Jonathan Sammon

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Summary

Product development engineer with 9+ years of experience bringing products from early consumer insights through commercialization and global scale-up, with 15+ patents granted or pending. Leads cross-functional teams across multiple sites, aligning marketing, R&D, and production around shared design goals to deliver higher-performing and more manufacturable products. Mentors new engineers through a significant R&D expansion.

Experience

Reynolds Consumer Products (Hefty Home & Tableware division): Lake Forest, IL
Senior Product Development Engineer *July 2023-present*; **Product Design Engineer** *Aug 2020-July 2023*

- Lead cross-functional project teams comprising Marketing, Process Engineering, Packaging, Quality, Regulatory, and Sustainability, across 3 internal sites and with global production partners
- Develop products across thermoforming, extrusion, injection molding, molded fiber, and paper, from concept through consumer testing, pilot, and first production
- Mentor new engineers and assist with interviewing and hiring as R&D grew from 2 engineers to 8
- Administer PDM system for all tableware product and tooling technical data
- 4 granted patents on commercialized products; 7+ pending

Selected projects:

- *Compostable cutlery*: Developed over 20 concepts for cutlery used in consumer testing and identified a consumer-preferred design. Optimized geometry to make a difficult-to-mold proprietary resin manufacturable while delivering an industry-leading strength-to-weight ratio. Product is successful in the market and has been cited as a key innovation in internal and external company communications.
- *Party cups:* Expanded the scope of a branding refresh redesign to also increase strength, and led testing to legally substantiate a “35% stronger” claim on-package. The design further reduced material usage by around 10%, lowering product cost.
- *Paper plates:* Key contributor and sole internal technical expert on the launch of 3 families of paper plate products produced in Mexico. For the largest project, worked closely with on-site engineers and technicians, and identified a novel and patentable design improvement to increase product strength for a key strategic product launch.

Marmon Foodservice Technologies: Carol Stream, IL
Mechanical Engineer (new product development) *July 2018-July 2020*

- Designed prototype gas-fired cooking appliances for commercial kitchens, using design of experiments to analyze prototype performance and develop improvements
- Demonstrated prototype equipment on-site at a global quick-service brand’s headquarters and passed testing required to trial equipment in their restaurants
- Installed 1 unit in an active restaurant kitchen for a 2-month field trial and performed observation studies during usage
- Reviewed compliance with NSF, UL, CSA (ANSI), CE, NFPA, and other standards
- Documented inventions for patent filing (3 patents granted)

Marmon Foodservice Technologies: Carol Stream, IL
Engineering Intern *June-Sept 2017*

- Conducted observational studies in restaurants to develop value propositions for new equipment
- Ran time studies and line balancing, reducing equipment assembly cycle time by an estimated 35%; authored a VBA-based application to make future analyses faster and more efficient
- Created industrial design sketches, flowcharts, and other visuals to present a series of novel methods and devices to improve the sandwich-making process (1 patent granted)
- Designed, built, and tested works-like prototypes of devices to hold, heat, and measure hot coffee

S&C Electric Company: Chicago, IL
Engineering Co-Op (*5 academic quarters spread over 2015-2017): Polymer Products, Underground Switching & Protection, and US Manufacturing Departments*

- Redesigned an existing injection mold to correct producibility, datum location, and part ejection issues; created or modified 100+ parts
- Investigated assembly issues such as interferences and redesigned parts and tools to resolve them
- Coordinated outside materials testing and equipment purchasing
- Created 3D models, 2D drawings, and CNC programs for sheet metal, milled, and turned parts; developed and taught best practices for CNC programming of a new press brake
- Operated manual mills, lathes, and table grinders as part of a rotation working under professional toolmakers

Technical Skills

- Computer-Aided Design (Solidworks, OnShape, Creo)
- Computer Programming (C, PHP, SQL, VBA, MATLAB)
- Rapid Prototyping (Sketching, Foamcore, SLA and FDM/FFF 3D printing, Laser-cutting, CNC)
- Design of Experiments (including regression analysis)
- Mechatronics prototyping (sensors, motors, and electronics)
- Tolerance analysis (GD&T)

Core Competencies

- Cross-functional leadership
- Technical writing
- Project management
- Patent analysis and documentation
- Graphical presentation of data
- Industrial design
- Human-centered design
- Concept generation

Education

Northwestern University: Evanston, IL
Sept 2013-June 2018

- Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science
- Dual Bachelors of Science in Manufacturing and Design Engineering and Mechanical Engineering
- Certificate: Cooperative Engineering Education Program (Co-Op)
- Honors: Cum Laude, Tau Beta Pi, Pi Tau Sigma