

Kyle D. Narkiewicz

Industrial Designer | Consumer Product Design Manager | New Product Development
Tampa, FL 33626 | kylednarkiewicz@gmail.com | 1.717.599.6020

Dedicated and highly motivated industrial designer with experience at industry leading Fortune 500, as well as family-owned organizations. Extensive knowledge of consumer product design, detailed CAD modeling, prototyping, and manufacturing, who excels at creating market successful consumer products within a scheduled time frame and budget utilizing the stage-gate process. Highly organized at communicating aesthetically pleasing designs to cross-functional departments including project management, mechanical engineering, marketing, sales, and executive leadership teams. Led deep-dive consumer and competitive market research to optimize product decisions based on costs and feature sets to elevate multiple brands across various brick and mortar as well as online retailers. Thrives at critical problem solving under time-centric situations of the design process focusing on attention to detail to ensure the achievement of strict quality and safety standards with minimal supervision via automation, workflow, and documentation optimization. Flexible problem-solving abilities working directly with domestic and international partners delivering real-time solutions to manufacturing challenges during the development stage whether in-person or utilizing digital communication and conferencing.

Work Experience

Industrial Design Manager

Gator Cases (Gator Co.) - Tampa, FL
September 2018 to Present

- Innovated high-profile projects leading a team of designers pushing exciting products into the company portfolio of brands including industry leading bags and stands for musicians, effects pedal power supplies, studio production furniture collection, and protection focused solutions for instrument storage and digital equipment.
- Developed conceptual solutions by creating hand-drawn concept renders on iPad, visualizing detailed design tech packs in Illustrator, advanced solid modeling and part design techniques utilizing SolidWorks 3D CAD, integrating into comprehensive presentations with realistic renderings for internal and external stakeholders, and finally testing working development prototypes in real-world solutions by quickly iterating designs.
- Implemented standardized documentation for use by NPD team members in a stage-gate process utilizing the product management tool Wrike to directly interface with cross-functional teams to gather product design requirements, develop industry leading solutions, and relay design communications within the domestic and international teams.
- Forward facing product demonstrations and consumer research gathering at industry trade shows in the music, firearms, broadcasting, and outdoor industries using surveys and end user information sessions.
- Generated revenue with new products released since 2015 having sold over two-million units globally across three industry leading consumer brands.
- Launched over 100+ successful consumer products to market including Icon Series Hybrid Gig Bag, Creative Pro video camera bags and iMac totes, Closet Series guitar cases and hangers, G-Pro molded racks, and utility carts.
- Created and collaborated on innovative product packaging, graphics, and content for all new products by rebranding entire company logo assets, packaging, and brand identity pushing toward a modern company vision better representing the ethos of multiple brands such as Gator Cases, Frameworks, Slappa and Levy's.
- Managed individual designers to propel them to reach goals on all company industrial design activities with a peer reviewed process, complete final design reviews and approvals by workload monitoring, assignment input, and general team coaching and assistance to develop individual skill sets of the ID team.
- Developed comprehensive brand standards for new products, product packaging, technical spec sheets, consumer instruction sheets, and presentation templates.

Senior Industrial Designer

Gator Cases (Gator Co.) - Tampa, FL

September 2014 to September 2018

- Recognized with "Innovation Architect Award" for launching over 50 successful products in multiple categories including Transit Series gig bag, LED illuminated cases, Frameworks quad-base speaker stands, Slappa gaming laptop backpacks, and the patent pending Right-Height guitar strap for Levy's Leather.
- Led by example with a dedication of a follow-through of ideas and by bringing an attitude of positive energy, organization, and responsibility by implementing new processes to effectively expanded the product development department doubling the departments capabilities.
- Disciplined in designing hard and soft goods including sewn bags, molded storage cases, stage equipment, and storage solutions for internal consumer brands as well OEM customers such as JBL, Fender, Zildjian, Shure, Amazon, and more with a primary focus on the music industry, pro audio video, and stage production.
- Created tech packs and 3D CAD models highlighting materials, design language, construction techniques, dimensions, specs and hardware details for prototyping, factory sample development, and pre-production.
- Implemented an improved stage-gate process for a rapidly expanding company with a widening customer base by strategizing timelines with cross-functional teams to track product progression through the development stages.
- Researched and documented competitive product features, industry trends, and relevant new materials.
- International travel to external partners to build prototypes, source specific hardware, expand current processes, visit fabric markets with procurement teams, source components, and complete final product manufacturing specifications while meeting strict budget goals.
- Extensive knowledge of manufacturing methods including injection molding, rotational molding, metals, wood, foam, cut-n-sew processes like fabric lamination, sonic welding, technical sewing methods, and embroidery.

Industrial Designer

ClosetMaid (Emerson Electric Co.) - Ocala, FL

March 2011 to March 2014

- Translated product opportunities into cohesive consumer organization and storage solutions such as Shelf-Track Elite at Home Depot and ArrangeMents, Cubeicals, and Threshold Decorative Storage at Target.
- Developed products and collections meeting strict new product process goals using the product management stage-gate process.
- Collaborated with the internal innovation team, product managers, marketing managers, mechanical engineering team, external manufacturers and outside design-consulting firms. Guided and implemented the updating and cost reduction of currently existing products to aid in profitability.
- Unified the design process providing customers and external partners with knowledge of what their target demographic should be, details of the existing product marketplace, and future color and material predictions.
- Aligned concepts with the latest home decor, fashion, and interior design trends. Gathered research and trend forecasting annually by visiting multiple shows dedicated to the latest advances in home building, woodworking, and fabric trends and techniques.

Industrial Design Intern

Calphalon (Newell Brands) - Sandy Springs, GA

January 2010 to May 2010

- Worked directly as a part of the innovation team to successfully aid in the design of cookware, small appliances, and kitchen gadgets to successful launch to the marketplace.
- Strengthened department concept visualization, presentation, and layout design through effective 3D rendering with Keyshot and Rhino3D solid modeling software.
- Prototyped cookware handles, vessels, and gadgets using hand and power tools, 3D printing, in foam.
- Created detailed patent information located on the posterior of the next generation of cookware and kitchen electrics as well as information for design patent protection.
- Influenced the design of projects such as cookware, handle design, and kitchen gadgets for specific sub-brands including Kitchen Essentials, Unison, and Simply Calphalon.
- Demonstrated proficiency of ideas through the design of the Precision Mandolin Slicer for which a patent is held in my name and spearheaded the user testing, sketching, and preliminary concept generation.

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Industrial Design

The Savannah College of Art & Design - Savannah, GA

Portfolio Links (can provide more on request)

<http://www.kylenarkiewicz.com>

<http://www.coroflot.com/kylednarkiewicz>

Awards

Gator Co. - Innovation Architect Award

December 2017

- Recognized for launching over 50 successful products in multiple categories including Transit Series gig bag, LED illuminated cases, Frameworks quad-base speaker stands, Slappa gaming laptop backpacks, and the patent pending Right-Height guitar strap for Levy's Leather.

Certifications / Licenses

SolidWorks - Mechanical Design (CSWA - Mechanical Design)

Present

Patents

Levy's Right Height Strap Featuring Ripchord Technology (US20210015215A1)

<https://patents.google.com/patent/US20210015215A1>

January 2021

Calphalon Mandolin (Kitchen) Slicer (USD690564S1)

<https://patents.google.com/patent/USD690564S1>

October 2013

Skills

Digital Skills

- Adobe CC - Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Acrobat Pro - 10+ years
- SolidWorks - 7 years
- Office 365 - 10+ years
- Origami - Advanced Packaging Design - 5 years
- Wrike - Product Management - 7 years
- Egnyte - Cloud Storage - 7 years
- MakerBot Desktop - 7 years
- Pantone Manager - 7 years
- Keyshot - 10+ years
- Sketchbook Pro - 10+ years
- OSX and Windows - 10+ years

Technical Skills

- Advanced Materials Knowledge
- Conceptual Product Development
- Hand Tools and Prototype Shop Equipment
- 3D Solid Modeling Development
- Utilizing Engineer Principles
- Icon Design and Integration
- Color & Finish Selection
- Prototype to Manufacturing Translation
- Manufacturer/Engineering Drawings
- Model Making/Rapid Prototyping
- Advanced Concept Sketching/ Rendering
- Consumer Research and Target Demographic Insights

Manufacturing

- Plastic - Thermoformed/ Vacuum/ Injection/ Rotational Molded
- Wood - Veneer/ Hard/ MDF/ PB Metal- Welding/ Stamping/ Cutting/ Bending
- New Materials - EVA/ Polycarbonate/ Fiberglass/ Carbon Fiber/ Plexiglass
- Sewn Goods - Polyester/ Nylon/ Leather
- Hardware - Wood/ Metal/ Plastic/ Fasteners

Design Specialties

- Sewn Goods; Backpacks, Bags, Covers, and Totes
- Molded and Formed Cases
- Music Accessories and Tubular Stands
- Storage and Organization Solutions
- Furniture and Home Décor
- Juvenile Products
- Housewares; Cookware, Kitchen Gadgets and Tabletop Appliances