

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

PLTW

Engineering Notebook

Engineering Notebook

- What Is an Engineering Notebook?
- Why Keep an Engineering Notebook?
- Who Keeps an Engineering Notebook?
- Contents
- Engineering Notebook Sections
- Standard Page Layout
- Best Practices
- Historical Examples

What Is an Engineering Notebook?

An engineering notebook is a book in which an engineer will formally document, in chronological order, all of his/her work that is associated with a specific design project.

- Clear and detailed description of your design process
- Someone unfamiliar with work could take over project without additional information



Why Keep an Engineering Notebook?

An engineering notebook is recognized as a *legal document* that is used in patent activities to...

- Prove the origin of an idea that led to a solution
- Prove when events or ideas occurred
- Prove diligence in turning the idea into a solution
- Prove when an idea became a working solution (“reduced to practice”)



Who Keeps an Engineering Notebook?

Engineers that work on R & D

- Legal documentation of work
- Continuity in projects

Engineering students

- K-12 school and college
- Develop time management skills
- Improve research, documentation, and communication skills
- Basis for professional presentation of work



@istockphoto.com
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Contents

- Discovering the problem
- Research
- Sketches with labels and descriptions
- Brainstorming
- Calculations
- Your daily thoughts and ideas
- Pictures
- Expert input (names, positions, contact info, details of conversations)
- Work session and meeting summaries
- Test procedures, results, and conclusions
- Digital technical drawings
- Design modifications

Everything you do/think related to a specific design project

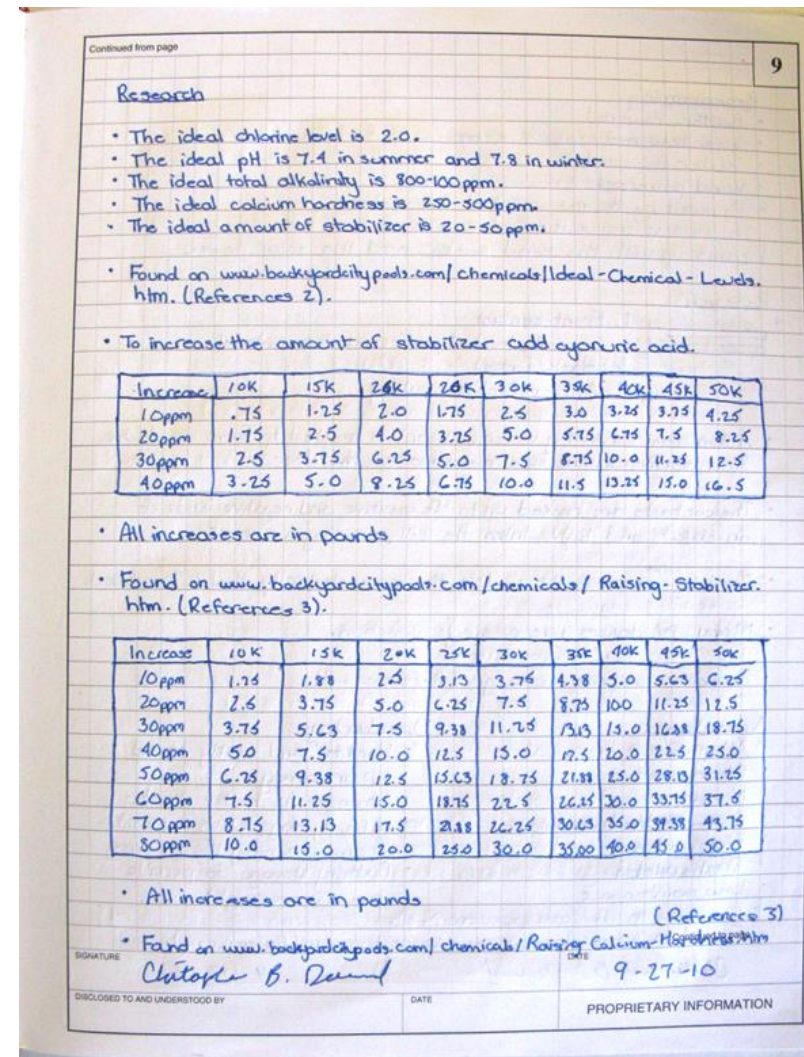
Engineering Notebook Sections

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- General Chronological Entries
- References
- Business/Expert Contacts

TABLE OF CONTENTS		
PAGE	SUBJECT	DATE
1	Schedule Drafting, Research Problem Statement	9-15-10
2	Updating Schedule, Research Pool Chemicals	9-16-10
3	Group Meeting, Research Total Alkalinity	9-17-10
4	System Sketch, Research Chlorine	9-20-10
5	Product Specifications, Chlorine Specifications	9-21-10
6	Temperature Research	9-22-10
7	Solubility Research	9-23-10
8	Borax Research	9-24-10
9	Ideal chemical levels Research	9-27-10
10	Brainstorm and Research Power Systems	9-28-10
11	Brainstorm pH Specifications, Chlorine Matrix	9-29-10
12	Sodium Dichloroisocyanurate Anhydrous Research	9-30-10
13	pH Sensor Research	10-1-10
14	Chlorine : pH Buffer Decisions, Alkalinity Testing Research	10-4-10
15	pH down Decision, Alkalinity Testing Research	10-5-10
16	Calcium Hardness Testing Research	10-6-10
17	Water Hardness Up/Down Decisions	10-7-10
18	Valve Research	10-12-10
19	Valve Research	10-13-10
20	Chlorine Sensor Specifications, Valve Research	10-14-10
21	Gate Valve Research	10-15-10
22	Globe Valve, Actuator Research	10-18-10
23	Product Specifications, Solenoid Valve Research	10-19-10
24	Schedule Update, Solenoid Valve Research	10-20-10
25	Actuator Research	10-21-10
26	pH sensor specifications	10-22-10
27	Fluid power Actuator Research	10-25-10
28	Product Specifications	10-26-10
29	Turbidity Research	10-27-10
30	Mentor meeting, Black Box Diagram	10-28-10
31	Sodium Sesquicarbonate Research, TA matrices	10-29-10
32		

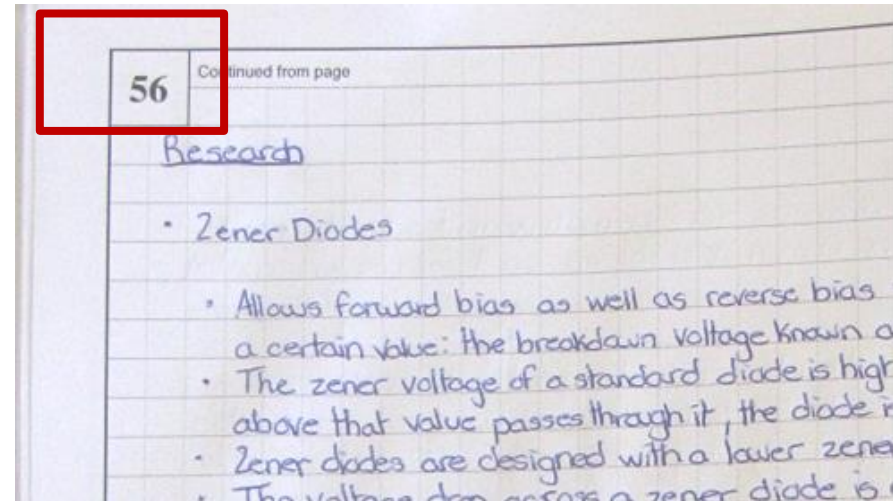
Standard Page Layout

- Quad ruled paper
- All pages are
 - Numbered
 - Dated
 - Signed by the designer
 - Signed by a witness
 - Include a statement of the proprietary nature of notebook



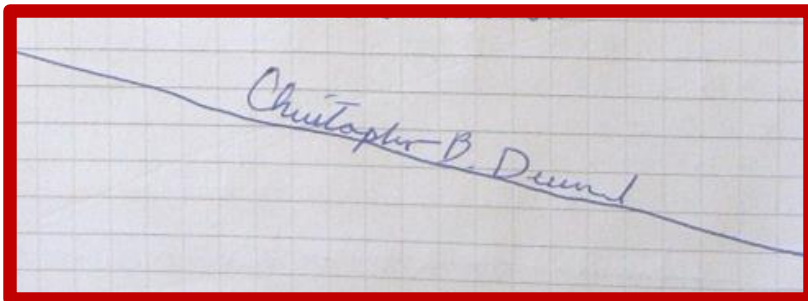
Best Practices

- All work is in pen.
- Markers that bleed through the paper are not used.
- Pages are sequentially numbered in ink on the top outside edge.
- Notebooks are bound.
 - Cannot add pages
 - Cannot remove pages



Best Practices

- Entries begin at the top of the page, working left-to-right and top-to-bottom
- Do not leave blank space. If there is extra space, draw an



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Research

- Zener Diodes
 - Allows forward bias as well as reverse bias when the voltage is above a certain value: the breakdown voltage known as the zener voltage
 - The zener voltage of a standard diode is high, but if a reverse current above that value passes through it, the diode is permanently damaged
 - Zener diodes are designed with a lower zener voltage
 - The voltage drop across a zener diode is equal to the zener voltage regardless of how high the reverse bias voltage is.

- The voltage vs. current graph shows forward bias as well as reverse bias when the voltage overcomes the breakdown voltage (V_z).

- Zener diodes can be used to regulate voltage

- The output voltage is fixed at the zener voltage of the zener diode used

- As the input voltage increases, the current passing through the zener diode increases, but the output voltage remains constant.
- Found on www.reuk.co.uk (Reference 89)

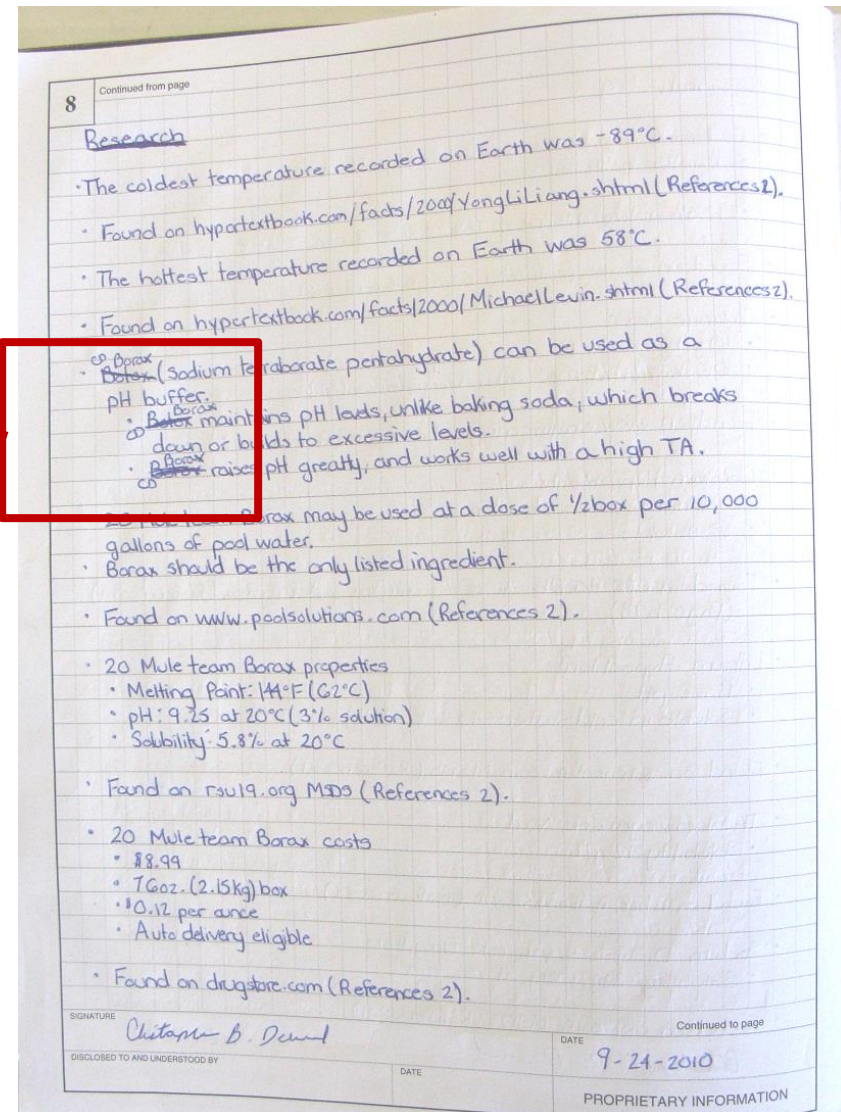
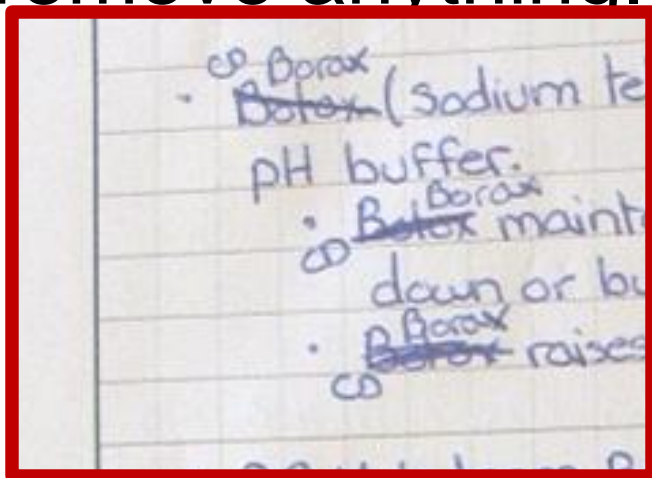
Christopher B. Deem

SIGNATURE Christopher B. Deem DATE 12-9-10

DISCLOSED TO AND UNDERSTOOD BY DATE PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

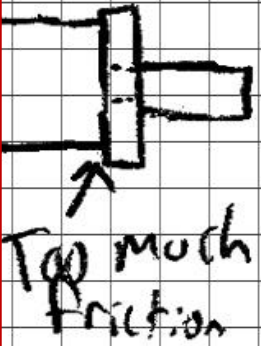
Best Practices

- If you make a mistake, draw a line through it, enter the correct information, and initial the change.
- Never erase or remove anything.



Best Practices

- Date each entry

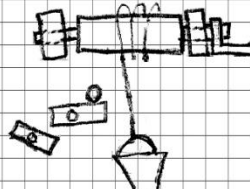


5/15 It's Sunday to work on the project modifying the wheel. I think it is going to be held in place by the side wall of the wheel. Technology Lab at aluminum bar stock.

Continued from page 12-4

1st Idea for a Wheel and Axle Sub-System 125

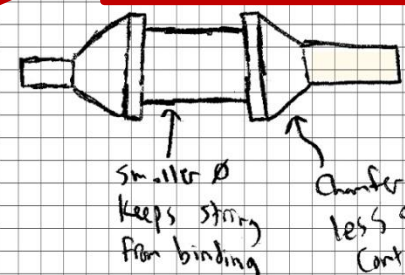
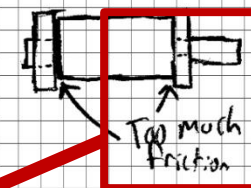
5/13 I came up with a way to use the wheel and axle in my design. A weight falls into the bucket and causes the axle to spin. The wheel (what looks like a hand crank in this case) is attached to the axle and would also spin hitting something and transferring its energy to the next part of the system. Now I have to figure out how to use it in my system.



My instructor let me borrow a book to help me get some ideas for my system. I found a great idea for a screw and wedge mechanism on page 194.

Chironis, N., and Sclater, N., (1996) Mechanisms and Mechanical Devices Sourcebook (2nd edition) New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

5/15 It's Sunday, and I came in at 10:00 AM to work on the project. I spent the morning modifying the wheel and axle design, because I think it is going to cause too much friction between the side walls and the bracket that will hold it in place. I also went to the other Technology Lab and found some 1/2 diameter aluminum bar stock to make my wheel and axle.



2nd Idea Modified Wheel and Axle address potential friction issue

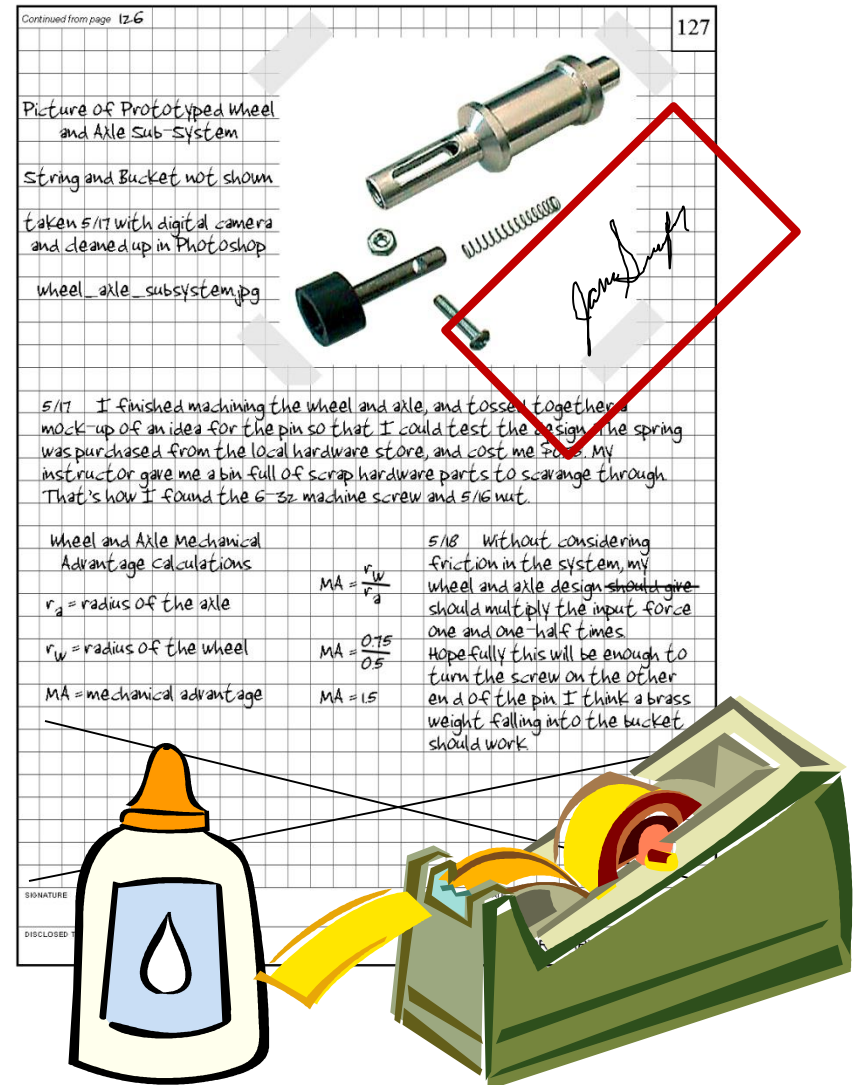
Signature _____ Date _____

Continued on page 12-6

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Best Practices

- Inserted items are permanently attached
 - Glue is preferred
 - No loose leaf items
- Sign your name so that it extends across both the notebook page and the inserted document.



Best Practices

- Sign and date each page before the next page is started.
- A colleague or mentor should corroborate the events and facts on each page and sign as a witness.

		Continued on page 126
SIGNATURE <i>Robert P. Johnson</i>		DATE <i>12-16-11</i>
DISCLOSED TO AND UNDERSTOOD BY <i>Jordan Clark</i>	DATE <i>12-16-11</i>	PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

- Store the notebook in a safe location.

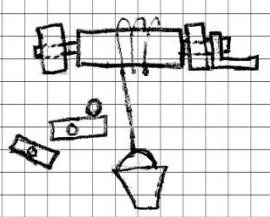
Best Practices

- Sketches
 - Label all parts of the sketch
 - Describe each sketch

Continued from page 124

1st Idea for a Wheel and Axle Sub-system 125

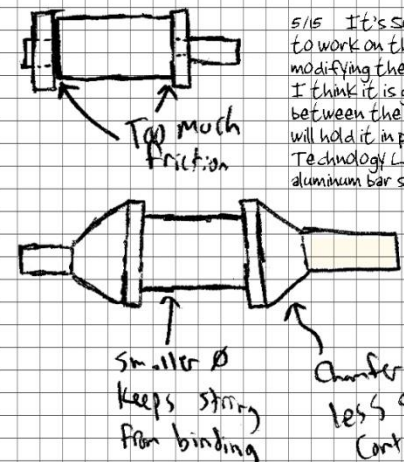
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2nd Idea Modified Wheel and Axle address potential friction issue

Signature _____ Date _____

Continued on page 126

DISCLOSED TO AND UNDERSTOOD BY _____ DATE _____ PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Best Practices

- Calculations and figures are clearly labeled.

Picture of Prototyped Wheel and Axle Sub-System

Wheel and Axle Mechanical Advantage calculations

r_a = radius of the axle

r_w = radius of the wheel

MA = mechanical advantage

$$MA = \frac{r_w}{r_a}$$

$$MA = \frac{0.75}{0.5}$$

$$MA = 1.5$$

Continued from page 126

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Picture of Prototyped Wheel and Axle Sub-System

Spring and bucket not shown

taken 5/17 with digital camera and cleaned up in Photoshop

wheel_axle_subsystem.jpg



5/17 I finished machining the wheel and axle, and tossed together a mock-up of an idea for the pin so that I could test the design. The spring was purchased from the local hardware store, and cost me \$0.75. My instructor gave me a bin full of scrap hardware parts to scavenge through. That's how I found the 6-32 machine screw and 5/16 nut.

Wheel and Axle Mechanical Advantage calculations

r_a = radius of the axle

r_w = radius of the wheel

MA = mechanical advantage

$$MA = \frac{r_w}{r_a}$$

$$MA = \frac{0.75}{0.5}$$

$$MA = 1.5$$

5/18 Without considering friction in the system, my wheel and axle design should give one and one-half times. Hopefully this will be enough to turn the screw on the other end of the pin. I think a brass weight falling into the bucket should work.

SIGNATURE

DATE

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DATE

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

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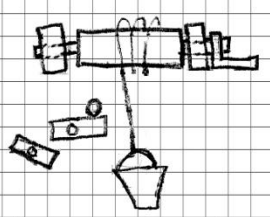
Best Practices

- Progress Entries
 - Reflect on tasks accomplished, successes, and failures
 - Reflect on future needs and tasks to be completed

Continued from page 124

1st Idea for a Wheel and Axle Sub-System 125

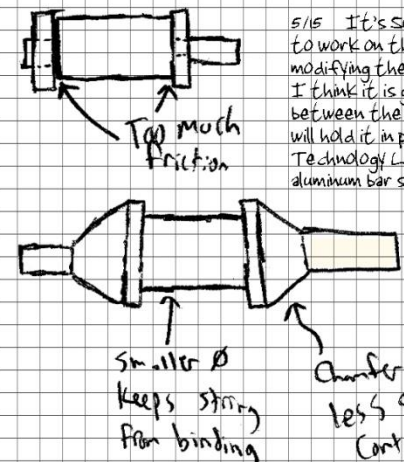
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Too much friction

2nd Idea Modified Wheel and Axle address potential friction issue

Smaller ϕ keeps string from binding

Chamfer ends less surface contact

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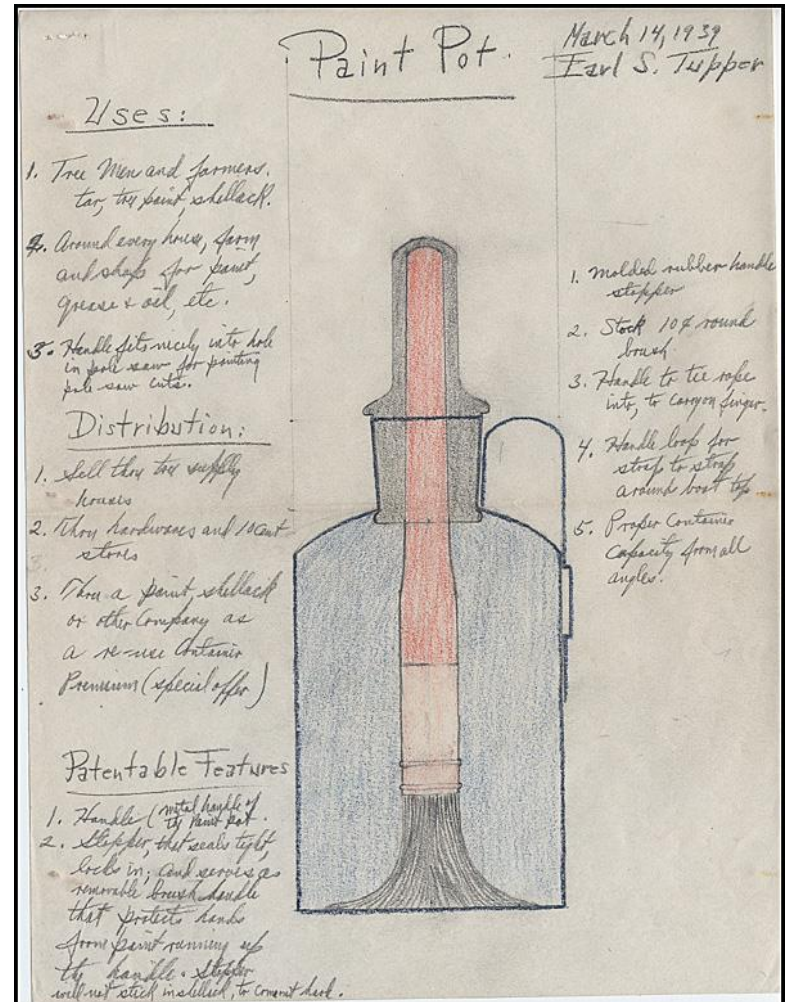
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PROPRIETARY INFORMATION	

Best Practices

Be **NEAT**,
be **ACCURATE**,
be **LEGIBLE**,
and be **THOROUGH**.

Historical Example

- Page from Earl Silas Tupper's (1907 - 1983) "Invention Diary and Sketchbook"
- Mr. Tupper developed a wide range of inventions, including Tupperware



Paint pot from "Invention Diary and Sketchbook," 1939
Earl S. Tupper, Leominster, Massachusetts
pencil on paper

Doodles, Drafts and Designs: Industrial Drawings from the Smithsonian

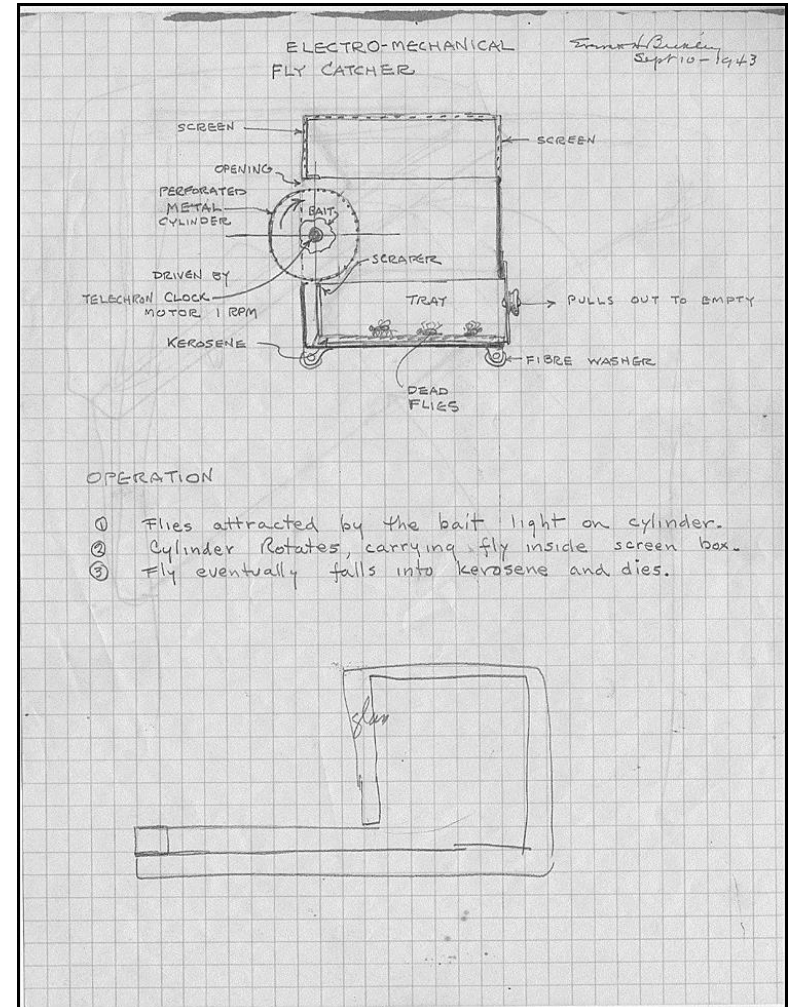


Smithsonian Institution
<http://www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/doodles>

Courtesy of Smithsonian Institute: <http://sil.si.edu/exhibitions/doodles>

Historical Example

- Everett Huckel Bickley (1888-1972) original design notes, for an electro-mechanical fly catcher, 1943
- Mr. Bickley developed dozens of inventions. His most lucrative invention was a bean-sorting machine that separated good beans from bad.



Electro-mechanical fly catcher, 1943
Everett Huckel Bickley, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania
pencil on paper

Doodles, Drafts and Designs: Industrial Drawings from the Smithsonian

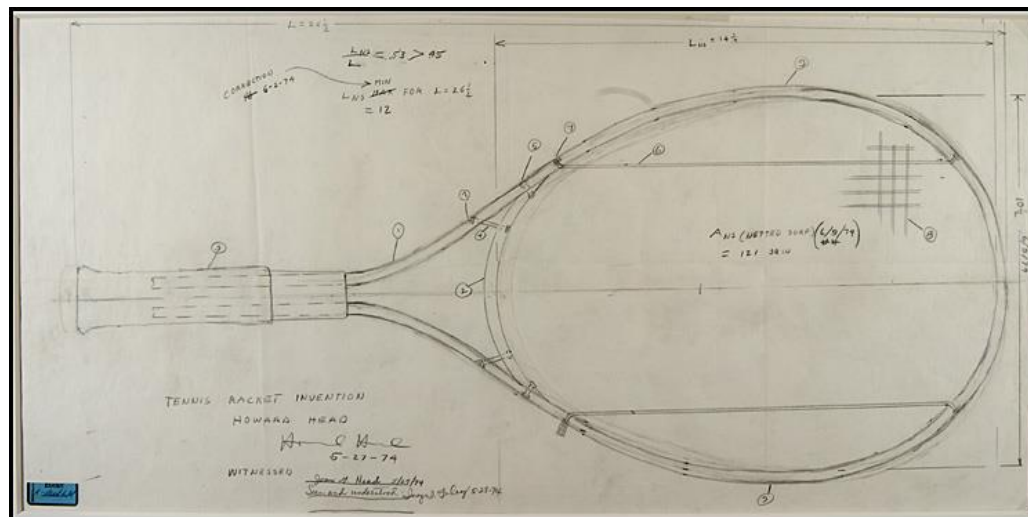


Smithsonian Institution
<http://www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/doodles>

Courtesy of Smithsonian Institute: <http://sil.si.edu/exhibitions/doodles>

Historical Example

- Howard Head (1914 – 1991) original design for an over-sized tennis racket, 1974
- The larger racket more than doubled the sweet spot of the traditional racket



Tennis racket, 1974

Howard Head, Timonium, Maryland

pencil on paper

Doodles, Drafts and Designs: Industrial Drawings from the Smithsonian



Smithsonian Institution

<http://www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/doodles>

Course Binder

- Differs from the Engineering Notebook
- Used to store *all* course material not included in the Engineering Notebook including
 - Activities
 - Research
 - Reference material
 - Handouts



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Reference

Tupper, E. S. (1939). *Invention diary and sketchbook*.

Retrieved from Smithsonian Institute website:

<http://www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/doodles>

Bickley, E. H. (1943). *Design notes*. Retrieved from

Smithsonian Institute website:

<http://www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/doodles>

Head, H. (1974). *Design drawing*. Retrieved from

Smithsonian Institute website:

<http://www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/doodles>