

DESIGN SPECIFICATION

The Design Specification is the most crucial element of the Investigate phase of the Design Cycle.

A good **Design Specification** should include information that you learned about the task/problem from your research.

It is a list of requirements that your design ideas must meet plus a list of constraints that you have. It is the check list that you need to use when you start to make your design ideas.

After your research you can develop a Design Specification. This will tell you:

1. **The Audience- Who you are designing for** (who will see/buy the product)
 2. **Objective - What the successful design must do:** This is a description of what the solution will accomplish. It could indicate how well the solution is expected to work or under what conditions it will work
 3. **Production -**
 - What it should look like (Size/colours/etc)
 - What it should be made from
 - Tools needed to make the product
 - Time needed to complete the product
 4. **Usage - How it will be used**
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This is an example of a good Design Specification for a Clock Project:

- Must use the Quartz analogue clock movement provided.
- The movement is **55mm x 55mm x 15mm**, so it must be larger than 55mm x 55mm.
- Should be smaller than **300mm x 300mm** due to the size of the hands.
- Cannot be thicker than **5mm** due to the length of the movement shaft.
- Should have a theme that reflects the results from my survey.
- Must be original in its design.
- Should be made from MDF, timber or acrylic as are the most suitable.
- Must be able to be made in the TIS workshop.
- Can not be too difficult to make.
- Must be cost effective to make.
- Should be easy to read.
- Should be safe. (No sharp edges, non-toxic)
- Must be able to hang on the wall securely
- Must be able to be made in the time provided.
- Must tell the time!

Test: I could test my clock by;

1. Conducting a survey of my intended market
2. Check that it can be read from various distances, angles and by various people.
3. Ensure that it keeps accurate time by checking it against the clock on a computer.
4. Check to see if the batteries can be replaced easily.
5. Check that it hangs on the wall well and will not fall if bumped.