



KADEN D. SMITH

CREATIVE STRATEGIST + DESIGNER

Kaden is a strategist whose expertise comes from years of design, engineering, and research experience with household brands like Gillette, Venus, Milwaukee Tool, and Roomba. Kaden's upstream skillset includes product strategy, development, consumer testing, ideation & synthesis, rapid prototyping, and mockup creation. Kaden also brings his human-centered design approach, intentionality about accessibility, and deep commitment to inclusion to every project.

EDUCATION

M.S. Eng. Design Innovation

Northwestern University
Dec 2020

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

Carnegie Mellon University
May 2017

AWARDS

Patent D-3084 Shaving Razor Handle

Procter & Gamble

Culture Award 2020

Milwaukee Tool

Padloq LLC: Quarter-Finalist 2019

McCloskey New Venture Competition

Most Innovative Product 2017

CMU Mechanical Engineering Expo

CONTACT

kds2142@gmail.com

linkedin.com/in/handmadebykade

WORK EXPERIENCE

Product Design Engineer I & II

Gillette & Venus | 2021 - Present

- Led 100+ consumer tests via developing testing strategy, overseeing product assembly, interviewing consumers, and qualitative and quantitative data synthesis
- Delivered, prioritized, and tested over 200+ ideas for new product development on Venus Embrace
- Communicated concepts to internal and external stakeholders using various methods including storytelling, 3D printing, injection molding, physical prototyping, and CAD rendering

Founder and CEO

Padloq, LLC | 2017 - 2023

- Designed and developed USPTO provisional patent for an IoT-compatible automated sanitary napkin disposal system for public restrooms
- Conducted consumer tests via surveys, 1:1 interviews, and focus groups with several categories of product stakeholders
- Developed 4 iterations of prototypes using additive manufacturing, Design for Assembly, and injection molding

Concept Engineering

Milwaukee Tool | 2021

- Independently conducted market research on, designed, developed, and prototyped 2 construction site power tools to improve the safety of worksite installations

Deliberative Design Master's Thesis

Northwestern Engineering Design Innovation | 2019-20

- Designed and developed a desktop and mobile app to reduce the bias in the traditional Human Centered Design process

Asst. Project Manager & Mechanical Eng.

Milhouse Engineering | 2017-2019

- Promoted after 7 months due to organizational acumen
- Synthesized brief into insights, maps, tables, and Excel program for ease of communication with clients
- Directed fluctuating team of full-time engineers interns to implement self-created VBA program which prioritized 400K rows of data based on six conflicting variables

SKILLS

3D Printing	CAD	Keyshot	Typography
Adobe Suite	Facilitation	Mural and Miro	SolidWorks
Brainstorming	Design Thinking	Presenting	Video Editing
Figma	Industrial Design	Sketching	User Research