

# Handout for the 1/13/18 Meeting

## **One HUGE Prototype**

Smooth On <https://www.smooth-on.com/> is an incredible resource. They sell pourable plastics and silicones as well as other materials. They are also very educational with tons of videos on how to use their products. They also do a lot with theatrical make up. So if you want to look like a zombie, this is The Place.

As inventors, we are always looking to make a realistic almost sample quality prototype and I have used their materials to do just that. OK some of my early attempts were absolutely awful. So don't get discouraged but once you get the hang of it, you can make some really great stuff.

Talking about some great stuff, in the following video Las Vegas Props made a 18.5 by 12 foot underwater Christmas tree for the Shark Tank at the Aquarium in Camden NJ.

<http://bit.ly/2qSHRLj>

## **Designing For Manufacturing**

One of the most common complaints I hear from early on Independent Inventors is how darn expensive it is to manufacture their product. 3D Printing has brought down the cost of prototyping but at what cost? Sometimes insignificant under cuts have little to no effect on printed prototypes but can send the cost of a mold through the roof. So learning the process from the article above can get you thinking in that direction which got me thinking...

Many Inventors don't know how a molding machine works. So here is a video on that <http://bit.ly/2ExKyE9> and here is one on a bench top molding machine <http://bit.ly/2mtYloo> This is so simple you can recreate something like it and using the products above make sample quality prototypes for pennies. So what are you waiting for !?!?!

## **A Stepp In The Right Direction**

You hear a lot of people complaining about the USPTO these days as if it were a monster trying to kill the Independent Inventor but I'm here to tell you nothing could be farther from the truth. Long time friend of the group, Don Kelly, instituted the Inventor's Resource Center decades ago and I have use them innumerous times to help me with all sorts of issues. They are now running weekly chats to teach us more about the systems and get our freed back on how to improve their services.

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They have just instituted a new program called Stakeholders Training on Examination Practice and Procedures (STEPP) and it is unbelievable. It is mainly for Patent Practitioners, attorneys and agents but they also have a program for inventors like us and it teaches you how examiners are trained. This is like a behind the scenes tour of the world of patent prosecution through the eyes of an examiner. Now tell me that isn't awesome !

I can tell you're not impressed. Why do you need to know this ? Your attorney handles all that stuff. **WRONG !!!** Just like designing for manufacturing, the more you know about the patent system the more you can learn to Design for Patentability. Knowing what makes a strong patent and developing your product with that in mind will increase your chances of success by leaps and bounds. Believe me, the big boys like P&G do this.

Most of their courses are live and at the USPTO campus in Virginia but now they have a Virtual course line up. Either way this adds up to an incredible opportunity. <http://bit.ly/2EySkxB>

### **What Do You Think**

Member Joe Fernandes shared this on face book and I am curious what people think about it. It is a robotic machine that folds clothes from age 6 to XXL as well as towels and pillow cases. My first reaction was a bit off because it must have been an earlier model. It ran so slow you could fold them faster by hand but now it does 20 items in 4 minutes. Of course, that is with a skilled operator.

My next consideration was the price. They are shooting for a price point of \$980.00. I don't think most people will spend that much but I considered it after my wife went nuts when she watched the video. Lastly, is the size, where are you going to put it? They say it is 23.6 " wide by 27.6 " deep by 49.2 " high. They are still improving it so that may change. Up north space may not be a problem but down here laundry rooms are usually not that big. I know mine isn't so I would have to lose a cabinet to fit it. Here is the facebook page <http://bit.ly/2FuGYvD> and the website <http://bit.ly/2r09Bxt>

### **Two Great Opportunities**

But I'm not going to give you a link to them because I don't have one. They came as emails. So I printed out the flyer for you. The first is Start Up Pop and is right here in Boca. They usually have several people give a pitch to a group of investors. Next Thursday they are having a presentation on the 5 Steps to Explosive Lead Generation. You may want to go to their other events to see how people pitch their projects. You may consider pitching there yourself.

The other is an EXPO in Washington DC for disruptive inventions. Basically, to show Congress that Independent Inventors are a force to be reckoned with.

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