

Wrist Design for a Modular Transradial Bypass Socket for Prosthetic Control in Non-Amputees

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Abstract — The wrist plays a crucial role in human movement and manipulation of the hand, which makes a prosthetic wrist one of the most important components in the design of a prosthetic device. At the Institute of Cognitive Systems, a 3D-printed wrist for a modular upper-limb bypass socket was developed during a research internship that can easily be customized for use with a variety of terminal devices. Through bypass sockets, researchers can test a prosthetic system from the point of view of a prosthetic user. The designed wrist can perform sufficient range of motions and torques to complete easy tasks in everyday life, and can be used at the university for research and experiments on prosthetic devices.

1 Introduction

The field of upper-limb prostheses, artificial body parts that replace a limb that has been amputated due to an accident, congenital disorder, or infection, is growing in recent years. In the United States alone, there have been 41,000 people living with the loss of an upper limb in 2005, according to Ziegler-Graham who predicted in his study that the number will increase even more by 2050, driven in particular by an aging population and an related increased prevalence of diabetes and dysvascular disease [1]. For the development of prosthesis, researchers and developers can perform preliminary motor control testing, using bypass sockets and improve them before formally testing with amputees [2]. The objective of this research internship was to create the wrist mechanism of such an bypass socket. Without a wrist, amputees are forced to compensate with unnatural movements that cause further damage to their musculoskeletal system over time [3]. In order to reduce biomechanical strain, wrist motion is essential in prostheses.

The paper begins with an introduction to three degrees of freedom in a human wrist and explains why pro/supination has been chosen for the design of the wrist mechanics. This is followed by a review of different prosthetic wrist categories, range of motions of the

human wrist and maximum torques needed for Activities of Daily Living, found in the literature. Next, the design of the wrist mechanism is discussed. Therefore, the anatomic difference between pronation and supination is explained to give more details about the working principle of the human wrist. This working principle is realized in a simplified way in the prosthetic wrist whose assembly and design is described, followed by the choice of the motor and the control of the motor via a sensor. Finally, the work is summarized and possible directions of future wrist prosthesis developments are pointed out.

2 Related Work

2.1 Human Wrist Motion Capability

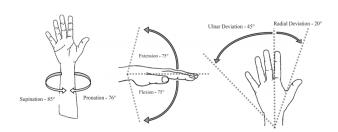


Figure 1 Three degrees of freedom (DOF) of the human wrist (adapted from [4])

In healthy human wrists, three degrees of freedom (DOF) are commonly distinguished in the literature: flexion/extension, ulnar/radial deviation, and pro/supination [4] (see Figure 1). However, some experts argue that pro/supination is not the product of the wrist's motion, but rather results from a rotation of the forearm [5]. Counting towards this argument, this movement, also known as wrist rotation, is impossible when the forearm has been amputated anywhere along its length. The task of imitating the motion nevertheless falls to the prosthetic wrist [6]. In fact, it is the most common axis of motion undertaken by commercialized prostheses [4], perhaps because this motion is more frequent than the two others in daily activities

[7]. Pronation and supination also provide the largest range of motion. Note that each DOF occurs in pairs and involves positive and negative rotations from the neutral pose around the same axis. This research report focuses on pro/supination which is described in greater detail in Chapter 3.1.

2.2 Types of Prosthetic Wrists

There are three main categories of transradial prostheses that can be distinguished based on the method of powering. The systems are categorized as passive systems, body-powered systems, and active systems, also known as externally powered systems.

Passive prostheses are mainly suitable for unilateral amputees because their wrists are manually repositioned by the healthy contralateral hand. Bilateral amputees might also use the environment to change the orientation of the prosthetic wrist, however this adjustment is more difficult [4]. Once positioned for the task at hand, passive devices make use of either friction clutches or locking mechanisms to prevent wrist motion. A friction clutch is a simple mechanism that makes use of the friction between components of a joint to prevent joint motion. The joint will only move if a torque is applied that surpasses the friction holding the joint. A locking mechanism uses sprung catches, pins or buttons to prevent unwanted motion, meaning it can withstand greater torques, but only allows the joint to be positioned to a certain number of angles [4]. This type of prosthesis is useful in repetitive or longer-lasting tasks requiring a specific wrist position. Passive prostheses advantages over other types include that they are lighter, more affordable, and do not require electricity or actuators; however, they are not an ideal option for performing bi-manual tasks [5].

Body-powered prostheses, or standard prostheses, are powered by the amputee's muscles. The user wears a body harness that connects to the prosthesis via a Bowden cable. The amputee uses the movement of his or her body, for instance an arm or shoulder, to exert tension on the cable, which controls the prosthetic's mechanisms, opening, closing, rotating, or bending the terminal device [8]. A non-passive wrist articulation system is particularly valuable to people with bilateral amputations who have difficulty articulating passive wrists via external forces, especially systems with multiple degrees of freedom [4].

Externally powered prostheses require an external power source that can actuate the device by electric, pneumatic or hydraulic means, though electric prostheses are the most commonly used [5]. Electro-driven

wrists contain microprocessors as well as servo motors and are often myoelectrically controlled. The prosthesis is embedded with electrodes that are in contact with the skin and which measure movement in the residual limb caused by voluntary muscle action. In response to the electrical signal, an electric motor is triggered, causing a particular action to occur, such as a wrist rotation [8]. People with shoulder disarticulation or high-level amputations are likely to benefit from external prosthetic since they may not be physically able to use a cable-operated device. In the research internship, this category was used for wrist control. However, the motor was not myoelectrically controlled, but activated by a sensor for detecting changes in angle and direction of rotation.

2.3 Torque Analysis

Because this study focuses on pro/supination, we only consider this motion axis when analyzing the torque in different prosthetic wrist designs. Before the analysis, we study the range of motion (ROM) of an unaffected human wrist, as the bypass socket should allow a sufficient ROM to complete tasks. In his 2019 analysis, Bajaj averaged the ROM based on the results of various age and sex groups and distinguished between the entire ROM and the partial ROM used during Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) [4]. Table 1 shows the values our wrist prosthesis aims for. Since most common tasks can be accomplished with ADLs ROM, achieving those lower numbers would be sufficient, but the full ROM is preferred and used in the implementation of our prosthesis.

	Full ROM [deg]	ADLs ROM [deg]
Pronation	76	65
Supination	85	77

Table 1 Full range of motion and range of motion during Activities of Daily Living (ADLs

We analyze the wrist torques needed to carry out ADLs, based on a study by Timm that tested the supination torque and pronation torque required to turn three different handles: a cylindrical handle akin to a dresser handle (25 mm diameter), a screwdriver (29 mm diameter x 104 mm length) and a doorknob (57 mm diameter) [9]. Ten men and ten women, all between the ages of 24 and 45 and without upper extremity injury, participated in the study [9]. The results, presented in Table 2, reveal that supination strength exceedes pronation strength. One should keep in mind

that these values represent the maximum torques generated by the human wrist during these activities; however, the torques necessary for these and other everyday tasks are often lower. Roose quantified the minimum wrist torque required to result in 20 kg-cm for pronation and supination [10].

	Pronation	Supination	
	Torque [kg-cm]	Torque [kg-cm]	
Cylinder	60 ± 24	67 ± 23	
Screwdriver	58 ± 23	74 ± 25	
Doorknob	79 ± 25	101 ± 32	

Table 2 Wrist torque analysis of three different types of handle

3 Design of the Wrist Mechanism

3.1 Human Anatomy: Pronation and Supination

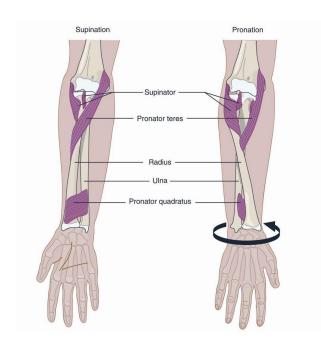


Figure 2 Muscles and bones involved in pronation and supination (adapted from [11])

The third DOF is the ability to rotate the hand, referred to as pronation and supination. This mechanism of motion is integrated in a simplified way in the design of our wrist which will be described in the following. But before, it is examined how a human hand pronates and supinates and how this mechanism is accomplished by the muscles and bones.

Pronation occurs as a result of two muscles in the forearm, shown in Figure 2, the pronator teres and the pronator quadratus that are pulling on the radius bone. The radius is a special forearm bone designed to rotate around the other forearm bone, the ulna, at the elbow and wrist joints. While pronating, the end of the radius rotates from lateral, farther from the midline of the body, to the opposite medial side of the wrist around the ulna.

Supination takes place when the forearm or palm is rotated toward the outside so that the thumb is pointing outward and the palm is facing upward. Upon pulling on the radius, the radius of the forearm supinates, which is due to the supinator muscle of the forearm and the biceps brachii of the upper arm. As a result of these muscles turning the radius in the reverse direction of the pronator muscles, the distal end of the radius returns to the lateral side of the wrist [12].

3.2 The Design of the Pronation - Supination Mechanism

A simplified version of the human wrist, in which only the pronation and supination mechanism is considered, was designed. The components associated with this mechanism are shown in Figure 3. All parts have been created with the CAD-Software Inventor and saved as an STL file so that they could be printed out with a 3D printer. The final assembled prosthesis is based on the University of Utah's bypass socket for which the single components are available to the general public via a GitHub repository [2]. For this academic project, we want to concentrate on wrist assembly. The designs of the Quick-Disconnect Nut Side and the Quick-Disconnect Bolt Side which are connected to the Bypass Bearing Keyfit and the Bypass Adapter Proximal Support, respectively, are inspired by the corresponding elements of the University of Utah's bypass socket. Though the designs have been adapted to house a Motor, its characteristics are described in the subsequent section. Attached to the exposed area of the Motor is a Motor Horn, which is itself screwed to the Motor Horn Connector developed during the research internship. The Motor Horn Connector in turn is positioned securely between the Hand Dorsal and Hand Palmar. These two components also enclose the adaptable hand on the other side and have been created during the internship as well. When the Servo Motor rotates, the left attachment, connected to the Motor Horn via the Motor Horn Connector, rotates and provides a movement of the attached prosthetic hand. The technical drawings with detailed information about the dimensions of the individual parts are given in the Appendix.

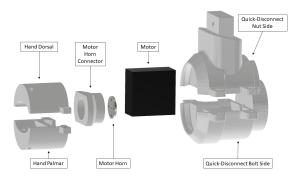


Figure 3 Assembly of the parts for the Pronation - Supination Mechanism

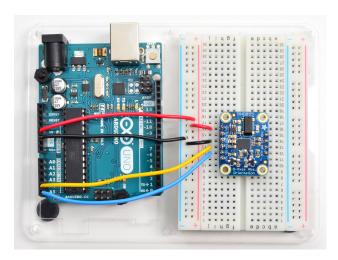


Figure 4 Circuit for the Adafruit BNO055 Absolute Orientation Sensor (adapted from [14])

3.3 Motor Choice and Control

For the wrist mechanism, the Joy-it Motor JT-PWM-20kg is used [13]. It was chosen based on the Torque Analysis in Chapter 2.3 which stated that the minimum wrist torque required for ADLs is 20 kg-cm for pronation and supination. The selected servo meets this requirement, provides the required ROM, and in addition has a good size to torque ratio. Size is the limiting factor of the dimensions of the bypass socket and thus an important parameter. The technical specifications of the servo motor are given in table 3 below:

Dimensions	40 x 20 x 40.5mm
Operating Angle	180° (500 – 2500μsec)
Maximum Torque (6.0 V)	18.3 kg-cm
Maximum Torque (7.4 V)	21.5 kg-cm
No-Load Speed (6.0 V)	0.16s / 60°
No-Load Speed (7.4 V)	0.15s / 60°

 Table 3 Joy-it Motor JT-PWM-20kg Specification

The servo motor that controls the pronation and supination mechanism is then connected to an Arduino board through a circuit so that inputs and outputs are linked. With this Arduino board, the servo motor horn can be programmed to rotate at any desired angle and speed. The input comes from the Adafruit BNO055 Absolute Orientation Sensor [14], a sensor that transforms the data from an integrated accelerometer, gyroscope, and magnetometer into an actual orientation in 3D space. To connect the assembled BNO055 breakout to an Arduino Uno, the following circuit demonstrated in the wiring diagram is created:

After the sensor and the motor are connected to the Arduino, the healthy subject without amputation wears the bypass socket and holds the sensor in the hand of the arm where this test person is wearing the device. Now depending on the orientation of the wrist towards the ground, the motor will respond with an equivalent angle rotation and thus imitating the movement of the hand. The Arduino program code for the circuit and the corresponding output of the motor in response to the sensor data is given in the Appendix.

4 Conclusion

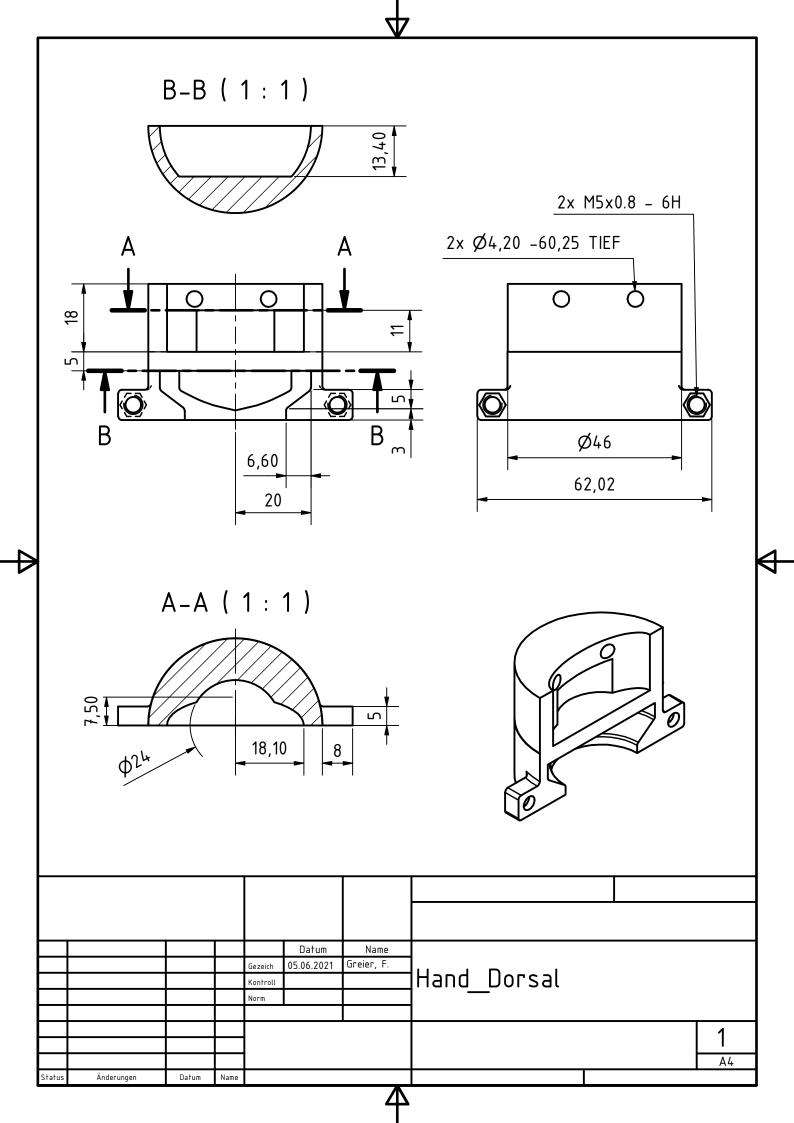
This paper explains the mechanism of pronation and supination in a human wrist and how it can be integrated in a modular transradial bypass socket, used for tests of prosthesis controlled by non-amputees. The goal in creating this mechanism was to keep it basic and make it easy to use and maintain. This current design does not represent the final version, but is rather a demonstration of a wrist mechanism, that can be easily produced in a short time. It should be improved to incorporate additional features and to have a better appearance. The objective for the future is to design a wrist prosthesis which also includes the two other independent degrees of freedom - flexion/extension and radial/ulna - as well as to inspire more people to work on this design in order to develop better and less priced prostheses so that no one has to live without a limb, even if it is artificial.

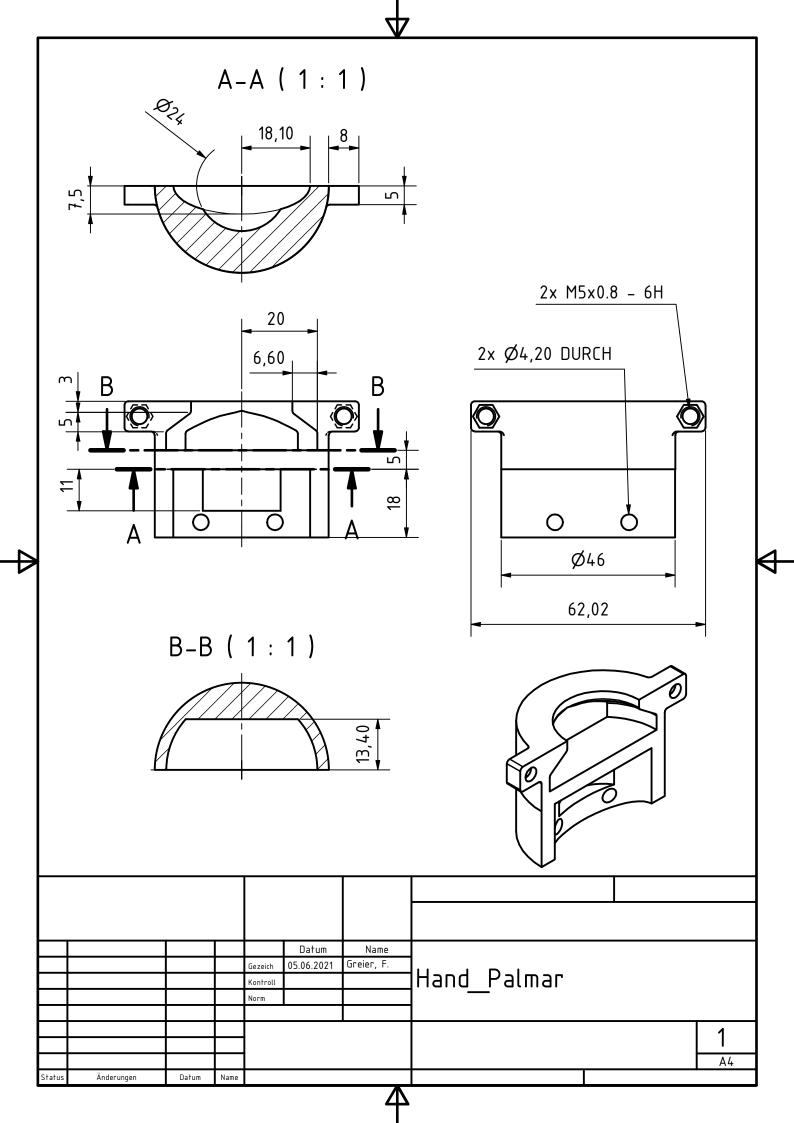
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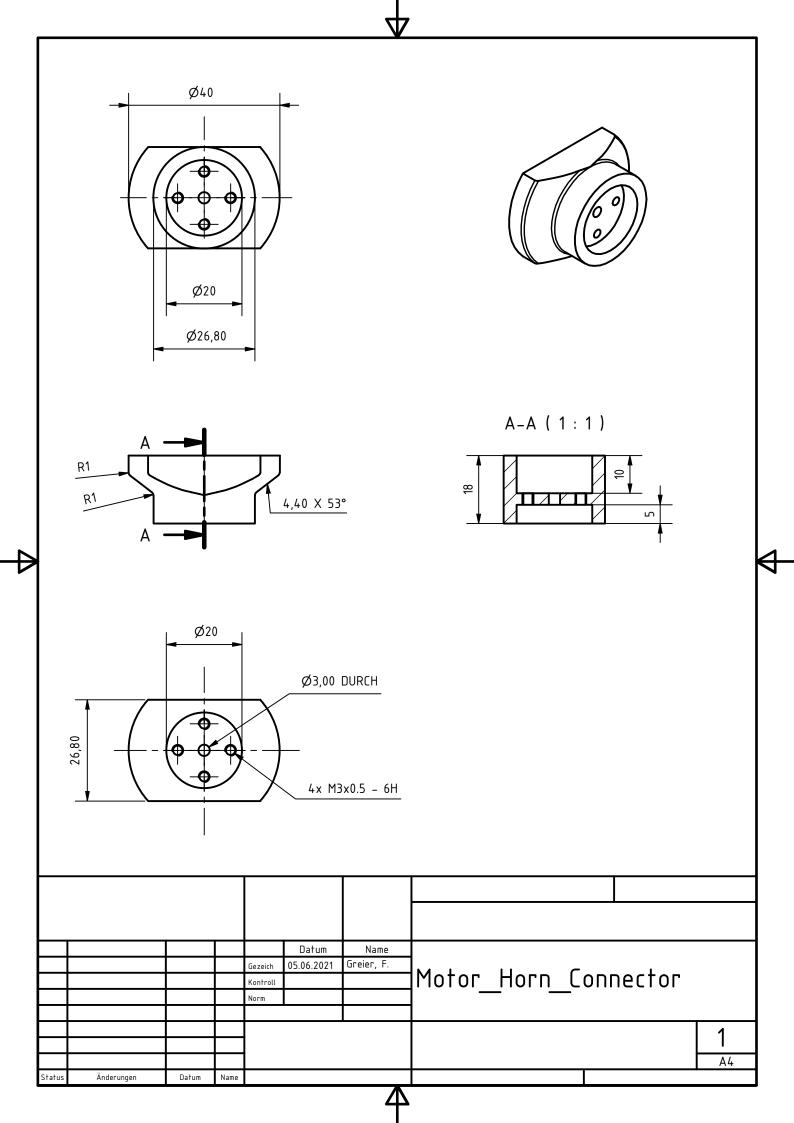
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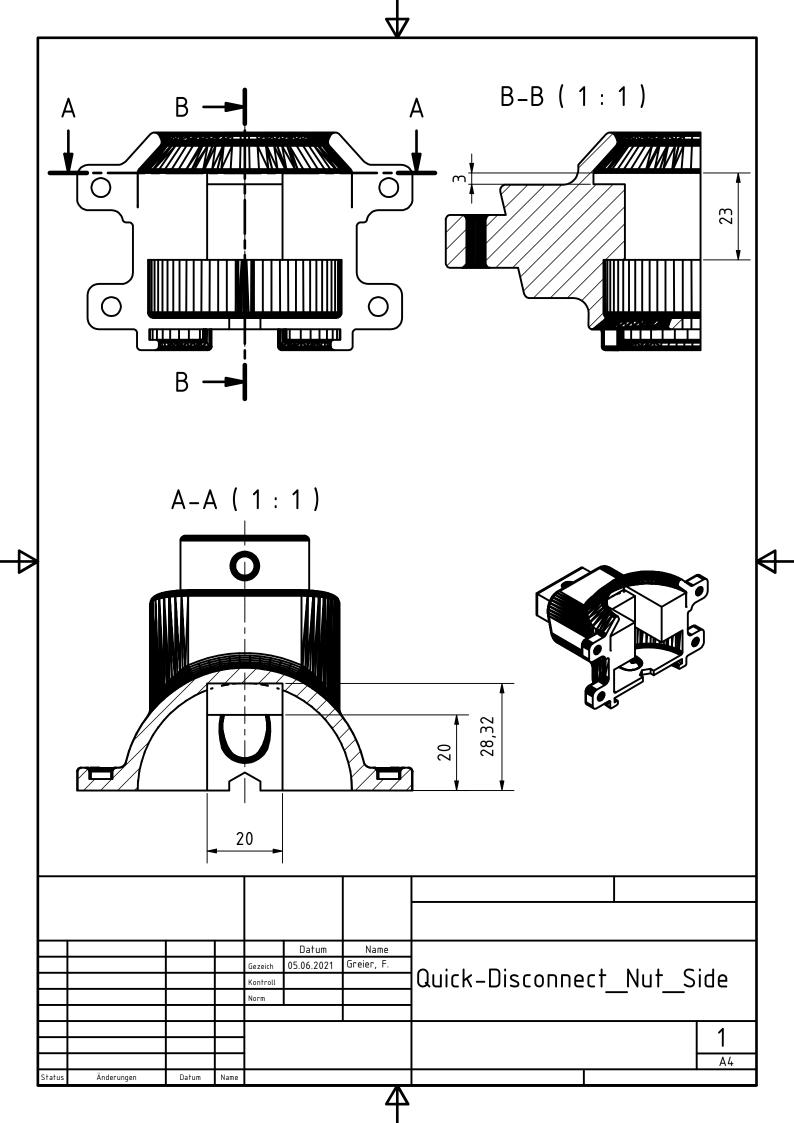
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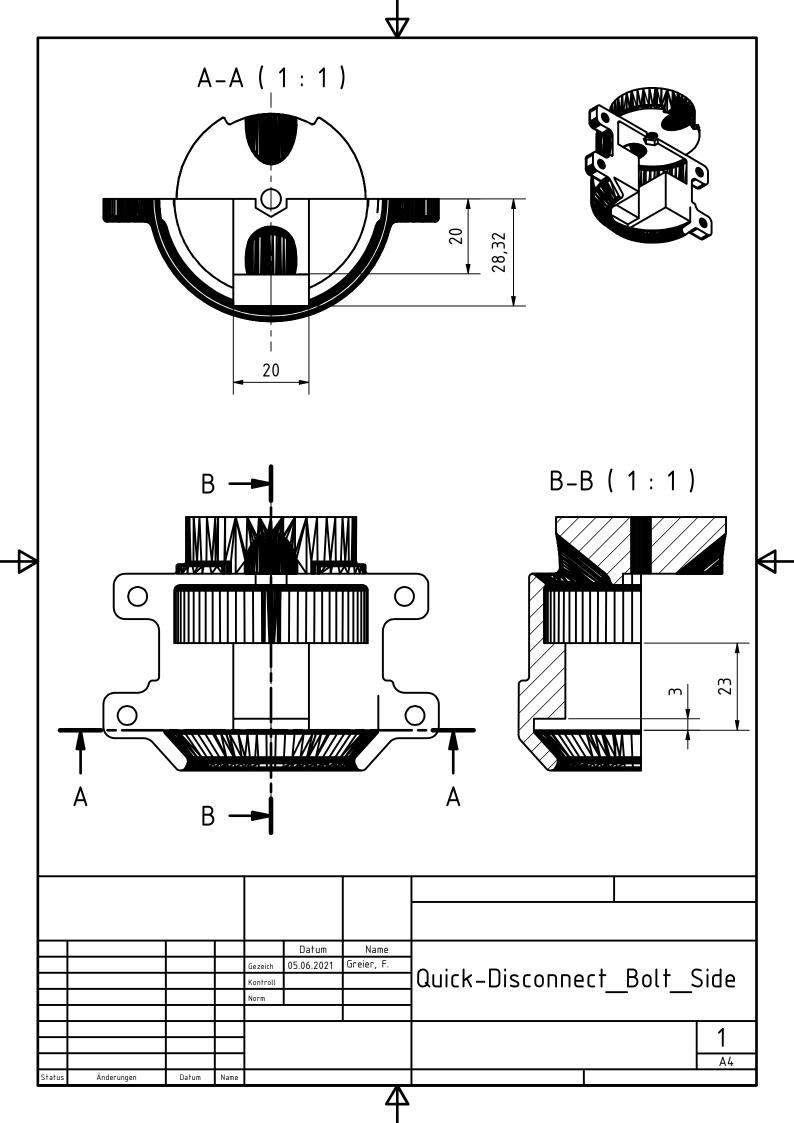
Appendix













Servomotor



Technical Specification

Model	COM-Motor02	
Storage Temperature	-20°C - 60°C	
Operating Temperature	-10°C - 50°C	
Operating Voltage	5V - 7.4V	
Operating Current	6V	80mA
	7.4V	100mA
Speed (no load)	6V	0.16s / 60°
	7.4V	0.15s / 60°
Stall current	6V	1.8A
	7.4V	2A
Idle current	6V	4mA
	7.4V	5mA
Maximum Torque	6V	18.3 kg-cm
	7.4V	21.5 kg-cm
Operating Angle	180° (500 - 2500μsec)	
Neutral Position	1500μsec	
Dimensions (W x D x H)	40 x 20 x 40.5mm	
Scope of Delivery	Servomotor	
EAN	4250236815831	

```
1 #include < Wire.h >
  #include <Adafruit Sensor.h>
  #include <Adafruit_BNO055.h>
4 #include <utility/imumaths.h>
  #include <Servo.h>
  /* This driver uses the Adafruit unified sensor library (Adafruit_Sensor)
8
     which provides a common 'type' for sensor data and some helper
        functions.
9
10
     To use this driver you will also need to download the Adafruit_Sensor
11
     library and include it in your libraries folder.
12
13
     You should also assign a unique ID to this sensor for use with
     the Adafruit Sensor API so that you can identify this particular
14
15
     sensor in any data logs, etc. To assign a unique ID, simply
16
     provide an appropriate value in the constructor below (12345
17
     is used by default in this example).
18
19
     Connections
20
     _____
21
     Connect SCL to SCL pin (analog 5 on Arduino UNO)
22
     Connect SDA to SDA pin (analog 4 on Arduino UNO)
23
     Connect VDD to 3-5V DC (depending on your board's logic level)
24
     Connect GROUND to common ground
25
26
    History
27
     ======
28
     2015/MAR/03 - First release (KTOWN)
29
     2015/AUG/27 - Added calibration and system status helpers
30 */
31
32/* Set the delay between fresh samples */
33 #define BNO055_SAMPLERATE_DELAY_MS (100)
34
35 // Check I2C device address and correct line below (by default address is
      0x29 \text{ or } 0x28)
                                       id, address
36
37 Adafruit_BN0055 bno = Adafruit_BN0055(55, 0x28);
38
39
  /*
     ***************
40
41
      Displays some basic information on this sensor from the unified
42
      sensor API sensor_t type (see Adafruit_Sensor for more information)
43 */
44 / *
                        *********
     */
```

```
45 Servo myservo; // create servo object to control a servo
46 // twelve servo objects can be created on most boards
47 int pos = 0; // variable to store the servo position
48 void displaySensorDetails(void)
49 {
50
    sensor_t sensor;
51
    bno.getSensor(&sensor);
52
    Serial.println("-----");
53
    Serial.print ("Sensor:____"); Serial.println(sensor.name);
54
    Serial.print ("Driver_Ver:__"); Serial.println(sensor.version);
    Serial.print ("Unique_ID:___"); Serial.println(sensor.sensor_id);
55
    Serial.print ("Max_Value:___"); Serial.print(sensor.max_value);
56
       Serial.println(",xxx");
    Serial.print ("Min_Value:___"); Serial.print(sensor.min_value);
57
       Serial.println("_xxx");
58
    Serial.print ("Resolution: "); Serial.print(sensor.resolution);
       Serial.println("_xxx");
59
    Serial.println("----");
60
    Serial.println("");
    delay(500);
61
62 }
63
64 / *
65 / *
66
     Display some basic info about the sensor status
67 */
68 / *
     *************
  void displaySensorStatus(void)
70 {
71
    /* Get the system status values (mostly for debugging purposes) */
72
    uint8_t system_status, self_test_results, system_error;
73
    system_status = self_test_results = system_error = 0;
74
    bno.getSystemStatus(&system_status, &self_test_results, &system_error);
75
76
    /\star Display the results in the Serial Monitor \star/
77
    Serial.println("");
78
    Serial.print("System_Status:_0x");
79
    Serial.println(system_status, HEX);
    Serial.print("Self_Test:____0x");
80
81
    Serial.println(self_test_results, HEX);
82
    Serial.print("System_Error:__0x");
83
    Serial.println(system_error, HEX);
84
    Serial.println("");
85
    delay(500);
86 }
87
```

```
88 / *
89
90
       Display sensor calibration status
91 */
92 /*
93 void displayCalStatus (void)
94 {
95
     /* Get the four calibration values (0..3) */
96
     /* Any sensor data reporting 0 should be ignored, */
97
     /* 3 means 'fully calibrated" */
98
     uint8_t system, gyro, accel, mag;
99
     system = gyro = accel = mag = 0;
100
     bno.getCalibration(&system, &gyro, &accel, &mag);
101
102
     /* The data should be ignored until the system calibration is > 0 */
103
     Serial.print("\t");
104
     if (!system)
105
     {
106
       Serial.print("!");
107
108
109
     /* Display the individual values */
110
     Serial.print("Sys:");
111
     Serial.print(system, DEC);
112
     Serial.print("_G:");
113
     Serial.print(gyro, DEC);
114
     Serial.print(",A:");
115
     Serial.print(accel, DEC);
116
     Serial.print("_M:");
117
     Serial.print (mag, DEC);
118 }
119
120 / *
121 / *
122
       Arduino setup function (automatically called at startup)
123 */
124 / *
125 void setup (void)
126 {
127
     Serial.begin (9600);
128
     Serial.println("Orientation_Sensor_Test"); Serial.println("");
129
     myservo.attach(3);
130
```

```
131
     /* Initialise the sensor */
132
     if(!bno.begin())
133
     {
134
       /* There was a problem detecting the BNO055 ... check your
          connections */
135
       Serial.print("Ooops, _no_BNO055_detected_..._Check_your_wiring_or_I2C_
          ADDR!");
136
       while (1);
137
138
139
     delay(1000);
140
141
     /* Display some basic information on this sensor */
142
     displaySensorDetails();
143
144
     /* Optional: Display current status */
145
     displaySensorStatus();
146
147
     bno.setExtCrystalUse(true);
148 }
149
150
                       *********
151 / *
152
       Arduino loop function, called once 'setup' is complete (your own code
153
       should go here)
154 */
155
156 void loop (void)
157 {
158
     /* Get a new sensor event */
159
     sensors_event_t event;
160
     bno.getEvent(&event);
161
162
     /* Display the floating point data */
163
     Serial.print("Yaw:_");
164
     Serial.print(event.orientation.x, 4);
165
     Serial.print("\tPitch:_");
166
     Serial.print(event.orientation.y, 4);
     Serial.print("\tRoll:..");
167
168
     Serial.print(event.orientation.z, 4);
169
170 pos = event.orientation.z;
171
      myservo.write(pos);
172
173
174
175
     /* Optional: Display calibration status */
```

```
176
     displayCalStatus();
177
178
     /* Optional: Display sensor status (debug only) */
179
     //displaySensorStatus();
180
181
     /\star New line for the next sample \star/
     Serial.println("");
182
183
184
     /\star Wait the specified delay before requesting nex data \star/
185
     delay(BNO055_SAMPLERATE_DELAY_MS);
186 }
```