



Prototype to Production

Capstone Design

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/dragoninnovation



Learning Objectives

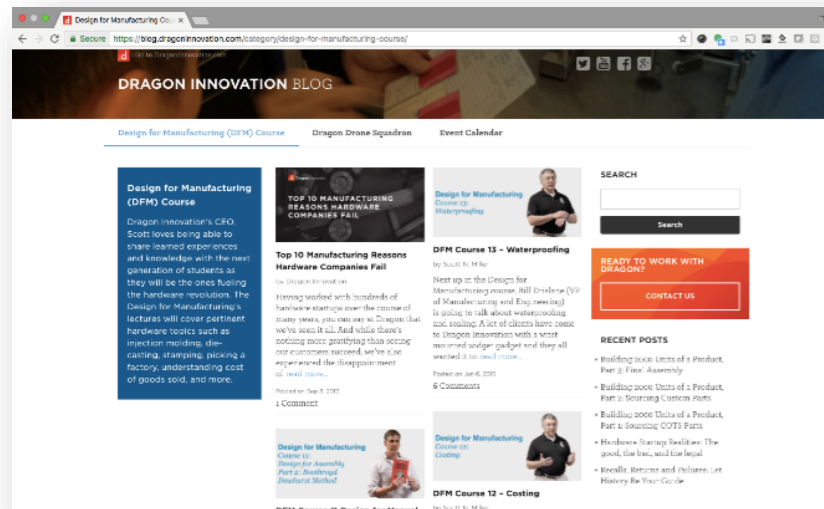
1. Understand the journey from a prototype to a saleable unit
 2. Prototyping techniques
 3. The Manufacturing Triangle: Cost, quality, and schedule
- 

The Journey to Dragon

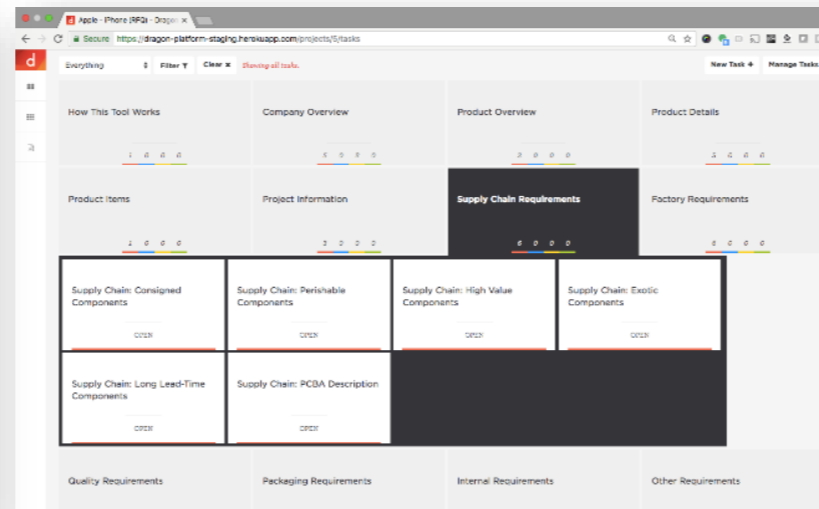


Dragon's Approach

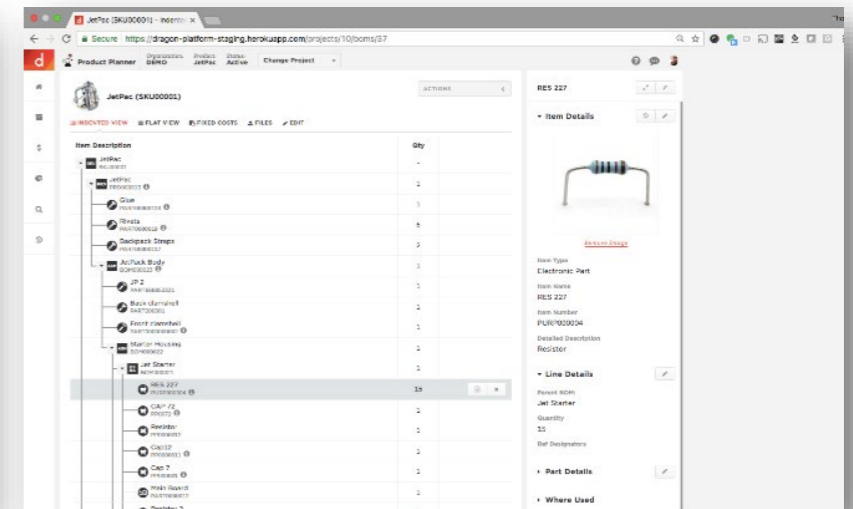
- Provide transparency and education on how the process works
- Reduce costs and increase efficiency via a manufacturing platform
- Simplify communications and bridge gaps
- Create high value connections throughout the ecosystem



DFM Videos on blog



Factory RFQ App



Factory Selector

Some of our Customers

“Dragon helped us take our crowdfunding success and translate it into shipping more than 100,000 Pebbles in just over a year.”

ERIC MIGICOVSKY
FOUNDER of PEBBLE

“Dragon’s depth of institutional knowledge about manufacturing accelerated our planning efforts.”

STEVE CHAMBERS
CEO of JIBO

“We've been working with Dragon from the moment we had a prototype and wanted to begin the manufacturing process”

JONATHAN FRANKEL
FOUNDER & CEO of NUCLEUS



Shark | NINJA



ring



JUICERO

scout 



sphero

JUNE

orbotix



CyPhy

canary



formlabs 

IDEO

Hobie



MOMENT

Wilson



kinsa

Petnet 



AND MANY MORE



Why is Manufacturing Hard?



Communication is a Big Deal

Bi-Directional Information Flow



Design Product



Send Data to CM



Build Tooling



Mold Parts



Assemble Product



Inspect & Ship

Manufacturing is Continually Evolving

- New Technologies
- New Locations
- New Tariffs

There are many “Unknown Unknowns”

- COGS, tooling and manufacturing costs
- Lead times
- Permanence of Quality
- Iteration cycles
- DFMA
- Factory Selection and Management
- Team Scalability
- Schedule & Project Management
- Specialized skills (ME / EE / SW/ Q / SC / Logs)
- Retail Channel

These early decisions can cast long shadows

What Do You Have To Do To Get....

FROM

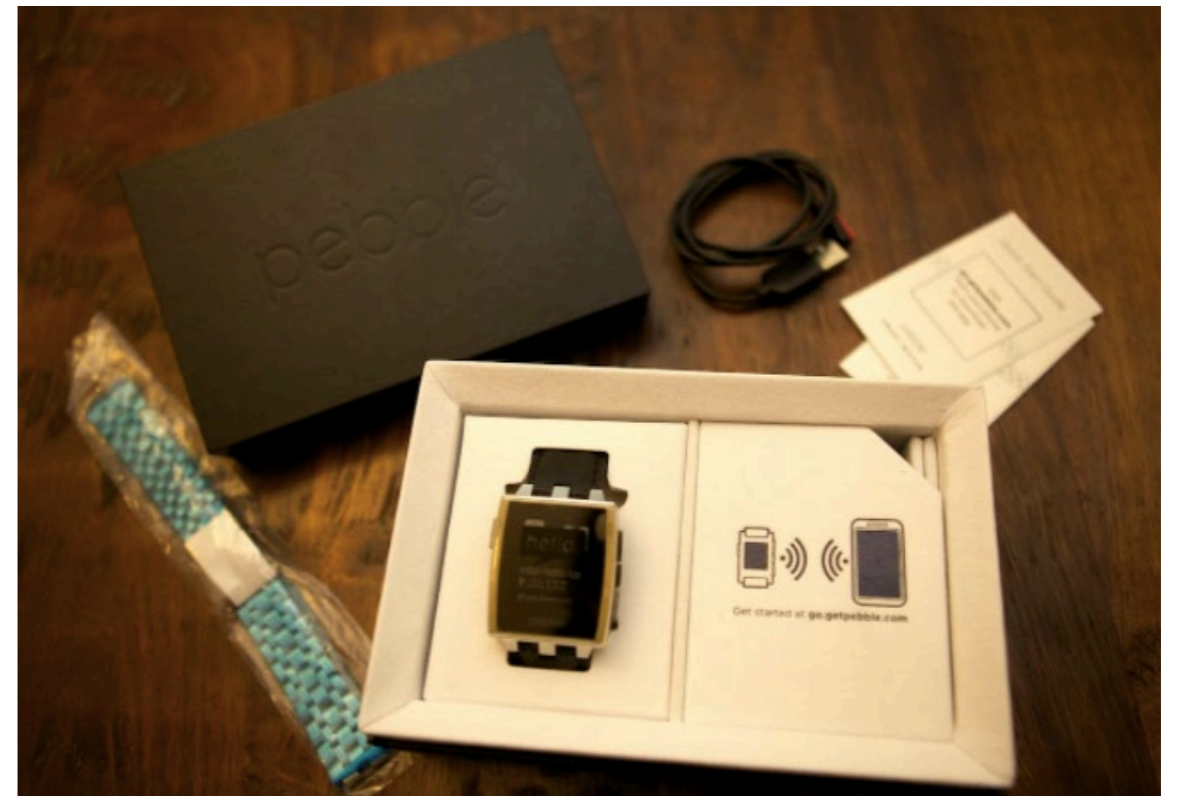
TO

Works-Like

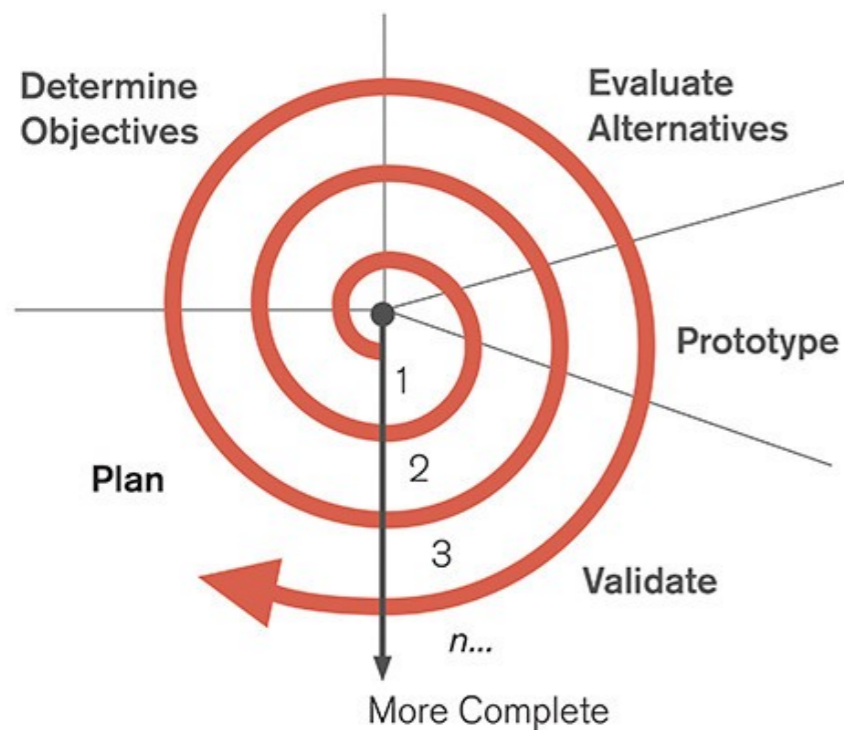
Saleable product



Looks-Like



New Product Introduction (NPI) Process

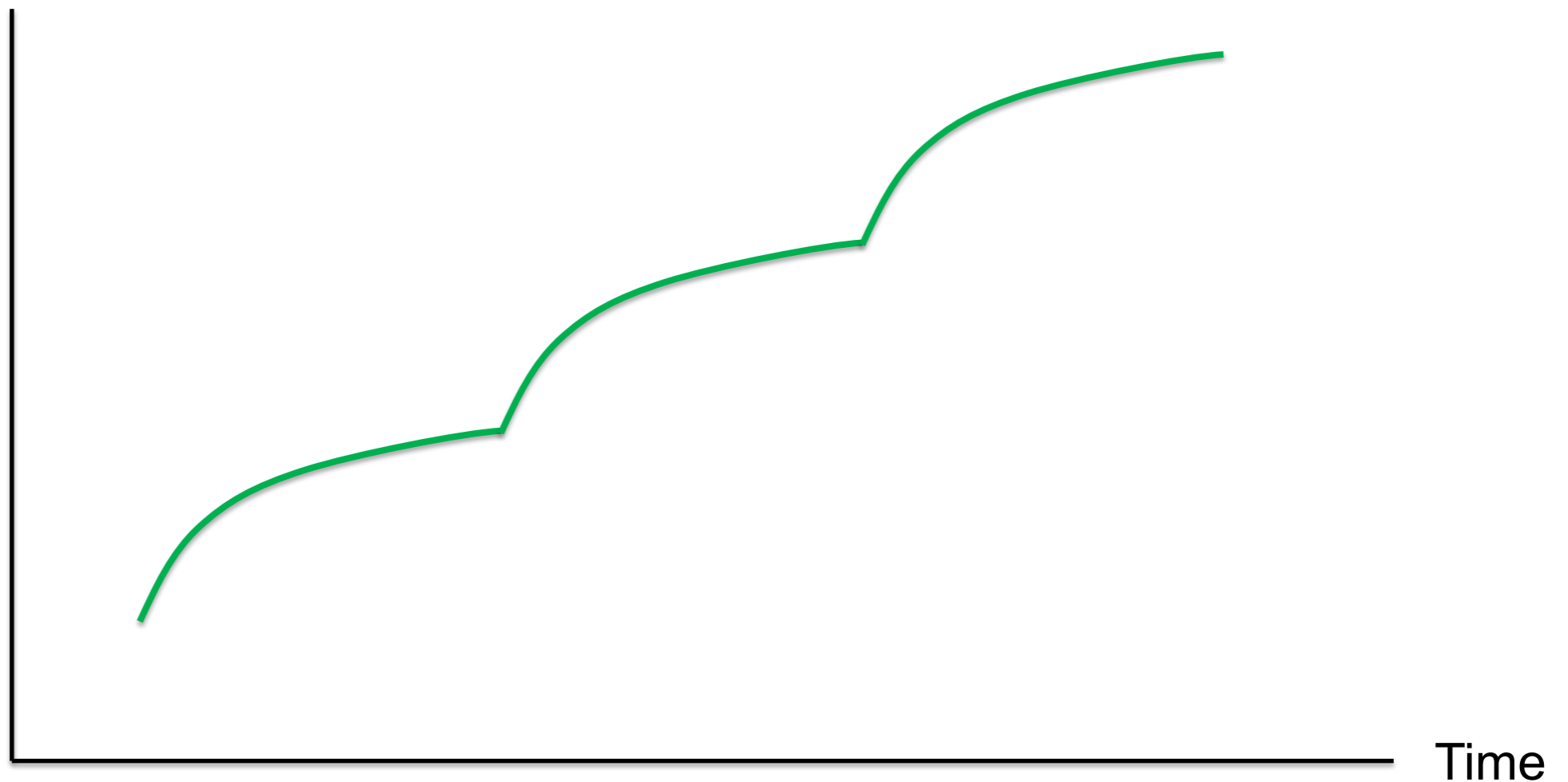


Agile: Figure out what to build

Stage Gate: Know what to build

Sometimes you need to “Build it to Build it”

Progress

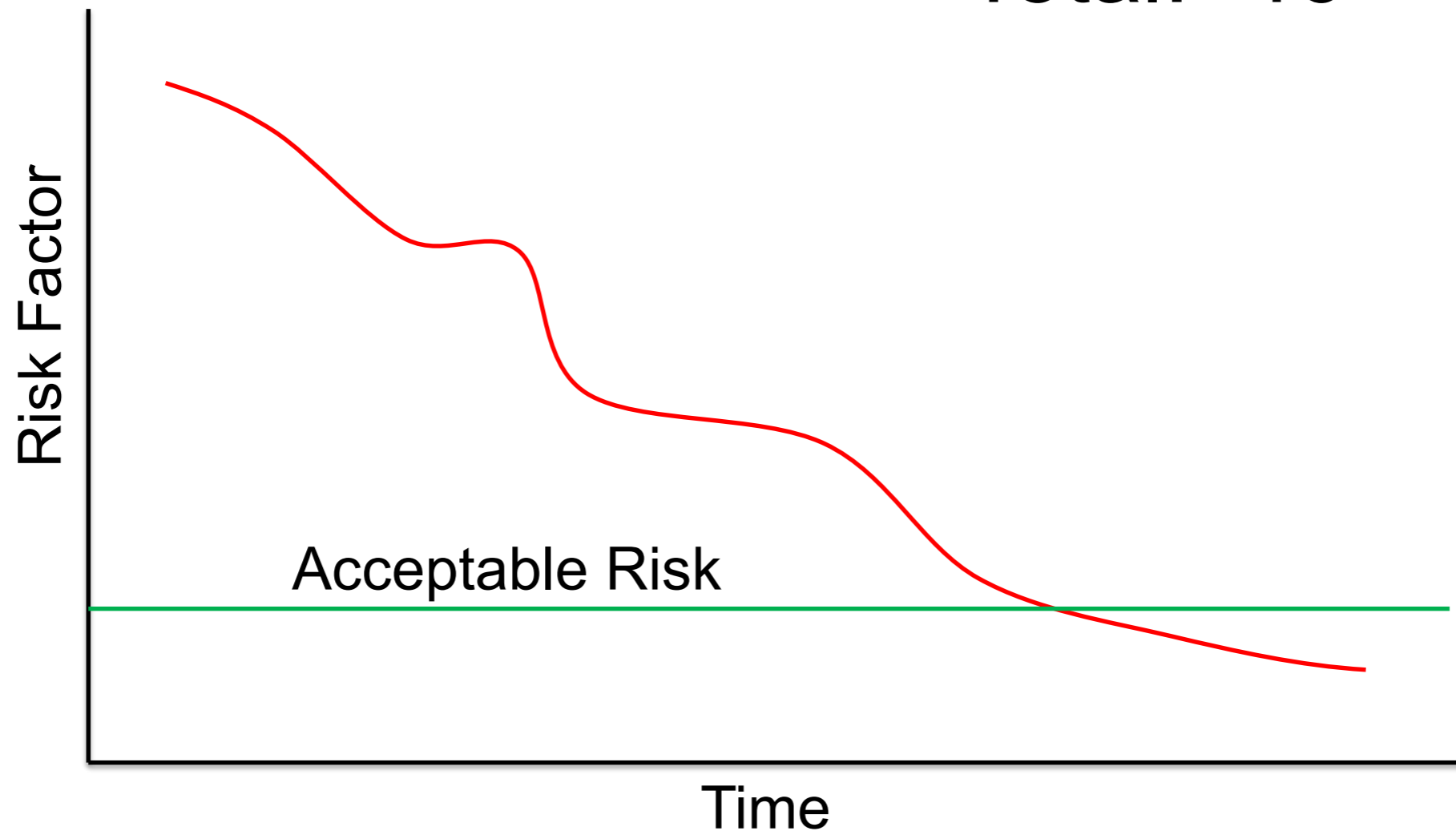


But don't be lazy – use engineering vs. guess work when appropriate.

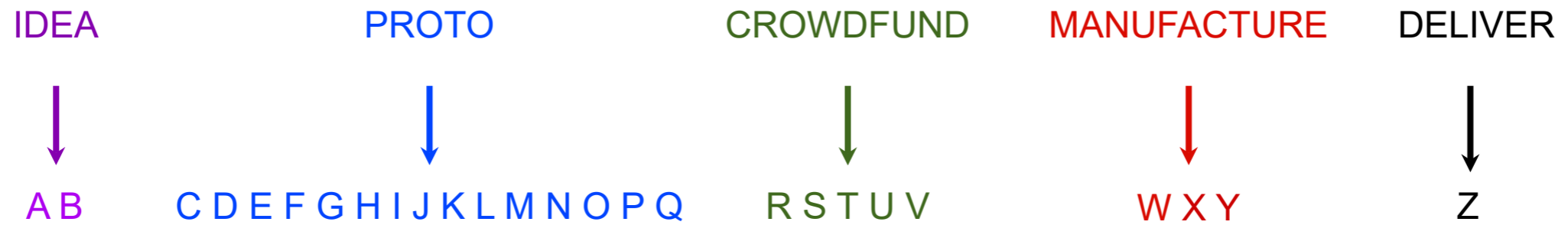
List, Prioritize & Track Risk

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Factor
Item 1	5	5	25
Item 2	2	8	16
Item 3	1	5	5

Total: 46



Create a Realistic Schedule



How the Process Works from 1 to 1M

If you're not Apple

New HW starts here

Apple starts here

1

10

100

1K

10K

100K

1M

10M

Mech

Hand

3D

CNC
Rubber
Mold

ProtoLab
CNC

Tool(1)

Tool(N)

EE/SW

Arduino/PI

Pre-
Certified
Module

Chip w/ Cert

ASIC

Prod

Local Shop

Need to find & Vet & Match

Domestic CM

PRC-CM

Owned Factory

Existing Relationship

OEM

COGS

Optimized for speed & Ease of development

Optimized for cost & stability

Quality Plan

Primitive or Absent

Mature

Schedule

Blind Spots

Mature

Tools/BOM

Excel

Enterprise

Roomba Prototypes

Even Simple Things are Harder than they Appear

- Birth Story
- Sheet Metal
- Basic Dimensions
- Constraints
- Cleaning Head
- Vacuum
- Handle
- Side Brush

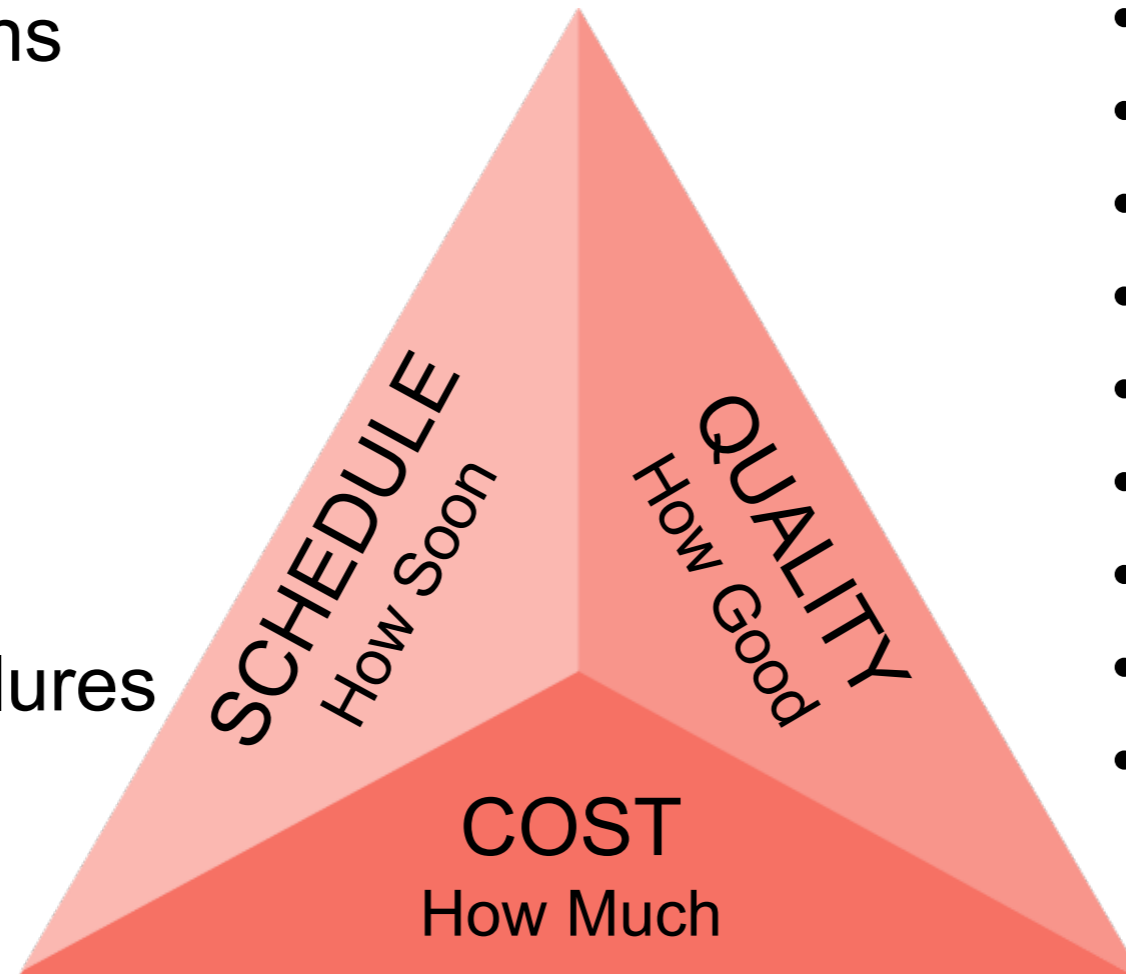


**ADDITIONAL SLIDES NOT
COVERED IN LECTURE**

The Manufacturing Triangle

There are always tradeoffs

- Design iterations
- Technology development
- Tooling
- Certification
- Testing
- Clinical trails
- Late design failures



- Validate & Verify
- Risk reduction
- Design for reliability
- Yields
- Safety
- Complaint rate
- Warranty returns
- Scrap rate
- Cost of maintenance

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| • Cost of Mfg | • NRE |
| • Materials | • Testing |
| • Tooling | • Yields |
| • Support | • Cycle time |
| • Sale price | • Profit |

Preparing for Manufacturing

Your beautifully designed product can't be built

Design for Mfg.

- Design for assembly
- Design for manufacturing
- Design for testing

- Design for variation
- Design for maintenance
- Design for cost

Activities will take longer and you will need more iterations than you expect

Schedule

- Late changes
- Quality failure
- Certification delay
- Mfg capacity

- Lead-Times
- Part delay
- Multiple DVTs

Your product won't look, feel or work like you want

Quality Planning

- Functional testing
- Life testing
- Certification
- Durability testing
- Transportation

- Safety
- Board level tests
- Shipment audits
- V&V
- FDA

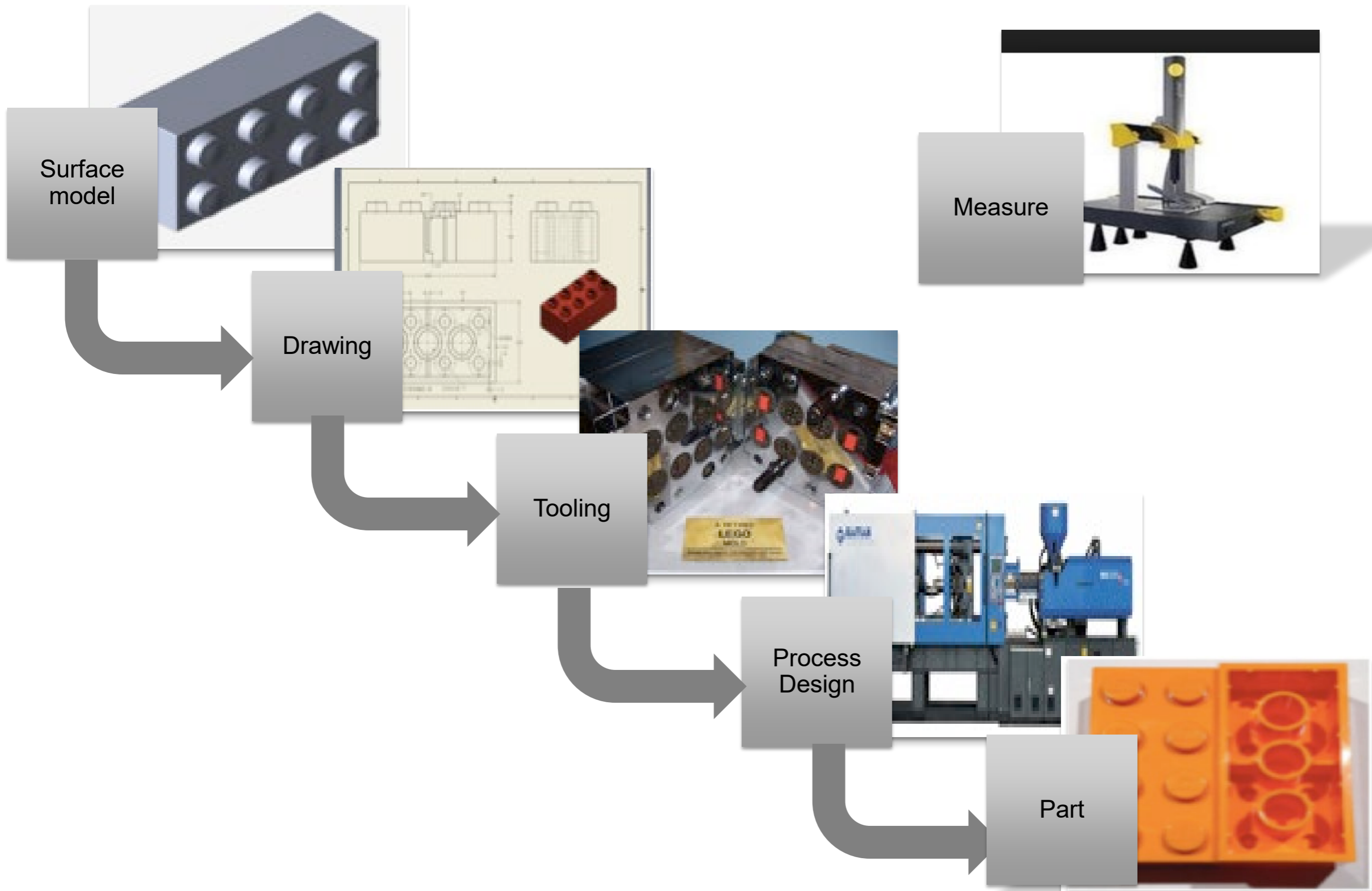
You will spend way more than you budget before you get revenue

Cash flow analysis

- Forecasting
- Tradeoff of MOQ and capital costs
- Terms
- Risk buys

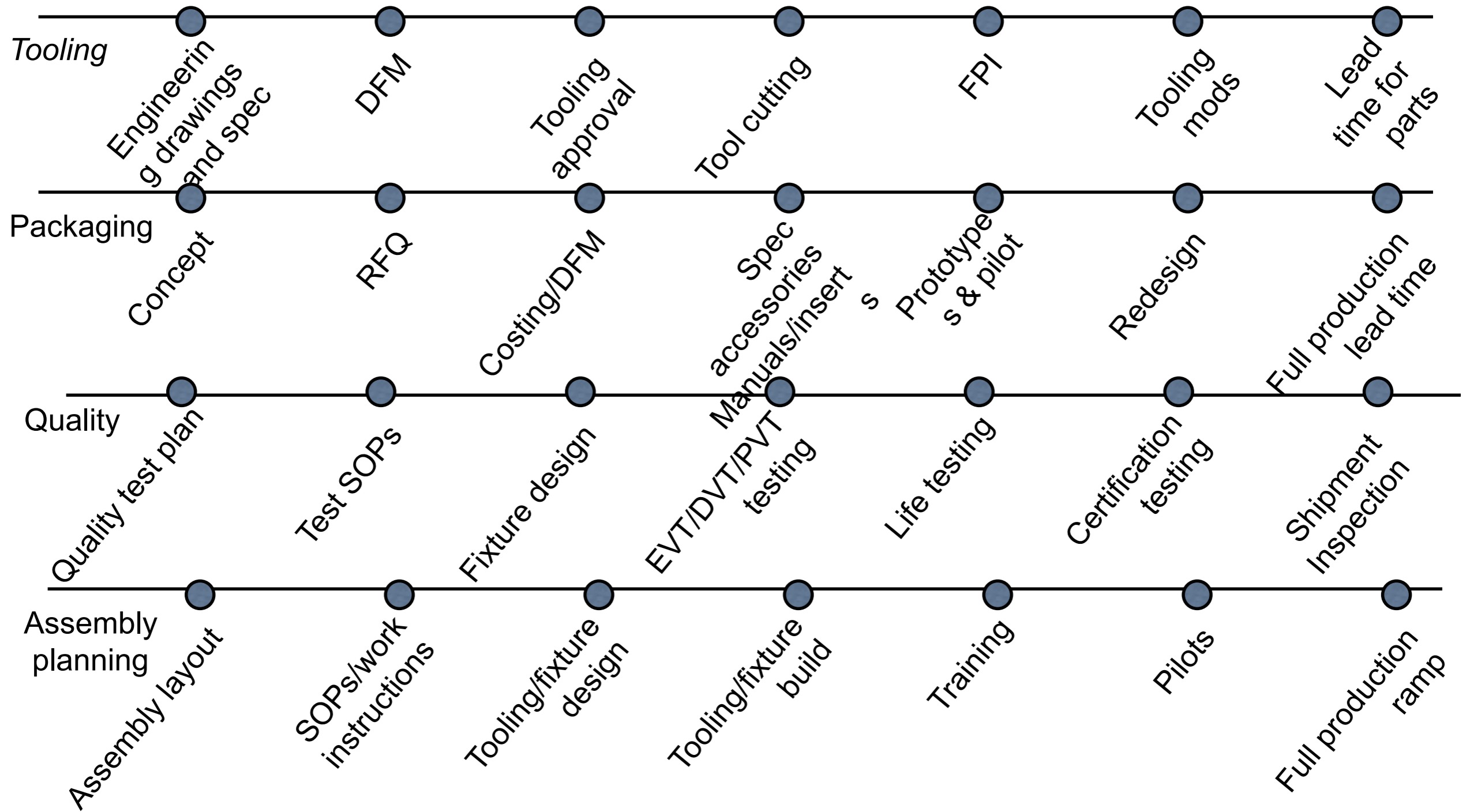
- Long lead items
- Spares and replacements
- Cash flow
- Payment terms

CAD to acceptable part more than just one step



Your product is defined by more than just the CAD

Now what...



Other activities: Forecasting, cost modeling, supplier management, PCBA transition,

SALE PRICE

Distribution Costs	Retail markup, factoring, 3PL logistics, etc..		
Company gross profit	Apple ~50% Laptops ~25%		
Warranty	5% of sales		
Customs/Shipping	\$0.3 to \$2.00		
COGS	Markup/Profit	9% - 25% of total	
	Labor	10% of total	
	Scrap	1.5-3% of Material	
	Packaging	\$0.50-\$5	
	Accessories	\$0.50-\$5	
	Materials	Purchased OTS parts	
		Custom parts	
PCBA and comp.			
Processing costs			
Raw material			

NON RECURRING COSTS (NRC)

Production line fixtures and test fixture
Certifications
Testing/testing equipment
Pilot runs/samples
Tooling
Engineering

Working capital is critical

COMPONENT TERMS

100% at MAR

CM TERMS

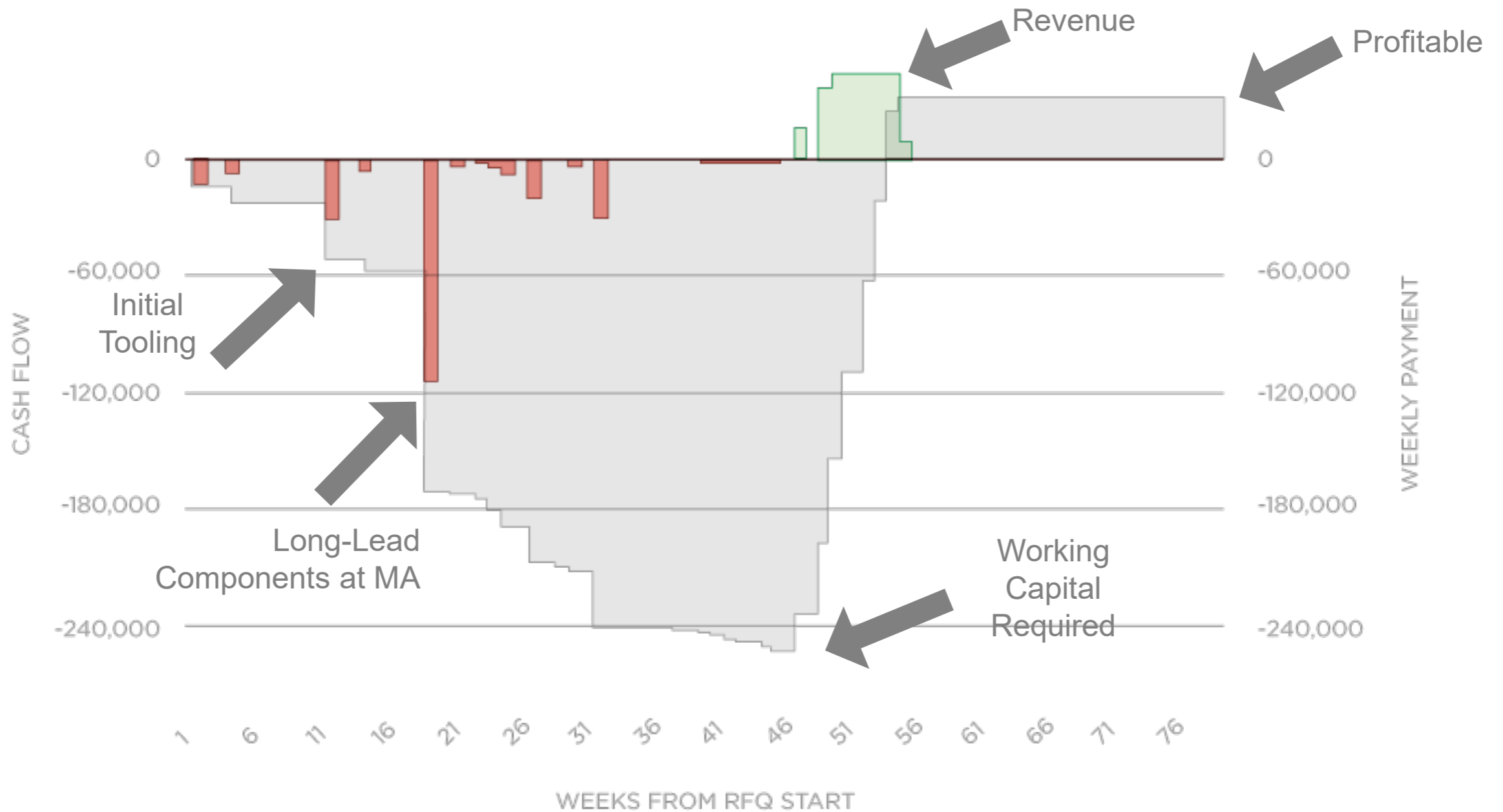
XF (Net 0)

CUSTOMER TERMS

Net 30 from Delivery

SHIPPING

Sea (5 Weeks)



WORKING CAPITAL: \$250k

Improve Component Payment Terms

COMPONENT TERMS

0% at MAR

CM TERMS

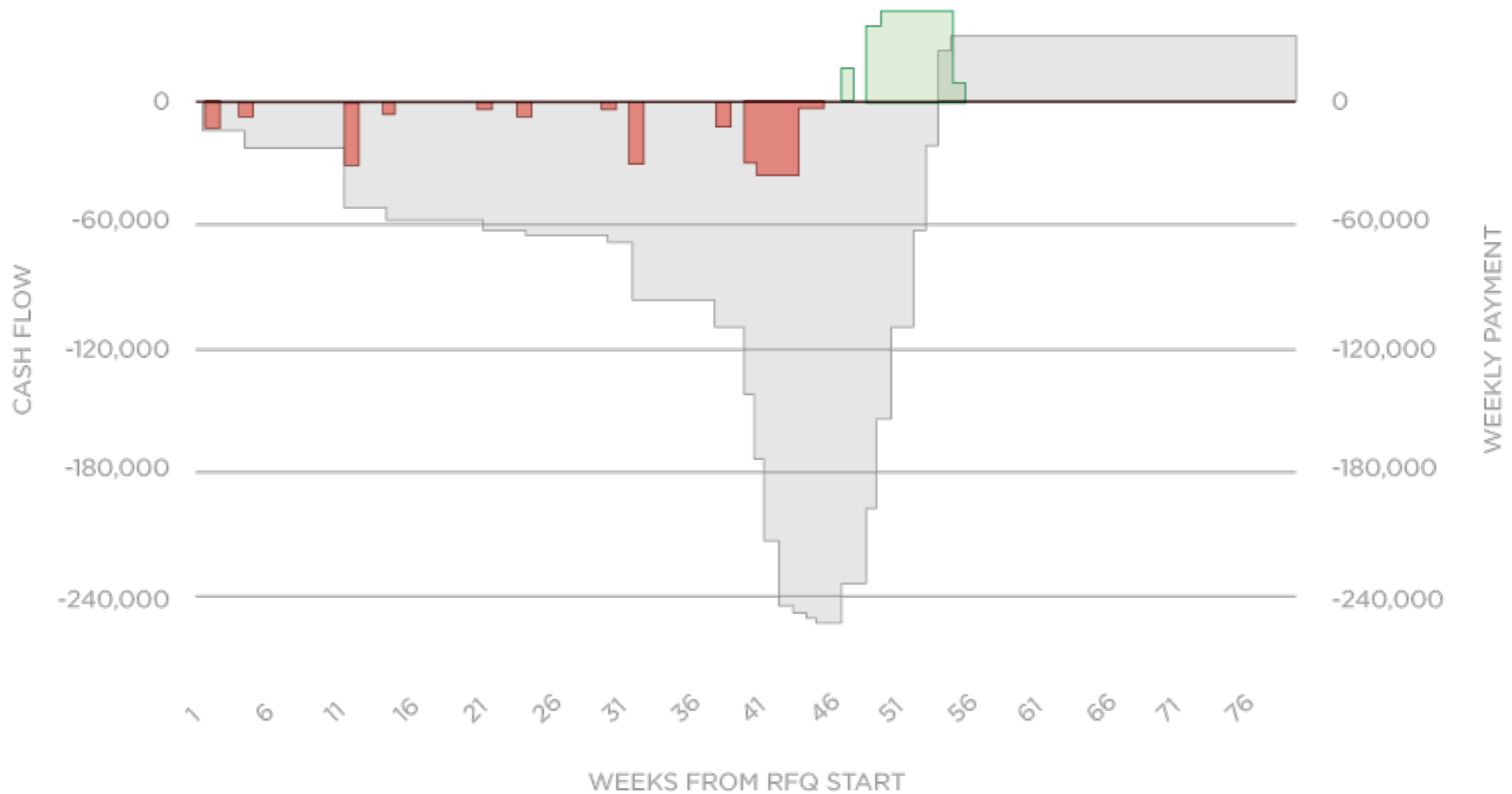
XF (Net 0)

CUSTOMER TERMS

Net 30 from Delivery

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WORKING CAPITAL: \$250k

Improve Factory Payment Terms

COMPONENT TERMS

0% at MAR

CM TERMS

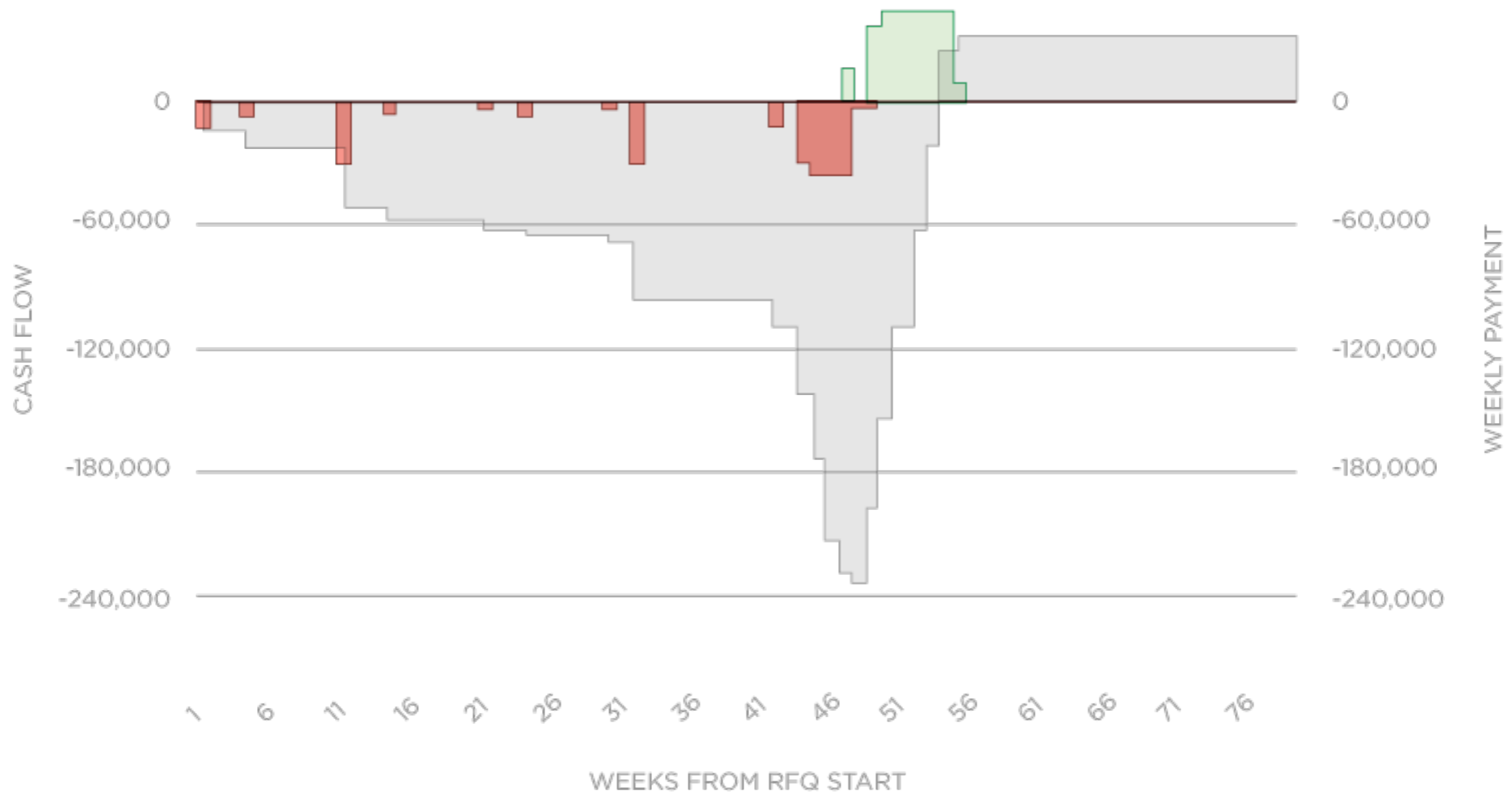
Net 30 Days

CUSTOMER TERMS

Net 30 from Delivery

SHIPPING

Sea (5 Weeks)



WORKING CAPITAL: \$232k

Improve Customer Payment Terms

COMPONENT TERMS

0% at MAR

CM TERMS

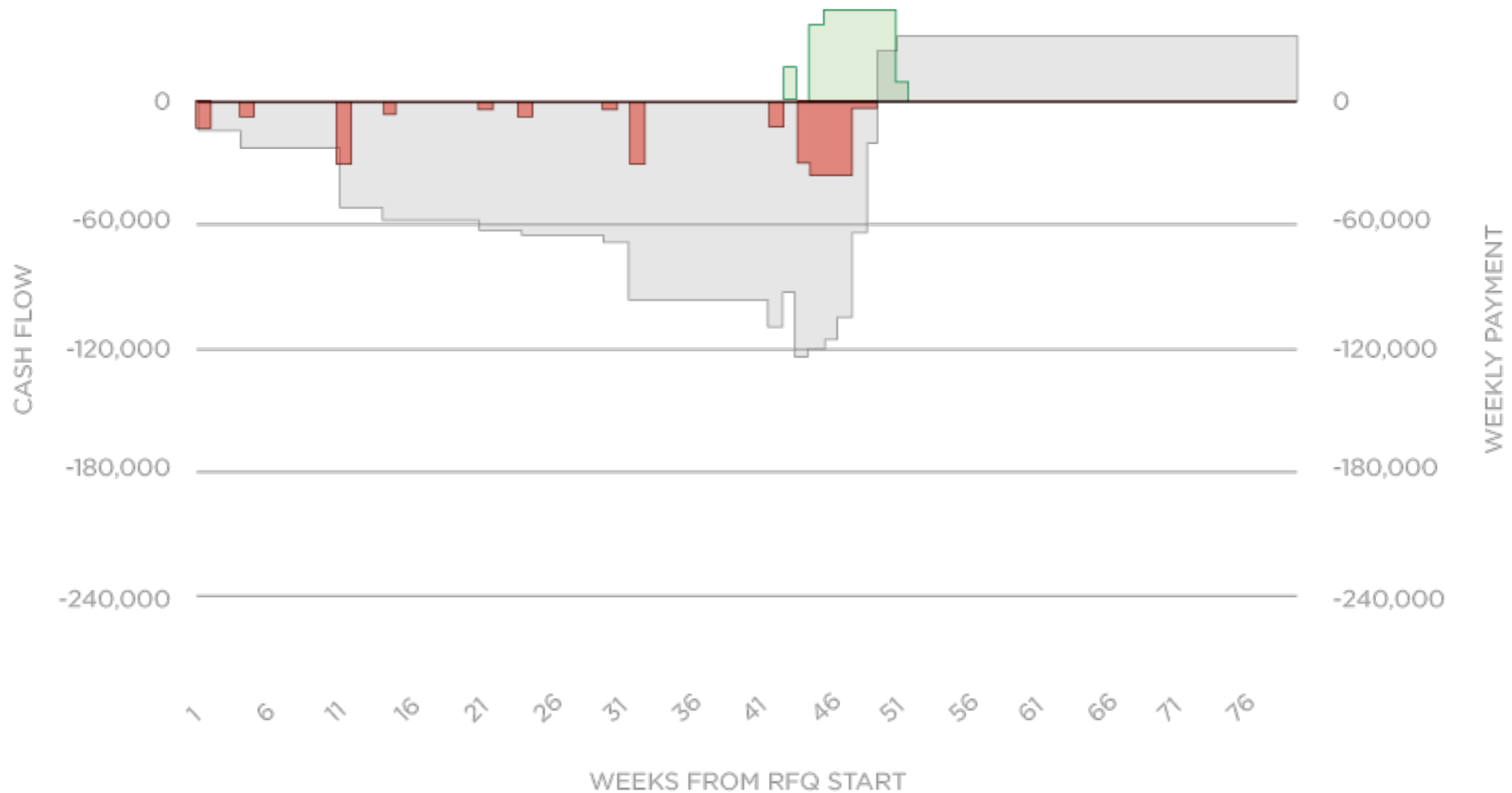
Net 30 Days

CUSTOMER TERMS

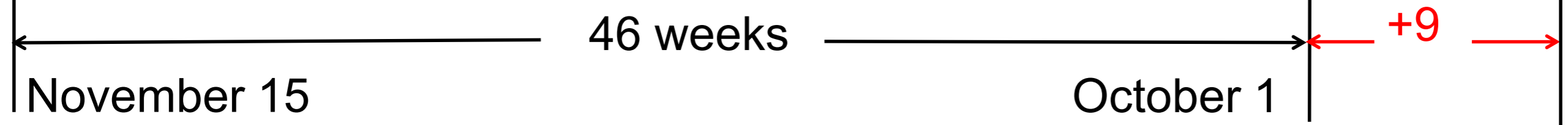
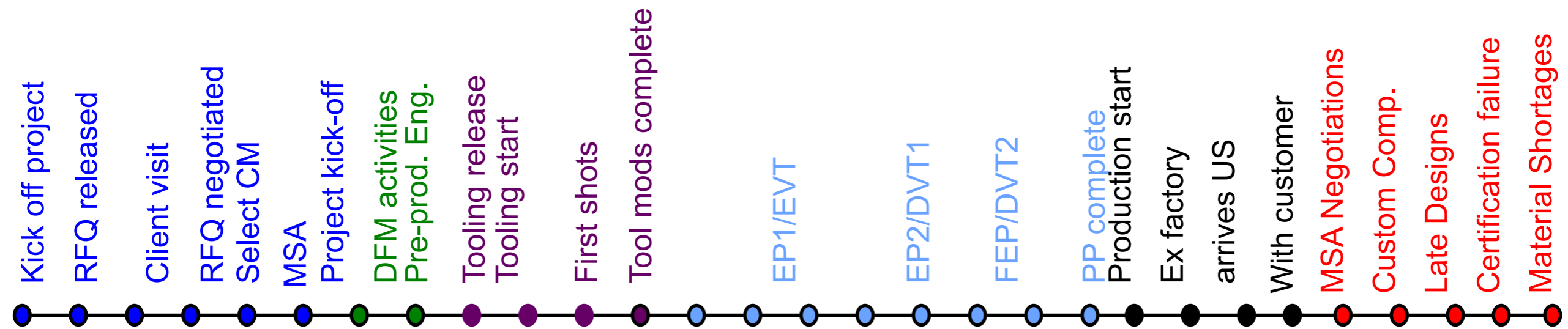
On Delivery

SHIPPING

Sea (5 Weeks)



WORKING CAPITAL: \$123k



Burn rate \$50K/month
Missed market window
Invalidated your sales agreement

Quality: Think through what can go wrong now

Use/abuse

Dropped
Vibrated
Pulled
Pressed
Actuated
Heated
Frozen
Rubbed
Handled
Spilled coffee
Used in new and
unique ways

Production

Miss-assembled
Failed parts
Programmed wrong
Packaged wrong
Wrong color
Old parts
Testing equipment
failures
Strikes
Obsolete parts

Legal

FDA
Shipment
EMF
Battery safety
Overheating
ITAR
Rohs
California Prop 65
CE
UL
Recall risk

DFM/DFA FROM 10,000 FEET

Manufacturing costs

Total part cost including production costs, rework, shipping, support, excess raw materials.

-and-

Amortized NRC

DFM Reduces cost by:

Designing the part to be easier/ cheaper/ faster to make

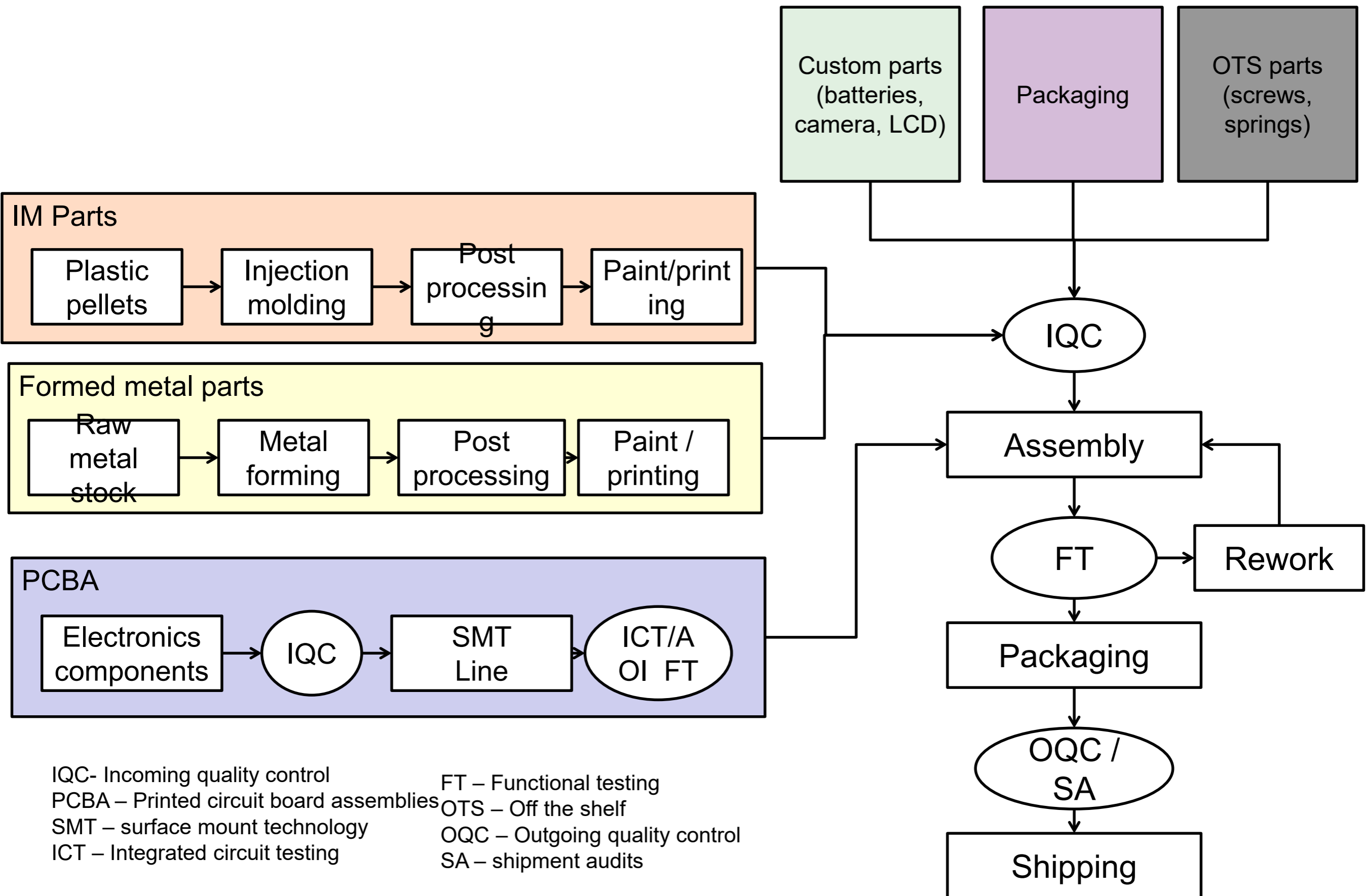
-and/or -

Reducing rework and scrap

-and/or –

Reduce redesigns and

TYPICAL PRODUCTION FOR CONSUMER PRODUCTS



WHERE ARE THE LEVERAGE POINTS FOR DFM

BOM

How to make the individual parts

- Packaging cost
- Custom parts
- Fabricated parts (cycle time, material usage)
- PCBA costs

Assembly

Getting the parts together

- Manual
- Automation
- Error proofing

Testing

Is the product functioning?

- Test fixtures
- Rework
- Scrap rate
- Cycles time

NRC

Fixed costs

- Tooling
- Fixtures

Material handling

Ordering/managing/tracking materials

- Lead times
- Inventory management
- Tracking
- Shipping

Repair

Fixing what is broken

- Disassembly
- Cost to fix
- Spares

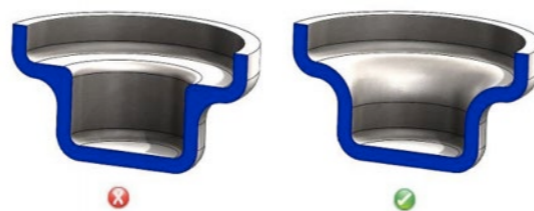
EXAMPLES OF PROCESS DFM RULES

Metal bending



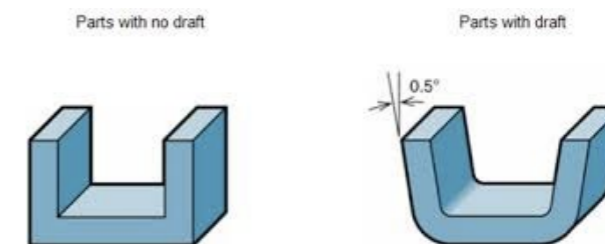
Minimum bend radius

Casting



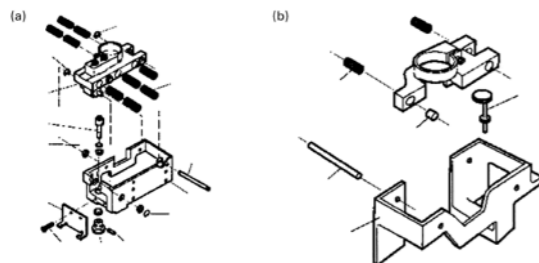
Even wall thicknesses

Injection molding



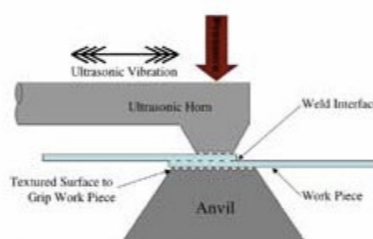
Draft angles

Assembly



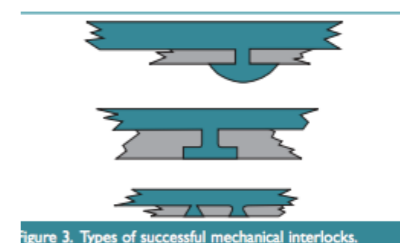
Minimize part count

Ultrasonic



Control material thickness and process settings

Over-molding



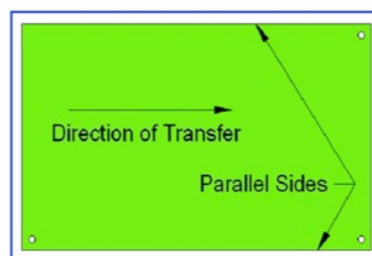
Use interlock if possible

Cable harness



Don't route cables over sharp edges

Printed circuit boards



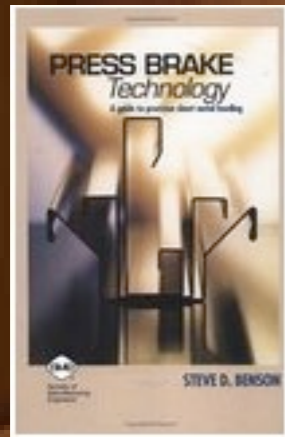
Boards need parallel sides. Use breakaway features if needed

CNC lathe

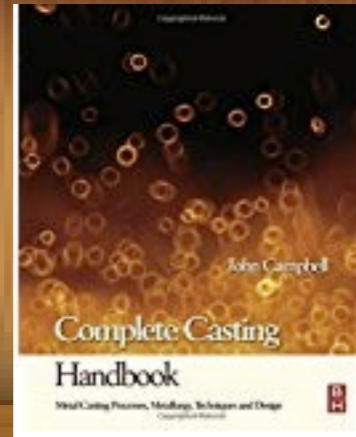


Set cut depth to avoid chatter

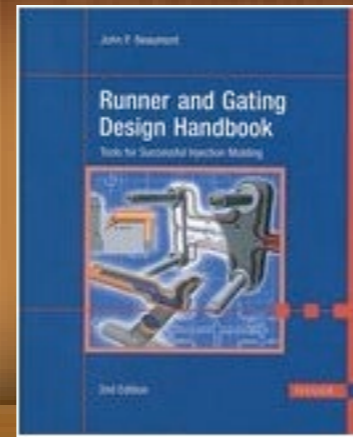
THE DFM BOOKS YOU WOULD NEED TO READ FOR TYPICAL CONSUMER ELECTRONIC PRODUCT



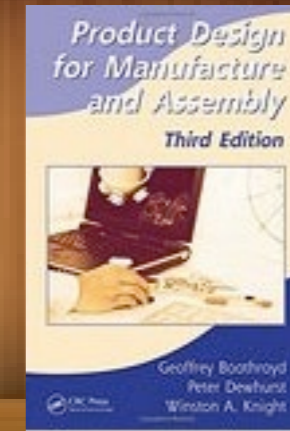
Metal bending



Casting



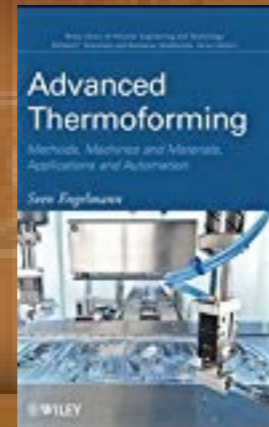
Injection molding



Assembly



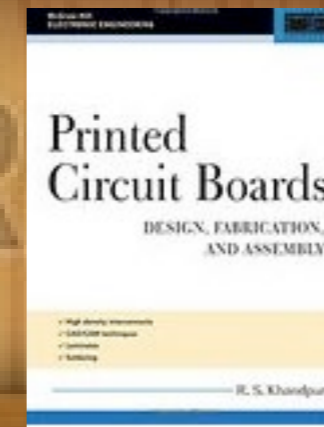
Ultrasonic



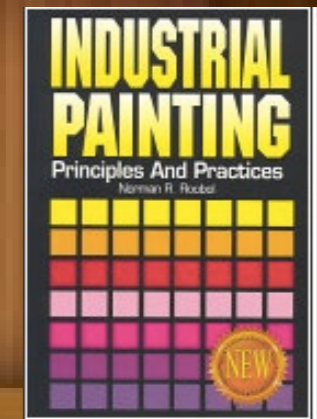
Over-molding



Cable harness



PCBAs



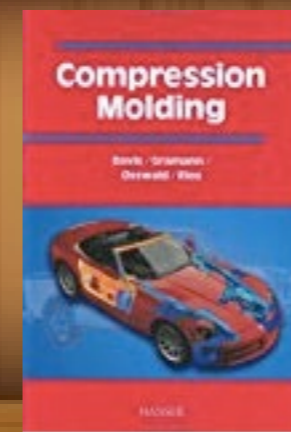
Painting



Metal stamping



Fastening



Compression molding



CNC lathe

DFM / DFA Simplified

1. If there is an opportunity to not follow directions, someone will.
2. Material will never stay where you put it and tries to go back where it started
3. Mfg. likes to be in 2 ½ D
4. Weird things happen when material goes from liquid to solid
5. Screws are bad but glue and tape are worse
6. The more you handle a product, the more defects get introduced
7. Vibration is your enemy
8. Things are always easier if you have fewer parts to manage
9. Material doesn't like to go into sharp corners
10. The best DFM will fail if the process isn't controlled

11. KNOW WHEN TO BREAK THE RULES

1. If there is an opportunity to not follow directions and get it wrong, someone will.

What does this mean?

- Operators won't always follow the SOPs

Errors are introduced by

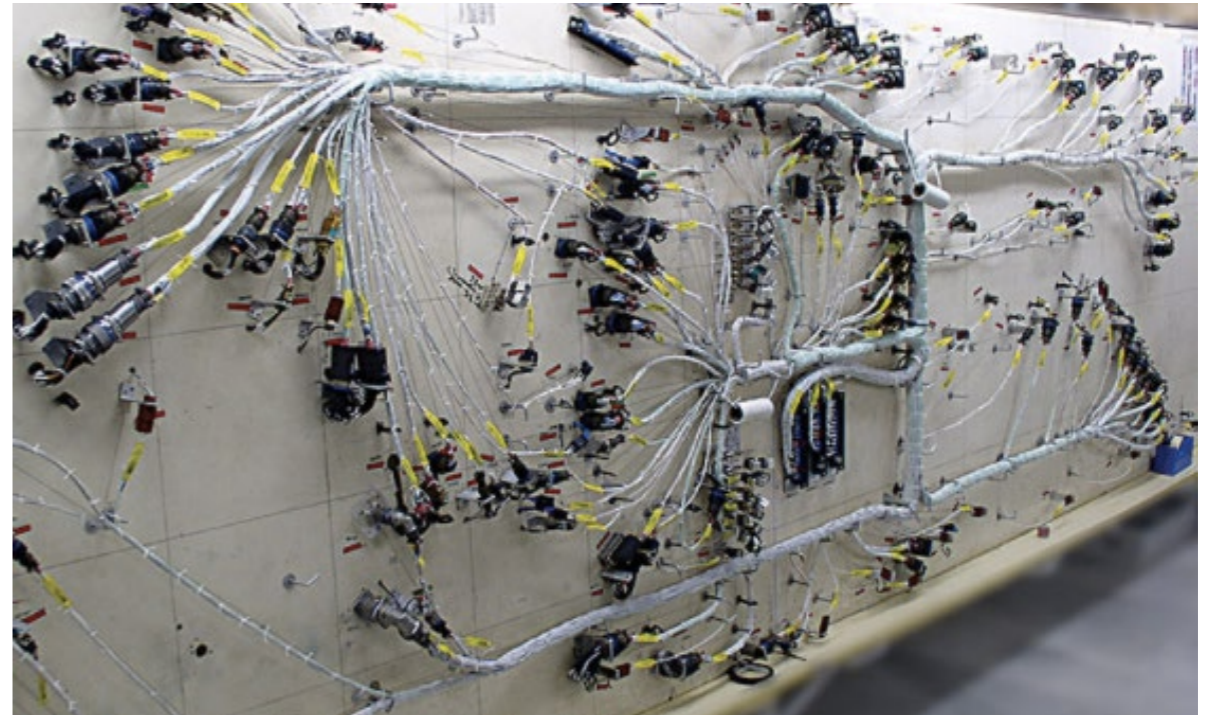
- Wrong assembly: Disoriented and not tightening down parts correctly
- Wrong parts
- Damage: over tightening screws, breaking parts during assembly

Key failures

- Orientation
- Alignments
- Wrong parts (screws, old materials)

How to address

- Combine parts to reduce errors
- Make parts symmetric so they can always be assembled
- Poke-a-yoke (error proof) assembly



2. Material will never stay where you put it and tries to go back where it started

Corollary: Use compliance to your advantage

What does this mean

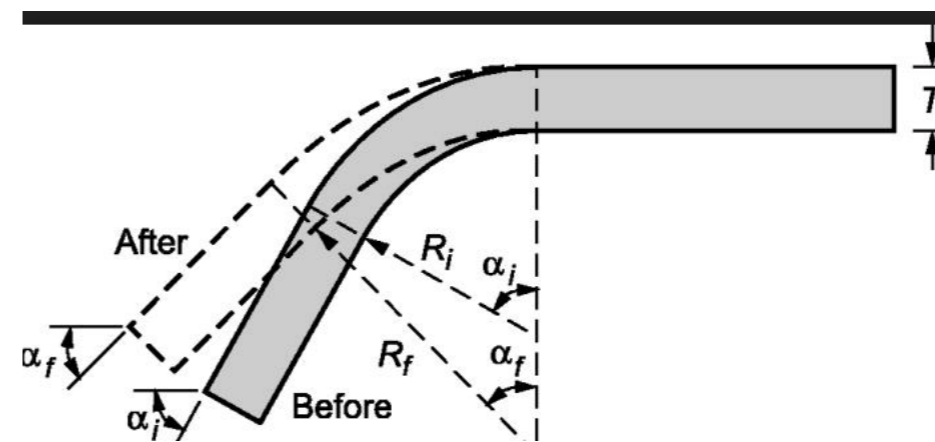
- Bent material will always spring back
- Material shrinks when it cools
- Screws will always try to back out

Key failures

- Dimensional errors
- Assembly difficulty

How to address

- Plan for spring back
- Create “compliant designs” that can adjust



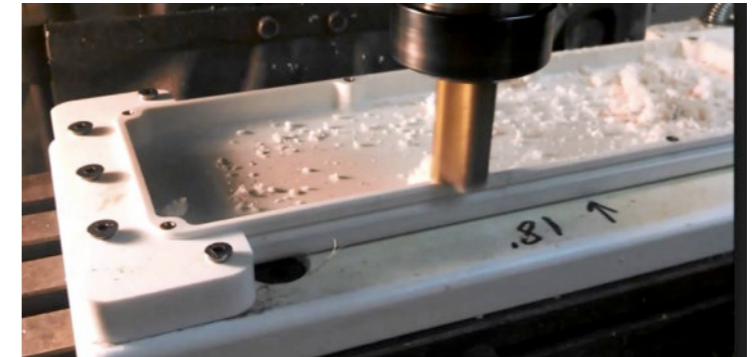
Change from 1990 flat door to rounded door
made it more difficult to tune the door fit

3. Mfg. likes to be in 2 ½ D

Corollary: You have to be able to get the tool into and out from the part

What does this mean?

- Most tools open and close or move in a single plane
- CNC machines use vertical access
- Stamping creates 3D features out of a sheet of metal



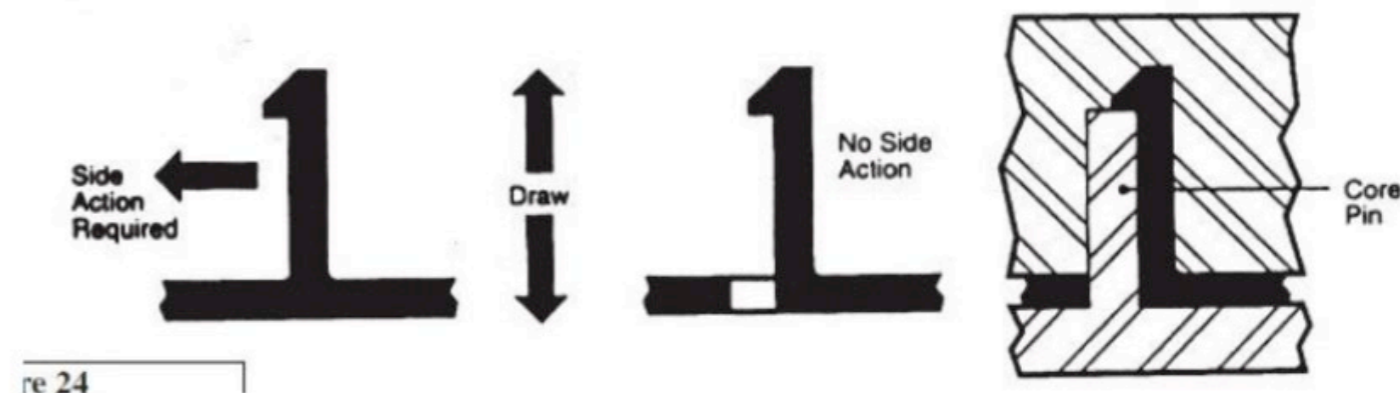
Key failures

- Expensive to create tools for 3D
- Variability in end geometry



How to address

- Creative ways to make parts 2 ½ D
- Re-fixturing (adds variability)



4. Weird things happen when material goes from liquid to solid *Corollary: Materials don't like to go around corners or cool unevenly*

What does this mean?

- When material cools unevenly it can cause material to come away from the tool and create sink marks
- Uneven cooling can result in internal stresses that will release and move the part

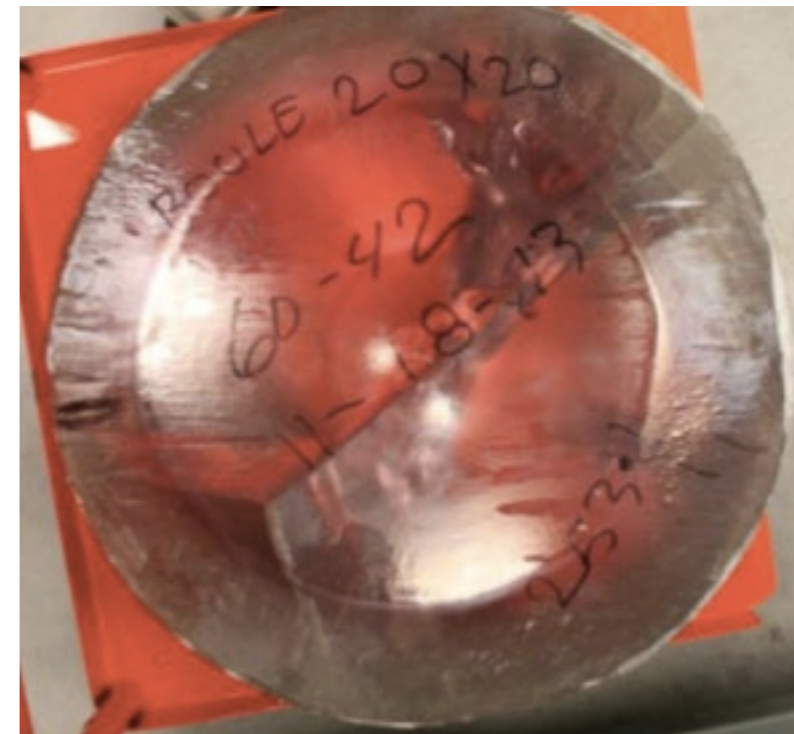


Key failures

- Sink marks
- Thermal stresses

How to address

- Controlling the cooling process
- Making sections even



5. Screws are bad but glue and tape are worse

What does this mean?

- Screws are expensive to install
- Tape and glue are messy, have to be controlled environmentally

Key failures

- Glue and tape require a lot of experimentation to get the right kind
- Tape is hard to lay down flat
- Wrong screws, incorrect torque

How to address

- Mechanical connections
- Single parts
- If you have to use screws use loctite



6. The more you handle a product, the more defects get introduced

What does this mean?

- Every time the part is picked up and put down, there is risk of scratching and dirt
- Every time it is handled there is a risk of mis-assembly
- Finger prints

Key failures

- Dirt, damage
- Mis-assembly
- Damage
- ESD

How to address

- Reduce part count
- Modular assembly
- Easy assembly
- Single direction assembly
- Automation



7. Vibration is your enemy

Corollary: Assembled things want to disassemble themselves

What does this mean?

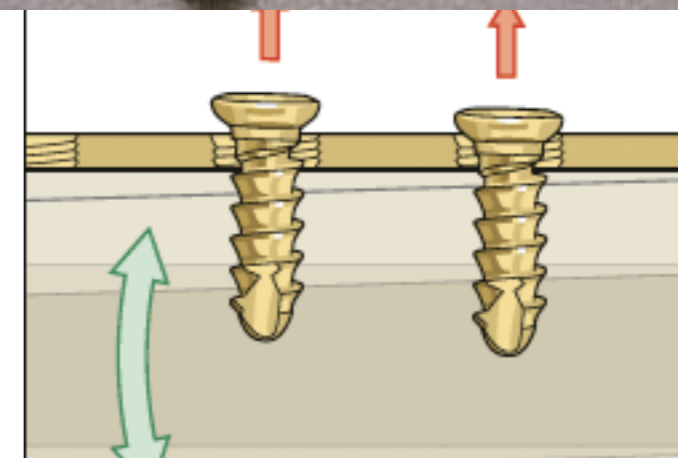
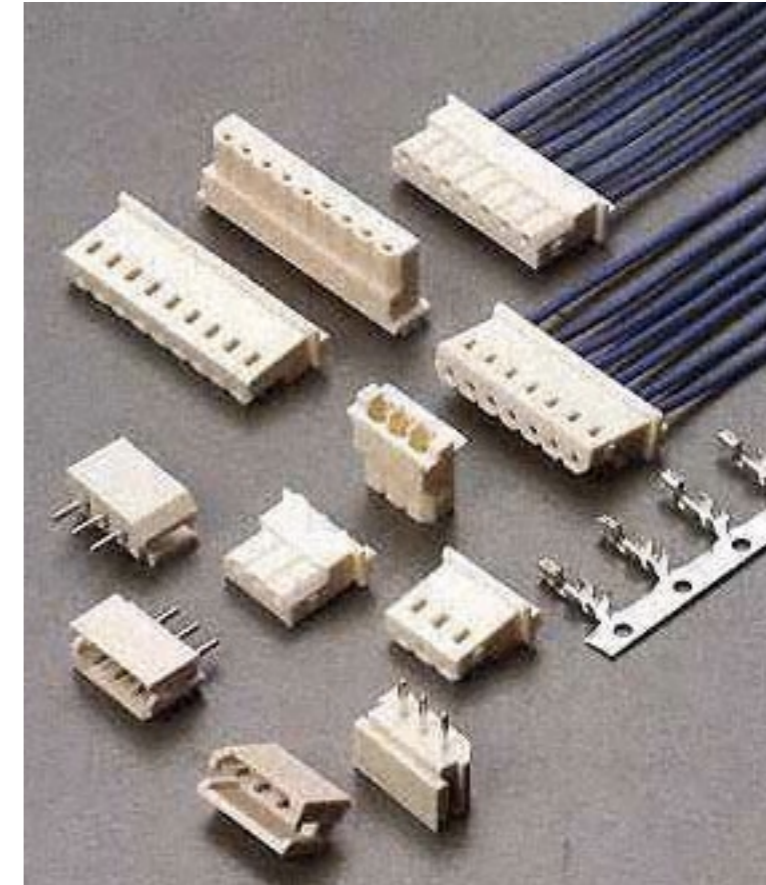
- Mechanical connectors will become disassembled with vibration
- Vibration can cause fatigue and cracking in critical areas

Key failures

- Loosened parts
- Electrical issues

How to address

- Use a secondary mechanical lock
- Avoid connectors and screws
- Test for vibration



8. Things are always easier if you have fewer parts to manage

What does this mean?

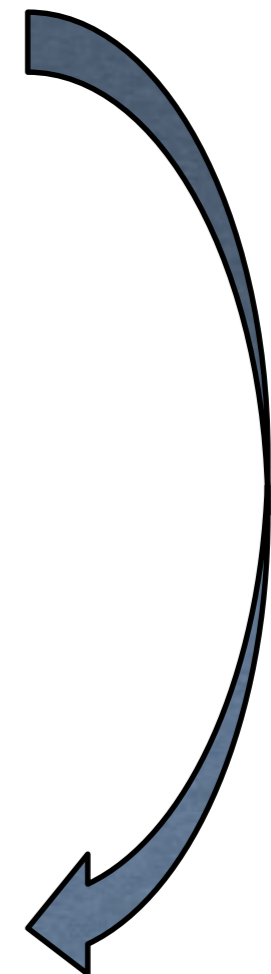
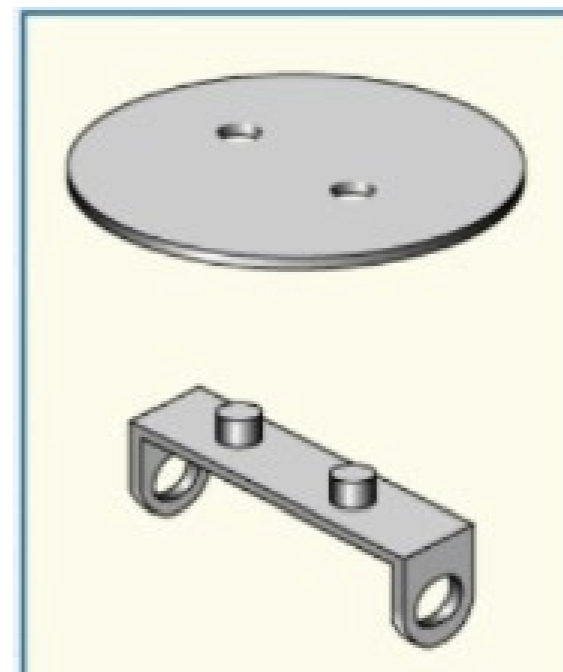
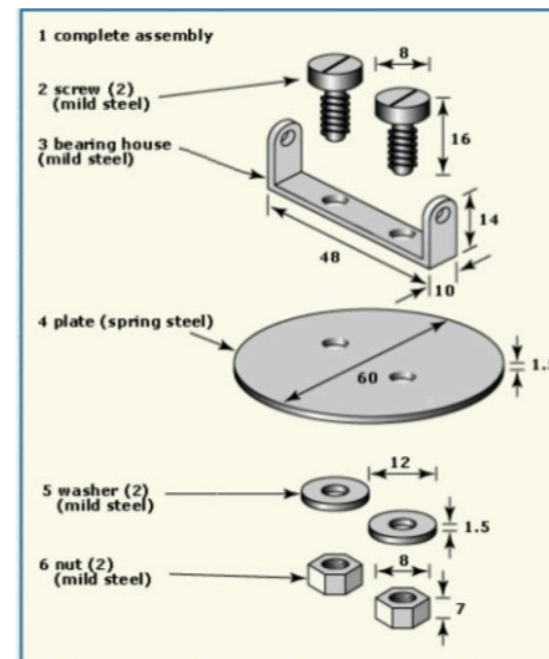
- More parts mean more room for error
- More work to assemble
- Easier to be short a part

Key failures

- Missing part
- Incorrectly assembled
- Damage

How to address

- Part consolidations



9. Material doesn't like to go into sharp corners

What does this mean?

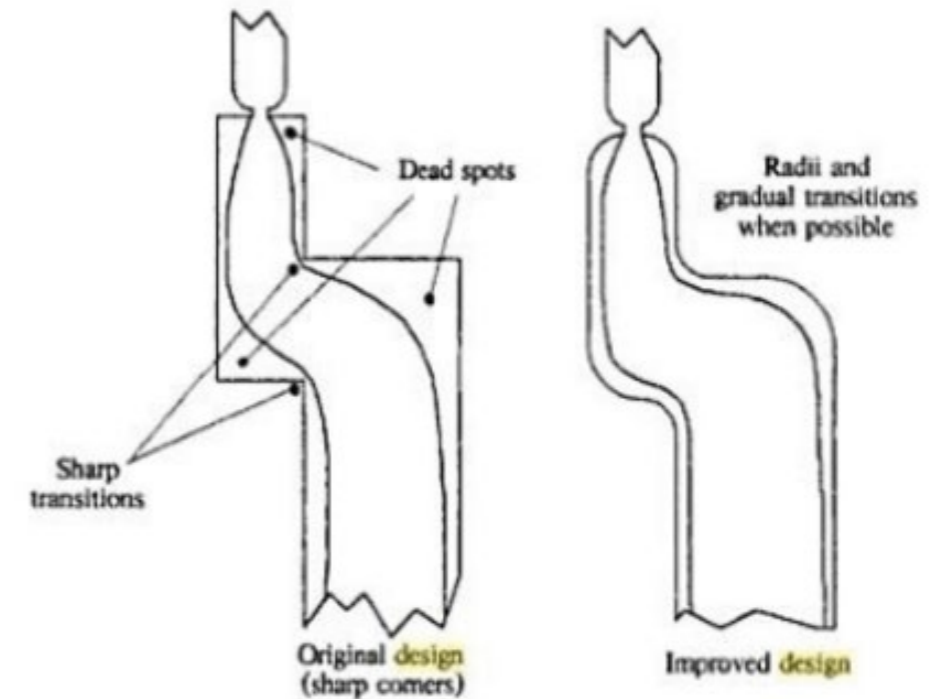
- There is no such thing as a sharp corner

Key failures

- Having to add material to a tool is painful, expensive and you will NEVER get a good surface finish

How to address

- 3-D printing first
- Soft tooling
- Cutting to the max tolerance and adjust by removing tool material (make the part small first)



10. The best DFM will fail if the process isn't controlled

What does this mean?

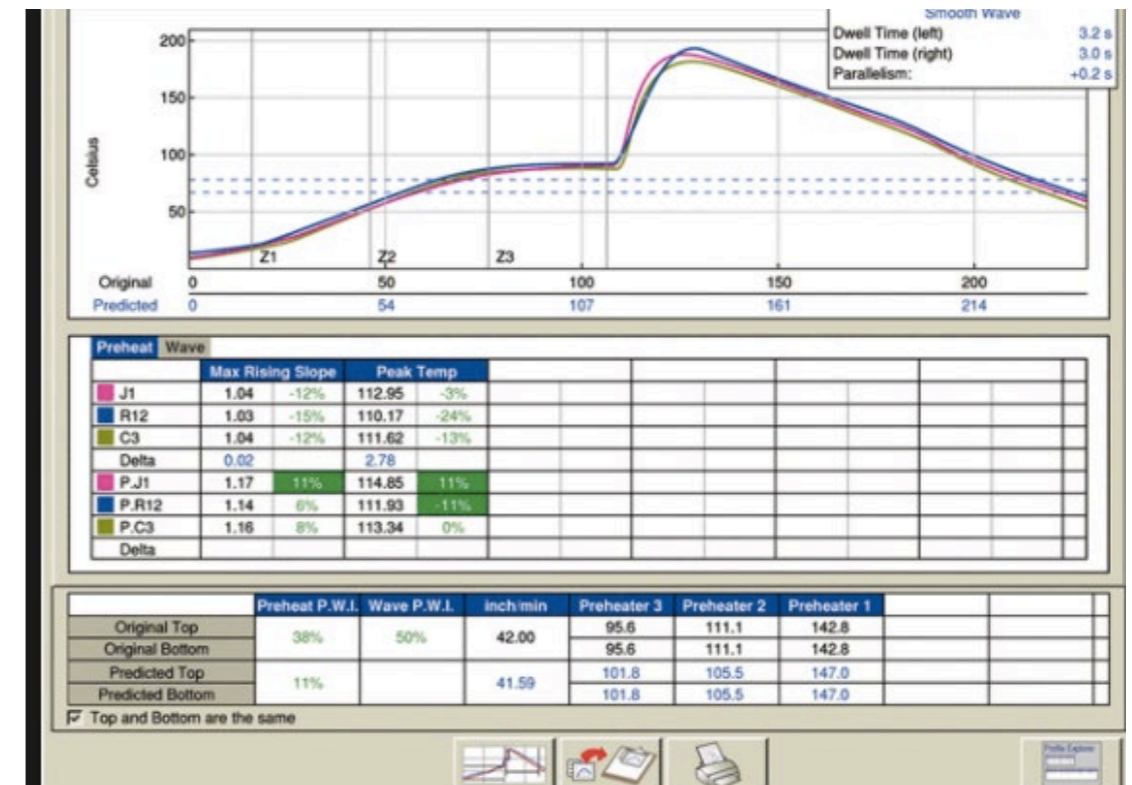
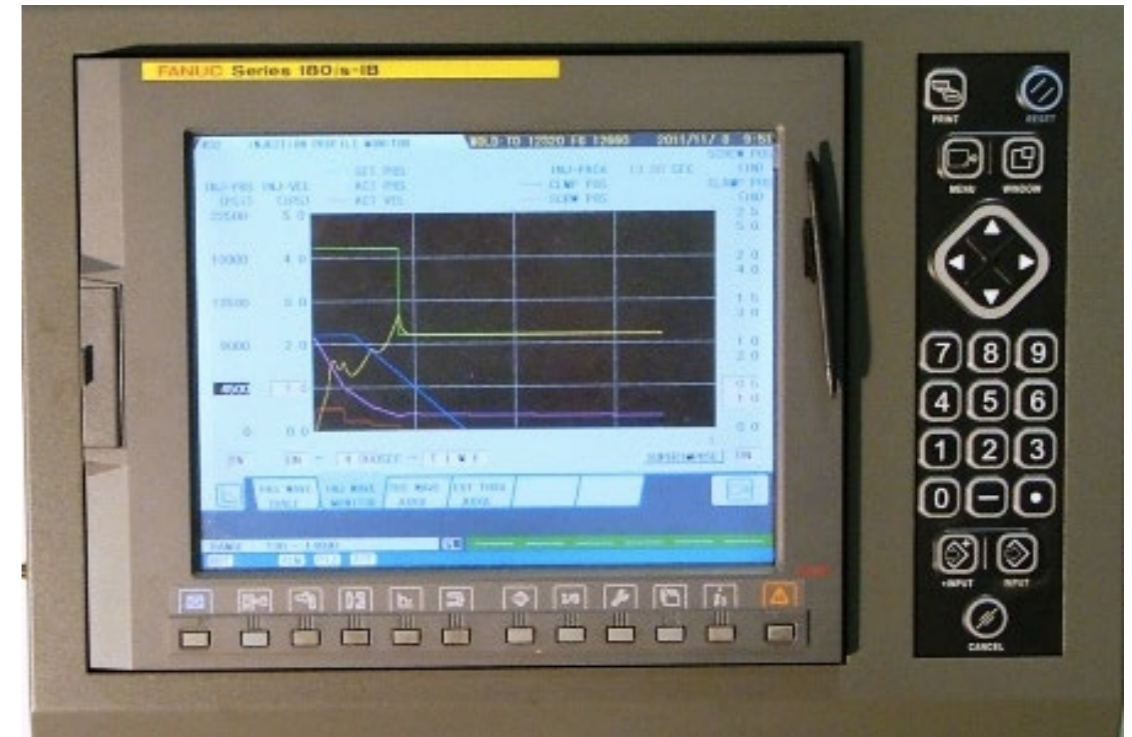
- Process parameters will impact quality dramatically

Key failures

- Incorrect geometry
- Surface quality
- Internal defects

How to address

- Validate process parameters
- Controlling the process



11. Know when to break the rules

What does this mean?

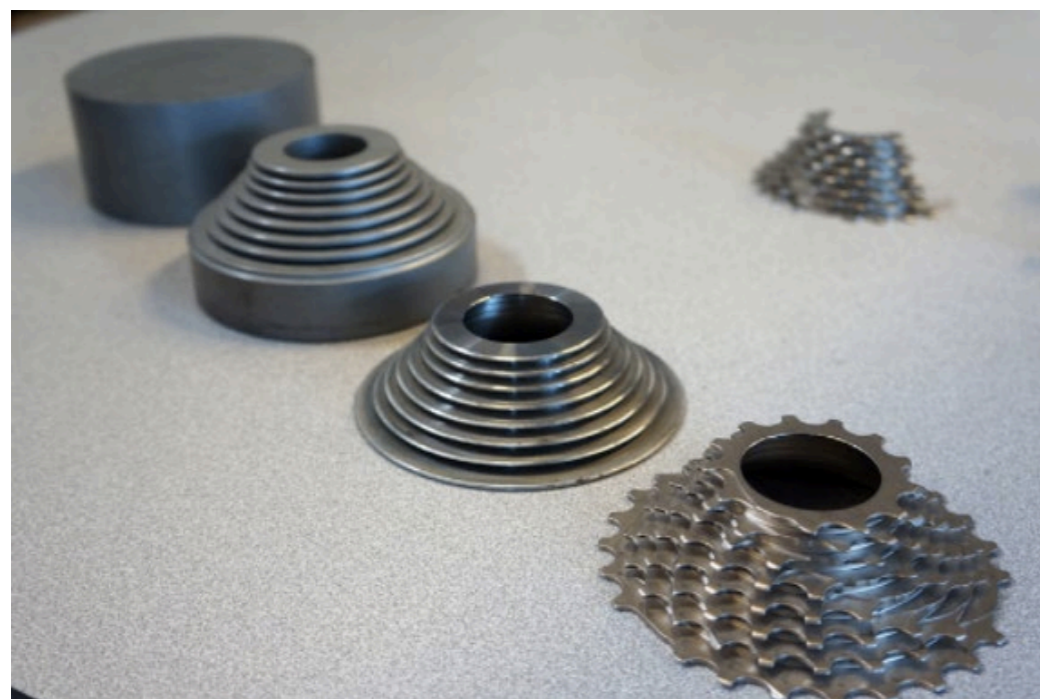
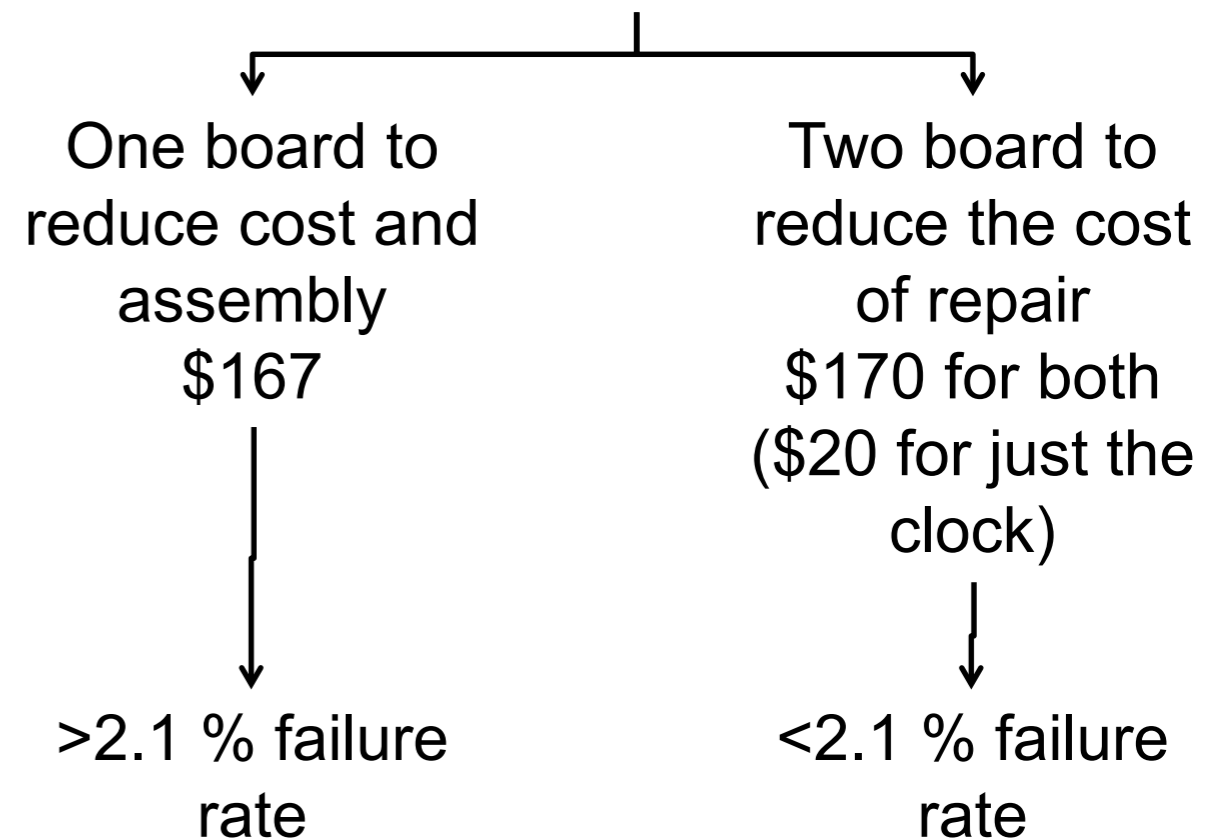
- There are times that not following DFM is the right decision
- You might have two rules in opposition (2 ½ D vs. fewer parts)



How to address

- Need to make an analytical tradeoff
- Need to understand all of the cost implications

Oven controller: separate out the clock from the main board?



DFM / DFA Simplified

1. If there is an opportunity to not follow directions, someone will.
2. Material will never stay where you put it and tries to go back where it started
3. Mfg. likes to be in 2 ½ D
4. Weird things happen when material goes from liquid to solid
5. Screws are bad but glue and tape are worse
6. The more you handle a product, the more defects get introduced
7. Vibration is your enemy
8. Things are always easier if you have fewer parts to manage
9. Material doesn't like to go into sharp corners
10. The best DFM will fail if the process isn't controlled

11. KNOW WHEN TO BREAK THE RULES



Q&A

RESOURCES

Scott@DragonInnovation.com

www.DragonInnovation.com

PRODUCT PLANNER

<https://tools.dragoninnovation.com/planner>

VIDEOS ON DFM

blog.dragoninnovation.com/category/design-for-manufacturing-course/

BLOG

blog.dragoninnovation.com

SLIDES

www.slideshare.net/dragoninnovation



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