



# TIPS FOR WORKING WITH A CONTRACT MANUFACTURER

# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Stages of Design
- ▶ Production Ready
- ▶ Design for Manufacturing
- ▶ Sales Considerations
- ▶ Vendor Strategies

# STAGES OF DESIGN

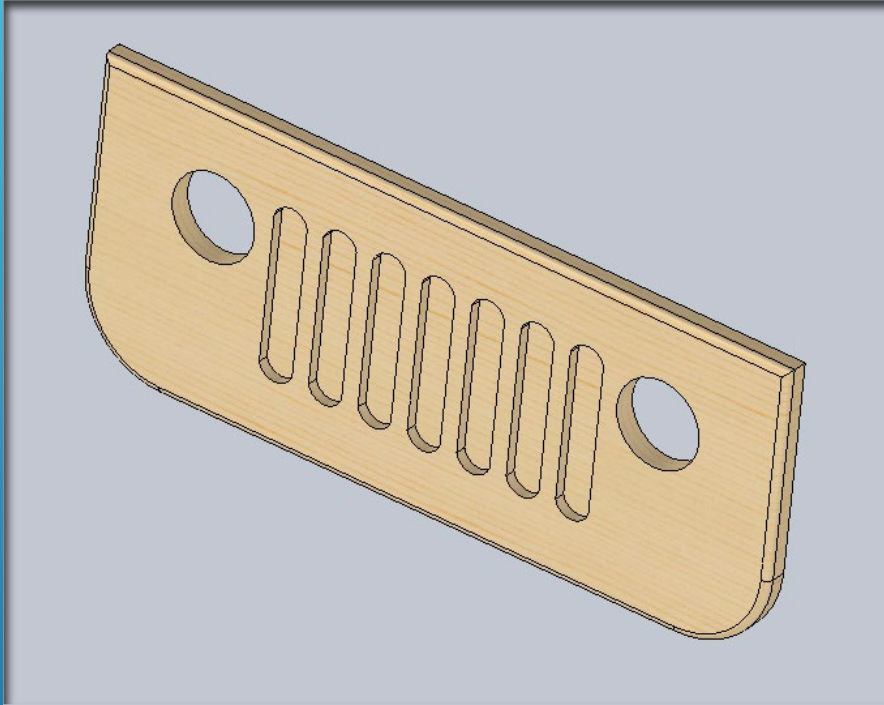
Concept Phase

Prototype Phase

Production Ready

# PRODUCTION READY

- ❑ Digital solid models
- ❑ Design for Manufacturability
- ❑ Prototypes
- ❑ Materials
- ❑ Final drawings



- ▶ Digital models
- ▶ Formats: .sldpart, .step, .stp, .dwg
- ▶ SolidWorks, Fusion360, Rhino, Sketchup
- ▶ Prototypes confirmed
- ▶ Preliminary drawings

SOLID MODELS

- ▶ Manufacturing process
- ▶ Design
- ▶ Material
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Compliance/testing
- ▶ Critical features

# DESIGN FOR MANUFACTURABILITY



- ▶ Created from digital models
- ▶ Iterations
- ▶ Methods of manufacturing
- ▶ Confirm form, fit and function
- ▶ Critical dimensions

PROTOTYPES



- ▶ Highlight the critical dimension(s)
- ▶ Designed for the manufacturing process
- ▶ Provide notes on finish, cosmetic surfaces
- ▶ Includes material
- ▶ Bill of Material (as required)
- ▶ Assembly instructions (as required)
- ▶ Revision(s) and date
- ▶ PDF format

## FINAL DRAWINGS



# SALES



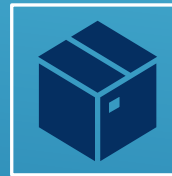
Market  
research



Customer  
feedback



Sales  
strategy



Fulfillment



Order  
quantities

# VENDOR STRATEGIES

- ▶ Feedback
- ▶ Responsive
- ▶ Size compatible
- ▶ Shop local
- ▶ Concise information

## LET'S SUMMARIZE

- ▶ Review your design
- ▶ Prepare complete drawings and solid models
- ▶ Provide estimated order quantities
- ▶ Have fun