

Tyler Kiefer

website:
tylerkiefer.com

Skills

- Kinematic Design
- Systems Design
- Finite Element Analysis
- Lithium Battery Module & Enclosure Design
- Design for Machinability & Manufacturing
- Belt Drive Design
- CAD Modeling
- ASME Y14.5 GD&T
- Part Design:
 - Sheet Metal
 - Machined
 - Weldment
 - Casting
 - Molded Plastic

Programming Languages:

- Python
- C
- HTML/CSS
- Javascript

Computer Software:

- Solidworks
- Creo (Pro/E)
- OnShape
- Altair

Engineering Experience

Kiefer Engineering, Inc.
Owner / Engineer

Colorado Springs, CO
Feb 2022 – Present

- Consulted for multiple clients on wide range of projects from lithium battery systems to heavy agricultural machinery.
- Managed project timelines and set goals to ensure milestone dates were met.
- Led team of engineers across multiple consecutive projects and coordinated effort to complete projects successfully.
- Designed manufacturing plan for new Lithium battery module, as well as made improvements to module design.
- Wrote Python code to simulate articulation of boom arms and suspension height on autonomous agricultural sprayer machine.
- Improved C code for BMS of solar storage lithium battery solution to reduce memory footprint for embedded system controller.
- Designed 2nd revision of Lithium battery inverter enclosure to reduce cost and improve sealing.

Stewart & Stevenson (formerly Voltabox)
Senior Mechanical Engineer

Austin, TX
Jan 2020 – Feb 2022

- Led mechanical design of 24 kWh Lithium battery system for commercial vehicle.
 - Successfully packaged modules, electrical chassis, and inverters into small space allowance and routed HV and signal wiring.
 - Achieved manufacturing friendly design that met IP (ingress protection) rating goals.
- Designed new 4 kWh 16s2p prismatic Lithium battery module with goal of reducing weight and module cost.
 - Conducted FEA to confirm calculated stresses for EOL cell expansion reaction at module end caps and tension members.
 - Successfully built prototypes and testing setup. Progressed design into production runs.
- Collaborated on design of 10,000 V / 2,880 kWh Lithium battery mobile power trailer for off-grid oil well duty.
 - Led mechanical design of module mounting to cooling plate.
 - Calculated cooling requirements for chilled fluid cooling system and designed cooling plates to meet requirements.
 - Conducted full FEA of static, modal, and dynamic load cases of module racks.
 - Provided insight to reduce cost on module rack by allowing for simpler parts with greater tolerance allowance.
 - Designed and conducted FEA of articulating lifting structure to move 5000 lb Lithium battery system.
- Created novel method for handling and installing battery modules.
- Worked closely with Project Management to lead project through concept, prototype, testing, and production phases.
- Identified and worked with suppliers to ensure received parts met quality requirements.
- Collaborated to diagnose and solve laser welding issues on battery cell tabs.
 - Utilized FLIR imaging to verify cell tab to busbar weld quality during NHR high current module test.
- Diagnosed and resolved high-pot test issues due to manufacturer defects from cell supplier.
- Improved effectiveness and safety of laser weld mask for pouch cell module. Achieved increased consistency of welds across module.

- Organized UN 38.3 standard testing plan and collaborated with testing house:
 - Designed vibration test mounting components to test Lithium battery system to standard vibration specifications.
- Routinely modeled and created GD&T drawings; reviewed and released peer drawings.
- Designed, machined, and built weld mask prototype for cylindrical cell UPS Lithium battery pack.
- Led FMEA and team review of analysis to determine failure risk factors of lithium battery module and enclosures.

DJH Engineering Center, Inc
Mechanical Design Engineer

Salt Lake City, UT
 2012 – December 2019

- Collaborated directly with John Deere on ground-up designs for combine harvesters, cotton harvesters, and large tractors. Responsible for full design of critical systems and functional areas from ground-up concept, through prototype builds, testing, and into production.
- Utilized FEA to optimize material weight and stress paths and improve mechanical properties.
- Managed teams of 8+ engineers to efficiently bring projects from concept to CAD models and GD&T drawings.
- Taught internal class on drive belt implementation.
- Commended for my contributions to DJH Engineering winning the prestigious *John Deere Supplier of the Year Award* four times during my tenure.

S430/S440 Combine

- Developed a belt drive system containing twelve belts to drive all functional components of the combine.
- Implemented FEA to remove material from low-stress areas achieving weight reduction.
- Performed kinematic analysis to optimize feeder house cylinder size and location.
- Designed crop separator rotor system to isolate seed and grain from crop efficiently.
- Created grain tank fill auger and unload auger systems.
 - Performed kinematic analysis to size the hydraulic cylinder as required to extend/retract the unload auger.

X9 Twin Rotor Combine

- Generated position sensor transfer functions for all three moving structures of the feeder house.
- Selected to be on urgent task force to improve cooling package debris mitigation and engine cooling as performance issues were found late in testing.

9R Tractor

- Worked with engine team to design cooling package and layout of hose routing to radiators.
- Designed aesthetic rotational molded plastic air intake stack.

Lynntech, Inc.
Product Development Engineer

College Station, TX
 2010 – 2012

- Machined, assembled, and tested high-tech, 140 cell, 30 kW, fuel cell stacks.
- Inspected and measured parts using surface plate, gauge blocks and dial indicators to ensure part quality.
- Routinely designed, created GD&T drawings, and machined parts with quick turn-around times.
- Collaborated on proposals for U.S. DoD and DoT contracts.
- Designed and built test equipment for GPS aware FLIR locating system for a DoD project.
 - Programmed and operated Bridgeport CNC mill during 6 month assignment in machine shop.

Education

Michigan Technological University
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Houghton, MI
 2010

- Active member of **SAE Aerospace Design** club. Competed to design highest payload remote aircraft.