Hacking & Prototyping

September 15, 2020

Lab Review

Cool timers?
ECAD adventures?

Innovating from scratch vs. Shanzhai innovation

Photo from the Atlantic, by Anna Greenspan

When so much of developing interactive devices is
"just" the rearrangement and repurposing
of basic modular units, the design—
placement, packaging, presentation,
application, target user, use case
—is what makes the product.

Two ways we address this in our class are:
1) hacking—taking apart things to understand how they work, technically, but also from a design perspective,
2) prototyping—developing lots of ideas, and lots of variants of our designs, and testing them with people to understand nuances of making things *really* work.

Hacking

Culture | Understanding how things work
Being rough and ready

Hacker:

[a] person who delights in having an intimate understanding of the internal workings of a system, computers and computer networks in particular
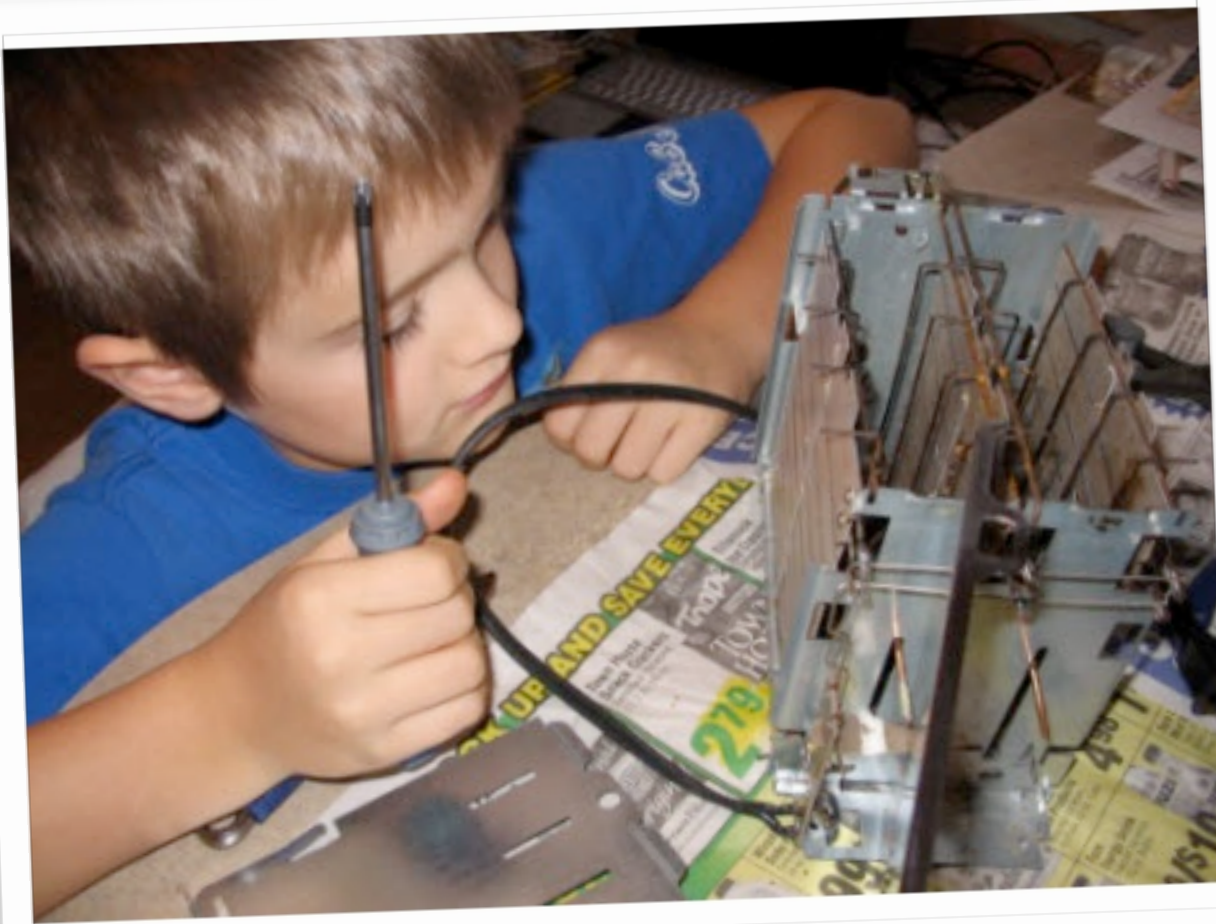
Photo from articulate.com

Photo from photobucket: pacapo

Photo from Ambidextrous Mag

Homebrew:
Several very high-profile Silicon Valley hackers and IT entrepreneurs emerged from the DIY computer movement of the mid 1970's.

NEWSLETTER

Homebrew Computer Club

RANDOM DATA
By Robert Reiling

Computer clubs continue to form around the country…E. Brooner would like to have material to help him get started with the "Flathead Computer Society" in the Kalispell area. His Address is P.O. Box 236, Lakeside, Montana 59922.

Did you see the SOL terminal demonstrated by Bob Marsh at the Sept. 1st meeting? An excellent design that will interest hobbyists and commercial users alike. It's available from Processor Technology, 6200 Hollis St., Emeryville, CA 94608. Write them for prices and specifications.

The OSI Systems Journal has been sent to all OSI customers (free—at least for the time being). It's a bi-monthly magazine with plans to go monthly in the future. There are 28 pages in the first issue (August 1976, Vol. 1, No. 1) with a hardware feature covering the OSI 440 Video Graphics System and software, features concerning Tiny BASIC for the 6800 and a Graphics Editor for the 6502. It also includes OSI product and software catalog data. The BASIC is, of course, the 2K Tiny BASIC developed by Tom Pittman. Many of you have met Tom at the Homebrew computer Club meetings. The OSI Systems Journal is a good way to learn more about the OSI computer hardware and software along with helpful user information. The contact address is: The OSI Systems Journal, P.O. Box 134, Hiram, Ohio 44234.

KIM-1 users now have a newsletter. Eric Rehnke is producing the newsletter every 5-8 weeks, MOS Technology, Inc. helped get it started by sending copies to all known KIM owners. The user group, however, is independent of MOS Technology, Inc. The newsletter is devoted to KIM-1 support. Subscriptions are $5.00 for the next six issues. Contact "KIM-1 User Notes," c/o Eric C. Rehnke, Apt. 207, 7656 Broadview Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134.

The BAMUG club has a new contact address. It is BAMUG, c/o Timothy O'Hare, 1211 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, CA 94501. Write Timothy for club information. I suggest you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Beware of board snatchers! Glenn Ewing reports 11 boards were taken out of his IMSAI computer. The boards are: MPU, 4 RAM-4's, SIO-2, P10-4, PIC-8, PROM-4, IFM and FIB. Glenn suggests you consider providing good security for your computer and associated equipment. In his case the computer was in a locked office which was burglarized. In the event you

have information on the above boards, write Lt. Glenn Ewing, Code 62EI, Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, CA 93940.

For family and friends of people who always wanted to know about computers, but didn't want to ask them, four easy-going classes are available starting Oct. 19th on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. You can learn how computers work and what they can and can't do. You will also have some of the jargon deciphered, see what you can do with a computer, play some games and learn to program. The cost is $25. Contact the Community Computer Center, 1919 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, phone (415) 325-4444.

A call for papers in personal computing has been issued by the 1977 National Computer Conference. The conference is scheduled for June 13-16, 1977. I have a few copies of the guidlines if you would like to submit a paper.

The First West Coast Computer Faire will be held April 16 and 17, 1977 at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium. This faire is shaping up rapidly. If you would like to lead a conference or participate in a conference session, please contact me. More information about the Faire is in the accompanying article.□

THE FIRST WEST COAST COMPUTER FAIRE
*A Call For Papers And Participation*

The San Francisco Bay Area is finally going to have a major conference and exhibition exclusively concerned with personal and home computing—The First West Coast Computer Faire. And, it promises to be a massive one! It will take place in the largest convention facility in Northern California: The Civic Auditorium in San Francisco. It will be a two-and-a-half day affair, starting on Friday evening and running through Sunday evening, April 15-17.

It is being sponsored by a number of local and regional hobbyist clubs, educational organizations and professional groups. These include:

- The two largest amateur computer organizations in the United States—the Homebrew Computer Club and the Southern California Computer Society
- Both of the Bay Area chapters of the Association Of Computing Machinery—the San Francisco Chapter and the Golden Gate Chapter
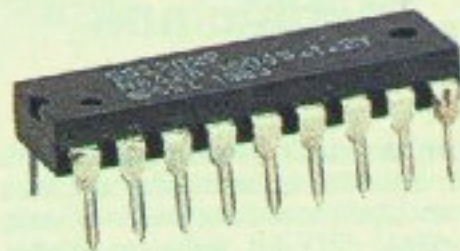- Stanford University's Electrical Engineering Department
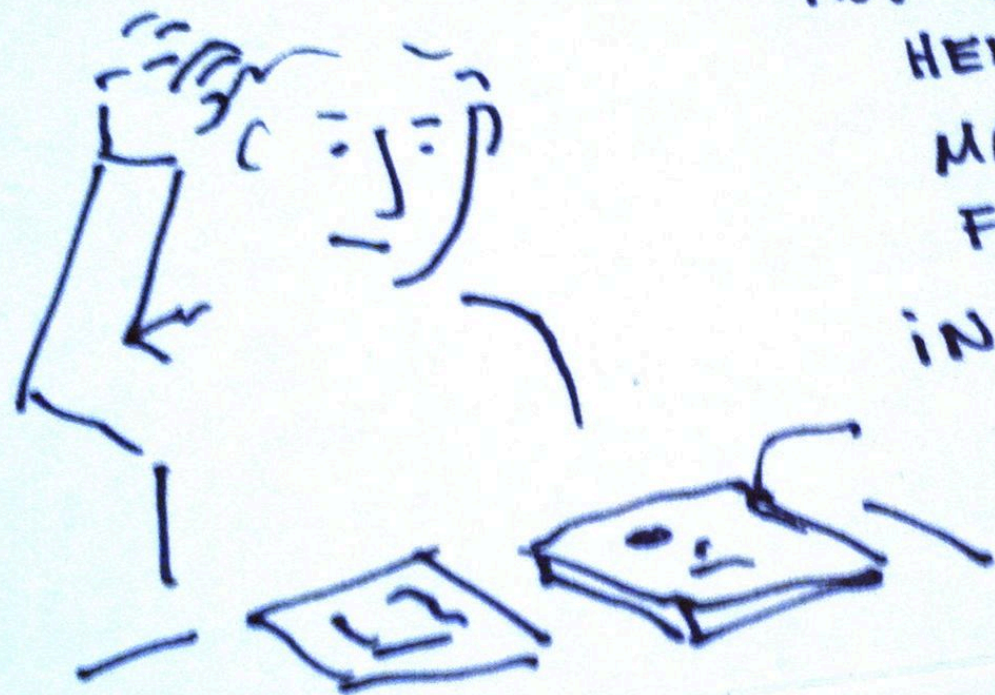
FM Receiver On-A-Chip

11⁹⁵

TDA7000. Combines RF, mixer, IF and demodulator stages in one monolithic IC! Mute circuit reduces spurious reception. Frequency-locked-loop system with non critical 70 KHz IF. With data. 276-1304 . 11.95

Prototyping

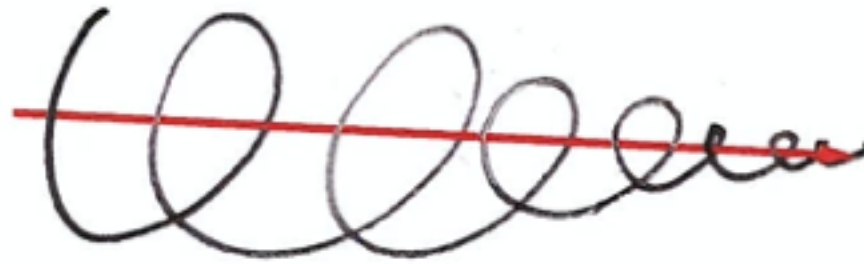Getting the Design Right vs. Getting the Right Design

image from NYT, http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/03/nyregion/
nyregionspecial2/03artswe.html

Figure 149: Prototyping as Iterative Incremental Refinement
In engineering, prototyping is like a spiral closing in along a single trajectory. Each prototype is a refinement of the previous one, and takes you one step closer to the final product. Iterative prototyping is a form of incremental refinement and validation, rather than a technique of exploration.

Figure 150: Design as Branching Exploration and Comparison
Design is about exploring and comparing the relative merits of alternatives. There is not just one path, and at any given time and for any given question, there may be numerous different alternatives being considered, only one of which will eventually find itself in the product.

images from Buxton, Sketching User Experiences
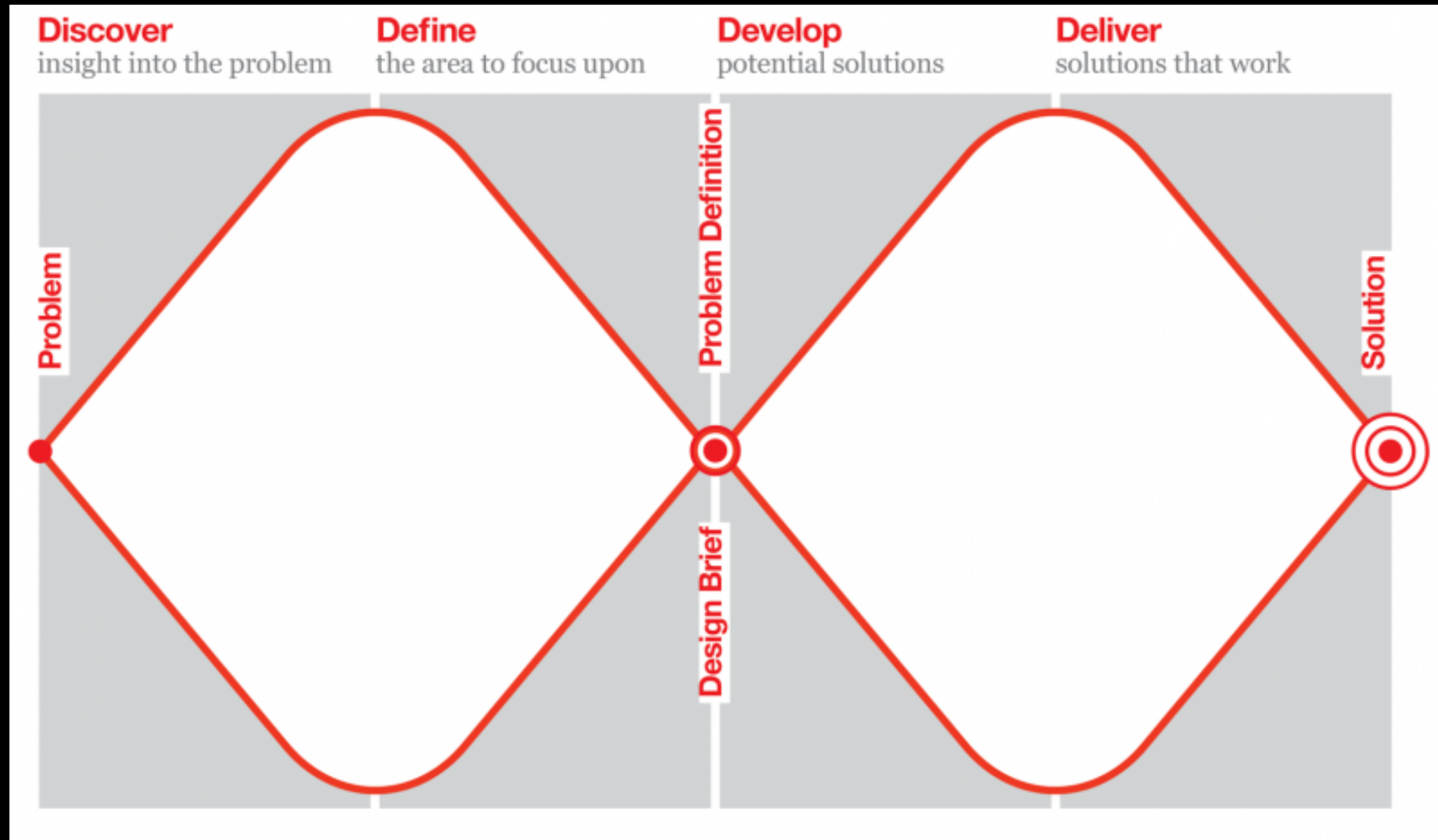
Double Diamond Design Process, British Design Council

Prototypes

- [ ] Describe
- [ ] Refine
- [ ] Answer
- [ ] Test
- [ ] Resolve
- [ ] Specify
- [ ] Depict

Breadboarding

image from Tom Igoe, http://www.tigoe.net/pcomp/code/understanding-electricity/breadboards

Protoboarding:

image from http://coecsl.ece.uiuc.edu/ge423/spring04/group9/images/
diagrams/protoboard2.gif
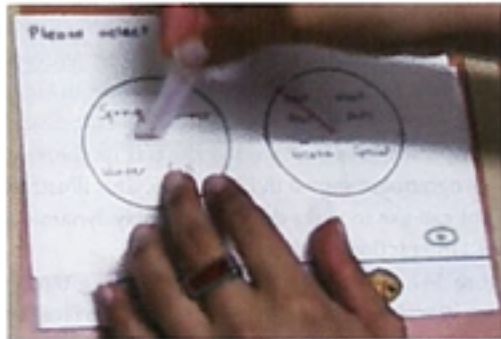
	If the user pushes the Create Program button, the main part of the display is replaced by two dials. The left one shows the four seasons, the right one four options: "Week Day", "Weekend", On Vacation", and "Special". The user selects the season and type of day by touching the appropriate "slice" of the display, or dragging the red dial indicator.
	The indicator is actually a piece of transparent tape that is stuck to the dial. The glue is like that on a Post-It. That is, it can be easily lifted up and stuck down in a new position. That is what the facilitator is doing in this image: moving the indicator to reflect the season chosen by the user.
	When the new program is set, the facilitator returns to the original screen, shown in Figure 66, and updates the Program Label.
	The "face" of the dial is also replaced with one that reflects the new program.

Figure 146: Creating a New Program

image from Buxton, Sketching User Experience

Examples

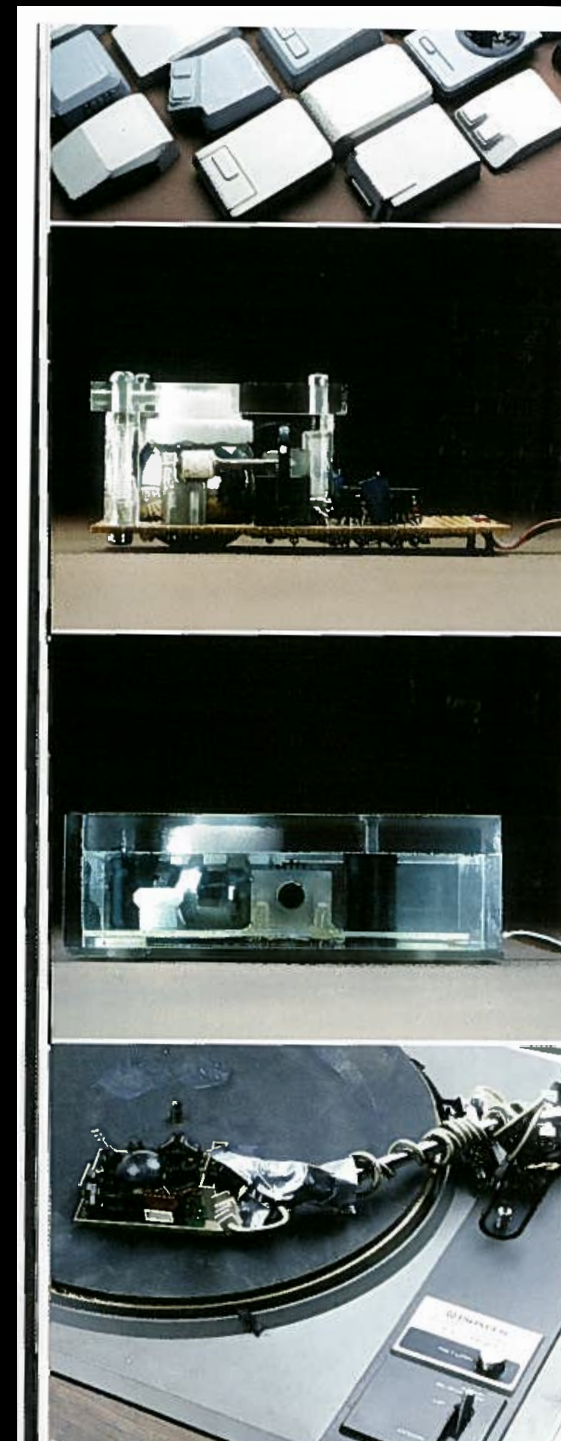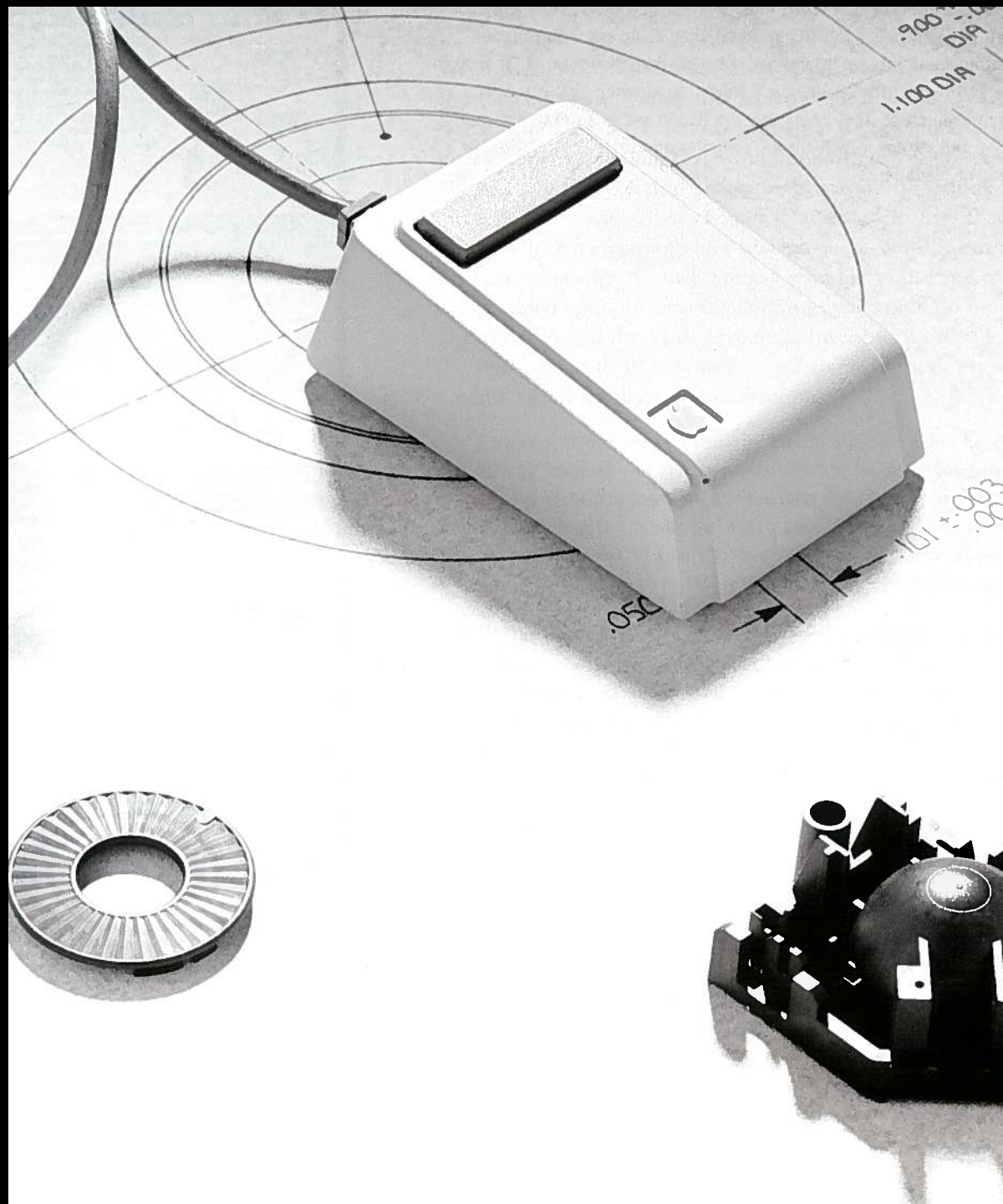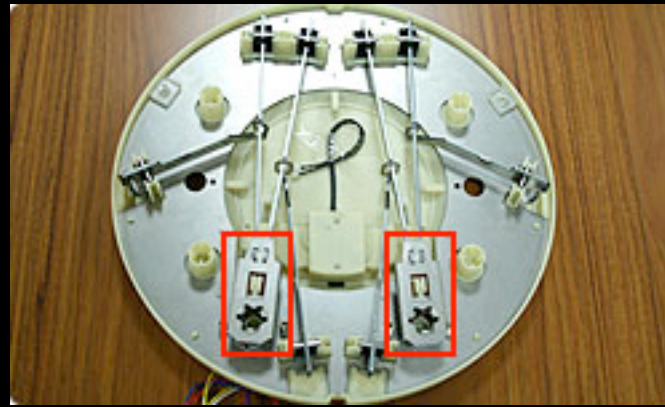Sketches, Prototypes, & How they are used

image from Bill Moggridge, Designing Interactions (2006)

image from Bill Moggridge, Designing Interactions (2006)

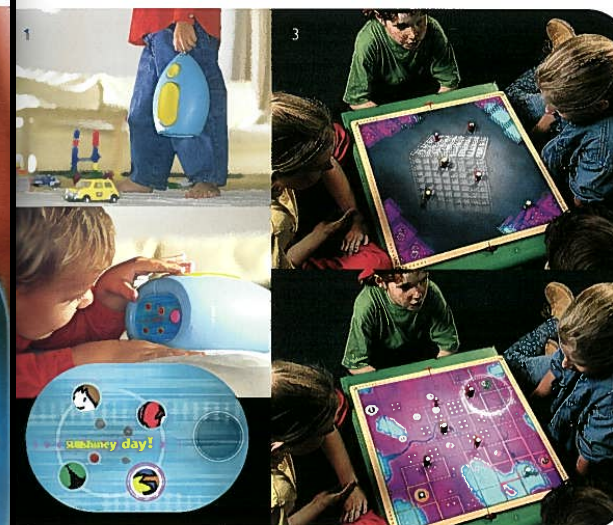# Wii Fit

1 **Moby** – cordless dynamic speaker system.
2 **Hand-Powered Toys** – interactive storyteller and a projector using hand-generated energy.
3 **Game Board** – combining the traditional qualities of a game board with the dynamism of video games.
4 **Creativity Mat** – electronic paper to write and draw on with a network link to friends.
5 **Mumbo** – sound manipulator and music mixer.
6 **Mimic World** – intuitive physical participation in a virtual experience.
7 **Biko Games** – detachable toys for communication, navigation or tracking.

8 **Kid Watch** – allows parents to monitor their children's safety wherever they are.
9 **Multimedia Tools** – a camera, a touch-screen display, a microphone, a pager and a loudspeaker.
10 **Ludic Robots** – unpredictable and friendly 'electronic pets'.
11 **Interactive Globe** – combines the attractive qualities of a traditional globe with an interactive multimedia display.
12 **Emotional Communicators** – paging devices for sending and receiving emotional messages.
13 **Storyteller** – by stringing different elements together, children can compose and listen to their own stories.
14 **Hansel & Gretel** – a homing device.
15 **Recharge Mats** – surfaces conducting power and signals to operate electronic toys.
16 **Kid's Projector** – LCD projector providing a flexible way of viewing films, animations and children's multimedia presentations.

the electronic playground

image from Philips Design, Creating Value by Design

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID

GROWTH EXPERIENCE

ARTIST'S HIDEAWAY

DESTINATION KNOWN

PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE

MAGIC CARPET RIDE

COSY FIRE

ON TRACK FOR FUN

EARLY BIRD

GUITAR MAN

MRS BOVARY

image from Philips Design, Creating Value by Design

image from Buxton, Sketching User Experience

Argon ONE Pi 3 Raspberry Pi Case

★★★★★ | Be the first to review this product

- **SLEEK ALUMINUM ENCLOSURE** | Made with aluminum alloy and polished with a modern S

- **PASSIVE AND ACTIVE COOLING** | The whole case top acts as a passive cooling for the Ra temperature management.

- **EASY ASSEMBLY & NEAT CABLE MANAGEMENT** | Assembling the case with the Raspbe the Argon ONE in one line.   All of the ports are accessed at the back, making the mini-compu

- **PROPER SYSTEM SHUTDOWN** | A proper power button is installed on the case to prevent f built in features.

- **MAGNETIC REMOVABLE TOP & ACCESS TO GPIO** | The PCB Board built into the case provides separate power sources to the fan and power switch, as well as extending the GPIO pins to use the case in multiple projects.

image from https://www.argon40.com/
argon-one-raspberry-pi-3-case.html