

JEFF KASTENBAUM

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Hands-on mechanical engineer with strong knowledge of SolidWorks, design for manufacturing, mechanisms, sourcing, and shipping new products. Effective cross-functional collaborator who emphasizes building and maintaining relationships with teams of engineers, customers, and managers.

EXPERIENCE

Bike and Ski Mechanic, REI San Francisco

Apr 2022 – Present

Responsibilities

- Diagnose and repair complex issues in bicycles, skis, and snowboards.
- Maintain tools and equipment for optimal performance and safety.
- Provide expert customer service and advice on equipment and maintenance.

Key Accomplishments

- Redesigned ski/snowboard tuning process to increase revenue by 80% while improving quality and reducing turnaround time by 75% compared to previous year.

Director of Engineering for Resharp, The Hillman Group

Aug 2019 – Oct 2021

Responsibilities

- Oversaw the ongoing development of the Resharp kiosk, including design, manufacturing, and product scaling.
- Managed and cultivated the supply chain, including vendor sourcing and procurement.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary engineering teams (electrical, software) to ensure seamless product integration.
- Led data management and integration with ERP and PLM systems.

Key Accomplishments

- Spearheaded the redesign of Resharp for increased robustness and DFM-focused improvements, streamlining production processes.
- Established a reliable supply chain, sourcing vendors for a 300+ component BOM.
- Created a production line and obtained CSA compliance, facilitating successful deployment in 900 ACE Hardware stores nationally.
- Machines have sharpened almost one million knives, demonstrating commercial success.
- Patent num. 11850698: *Automatic knife sharpening machine with sharpness detection*

Director of Engineering, Resharp

Jan 2018 – Aug 2019

Responsibilities

- Led the initial engineering development of a robotic kiosk revolutionizing knife sharpening services.
- Managed sourcing, supply chain, manufacturing, and data management operations in early stages.
- Collaborated closely with electrical and software engineers for a holistic product development approach while overseeing a team of three mechanical engineers.

Key Accomplishments

- Pioneered the development of the Resharp concept from the ground up, leading to small-batch production readiness.
- Developed technology sufficiently to attract competitive acquisition offers.
- Patent num. 10272535: *Method for automatically resharpenering a knife*

Responsibilities

- Supervised students, ensuring safety and providing guidance on tool usage, fabrication, and design.
- Mentored students in an introductory design and manufacturing course.
- Maintained shop equipment for optimal functionality.

Key Accomplishments

- Developed woodworking and wood turning programs to high educational and safety standards.

EDUCATION

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

2015 – 2017

M.S. in Mechanical Engineering with concentration in Product Realization

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA.

2011 – 2015

B.S. in Product Design

SKILLS

- SOLIDWORKS CAD - Expert
- PDM/PLM Management - Proficient
- Design for Manufacturability - Expert
- Prototyping - Expert
- Sourcing and Procurement - Competent
- Python - Competent
- BOM Management - Proficient
- GD&T - Competent

INTERESTS

Bikepacking

- Pedaled over 5,000 miles with over 350,000 feet of climbing on various bike tours since 2016, including a five month trip from Banff to Palm Springs via large sections of the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route, Arizona Trail, and a plethora of remote dirt roads of the Mountain West; the Silk Road Mountain Race in remote Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia; and countless shorter adventures.

Woodworking

- Hobbyist furniture making with a small shop in my basement.

Crafting

- Knitting and candlemaking.

Zen Buddhism

- Decade-long student of meditation in the style of Suzuki Roshi.