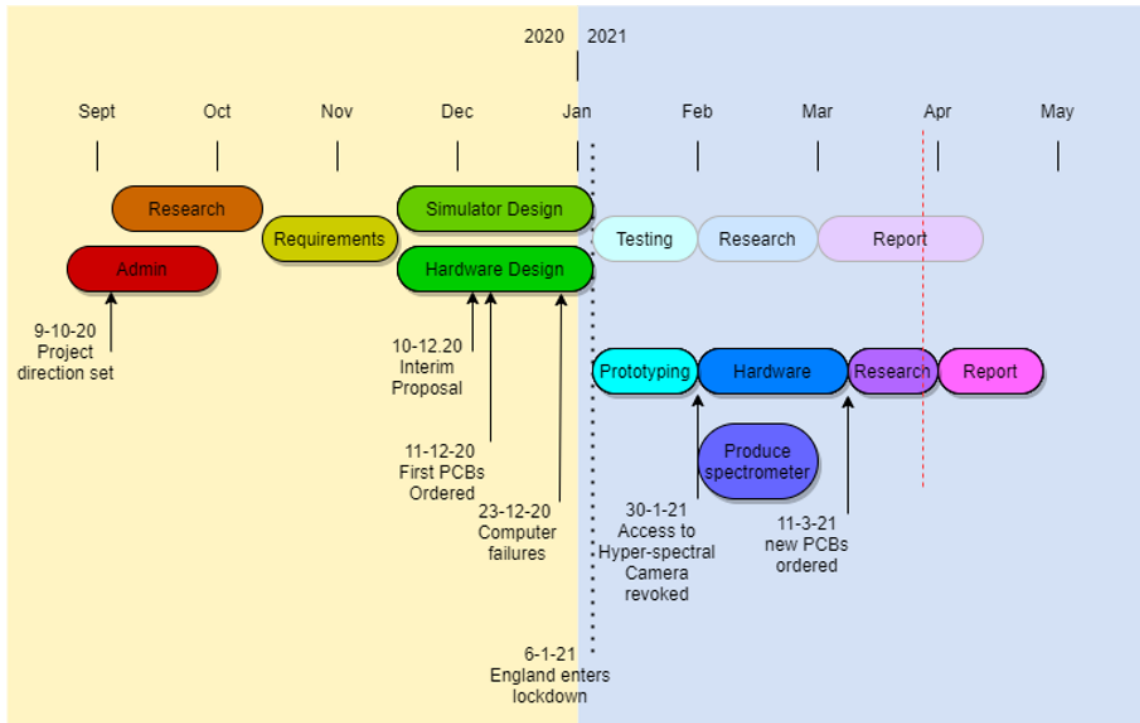
### 1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This project set out to try to develop an affordable, modular, broad-application natural lighting solution.

#### 1.2.1. Aims

There were 2 main aims that the device set out to achieve: ‘To produce an affordable device that replicates the visual solar spectrum as closely as is feasible’ and ‘to validate the device by measuring the output spectra across the day’.

Initially, further aims included developing the device as a product by improving user experience through user interface, web apps, and other expanded functionality. This would have been researched using qualitative methods such as opinion surveys to assess the interest in the device in the consumer market. These aims were set out as stretch goals that could be undertaken when the 2 main aims had been completed.



**Figure 1.1:** How the lockdown in England affected the objectives of the project. Reasons for the changes are discussed later in the document.

### 1.2.2. Objectives

The objectives used to achieve the aims have been a lot more dynamic throughout the project. The initial plan of producing and testing 2 rounds of printed circuit boards (PCBs) before using these to validate the spectral outputs was heavily influenced by the pandemic. See Fig 1.1.

Both N. Appleton and V. Halenka were involved in the design of the hardware, as it was a useful device for both areas of research. The success of these devices was assessed against the requirements specification (Appendix A.1 and is discussed in chapter (REF).

One of the most important aims of the project from the beginning was the development of the simulator. This allowed for a contingency for that spectral measurements to be

obtained even in the absence of physical hardware. The simulator was also used to explore the desired outputs of the device and how they could be achieved.

### 1.2.3. Scope

Keeping the scope of the project relatively flexible was an important factor due to the pandemic. Designing the hardware, which was scheduled to be done by February, was severely impacted by the lockdown that begun on the 1st of January 2021.

Due to the “modular” construction of the aims, the qualitative, product-based research and much of the usability development had to be left for future research and development. In removing these aims from the project, it allowed the primary objective to be successfully

achieved.

Had the pandemic not had such a profound effect, the main aims would have likely been completed earlier, allowing for progression to the secondary research goals. However, going into the project, there was no way to know how the year would pan out. Using this dynamic scope worked very well and allowed the successful completion of the primary area of research.

### 1.3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

**AGILE Kanban** The project was approached using a Kanban-style AGILE workflow, using the *ClickUp<sup>TM</sup>* project management software to organise tasks, subtasks, Gantt charts, meeting minutes, relevant literature and more. Using just one piece of software to organise all of this reduced the friction and chance of errors. For example, when updating Gantt charts, the Kanban boards and tasks are automatically updated to reflect these changes and vice versa.

**Weekly meetings** Both weekly supervisor meetings, and weekly meetings between the hardware developers took place to ensure that all areas of the project were progressing as planned. Alterations to the scheduled work could be discussed and approved at these meetings, further reducing the friction when needing feedback. Minutes of these meetings were made on the *ClickUp<sup>TM</sup>* software and copies were printed and pasted into the project logbook.

**Logbook** The logbook has been used as a hard-copy of all the digital documents that were produced throughout the project including interviews, requirements documentation,

meeting minutes, invoices, design documentation and Gantt charts. All work has been logged to ensure data is not lost and the project could continue even in the event of the researcher being replaced.

**Gantt Charts** The project plan Gantt charts were updated on a monthly basis to ensure their relevance and to take into account the most up-to-date information. These updates happened in meetings between the development team to allow timescales to be discussed before implementation. All Gantt charts are displayed in appendix A.2.

**Time Constraints** As with any project, there have been some strictly imposed time constraints throughout the year. Weekly supervisor meetings meant that there was always a two-way stream of information so as to put less importance on each meeting.

It was important that the experimentation could be completed by the end date of the project, and that at least initial results could be gathered before the progress review that took place at the end of March.

**Contingencies** From the beginning of the project, a focus has been placed on creating effective contingencies to ensure that the main experimentations would give results. This has been especially true within a hardware-based project during the pandemic. The flexible aims have been discussed earlier, but many other contingencies were put in place. Building a simulator was a big priority to ensure that results could be gathered in the event of failure to obtain hardware.

**Risks and Mitigation** The project has been focused on de-risking throughout by front-

loading the highest-risk tasks to ensure that, in the case of failure, objectives can still be met. For example, hardware development happened early on in the project to allow time to overcome any of the issues that came up.

This method of risk identification and mitigation proved extremely effective during the pandemic, when many of the unwanted outcomes came to pass.

The risk-assessment and resources forms have been kept up-to-date throughout the project to ensure that a safe working environment can be guaranteed. Few changes were made to these documents as the initial copies were good reflections of the risks and resources required.

**Reflection** The successful completion of all the main outcomes of the project is a testament to the good planning that has been observed from the beginning.

The continued planning and de-risking, alongside the effective use of supervision, have ensured that all the primary aims were achieved within the timeframe. This, in turn, allowed the adherence to milestones and deadlines, including the progress review. Contingencies played a big role in delivery of the project, and are discussed further in chapter ??.

Mitigating any potential risks through the use of the risk-assessment (Appendix A.3 early in the project allowed for progress to be made safely and appropriately.

The Engineering Council's UK-SPEC has been consulted throughout the project and a spreadsheet has been kept up to date containing relevant evidence of each competency. This has helped to keep the project relevant to engineering professionalism and personal devel-

opment. The logbook has been used as the main repository for all of the relevant documentation, minutes, notes and technical details. Using this, alongside *ClickUp*<sup>TM</sup> for planning tasks and time management, has streamlined the workflow, allowing for much more efficient use of time.

Overall, the management of this project has been executed excellently and, despite the pandemic, all changes to circumstance have been overcome (more in chapter ??).

## Chapter 2

# Existing Work

### 2.1. LIGHTING

#### 2.1.1. Introduction

Many people do not realise how much time they spend in un-natural lighting conditions. In 2001, a study published in *Nature* magazine found that the average American spends more than three quarters of their time inside (Klepeis et al., 2001). More recent studies have put this number as high as 90% (Opinium, 2018), and when most buildings do not get adequate sunlight in the day, the time spent under man-made light sources can be significant. Furthermore, after dark, almost all buildings are lit artificially, very few people around the world do not spend their nights in lit environments.

Falchi et al. (2016) found that 86% of the world's population, and 99% of the US and European population live under "light polluted" skies. The world uses so much light, that one third of humanity, 60% of Europeans, and 80% of North Americans cannot see the Milky Way.

#### 2.1.2. History

It wasn't always this way. For only the most recent 1.5 million years - a blink of the evolutionary eye - have humans been able to harness the power of fire to extend the usable time of

day (J. A. J. Gowlett and Wrangham, 2013). It is important to note, however, that fire does not try to emulate daylight; fires used after dark were used for cooking and as a social space (J. a. J. Gowlett, 2016).

It was not until Humphrey Davy and Michael Faraday's contributions to science allowed Davy to produce the first functional electric light: the arc lamp (Knight, 1998). Since that fateful day, humans' relationship with night has grown increasingly distant. In 1878, Swan presented the first incandescent lamp, patented by Edison in 1880 (though it is believed that others were developing this technology concurrently). These bulbs are very inefficient; the peak wavelength is determined by the temperature of the gas in the bulb. In order for visible emission to occur, very high temperatures must be achieved - and still the majority of the light will be infra-red (IR) and not visible to the human eye (Montoya et al., 2017).

The next widely adopted innovation was discharge lamps such as sodium lamps and fluorescent tubes, as many Correlated Colour Temperatures (CCTs) could be achieved. Compact Fluorescent Tubes (CFTs) could directly replace Incandescent bulbs using the same fittings.

While LEDs gained widespread popularity



in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century (Matsumoto and Onuma, 2020), the first visible light LED was produced back in 1962 by Nick Holonyak (Holonyak and Bevacqua, 1962), based on the even earlier LEDs of Oleg Losev from 1927 (Zheludev, 2007). It wasn't until 1995 that a non-red LED was produced, solving the issue of monochromaticity of LED technology (it was blue) (S. Nakamura, 1995).

Once white LEDs could be produced, it led to the "Third Revolution" of indoor lighting (Montoya et al., 2017), and now LEDs are ubiquitous in modern life. New LED technology continues to be developed, such as the Organic LED (OLED), which are cheaper and offer better colour rendition. OLED technology has only recently been applied to indoor lighting (Phelan, 2018), although there are some promising developments in the field (Bender, Marchesan, and Alonso, 2015). However there is still some way to go before OLEDs replace LEDs in artificial lighting technology.

### 2.1.3. Energy Consumption and Environmental Considerations

Incandescent bulbs are not efficient. In fact, they're banned from being sold in the EU because they're so inefficient (EU, 2012). However, this doesn't mean they're all bad, they actually have many benefits; firstly, they produce light much more similar to firelight than modern lighting/ they are also not hazardous, something which cannot be said for fluorescents and LEDs, which also require higher resource depletion to create (Lim et al., 2013). But LEDs use 85% less energy and last 50 times longer than incandescents (Mottier, 2010). This is significant when considering that 20-40% of most buildings power consumption is from lighting alone (Pérez-Lombard, Ortiz, and



**Figure 2.1:** Nathaniel Kleitman (foreground), donning an impressive beard, measures the sleep of Bruce Richardson (University of Chicago Photographic Archive, 2021).

Pout, 2008), accounting for as much as 10% of all power consumed in Europe (Bertoldi, Hirtl, and Labanca, 2012). Considering this, and that LEDs can theoretically convert 100% of electrical energy to visible light (thermal regulation is key) (Jordan, Hutter, and Oppermann, 2012), it is clear why the wide scale adoption of LED technology has been so rapid (Matsumoto and Onuma, 2020).

## 2.2. CIRCADIAN RHYTHMS

### 2.2.1. What is the Circadian Rhythm?

In 1729, the French scientist Jean-Jacques d'Ortous de Mairan used plants kept completely in the dark to determine that their diurnal cycles were not caused by external light stimulus, but rather were regulated by some endogenous clock (De Mairan, 1729).

Amazingly, it wasn't until 1938 that someone repeated this experiment on humans. Dr. Nathaniel Kleitman was a professor of Physiology at University of Chicago who was later

**Table 2.1:** *The 5 potential factors for circadian entrainment (Charles A. Czeisler et al., 1981)*

	<i>Factor</i>
I.	Knowledge of time of day
II.	Light Dark cycle
III.	Social Contacts
IV.	Timing of food availability
V.	Scheduling of bed rest and activity

to discover Rapid-Eye Movement (REM) sleep; he is known as the father of sleep research. Together with his PhD student, Bruce Richardson, and a pair of metal beds, they descended into Mammoth Cave in Kentucky for 32 days without any natural lighting stimuli. They found that their sleep-wake cycle did not descend into sporadic bouts of sleep, but rather stayed at a periodic length of around 26 hours, undeniably longer than the 24 hour day. This showed that humans have an internal time-keeping system that lasts about (*circa*) one day (*dian*); they named it the circadian rhythm (Kleitman, 1987).

Siffre (1964) repeated this experiment, delving, himself, into a cavern for 2 months, and discovered much the same results. Meanwhile, Von Aschoff and Wever (1962) kept participants in a sealed cellar for 8-19 days, also discovering a circadian rhythm of over 25 hours.

As circadian rhythms are not 24 hours long, they need to be synchronised daily, and thus must rely on a periodic stimulus to entrain them. There were 5 factors that were thought could contribute to this entrainment of the circadian rhythm, as shown in Table 2.1.

Factor I (knowledge of time) was shown to be insignificant (J. N. Mills, 1964). Factor II (light-dark cycles) is the most powerful in many animals and plants, but Aschoff et al. (1971) concluded that this effect was too weak in hu-

mans, and that factor III (social cues) must be our central zeitgeber.

However, when inspecting the facilities used for these experiments, Charles A. Czeisler et al. (1981) realised that the researchers “*permitted the subjects to use kitchen, bathroom, bedside and desk lamps as sources of self-selected light during the ‘dark’ phase of each cycle*”, prompting a reassessment of the role of light in the entrainment of human circadian rhythms in which he found that light-dark cycles have a “*direct synchronising effect*” on human circadian rhythms. They then went on to publish the landmark study titled *Bright light resets the human circadian pacemaker independent of the timing of the sleep-wake cycle* (C. A. Czeisler et al., 1986).

## 2.2.2. Melatonin and Melanopsin

The circadian rhythm is controlled by a part of the brain called the Hypothalamus (Stephan and Zucker, 1972). Specifically, in the Suprachiasmatic Nucleus (SCN), located above the optic nerve (Welsh et al., 1995). The SCN sends signals to the pineal gland (Cassone, 1998; Borjigin, Li, and Snyder, 1999) which is responsible for the production and regulation of melatonin.<sup>1</sup>

Melatonin is known as the sleep hormone, or to some: the “chemical expression of darkness” (Reiter, 1991), and builds up throughout the evening and is essential for sleep onset (J. Arendt, 2003).

In 2000, a novel Opsin was found in the human eye (Provencio, Rodriguez, et al., 2000). An opsin is a light-sensitive protein that ex-

<sup>1</sup>There is much intrigue and mystery around the pineal gland, with many believing that it is where consciousness is generated in the brain (Bob and Fedor-Freybergh, 2008). René Descartes referred to the pineal gland as the “seat of the soul” (Lokhorst, 2020).

ists in the visual cells in the eye and is what converts the energy from photons of light into electrical signals that are sent to the brain (Terakita, 2005). It was soon discovered that the action spectrum of this new opsin, melanopsin, did not match any of the action spectra of the known visual cells (rods and cones), implying there was a new cell that we were not yet aware of (Thapan, Josephine Arendt, and Skene, 2001).<sup>2</sup> This cell was found to be the intrinsically photosensitive Retinal Ganglion Cell (ipRGC) (Berson, Dunn, and Takao, 2002), the signals from which are what keeps the SCN entrained, but to not contribute to conscious vision (Berson, 2007). This explains why some blind people have circadian rhythms that can be entrained with light, as discussed in the review by Allen (2019).

### 2.2.3. Blue Light

It has been established that light is of great significance in circadian regulation, and that “moderate illumination” of around 500 lux (Laakso et al., 1993), or even “room light” of less than 200 lux (Gooley et al., 2011) can cause a phase shift in the circadian rhythm. Furthermore, due to the action spectrum of the ipRGCs, blue light causes as much larger effect than longer-wavelength light (Lockley, Brainard, and Charles A. Czeisler, 2003).

The effect of blue light is so potent, that even one second pulses of blue light through closed eyelids are enough to suppress melatonin production (Mariana G Figueiro, Bierman, and Mark S Rea, 2013).

<sup>2</sup>Interestingly, melanopsin has been found to be much more similar to invertebrate opsins than they are to visual mammalian opsins (Provencio, Jiang, et al., 1998). This, as well as the fact almost all animals produce melatonin, shows it is a truly ancient part of our biology (Davies, Foster, and Hankins, 2014).

There are a few existing solutions attempting to tackle this problem. For example, the use of amber glasses can filter out blue wavelengths before they reach the retina, and have been shown to improve sleep when worn in the evenings (Kimberly and Phelps, 2009).

## 2.3. HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

In a meta analysis, Sanchez-Barcelo et al. (2010) discuss the potential effects of melatonin in a host of situations, including “*ocular diseases, blood diseases, gastrointestinal tract diseases, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, infectious diseases, neurological diseases, sleep disturbances, aging and depression [as well as being] used as a complementary treatment in anaesthesia, hemodialysis, in vitro fertilization and neonatal care*”.

### 2.3.1. Cancer

We’ve known for a long time that total visual blindness is protective against many types of cancer (Hahn, 1991; Feychting, Österlund, and Ahlbom, 1998; Flynn-Evans et al., 2009). It was also observed in many studies that flight attendants were more likely to develop breast cancer, as summed up in the meta analysis by Tokumaru et al. (2006). This effect was also observed in night-shift workers, shown in two large reviews of the existing evidence (Kolstad, 2008; Stevens, 2009). It is also known that the circadian rhythm has a cancer-suppressing effect (Fu and Lee, 2003) and that circadian disruption is a promoting factor for lung cancer (Papaioannakopoulos et al., 2016). An extensive meta analysis even found that chemotherapy toxicity is correlated to when it is taken, leading to the entire field of chronotherapy (Focan, 1995; Dallmann, Brown, and Gachon, 2014).

The correlation of circadian regulation and cancer is so well recognised, that even the WHO classes night-shift work as a class 2A carcinogen (WHO, 2013). However, even those not engaging in abnormal working hours may have an increased risk; Stevens et al. (2014) blames electric lighting directly as the cause of breast cancer being the leading cause of cancer death among women worldwide.

### 2.3.2. Diabetes

Although 415 million people worldwide live with Type II Diabetes, it is a preventable and reversible disease (Fung, 2018). Type II diabetes is a lifestyle disease, mostly caused by diet, whereby insulin resistance is built up such that blood sugar can no longer be absorbed by cells. A contributing factor to this is melatonin, which has been shown to aid blood glucose homoeostasis (Bouatia-Naji et al., 2009). Melatonin receptors influence fasting glucose levels (Prokopenko et al., 2009) and when completely removed, can even induce insulin resistance (Contreras-Alcantara, Baba, and Tosini, 2010).

Another study found that social jetlag - the jetlag-like effect of inconsistent waking times, ie. waking up later at the weekend - is a risk factor for obesity, itself the largest risk factor for Type II Diabetes and a host of other health issues (Roenneberg et al., 2012)

### 2.3.3. Seasonal Affective Disorder

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is caused by a lack of light in the winter months when the sun is lower and takes a shorter path across the sky (Charmane I. Eastman, 1990). It has been long considered a fact that bright light helps alleviate the symptoms of SAD (Magnusson and Kritikjarnarson, 1991; Lee et al., 1997;

Charmane I. Eastman et al., 1998), but this has actually been quite a controversial topic, with others claiming that the placebos in these studies were not adequate, and such that the antidepressant effect can be attributed to placebo effect (C. I. Eastman, M. A. Young, and Fogg, 1993). A comprehensive meta-analysis found that only 13% of studies published between 1975 and 2003 were adequate in their methods (Golden et al., 2005). It also highlighted the importance of dawn simulation, which beats out both bright-light and placebo effects significantly Avery et al. (2001).

## 2.4. CORTISOL AND ATTENTIVENESS

Melatonin is essential for sleep, building throughout the evening and peaking in the middle of the night. Similarly, Cortisol - produced in the adrenal gland - helps us wake up, and peaks around mid-morning. This is known as the Cortisol Awakening Response (CAR) and is, of course, also regulated by the circadian rhythm (Fries, Dettenborn, and Kirschbaum, 2009).

Cortisol is the hormone of wakefulness and alertness and such it has been shown that a higher spike in morning cortisol is correlated with better cognitive performance (P. D. Evans et al., 2011), and general daytime cortisol improves alertness (Chapotot et al., 1998). It is clear, then, that we want to maximise the CAR, which can be done through exposure to short-wavelength (blue) light after awakening (Mariana G. Figueiro and Mark S. Rea, 2012). Dawn-simulation has also been shown to improve the CAR - more so than just blue light - as well as improving melatonin regulation, increasing well-being, mood and cognitive performance (Gabel et al., 2013).

# **“Light affects our sleep more powerfully than any drug”** (Charles A. Czeisler, 2013)

It is also well documented that cortisol is a large contributing factor to mood disorders, especially bipolar disorder (A. H. Young, 2004). A study by D. Sit et al. (2007) found that “*Women with bipolar illness are highly sensitive to morning bright light treatment*”, following this up a decade later with a double-blind placebo controlled trial that found that 68.2% of the bright light participants had their bipolar disorder go into remission, compared with only 22.2% in the placebo group (D. K. Sit et al., 2017).

## 2.5. MOOD AND LIGHTING

Lighting arrangements affect how we perceive spaces (Durak et al., 2007), with the general finding being that daylight-style LEDs are the most comfortable during daytime hours (Cajochen et al., 2019). It is also known that red ambient lighting is more relaxing than blue (Laufer et al., 2009), and that blue causes more stimulation than red (S. Schweitzer et al., 2016). Pulsating orange light has also been shown to be even more relaxing (Wan et al., 2012), it seems as though this could have a link to the fact it is a closer approximation to firelight.

Full-spectrum lighting has been thought to improve cognitive performance and mood states (Berry, 1984), however this is somewhat controversial and likely to be a placebo effect (Veitch, Gifford, and Hine, 1991).

## 2.6. SUMMARY OF LITERATURE

Over the past 150 years, electric lighting has gone from a pipe-dream to an everyday necessity, increasing the length of the productive day.

Alongside these developments, circadian science has been driving forward, from observations of the nature of free-running circadian rhythms to the discovery that light has profound effects upon it. Blue light’s effect is especially powerful and is becoming more and more ubiquitous as our technology advances. As Charles A. Czeisler (2013) says in his landmark perspective piece entitled *Casting the Light on Sleep Deficiency: “Technology has effectively decoupled us from the natural 24-hour day to which our bodies evolved”*.

This decoupling is dangerous for many aspects of our health. Not only is sleep important for all aspects of health and well-being, melatonin itself has a promising effect on many diseases including type II diabetes, SAD, cancer, and many others. Cortisol, melatonin’s sister hormone, is also essential for a healthy life and promotes attentiveness, alertness and cognitive function.

Looking to the past for answers, we see that the output spectra of more outdated technologies such as incandescent bulbs are far more appropriate for evening use than the more modern fluorescent tubes and LEDs. But these older technologies are far less energy efficient, to the point that their sale is banned in the EU. On the other hand, the adoption of more energy efficient technologies should not come at the expense of human health (Boyce, 2010) due to excessive blue light exposure - which has also been shown time and again to damage our eyes in excessive quantities (Ueda et al., 2009; Kuse et al., 2014; Niwano et al., 2014; Marek

et al., 2018; M. Nakamura et al., 2018).

Blue light is not all bad, though. Its effects on SAD, bipolar disorder, and cognitive ability show that it is all about giving our body the right light at the right time of day. Some people already strive for this by using blue-light blocking glasses or RGB LED bulbs that can be set to change colour. These technologies are flawed, though: glasses are a hassle to wear and carry around and RGB LEDs only approximate perceived colours by combining red, green and blue, thereby ensuring there is more short-wavelength light that is desirable (Gilewski, 2018).

This has led many to believe that an overhaul in the lighting used in the built environment is of paramount importance, with many papers calling for immediate action (A. R. Webb, 2006; Boyce, 2010; Grose, 2014).

## 2.7. EXISTING SOLUTIONS

An analysis of existing solutions was undertaken early in the project to understand what already exists in this field. The products could be generalised into 4 categories:

### 2.7.1. Wake-Up Lights

Ranging from £20 to £200, these products usually come in the form of an alarm clock with a built in light to wake up the user with a simulated dawn. With many varying features across the models, most contain an FM radio.

These lamps are used as a bedside light and are not appropriate for lighting a whole space. As they are focused on morning light, many use inappropriate spectra to be used before bed.

While these devices utilise an artificial dawn - shown to have many beneficial effects - there

are few studies on these devices themselves.

### 2.7.2. Bulb Replacements

Various forms of smart-light exist on the market currently, most notably the Philips Hue. this can be set to fade to warmer light in the evenings and brighter light during the day to encourage winding-down and focus respectively.

However the basis of these are very much visual entertainment, not circadian entrainment. Using RGB LEDs, they are less than ideal for use before bed and need serious modifications to automatically change temperature.

These bulbs are expensive, too. For a starter kit including the base unit and just 4 bulbs, Philips charge almost £200.

Circadian bulbs also exist. These are fitted to dimmer circuits and change temperature instead of dimming. BIOS lighting have a natural-spectrum bulb that can be used both in day and night. However, these require manual adjustment throughout the day and require dimmer circuits to be installed.

### 2.7.3. Industrial Circadian Lighting

There are many companies offering bespoke services to fit circadian lighting systems into office spaces and warehouses. However these are very expensive and not applicable for home installation. Furthermore, as they are designed for business environments, many of these solutions do not account for later evening that can aid with sleep onset.

### 2.7.4. Software Based

Windows, OSX, iOS and Android all now have built in blue light filters that can be turned on to limit the amount of blue light that the screen

emits. The intensity and time that it comes on can usually be adjusted by the user. Specialist software such as f.lux can also be used for this purpose but with greater flexibility.

#### 2.7.5. Discussion

All of the devices discussed here have one other feature in common: as they are all LED devices based on providing a visual cue and are not designed based on the evidence in the literature at the forefront (perhaps with industrial solutions as the exception), the spectra of these devices can be questionable.

Also, none of these products are designed to get dim enough to be used late at night. They are all for use leading into the evening, but once the user is in bed, these become insufficient solutions.

### 2.8. IMPLEMENTATION

The ideas discussed in this chapter were used to inform the requirements specification (Appendix A.1). The output spectra of the lamp will have to be respectful of biological considerations: no light produced within the melanopsin action spectrum during the evening, but high blue light in the morning. Dawn simulation must be achievable on the device to gain many of the benefits.

The existing solutions have shown that the device must be low cost, and fully automated to bridge all of the shortcomings of the current devices. The device should also be simple to install and not require additional technology such as a smartphone.

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## **Appendix A**

## **Documents**



### A.1. DEVICE REQUIREMENTS

# Requirements Document

N. Appleton  
19.11.20  
Rev: 2.0

Context for Use	
ID	CX
1	Users must be able to use the light as their main light source throughout the day
2	Should be able to light spaces of any size (scalable solution)

Cycles	
ID	CY
1	Should expose users to as natural light-patterns as possible throughout the day and night

Power	
ID	PW1
1	Device should consume as little power as necessary for it to fulfil its function
2	Device should be compatible with a wide range of possible sources to allow for broad use-cases

Modularity	
ID	MD1
1	Device will have a modular design consisting of multiple different module
2	One module will be used to control the device, the others will be varying types of LED collections

Usability	
ID	US1
1	Users should be able to work for extended periods under lighting provided solely by this light
2	the produced light should be bright and accurate in its reproduction of colour

Morning and Daytime	
ID	DY1
1	Must provide a wide range of wavelengths during the day
2	Output spectra should vary throughout the daytime to match the surf's rhythms

Sleep	
ID	SL 1
1	Should not affect users sleep in any meaningful way by only exposing them to appropriate spectra after dark

Control Modules	
ID	MD4
1	Control must have minimal user input and output to allow for ease of use in all conditions
2	All user inputs should be expandable by adding more of those features (eg. an extra on/off switch for the other side of the room)

Compatibility	
ID	MD3
1	Any combination of LEDs should be able to be used with one controller
2	LED modules output spectra should be accurate within their remit of wavelengths

LED Modules	
ID	MO2
1	There will be at least 3 types of LED module:
2	Daytime Module will contain only white lights, for use in the morning and daytime

Colourimetry	
ID	US2
1	All LED modules should have a Colour Rendering Index of at least 80%

Brightness	
ID	DV3
1	Each LED module must be able to produce a brightness of at least 250 lumens
2	Brightness should be configurable on-the-fly by the user

Spectral outputs	
ID	DY2
1	Spectral Outputs should be calculated based on a set of given spectra, each with an associated time The Spectrum will be calculated based on the previous and next pre-defined spectrum, scaled by the temporal
2	

Circadian Effects	
ID	SL2
1	Device must be able to cause no circadian phase shift by having an option to produce light of less than 5 Equivalent Daylight Lux (EDL).

1885

100

[illegible]

	Calculation
	d spectral output should intensity that varies e day
	displays the brightness, it affect the morphology of output.
	user overrides the

Brk	DY4	
	ID	The index error if this error is 2
	1	
	2	

Time Setting	
ID	SL.3
1	The user can set the time manually
2	The Device should be able to automatically ascertain the time via a WIFI connection to the Internet
3	The time for all events such as sunrise

Data storage	
ID	DT1
1	There could be an SD interface to allow the user to upload custom data onto the device without requiring technical knowledge

WiFi Credentials	
ID	DT2
1	WiFi credentials such as SSID and passwords could be stored on the SD card and read by the device when it needs to connect to the Internet

Spectral Data	
ID	DT2
1	An SD card could be used to upload custom spectra to the device so that users can edit their own exposure throughout the course of the day
2	Default spectra should be hard-coded onto the device so that no external features are required for the device to function

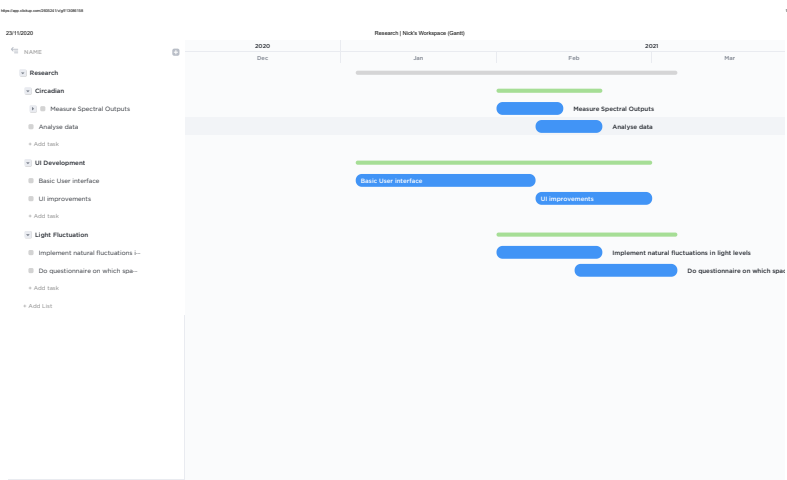
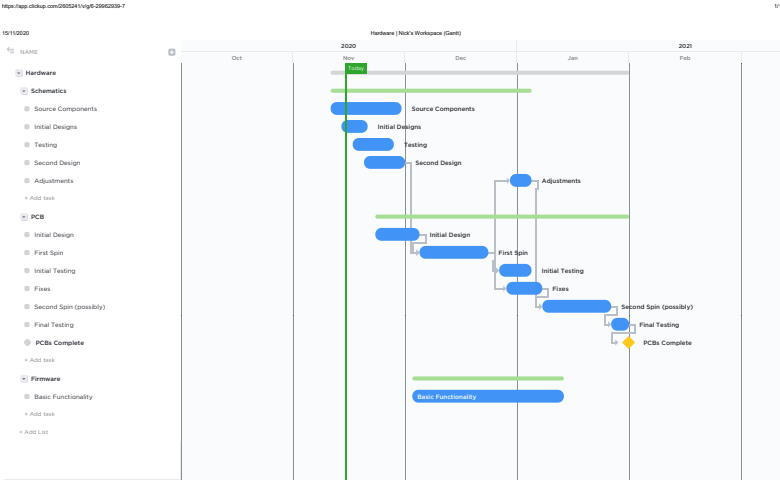
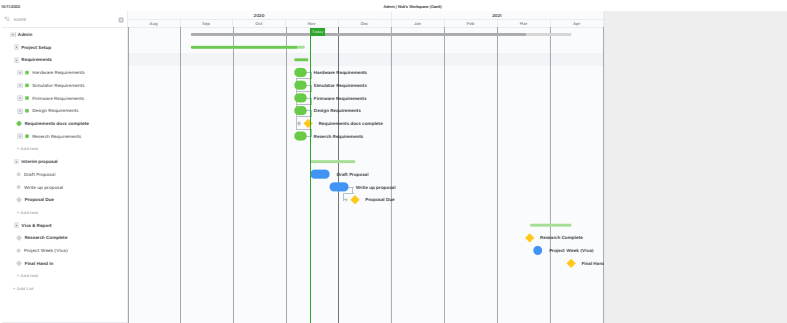
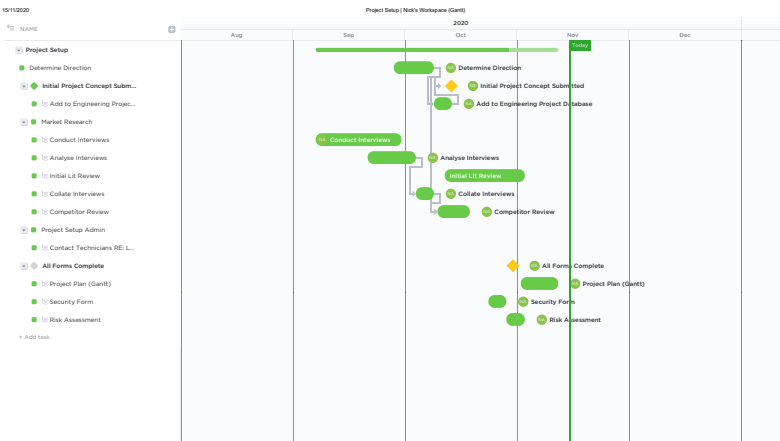
Y		Brightness Calculation
ID		DT4
1		A single touch knob for navigating the interface could be used to minimise the number of inputs
2		Using a single knob with 4 directions of navigation can be achieved: up and down by turning, select by pressing the knob and back by double-tapping or long pressing it.
3		A capacitive touch pad can be used as an alternative to a knob - improving ease of use in the dark for example
4		The highest and lowest brightness levels that are output should be configurable by the user

Maximum Power Consumption	
ID	Pin2
1	Device should use a 12V supply as this is very common and would make the device usable from many supplies to all laptops.
2	Device should consume no more than 500mA of continuous current draw during operation
3	The average consumption of a controller unit over the course of one hour should be no more than 50W/h
4	An LED module should consume no more than 10W/h of power during continuous lighting of 1500 lumens

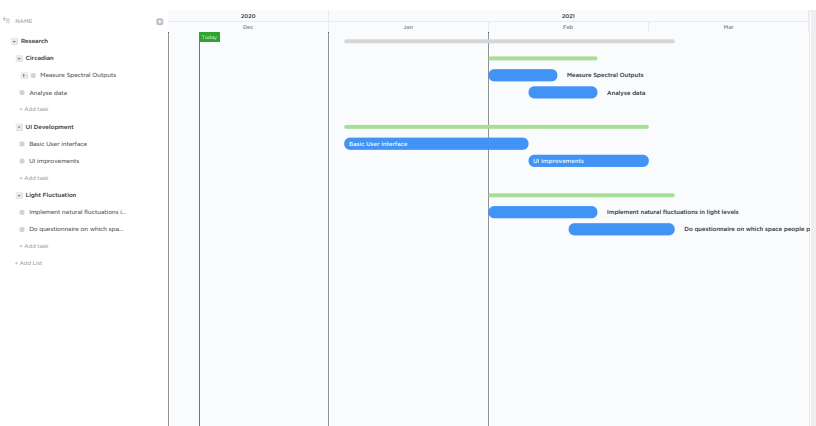
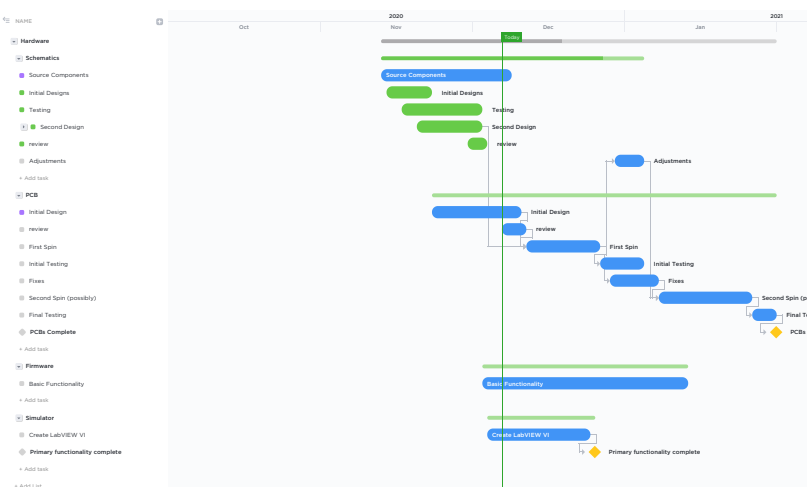
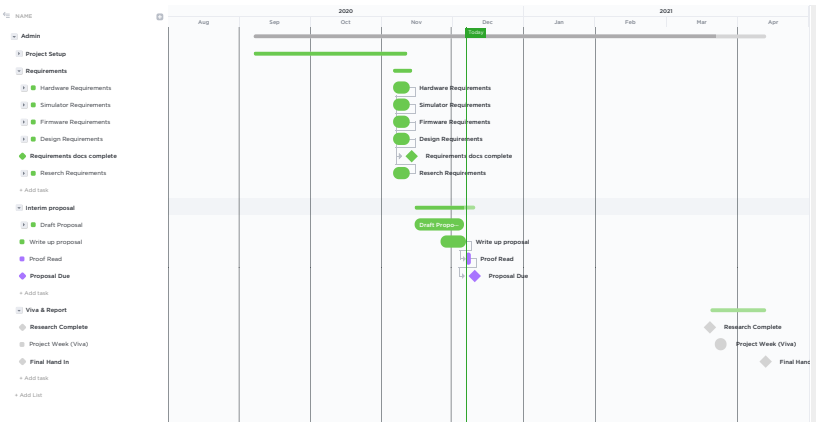
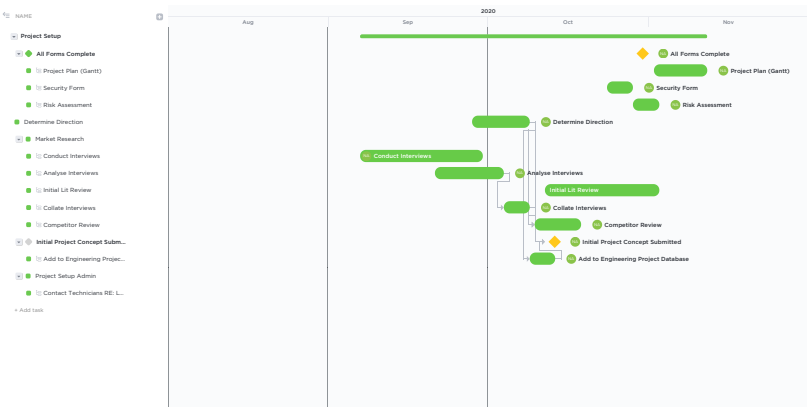
Low Power / Mobile considerations	
ID	PV3
1	A small internal battery can be used to prevent the device from losing its time data in the event of a power-failure with the use of a RTC
2	There should be a low-power mode that the device can always return to for minimising power consumption where required

A.2. GANTT CHARTS

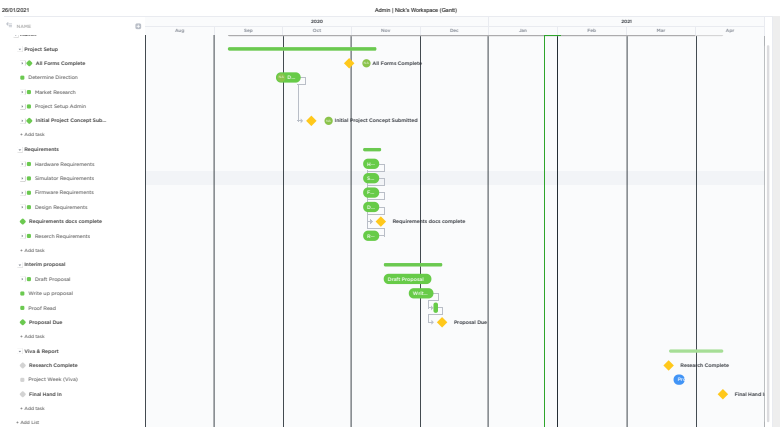
A.2.1. Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 (initial)



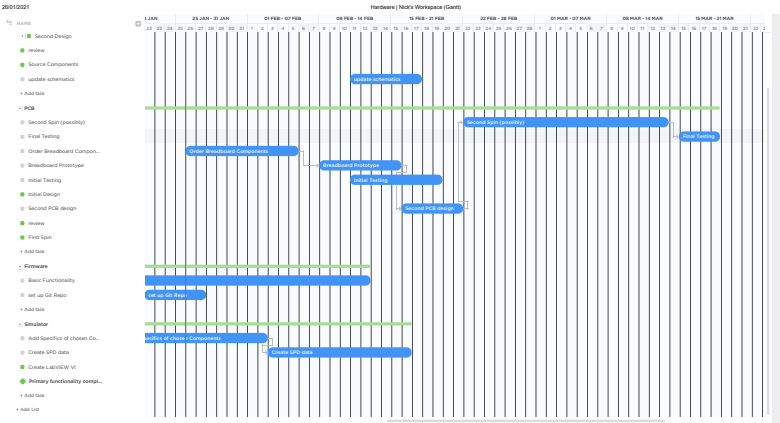
A.2.2. Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 2020



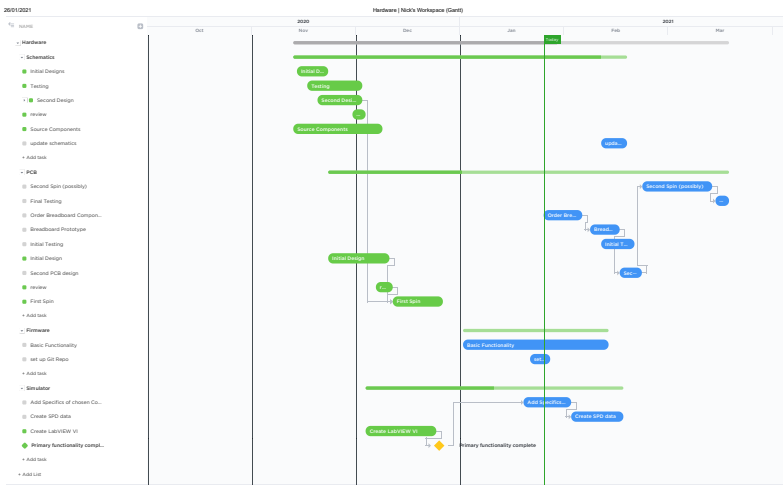
A.2.3. Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 2021



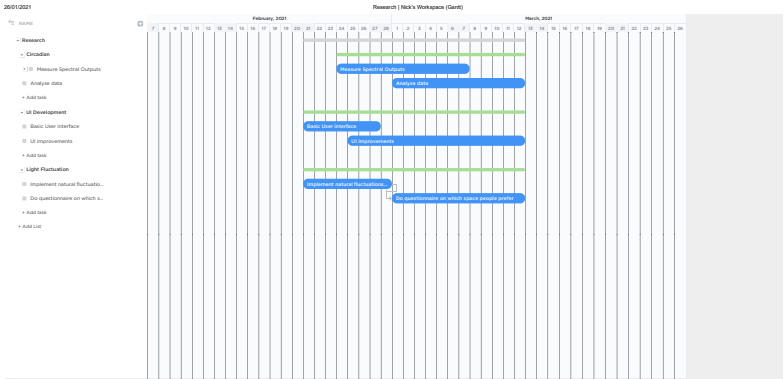
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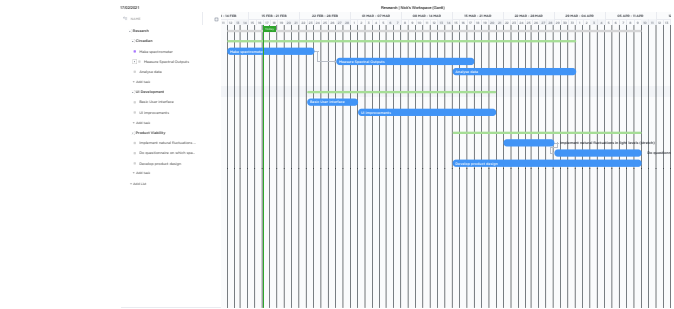
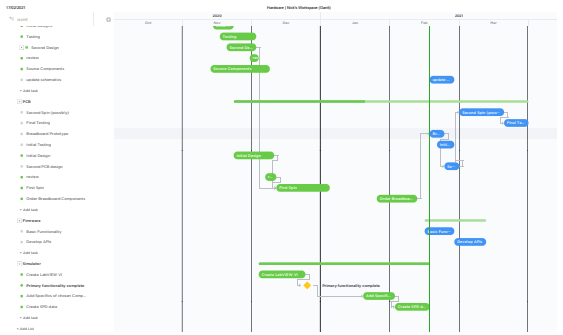
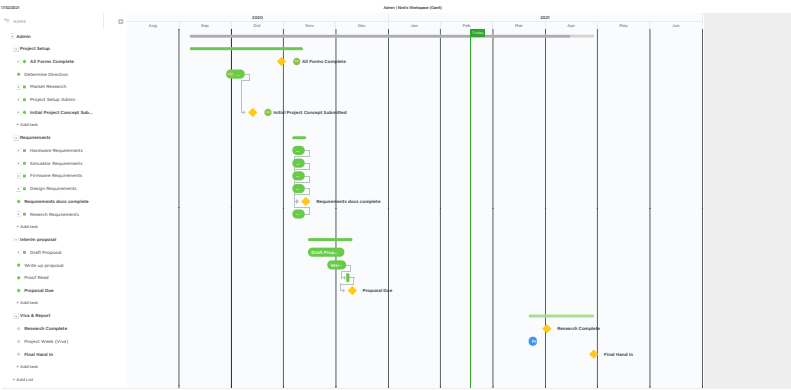


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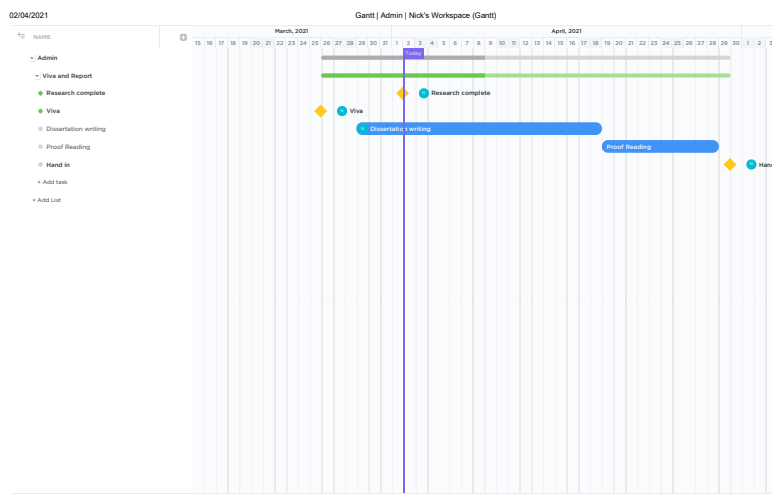


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A.2.4. Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

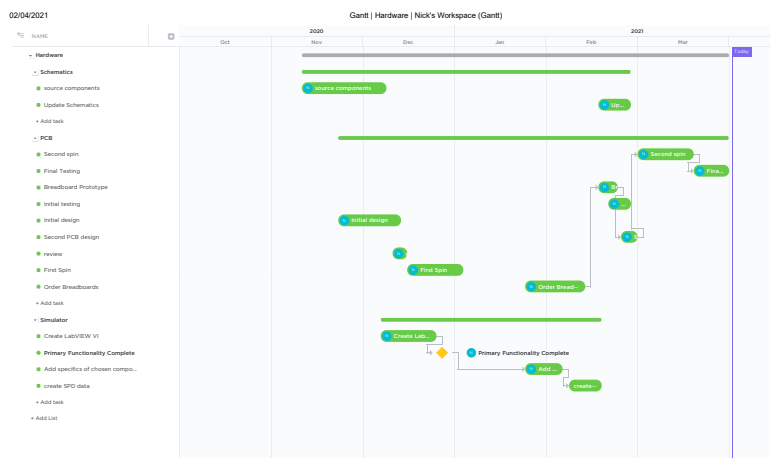


A.2.5. Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021



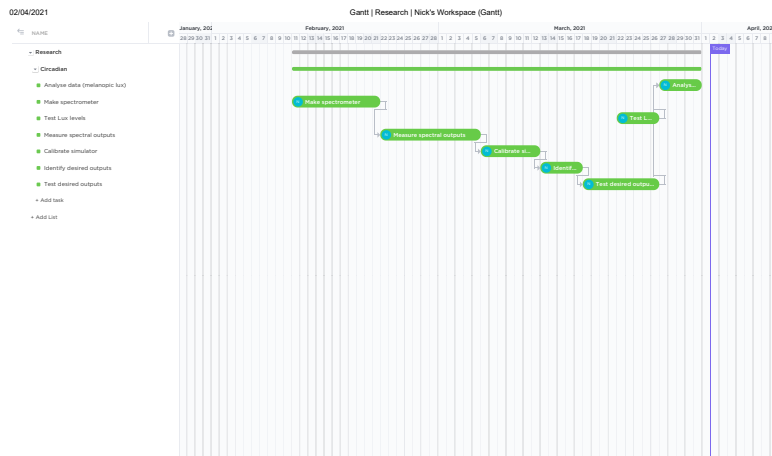
<https://app.clickup.com/4713725/vlg4n7x-15?pr=8846896>

1/1



<https://app.clickup.com/4713725/vlg4n7x-22>

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<https://app.clickup.com/4713725/vlg4n7x-29>

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### A.3. Risk Assessment

#### GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Without exception

<b>Describe the activity being assessed:</b> Producing a natural-cycle based lighting system	<b>Assessed by:</b> Matthew Studley	<b>Endorsed by:</b>
<b>Who might be harmed:</b> Nick Appleton (NA)	<b>Date of Assessment:</b> 02/04/21	<b>Review date(s):</b>
<b>How many exposed to risk:</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 30px; text-align: center;">1</div>		

Hazards Identified (state the potential harm)	Existing Control Measures	S	L	Risk Level	Additional Control Measures	S	L	Risk Level	By whom and by when	Date completed
Potential use of Lab equipment	Existing risk assessment including mitigations	3	2	6	Keeping a clean workspace and ensuring that equipment is used properly and switched off when not in use	3	1	3	NA - consistently	Ongoing
Covid-19 Risk from face-to-face meetings	Government and University rules and guidance	3	3	9	Conducting all meetings online without exception	3	1	3	NA – Every meeting	Ongoing
Soldering: very high temperature, hand-held iron		2	3	6	Make sure to store the iron in the holder when it is not being used. Minimise the number of sessions spent soldering, while not allowing any rushing to occur.	2	2	4	NA – all soldering	Ongoing
High-power electronics pose an electrocution risk		4	2	8	Whenever handling electronics, wearing a grounding bracelet connected to an anti-static mat and earthing point to discharge any potentially harmful electrical surges. Testing the device with lower power inputs.	2	1	2	NA – whenever handling electronics	Ongoing
Isolation from working from home and related stress		3	3	6	Implement stress-relief measures and ensure that overworking doesn't occur by time-boxing various tasks and implementing effective project-management strategies. Seeing peers (when the covid restrictions allow).	2	1	2	NA – Always under evaluation	Ongoing