## Design Project 2 – Get A Grip

ENGINEER 1P13 - Integrated Cornerstone Design Projects in Engineering

# Tutorial 7 Team Thurs-16

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Isabel Anderson

## **Academic Integrity Statement**

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## **Executive Summary**

The task for this project, labeled "Get a Grip", takes inspiration from the increasing need for robotic arm assistance during surgical procedures [1]. As a part of this process, our team was approached with the challenge of designing a container that can be used to hold a surgical tool and partake in the tool's sterilization, as well as designing a program code that will pick up, transfer, and drop off different containers to their assigned autoclave location [1]. The autoclaves need to be activated to start the sterilization process, and then deactivated when it is done. Our solution to this challenge includes a container design that can fit in our assigned footprint shape, and that securely holds our assigned surgical tool for sterilization. Our container design includes small holes in the bottom and sides to allow water and steam to pass through the container and reach the tool inside. We also included a lid with holes to keep the surgical tool from exiting the container. Inside the base of the container, there are two small pegs that are designed to keep the tool from moving within the container during sterilization. The computing component of our solution includes a code used to control the Q-Arm. First, our program spawns a new container every loop for six different containers in a random order. The code then goes on to include functions that can pick up the container, allows the use of the right potentiometer to rotate the arm towards the corresponding-coloured autoclave, identify the color and size of the container, and then drop off the container to the correct location based on the previous information. The program also uses the left potentiometer to indicate whether an autoclave drawer needs to be opened or not depending on its size. We also include print statements within each function to instruct any user on how to operate the Q-Arm with the potentiometers. After we identified all of the functions, they are included in a specific order within our main function so the program can run simply by calling the main function. The program will then terminate after six runs of the code, indicating that all six containers have been dropped off at their corresponding locations. These two components form a possible solution for the use of Q-Arms in the healthcare field. Our solution presents a suitable container that will aid in the sterilization process, as well as a program that can be used to minimize time when organizing and sterilizing specific tools.

## **Main Body**

### **Summary of Design Objectives**

Project "Get A Grip" is geared towards achieving two main objectives aimed at optimizing project efficiency and the main objective which is transporting the container safely. To complete these tasks, we consider a variety of objectives, constraints, and functions throughout our design process (*Table 1*). Firstly, the initial main objective is entrusted with the modeling team, tasked with developing a 3D-modeled container that is both lightweight and medical-grade. The container is designed to picked up for sterilization processes and seamlessly transport it to an autoclave using a robotic Q-Arm. This involves implementing an efficient sterilization procedure, crafting a secure form capable of precisely holding surgical tools, and ensuring adherence to specified solid model criteria. as well as autoclave footprint restrictions and design limits. The limitations on the weight to be less than or equal to 350g, and limitations placed by the 3D printer requiring that features of the container must be greater than 2mm in size [1].

Subsequently, the second main objective involves the computing team in creating a simple computer code for the Q-arm. This program is essential for executing multiple commands involved in transferring of the container. The application plays a critical role in ensuring the precise execution of orders, facilitating the smooth transfer of the container to the autoclave for sterilization without any disruptions, and maintaining strict adherence to safety requirements throughout the process [1]. Specifically, the coded needed to be able to loop through six differently coloured and sized containers placing them in the correct autoclave with the proper use of left and right potentiometers [1].

Objectives	Constraints	Functions	
Container should securely hold	Container must have weight less	Container has the ability to be	
surgical tools.	than or equal to 350g	held.	
Program code should be time	The container must sit in the	Arm picks up and moves	
efficient and effective.	given footprint.	container to the correct	
		autoclave.	
The grip of the arm should be	Program must interact with Q-	The code and the containers	
well balanced and strong enough	labs and use a potentiometer.	must be compatible with each	
to hold the container weight.		other.	
Minimal excess movement of the	Tools must fit properly in the	The container can be closed	
arm.	container.	once the tool is inside.	
Objects inside the container can	Must have a total print time after	Tools have minimal movement	
be sterilized within it.	scaling of less than two hours,	inside container.	
	and no part can be smaller than		
	2mm.		

Table 1. Finalized list of objectives, constraints, and functions

#### **Background and Research Summary**

In project two "Get a Grip", the goal was to design a container that would hold and protect a medical tool for sterilization in an autoclave [1]. The other aspect of the project was creating code for a robotic arm (Q-arm) to sort and move containers. It could move based on joints modeled similarly to those of a human arm, with a base, shoulder, elbow, and gripper. The motion of the arm needed to be done step by step in order to not overlap commands and have the motion be smooth and the grip in the physical demonstration not to be too hard so as not to damage the tool. These could be moved individually using angle measurements, or the gripper effector of the arm could be sent to a specific coordinate location. The Qarm was coded to pick up, move and drop off containers in specific autoclaves. In the simulation environment, there were three different coloured autoclaves green, red, and blue, of which each had a small and a large drop off location for the container. The unique drop off location was dependent on the colour and size of the container. The code took potentiometer readings as inputs for the rotation degrees and worked as switches to help determine the size of the container. Additionally, the code needed to check if the manual input matched the information it was sensing to see if an adjustment needed to be made. The container that was designed differed from the simulation containers, its shape needed to minimize mass, protect, and effectively hold the tool which was a pair of medical scissors [1]. At the same time, holes were needed to allow heat and water to pass through for sterilization in an autoclave. In real applications, autoclaves are machines used to sterilize medical tools, they often use wet heat (steam) to cleanse the object of germs and bacteria; because of this, the container would need to be made from a stiff material with a high melting point, a common choice is stainless steel [2]. When designing a container with a specific purpose such as for "Get a Grip," it is important to consider all options before choosing a design, as more than one idea will work, but some will be more optimal than others. The use of a robotic arm in real application would be similar to that of the simulation, it could help streamline process of sorting that would otherwise need to be done manually. In the modern world, variations of robotic arms are used from everything from space (the Canadarm) to medicine, and more [3].

#### **Description of Proposed Solution**

The functionality of the design calls a main function which includes a for loop that calls three predefined functions: pickup, rotate base, and drop off (*Figure 1*). Before the main function calls any of those functions, it starts off by shuffling a list of container IDs from 1-6. This randomizes the order in which the containers will spawn. While there is still a container to spawn, the main function calls the pickup

function where the Q-arm will go to the container pick up location, pick up the container and return it to the home position. After the Q-arm has gone through the pickup function, the main function calls the rotate base function where the user can use the right potentiometer to rotate the base if and only if the left potentiometer is set to 0. The user will then set the left potentiometer to 50 to indicate the desired rotation is acquired. The main function then calls the drop off function where the program will check if the autoclave colour matches the container colour and if it is a small or large container. If it is a small container, the Q-arm will drop the container off on top of the corresponding autoclave, and if it is large, the program will activate the autoclaves, open the corresponding autoclave's drawer where the Q-arm can now drop the container off inside, which now allows the program to close the drawer and deactivate the autoclaves. The main function loops through this whole process for all 6 containers, then returns home and terminates after it is all done.

```
def main():
    Function: main()
    Purpose: To pickup, move and drop off containers generated at random into their correct autoclaves.
    Inputs: container - a random number from 1-6
             potentiometer readings - moved by hand and shown as percentages (floats form 0-1)
    Outputs: arm movement
    Authors: Isabel Anderson, Reem Basiouny, Elaine Ocampo
Last Update: November 16, 2023
#generate a number from 1-6 for the container ID then spawn that container.
     container_ids = [1,2,3,4,5,6]
    random.shuffle(container ids)
    print(container_ids)
    for i in range(6):
          container = container_ids[i]
         time.sleep(3)
         arm.spawn_cage(container)
print("The container has id number", container)
         time.sleep(2)
#Pick up the conta
pick_up()
         time.sleep(0.5)
         print("Set left potentiometer to 0")
while potentiometer.left() != 0.0:
             time.sleep(2)
print("You may now use the right potentimeter to rotate the arm, when you are done, the left potentiometer to 50%")

#rotate the base to the correponding autoclave
         rotate_base()
while (potentiometer.left() != 0.5):
             time.sleep(2)
print("if the container is large set left potentiometer to 100, if it is small set between 50 and 100")

#drop off the container
         drop off(container)
        print("Thank you container has been placed, please reset both potentiometers to 50%")
```

Figure 1. Main Function in the code

The proposed container is in the shape of a cuboid, truncated on two opposite sides to appear more triangular and similar to the tool; it was designed this way because it was intended to house a surgical clamp, which commonly has a wide base and a small tip (*Figure 2*). The container is just as high as the tool. Although the shape is tapered, it maintains two parallel faces at all opposite ends to give the arm places to hold onto. It has two extruded cylinders in the interior for equipment security. It has multiple openings (holes) along its sides to facilitate the process of sterilization and uses a hinge system to open and close the container.

The container constraints were all met as it weighed less than 350 grams, every feature was equal to or greater than 2mm, it secured the equipment, and it could fit into its footprint.



Figure 2. Final 3D printed container design

#### Strengths and Limitations of Design

The simulation code runs smoothly without errors and loops through all six containers, placing them correctly. In the drop off function, if the potentiometer input does not match what the code has stored for correct size and colour, it will ask for new potentiometer readings, even allowing you to re-rotate be base if needed, until the corresponding values are given (*Figures 3 and 4*). This helps to eliminate errors in placement which would be incredibly important for real world application. The arm is coded to sense if it is within 15cm of the correct autoclave location and automatically correct itself, this eliminates human error in rotation, and ensures a safe and repeatable deposit of the container. However, the arm moves slowly, this is needed as it otherwise combines movements, leading to the wrong output. This is not a large issue in the simulation, but when applied on a large scale a couple seconds quickly escalate into hours. The potentiometer can also be finicky and occasionally cause abrupt movement or not respond immediately. Additionally, when transferring from the simulation to physical environment, numbers and coordinates that worked for one don't always apply to the other, this could again be an issue when applied on a wider scale with many different arms and locations.

```
def dtop off(ContainerID):

***Punction: drop_off()

Pupose: This function angles the arm and drops it in the correct autoclave, as well as opening and closing drawers if needed.
Inputs: ContainerID - an integer from 1-6

**Potentiometer readings - input by hand and come in the form of a float from 0-1.

**Outputs: The movement of the arm
**Author: Isabel Anderson
**Lant Opdate: December 1, 2023

item can drop = False
**arm.activate autoclaves()

### See if the container is large or small and reach the drop position for the autoclave of the correct colour and size with the drawer being opened if need be.

**while not item_can drop;

if (potentiometer.left() > 0.5 and potentiometer.left() <1) and (ContainerID < 4): #Checks if the container is small

if (ContainerID = 2 and arm.check autoclave('green') == True): #*small green container position

arm.move_arm(0.0, 0.612, 0.302)

item_can drop = True

elif (ContainerID == 1 and arm.check_autoclave('red')==True): #*small blue container position

arm.move_arm(0.0, 0.612, 0.302)

item_can drop = True

else:

**containerID == 3 and arm.check_autoclave('blue') == True): #*small blue container position

arm.move_arm(0.0, 0.612, 0.34)

item_can drop = True

else:

**containerID == 4 and arm.check_autoclave('blue') == True): #*small blue container position

arm.containerID == 4 and arm.check_autoclave('red')==True): #*small blue container position

arm.containerID == 4 and arm.check_autoclave('red')==True): #*large red container position

arm.containerID == 5 and arm.check_autoclave('red')==True): #*large green container position

arm.containerID == 5 and arm.check_autoclave('red')==True): #*large green container position

arm.containerID == 5 and arm.check_autoclave('red')==True): #*large green container position

arm.containerID == 5 and arm.check_autoclave('red')==True): #*large green container position

arm.containerID == 5 and arm.check_autoclave('red')==True): #*large green container position

arm.containerID == 5 and arm.check_autoclave('red')==True): #*large green
```

Figure 3. Drop Off function

```
elif (ContainerID == 6 and arm.check autoclave('blue') == True): flarge blue container position
    arm.open_autoclave('blue', frue)
    arm.move_arm(0.0, -0.397, 0.178)
    item_can_drop = True
else:
    print("error")
    time.sleep(2)
    print("flease set left potentiometer to 0 then rotate the base again to the correct autoclave, when you are done please set left potentiometer to 50%")
    rotate_base()
    item_can_drop = False
|Drop off the container and return arm to home
    time.sleep(2)
    arm.control_gripper(-45)
    time.sleep(2)
    print("The object has been dropped off, returning to home")
    arm.home()
|Check to see if a drawer needs to be closed and close the corresponding one

if ContainerID >3:
    if ContainerID = 4:
        arm.open_autoclave('red', False)
    elif ContainerID = 5:
        arm.open_autoclave('green', False)
    elif ContainerID = 6:
        arm.open_autoclave('green', False)
    elif ContainerID = 6:
        arm.open_autoclave('blue', False)
    else:
        print("error")
    arm.declave_autoclaves('blue', False)
    else:
        print("error")
    arm.declave_autoclaves()
```

Figure 4. Drop Off function continued

On the modelling side, the container, should be able to securely hold the specific tool in place during the relocation process. Openings are present to enable the container to act efficiently for sterilization, and due to its shape and the cylinders within that aid in tool security, the tool's movements are minimised. The shape of the container has also proven to be compatible with the Q-Arm. The shape also significantly reduces the amount of material needed to produce a single unit, minimising the cost of production and printing time. The hinge system also allows the container to be closed after the tool has been placed inside, making it easier to transport the container with the tool inside.

The container is only able to transport one tool at a time to ensure that the shape fits within the footprint and minimizes material-related costs. Additionally, because of the container's width and low centre of mass, the equipment security could be compromised if it were to encounter a slight turning force

while being transported. The shape of the container makes it rather difficult to pick up, although it's still very possible. The container also has no direct system for sterilizing the bottom of the tool unless the surface the container is placed on also has openings. The thickness of components is just barely acceptable – it was designed this way to maximize the interior volume while minimizing exterior area to ensure that the container still fits within the footprint – making the container more susceptible to failure when under the influence of lateral, unaccounted gravity loads or unprecedented force; if a miscalculation occurs in the Q-Arm code, the container will likely be crushed.

## **Summary of Contributions**

Table 2. Summary of Contributions Table

Isabel Anderson	<ul> <li>Created the final Gantt chart</li> <li>Created the drop off function</li> <li>Contributed to the main function.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Submitted the coding team deliverables and milestones.</li> <li>Wrote the background research summary and the coding section of strengths and limitations.</li> </ul>
Elaine Ocampo	<ul> <li>Created pick up function in the code</li> <li>Contributed to main function in the code</li> <li>Filled out the meeting minutes for weekly TA meetings</li> <li>Kept a logbook of additional meeting</li> <li>Wrote the computing part of description of proposed solution</li> </ul>
Reem Basiouny	<ul> <li>Created preliminary Gant Chart</li> <li>Made manager agendas for weekly TA meetings</li> <li>Created rotate base function in code</li> <li>Contributed to main function in code</li> <li>Wrote executive summary</li> </ul>
Akinniyi Chidiebube	<ul> <li>Submission of Modelling Sub-team's deliverables</li> <li>Wrote the modelling section of "Strengths and Limitations"</li> <li>Made the container designs</li> <li>CAD Modelling of the container</li> <li>Contributed to Printing the 3D container</li> </ul>
Luay Alkader	<ul> <li>Created The objective summary.</li> <li>Contributed to designing the container.</li> <li>Grammer check of all the paragraphs and topics.</li> <li>Contributed to Printing the 3D container</li> </ul>

## **Reference List**

- [1] McMaster University Faculty of Engineering, "P2 Project Module: Get a Grip," Avenue to Leam. [Accessed: December. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023].
- [2] "EFFECTIVE STAINLESS-STEEL USAGE IN MEDICAL ENVIRONMENTS," Unified Alloys, [Online]. Available: <a href="https://www.unifiedalloys.com/blog/medical-stainless-steel">https://www.unifiedalloys.com/blog/medical-stainless-steel</a>. [Accessed December. 3rd 2023].

[3] "BEST APPLICATIONS OF ROBOTIC ARMS," UNIVERSAL ROBOTS, 15 November 2022. [Online]. Available: <a href="https://www.universal-robots.com/in/blog/applications-of-robotic-arms/">https://www.universal-robots.com/in/blog/applications-of-robotic-arms/</a>. [Accessed: December. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023]

## **Appendices**

### Appendix A: Project Schedule

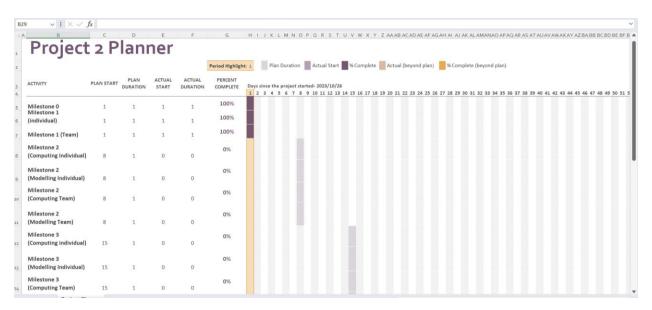


Figure 2. Preliminary Gantt Chart

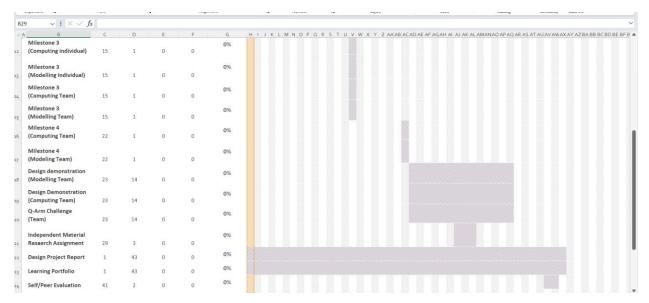


Figure 3 Preliminary Gantt Chart continued



Figure 4. Final Gantt Chart

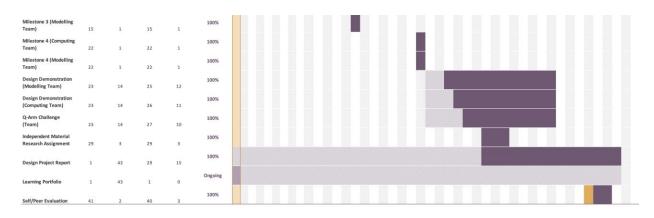


Figure 5. Final Gantt Chart continued

#### Coordinator Logs

Reason
Write pseudocode for our program
write pseudocode for our program
Write code and define functions for our program

#### Tuesday, November 7 (Meeting outside DS):

Wrote pseudocode for picking up the container and continuing or terminating the program
depending on whether there are still more containers to sort and sterilize.

#### Tuesday, November 14 (Meeting outside DS):

- Turned our pseudocode into actual code and wrote the rest of our program by defining a pickup function, a rotate base function, and a drop off function.
- · Split up the work between everyone and decided on who worked on which function.

Figure 6. Logbook of Additional Meetings and Discussions

#### **Appendix B: Scheduled Weekly Meetings**

#### **A**GENDA ITEMS

- 1. Attendance and recap
  - Last time we broke down the project into objectives functions and means and used those to layout our individual milestones
  - Prior to DS we had to do a workflow and prototype model, we all did it, did anyone have any questions about their specific one
- We didn't really have a prototype yet from last time to reflect on and change since it was our first DS, but we can discuss the conceptualizing of both sub teams, and how they are built off of, and/or differ from the functions and means we highlighted in our last milestone
- 3. Action items for this meeting, (we also need to see what tool and footprint we are assigned)
- Final notes: we seem to be on track of everything, are there any questions? Check if our models and flow charts look right.

#### MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Attendance and Recap
  - Shared our workflow and prototype model with everyone and asked questions about each other's
- 2. Discussion
  - a. Discussed what each sub team has done so far and what needs to get done in the future.
- 3. Action Items for this meeting
  - a. Checked on Avenue our assigned environment, tool, and footprint
- 4. TA Check-in
  - Asked a TA if our workflows and models were good and received positive feedback with some minor changes to make.

Figure 7. November 2 Agenda Items and Meeting Minutes

#### **A**GENDA ITEMS

- Attendance
- 2. Check up- we all completed Stage 1 of Milestone 3 (specific pseudocode and initial design of final sterilization container)
- 3. Ask T.A to look over our functions from milestone 2 stage 2 (how the potentiometers work with them), the pseudocode we just did (stage 1 milestone 3), and modeling teams design so far.
- 4. Sub-team check up on each other's progress
- 5. Check Action Items

#### MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Attendance
  - a. Everyone is here
- 2. Check-up
  - a. The initial design of the container looks good
  - b. The pseudo code had to be edited a little
- 3. TA Check-in
  - a. Functions looked good, just ensure the functions include the potentiometers
- 4. Sub-team check-in
  - Modelling sub-team updated the computing sub-team on how the container is looking, and the computing sub-team showed the modelling sub-team what functions were written
- 5. Action Items
  - a. Make sure Milestone 3 is completed and submitted by the end of the day

Figure 8. November 9 Agenda Items and Meeting Minutes

#### **A**GENDA ITEMS

- 1. Attendance
- 2. Check up- we all completed Stage 1 of Milestone 4
- 3. Ask T.A to look over our functions and ask about main function workings, modeling teams design.
- 4. Sub-team check up on each other's progress
- 5. Check Action Items

#### MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Attendance
  - a. Everyone is here
- 2. Check up
  - a. Everyone completed Stage 1 of Milestone 4 which was completed prior to DS
- 3 TA Check un
  - a. A TA took a look at the modelling sub-team's design and asked about the mass and why
    certain decisions were made.
  - b. Was not approved for 3D printing, made suggestions like change the shape and height of the container to minimize the material and printing time.
  - c. A TA looked over the simulation code and if it could run with no errors.
- 4. Sub-team check up
  - a. Updated each other on the TA's feedback
- Action Items
  - a. Submit Milestone 4 by the end of the day

#### Figure 9. November 16 Agenda Items and Meeting Minutes

#### **A**GENDA ITEMS

- 1. Attendance
- 2. Check up- made improvements to both the code and the final cad model.
- 3. Ask TA for feedback on new code and do follow up meeting on container design
- 4. Action Items

#### MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Attendance
  - a. Everyone is here
- 2. Check up
  - a. Got the go ahead to 3D print as modifications were made to the final CAD model
  - b. Added to our code so it is able to loop through all 6 containers in a random order
- 3. TA Check up
  - a. A TA watched as we ran our program and she saw that we were able to loop our code and sort a large container appropriately
- 4. Action Items
  - a. Finalize our code and make any adjustments if needed
  - b. Finish 3D printing

Figure 10. November 23 Agenda Items and Meeting Minutes

#### **Appendix C: Comprehensive List of Sources**

- [1] McMaster University Faculty of Engineering, "P2 Project Module: Get a Grip," Avenue to Learn. [Accessed: December. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023]
- [2] "EFFECTIVE STAINLESS-STEEL USAGE IN MEDICAL ENVIRONMENTS," Unified Alloys, [Online]. Available: <a href="https://www.unifiedalloys.com/blog/medical-stainless-steel">https://www.unifiedalloys.com/blog/medical-stainless-steel</a>. [Accessed: December. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023].
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#### Additional Documentation

#### Final Code

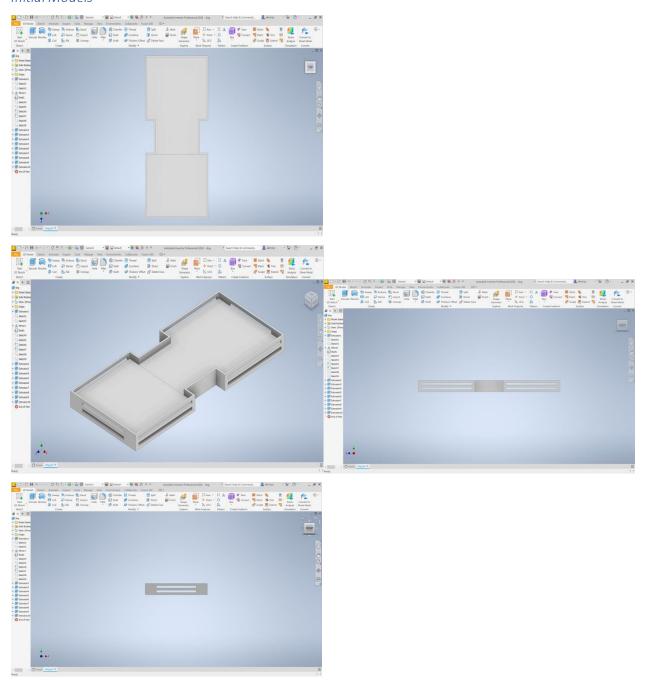
```
import random
#Note, for red set right potentiometer to around 77, for green around 97, and for blue around 23
def pick_up():
     Function: pick_up()
     Purpose: This function moves the arm to the spawn location, picks it up, and brings it back to the home position. Inputs: Coordinates of the spawn location and the home location
     Outputs: Moves the Q-arm back to the home position with the container, ready to be transferred
     Author: Elaine Ocampo
     Last Update: November 16, 2023
      arm.move arm(0.567,0.05,-0.006)
     time.sleep(2)
arm.control_gripper(45)
time.sleep(2)
arm.move_arm(0.406, 0.0, 0.483)
     time.sleep(2)
def rotate_base():
     Puprose: This function takes in left potentiometer values and allow the right potentiometer to function accordingly. Input: Left potentiometer values - 0.0 and 0.5 Output: right potentiometer can rotate base Authors: Reem Basiouny
     Last Update: November 16, 2023
     item_can_dropped = False
old reading = potentiometer.right()
while not item_can_dropped:
#Can manually use the right potentiometer to rotate base
```

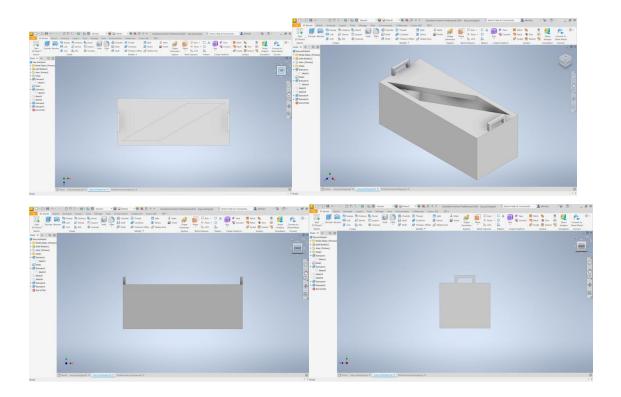
#### Figure 11. Final code

Figure 12. Final code continued

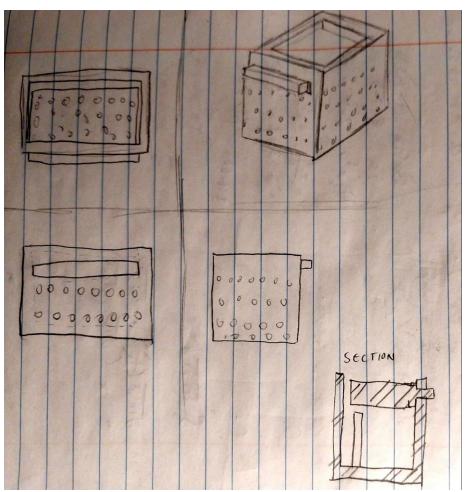
Figure 13. Final code continued once more

## Initial Models



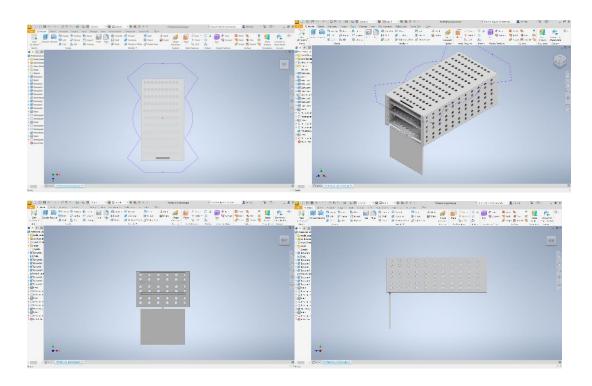


## Preliminary Designs

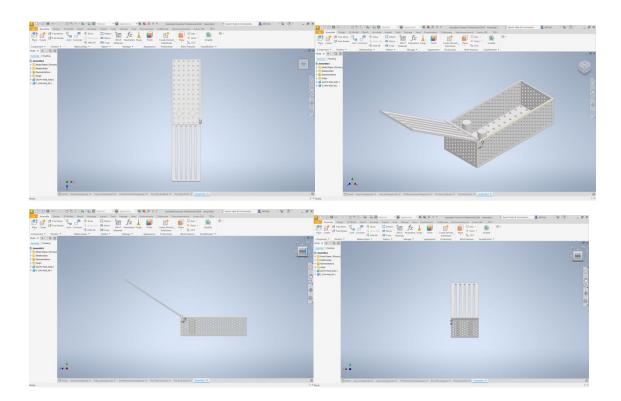




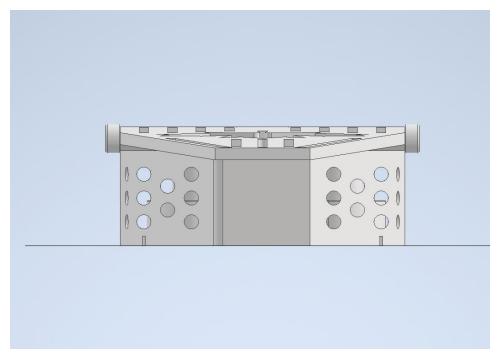
1.

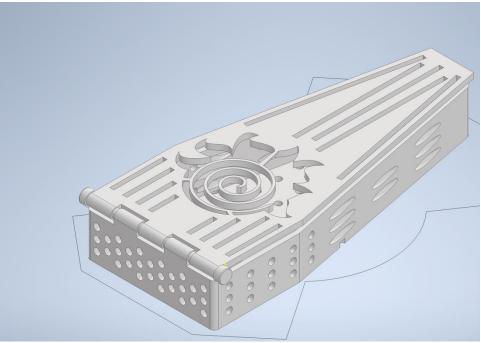


2.

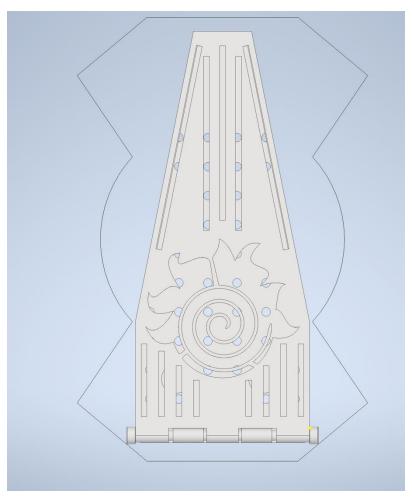


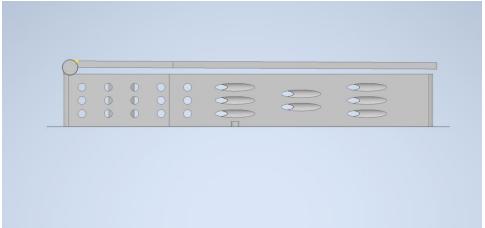
## FINAL DESIGN





Design Studio Section 7





Engineering Drawings

Appendix D: Design Studio Worksheets