

Assignment 1: The Design Process

Assume that you have been charged with the task of researching existing designs for hammocks and that the outcome of your research will help determine whether or not it is economically feasible to design and produce a "better" hammock.

This assignment's objectives are:

- To reinforce your understanding and recall of the steps required to complete the design process
- To help you build skills on how to effectively find information you need
- To help you see that your engineering judgment is essential in order to get you started on the design process
- To help you understand the number of issues that need to be resolved in the design of products

Conduct a search on the WEB for hammocks. Gather information about your competitor's product (materials, accessories, claims regarding unique features, capacity in terms of maximum weight, does the buyer have to assemble?--if assembly is required, how involved does it appear to be? What are the ranges in cost?)

Also, access the following sites and review patents related to hammocks or hammock accessories:

<http://ep.espacenet.com/>

<http://www.delphion.com/>

<http://www.uspto.gov/>

Be prepared to discuss your findings in class on Monday, and have prepared for collection, a summary of your findings and justification of your recommendation to either proceed or halt the design process.

Attach a copy of a patent or patent application of a hammock design that you especially liked.

How this assignment will be graded:

Is the work neat, accurate, and reflect pride of authorship?

Is it apparent that sufficient effort was invested?

Is the work the have a caliber and sophistication expected for juniors and seniors?

Relative to the best work submitted, where does this work stand? (best, average, marginal).