### **The University of Akron [IdeaExchange@UAkron](http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages)**

[Honors Research Projects](http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/honors_research_projects?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages)

[The Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Honors](http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/honorscollege_ideas?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages) [College](http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/honorscollege_ideas?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages)

Spring 2017

# Chocolate Bar Wrapping Machine

Austin M. Hoff *The University of Akron*, amh217@zips.uakron.edu

Daniel R. Trepke *The University of Akron*, drt36@zips.uakron.edu

Caleb B. Krichbuam *The University of Akron*, cbk9@zips.uakron.edu

Please take a moment to share how this work helps you [through this survey.](http://survey.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eEVH54oiCbOw05f&URL=http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/honors_research_projects/511) Your feedback will be important as we plan further development of our repository.

Follow this and additional works at: [http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/honors\\_research\\_projects](http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/honors_research_projects?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages)

Part of the [Applied Mechanics Commons](http://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/295?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages), [Computer-Aided Engineering and Design Commons](http://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/297?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages), [Ergonomics Commons](http://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/306?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages), [Food Processing Commons](http://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/85?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages), [Industrial Technology Commons](http://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/1062?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages), [Manufacturing Commons](http://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/301?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages), and the [Other Operations Research, Systems Engineering and Industrial](http://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/310?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages) [Engineering Commons](http://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/310?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages)

#### Recommended Citation

Hoff, Austin M.; Trepke, Daniel R.; and Krichbuam, Caleb B., "Chocolate Bar Wrapping Machine" (2017). *Honors Research Projects*. 511. [http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/honors\\_research\\_projects/511](http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/honors_research_projects/511?utm_source=ideaexchange.uakron.edu%2Fhonors_research_projects%2F511&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages)

This Honors Research Project is brought to you for free and open access by The Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Honors College at IdeaExchange@UAkron, the institutional repository of The University of Akron in Akron, Ohio, USA. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors Research Projects by an authorized administrator of IdeaExchange@UAkron. For more information, please contact [mjon@uakron.edu, uapress@uakron.edu](mailto:mjon@uakron.edu,%20uapress@uakron.edu).

# **Chocolate Bar Wrapping Machine**

**Honors Senior Design Project**

**Final Design Report**

**4-28-2017**

**Written by:**

Austin Hoff

Caleb Krichbaum

Dan Trepke

### **Table of Contents**



#### <span id="page-3-0"></span>**Executive Summary:**

Gilbert Chocolates has proposed to manufacture a machine to wrap chocolate bars. This machine is intended to replace two people wrapping the chocolate bars by hand, which is a time consuming method. This is especially apparent between October and January when the workers are working long hours in preparation for the Christmas rush of customers. Currently wrapping a bar takes about a minute and Gilbert Chocolates wants this time reduced down to 20-30 seconds. The budget for this project is set at \$1000, and is being funded by the company. This machine needs to fit in a cubic foot of space and weigh under 30 pounds for storage purposes. This device can be either purely mechanical with manual input, or it may use step motors and a controller.

This project pulls from our knowledge in kinematics, dynamics, 3D modeling, tolerance analysis, material selection, manufacturing techniques, and design of components. From doing this project we will learn how to apply all of these concepts together to solve real world problems. This project will encompass the design, manufacturing of a prototype, and optimization of the chocolate bar wrapping machine in hopes that the price of manufacturing chocolate bars can be reduced for Gilbert Chocolates.

The final presentation of this project will include a working prototype, a report, and a presentation. The project will be presented at the Engineering Senior Design Project day. The machine will be operated and displayed at this event.

# Chapter 1: Introduction & Background

#### <span id="page-4-0"></span>**Background**

Gilbert Chocolates, which is based out of Jackson, MI, has requested we design a chocolate wrapping machine for their chocolate bars. However, chocolate bars are not the primary form of chocolate they sell, so buying an automatic machine for \$7,000 is uneconomical. Thus, the target goal is \$1,000 dollars. Currently, the company wraps the bars by hand, which takes about 1 minute. Our machine must be able to wrap both the aluminium foil and paper sleeve around the bar in 20-30 seconds. To achieve this, the machine must have a short setup time, and a short wrapping time. Also, there is a lack of consistency when wrapping by hand, and the machine is designed to not make mistakes, which would require re-wrapping.

#### <span id="page-4-1"></span>**Operation**

The machine is designed to require little to no training and decrease the wrapping time of the bars. First the bar is loaded into position with the foil and paper beneath it. The worker then spins the bar into the machine where the foil will be wrapped. The worker manually inputs energy into the system which will begin folding the foil. After the foil wrapping is completed, a new bar is placed onto the loading point. As the recently wrapped bar is spun out of the machine, a gear will contact a gear track, causing the paper to be folded around the bar. The worker can then tape the paper and remove the fully wrapped bar.

#### <span id="page-4-2"></span>**Product Definition**

Our machine is designed to wrap chocolate bars in foil and paper. To do this, two levers and a combination of gears will be used to fold the wrappers over the bars. The planned cost of manufacturing is between \$500-\$1000. To allow for easy storage and movement to a work area, the footprint of the whole machine will be under 12"x 12"x 12." Initially, the machine will be designed to wrap chocolate bars that are 2"x 4.5" for Gilbert Chocolates. This could be modified to wrap larger or smaller bars for other companies and marketed to other small chocolate businesses.

# Chapter 2: Conceptual Design

#### <span id="page-5-0"></span>**Preliminary Design Brief**

In order to increase production of chocolate bars and save money, Gilbert Chocolates has requested that a machine be designed and manufactured to wrap their chocolate bar products. This machine should be able to wrap both the inner foil and the outer paper sleeve in a manner that makes repeatable and neat folds, while being quicker than wrapping by hand. To make this machine as easy as possible to use and reduce costs we are using a manually operated approach. This will eliminate tedious human movements of folding with a simple human movement to drive a mechanism that will precisely fold the wrapper around the chocolate bar.

#### <span id="page-5-1"></span>**Expanded Design Brief**

Gilbert Chocolates has contacted our design team to design and manufacture a product capable of wrapping both the outer paper stock sleeves and the inner metallic foil for their chocolate bars. Currently, they wrap these chocolate bars by hand, but have found that this method is time consuming as well as it tends to yield inconsistent folds. It has also been requested that the machine to be restrained to under a cubic foot of space.

Looking at other methods used to wrap chocolate bars we found that most are highly automated turn key operations that can be in excess of \$10,000. With the budget of \$1000 and the needs of Gilbert Chocolates in mind, we have decided to not use an automated approach but rather a simple mechanized operation driven by manual input. This makes it simple to use, easy to manufacture and repair, and able to fold precisely in a quick manner.

As simple mechanical machine will keep the budget and the footprint small enough to be within Gilbert Chocolates' restrictions where an automated system would fail. It is also going to be fast enough to beat the 30 seconds needed by manually wrapping, while making even more precise folds. Thus this machine should be able to help Gilbert produce more and better looking chocolate bars, while reducing their overall cost.

#### <span id="page-6-0"></span>**Structure Diagrams**



**Figure 1: Overall Function Structure Diagram**



**Figure 2: Detailed Function Structure Diagrams**

From these four function diagrams, we developed six distinct categories for our machine to satisfy. Manual input is how the operator will directly interact with the machine, putting the necessary energy to wrap the bar. Energy storage is how the motion of the manual input is stored in the machine until the wrapping occurs. Manual trigger is how the operator will release the stored energy, ultimately wrapping the bar. Loading method is how the bar will reach the wrapping zone. The wrapping method is how the foil will actually be wrapped around the chocolate bar. Then the unloading method will be how the finished bar will be removed from the machine.

While we developed several ideas on the storage and trigger methods, we also included the option of no storage or trigger. In those cases the manual input directly drives the wrapping action of the machine. Also, while the company specified a specifically mechanical machine, we included the option of an electrically driven computer setup. This was incase the computer method developed fell within the price and size limits the company gave us.

<b>Morphological Chart</b>					
<b>Manual</b> Input	<b>Energy</b> <b>Storage</b>	<b>Manual</b> <b>Trigger</b>	<b>Loading</b> <b>Method</b>	<b>Wrapping</b> <b>Method</b>	<b>Unloading</b> Method
Crank	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	Hand	Wiper	Piston
Lever	Torsional	<b>Button</b>	Piston	<b>Hinged Flap</b>	Hand
Slot	Axial <b>MW</b>	Switch	Ramp	Piston	Tilt
Pump	Hanging Weight	Controller	<b>Spinning Tray</b>	Choco-flip	<b>Spinning Tray</b>
<b>Electric Motor</b>	<b>NONE</b>	Knob	Roller	<b>NONE</b>	<b>Trap Door</b>

<span id="page-7-0"></span>**Figure 3: Morphological Chart**

From the chart above, we developed eight different possible combinations of the above options. They are shown in Figure 4 below.





We then ranked the eight categories in terms of their importance. We weighted them in two different ways, a standard ranking as well as an objective tree weighing scale. The first method was a standard order of what we determined to be the most important. The second method placed an additional weighting scale with the added level of objective vs subjective categories.

Each ranking system developed similar weighted values, placing safety, footprint and consistency at the top.

Category	<b>Ranking</b>
Safety	1
Footprint	2
Manufacturability	3
Consistent	4
Cycle Time	5
Cost	6
Ease of Use	7
Longevity	Ջ

**Figure 5: Ranking System**



**Figure 6: Objective Tree**

Figure 7 shows the scores of each design for each category based on the ratings we gave them. These scores are summed up and graphed in Figure 8.

<b>Weighted Decision Matrix</b>								
Combo	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Footprint</b>	Manuf.	Consist.	Cycle T.	Cost	EOU	Longev.
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	$\mathbf{1}$
A)	3/24	4/28	3/18	4/20	4/16	2/6	3/6	2/2
B)	3/24	3/21	2/12	2/10	3/12	2/6	4/8	4/4
C)	4/32	4/28	4/24	4/20	4/16	3/9	4/8	3/3
D)	5/40	2/14	1/6	1/5	2/8	1/3	5/10	1/1
E)	2/16	1/7	2/12	3/15	3/12	2/6	2/4	2/2
F)	2/16	5/35	5/30	5/25	3/12	$5/15$	3/6	5/5
G)	3/24	5/35	5/30	4/20	4/16	5/15	4/8	5/5

**Figure 7: Weighted Decision Matrix**



**Figure 8: Weighted Score Sums**

In Figure 8, higher scores correlate to better performance, based upon the needs and corresponding ratings given above. From the weighted decision matrix, it was determined that option G would satisfy our needs the best, although options F and C are still worth consideration.

Chapter 3: Embodiment Design

# <span id="page-11-0"></span>**Schematic Diagram**



**Figure 9: Top view schematic**



**Figure 10: Side view schematic**

#### <span id="page-12-0"></span>**Embodiment Rules and Principles**

There are 3 rules and 3 principles for Embodiment Design:

#### Rules

Clarity is the first rule of embodiment design. Clarity must be used to prevent the product from being misused, damaged, or from operating incorrectly. For our design, we put several systems into place to prevent any of the mistakes listed below. First we wanted to prevent the paper or foil from being misplaced while the machine is operated. To do so, the flaps will be labeled, and a slight etch will be cut into the machine. Second, we needed to prevent them from turning the lever the wrong way, wrong time, or at the wrong speed. To do this, each lever will be labeled with a number and an arrow indicating the direction it should be pulled. To keep them from pulling the lever too fast, a rotational damper will be included in the system.

The second rule of embodiment design is simplicity. The purpose of simplicity is to prevent confusion. In this case, our primary concern was reducing the confusion for the untrained operators, as well as the technician repairing the machine. Thus, we attempted to minimize the number of levers the operator would need to pull. Furthermore, we tried to use the same gears as frequently as possible to reduce the part numbers. Finally, the gears will be color coded and will be able to "snap-on" to the rods to make gear replacement easier.

The last rule is safety. There are three types of safety: Direct, indirect, and warning. Direct is when no danger is present. Indirect is when the danger is covered in some sort of cage. Warning is when the operator is simply warned that there is danger, but little to no preventive measures can be made. In our case, we used a combination of direct and indirect safety. Our primary concern was pinch points that could hurt fingers or catch hair. To avoid these problems, most of the gears will be below the operating zone, and any gears gears level with the zone will be covered in a cage.

We also addressed the principles of embodiment design. The first rule is the division of tasks. For this machine, the gears and belts will be used to turn the shafts to transmit the force through the machine and fold the paper and foil. The supports will hold the gears, and will allow the gears and shafts to turn in place. The next principle is self-help. The gears will snap into place, the gears will be cut with the necessary number of teeth. Furthermore, the gears will mesh with each other, which will hold them in the desired position. Finally, the last principle is stability, which is achieved by even distribution of gears on a shaft, and a bottom heavy design to reduce wobbling or rocking.

#### <span id="page-13-0"></span>**FMEA**

For every design, a Failure Mode Effects Analysis must be performed. The purpose of doing so is to predict possible failures that could occur during the operation of our product. By doing so, we can create control systems to prevent or reduce the effects of the failure.



#### **Figure 11: FMEA Analysis**

#### <span id="page-13-1"></span>**Preliminary Material Selection**

For the preliminary material selection, we had to determine what to used based on three factors: cost, reproducibility, wear resistance, and weight. Furthermore, because these materials will be in close proximity to food, the materials must be deemed food safe, as determined by the USDA.

First we determined that the gears would be 3d printed instead of machined, because many of the gear would need to be custom made, which would increase the cost. Because metal based 3d printers are expensive, it was quickly determined we should use a plastic. Our initial plan was to use the common 3d printing material, ABS plastic, but it is not food-safe. However, PLA filament, which is also commonly used, is food safe, has high strength, and is relatively cheap. Thus for the gears we determined that PLA filament would be the best prototype material

Second, we needed to determine the material for the frame. We wanted to keep costs low and the weight down. Because the frame should undergo little stress, having high strength was deemed unnecessary, but we didn't want a material that was porous, which would encourage bacteria growth. We decided on aluminum because it is food-safe, relatively low weight, low cost, and non-porous.

#### <span id="page-14-0"></span>**Numerical Calculations**

Calculate Pitch:  $P = \frac{P_d * \Pi}{N}$  where  $P_d = pitch$  diameter and  $N = number$  of teeth

Standard Spur Gear: 
$$
P = \frac{2.04* \Pi}{24} = .267
$$
  
Planetary years  
Sun:  $P = \frac{2* \Pi}{36} = .175$   
Solar:  $P = \frac{4* \Pi}{72} = .175$   
Satellite:  $P = \frac{1* \Pi}{18} = .175$   
22.5° angled gear :  $P = \frac{5* \Pi}{12} = .131$ 

Calculate Gear Ratio: *Pd*<sup>1</sup>  $\frac{P_{d1}}{P_{d2}} = \frac{N_1}{N_2}$ 

Solar/Satellite:  $R = \frac{72}{18} = 4$ Sun/Satellite:  $R = \frac{36}{18} = 2$ 

Calculate the pitch length of the timing belts:  $Lp = (2*C) + 1.57 * (D_1 + D_2) + \frac{(D_1 - D_2)^2}{4C}$ , where  $Lp = pitch$  *length*,  $D_1 = pitch$  *diameter of the first gear*,  $D_2$  = *pitch diameter of the second gear*, and  $C$  = *distance between centers* 

Shaft A to Shaft C: *Lp* = (2 \* 3.8) + (1.57 \* (1.528 + 1.528)) + 0 = 12.4 *inches* Shaft A to Shaft H: *Lp* = (2 \* 2.88) + (1.57 \* (1.528 + 1.528)) + 0 = 10.6 *inches* Shaft A to Shaft F: *Lp* = (2 \* 4.8) + (1.57 \* (1.528 + 1.528)) + 0 = 14.4 *inches* Vertical Belts: *Lp* = (2 \* 2.75) + (1.57 \* (1.528 + 1.528)) + 0 = 6.96 *inches* Shafts are labeled in black text on Figure 16.

### <span id="page-16-0"></span>**Gear Direction Layout**

Due to the small forces in the system, no force analysis was done on the gears within the system. However, the direction of forces still needed to be determine. The following figures illustrate how the subsystems transmit forces and interact with each other. The black arrow shows the direction of the input force, and the colored arrows show the direction of the related gears.



**Figure 12: Paper Folding System using Lever 1**



**Figure 13: Long Direction Paper Folding System using Lever 1**



**Figure 14: Short Direction Paper Folding System using Lever 2**



**Figure 15: Angled Direction Paper Folding System using Lever 2**

# <span id="page-20-0"></span>**Layout Drawings**

The following figures depict the general gear, pulley, and axle layout. The colored letters label the gears, the black letters label the shafts.



**Figure 16: Basic Layout Rightside**



**Figure 17: Basic Layout Top**

# Chapter 4: Detail Design

#### <span id="page-22-1"></span>**Standard Components from Catalogues**

The following table shows the items that were able to be bought directly from a catalogue and

used in our machine.

<b>Standard Materials Used</b>				
<b>Name</b>	Catalogue	<b>Item Number</b>		
<b>XML 18 Teeth Pulley</b>	<b>SDP/SI</b>	A 6T16-018SF2508		
<b>XL 24 Teet Pulley</b>	<b>McMaster Carr</b>	57105k22		
<b>Plastic Bevel Gear 18 Teeth</b>	<b>McMaster Carr</b>	7297K11		
Nylon Sleeve 5/16"	<b>McMaster Carr</b>	6389K114		
Nylon Sleeve 5/16" Flanged	<b>McMaster Carr</b>	6294K436		
Shaft Clamp 5/16	<b>McMaster Carr</b>	9434T16		
XL Belt 62T	<b>SDP/SI</b>	A 6R 3-062037		
XL Belt 72T	<b>SDP/SI</b>	<u>A 6R 3-053037</u>		
<b>XL Belt 53T</b>	<b>SDP/SI</b>	<u>A 6R 3-072037</u>		
<b>MXL Belt 87T</b>	<b>SDP/SI</b>	A 6Z16-087037		
<b>Junction Box</b>	Jet	<b>SC121208NK</b>		
<b>Aluminum Hinge 2"</b>	<b>McMaster Carr</b>	<b>1609A5</b>		
Lever Arm	<b>McMaster Carr</b>	6303K400		
<b>Rubber Feet</b>	<b>McMaster Carr</b>	9540K842		

**Figure 18: Standard Materials Used**

#### <span id="page-22-0"></span>**Explanation of Calculations**

There were three major factors that needed to be calculated. These were pitch, gear ratios based upon desired turn speeds, and belt lengths and the corresponding number of teeth. The pitch needed to be calculated so that the gears would mesh properly and turn each other. To calculate the pitch, we used

$$
P = \frac{P_d * \Pi}{N}
$$
 where  $P_d$  = pitch diameter and  $N$  = number of teeth

Since we were able to adjust the pitch diameter and the number of teeth, we could manipulate the pitch to match on each gear. However, the number of teeth and the pitch diameter had to be set on the planetary gears so we achieved the desired gear ratio, using

$$
R = \frac{P_{d1}}{P_{d2}} = \frac{N_1}{N_2}
$$

In our situation, we needed a gear ratio of two between the satellite and the sun gear, and a gear ratio of four between the satellite and the solar gear. Finally, we needed to calculate the number of teeth on our belts. To calculate we used

$$
Lp = (2 * C) + 1.57 * (D_1 + D_2) + \frac{(D_1 - D_2)^2}{4C}
$$
, where  $Lp =$  pitch length,  

$$
D_1 =
$$
pitch diameter of the first gear,  $D_2 =$ pitch diameter of the second gear, and  

$$
C =
$$
distance between centers

At this point, the pitch had been calculated, the pitch diameter had been set, and so all we needed was to determine the necessary belt length.

#### <span id="page-23-0"></span>**Materials and Manufacturing Methods Used**

Our machine consisted of several materials and methods of manufacturing. The majority of our more complex parts (e.g. the planetary gears and angled gear supports) were 3D printed using a food safe PLA filament. For other complex parts that were either too large to print like the gear covers, or required a less porous material than is possible on a 3D printer like the flaps, the use of a molded food safe resin was used. To do this a prototype part was made, either using a 3D printer in the case of the flaps or MDF for the gear cover, then a two part silicon solution was poured around the part to make a mold. Once dried the part was removed from the mold and then a 2 part resin was poured into the mold to produce the desired part after curing for 24 hours.

Less complex parts were able to be machined out of aluminum. The axle supports were made from 1 x 0.25" aluminum bar stock and 1 x 0.125" angle stock. These were simply cut down to length, had appropriate holes drilled on a drill press, and then deburred. A similar method was made to make the lever mounts out of a 2" diameter aluminum round stock. To make the table top of the machine, we used the steel top that was supplied with the junction box. We then drilled small holes in each corner and used a rotary cutting tool to cut out the desired shape.

# <span id="page-24-0"></span>**Part Drawings**







Gear Information

SECTION W-W

#### **Figure 19: Gear A**











t  $.63$ ł

**Figure 20: Planetary Gear B**









#### **Figure 21: Planetary Gear C**











**Figure 22: Bevel Gear D**









**Figure 23: Bevel Gear G**









**Figure 24: Bevel Gear H**















**Figure 28: Short Paper Flap**

 $-1.500 -$ 

 $\emptyset$ . 125

 $-\varnothing$ .450  $\phi$ .330









**Figure 30: Gear Cover**













**Figure 32: Angled Gear and Flap Support**







**Figure 34: Double Axle Support**

















# <span id="page-33-0"></span>**Assembly Drawings**



**Figure 37: Drive Shaft A Assembly**



**Figure 38: Drive Shaft B Assembly**



**Figure 39: Planetary Gear Assembly**



**Figure 40: Table Flap Assembly**

# <span id="page-35-0"></span>**Exploded View Drawings**



**Figure 41: Angular Bracket Exploded View**

# Chapter 5: Discussion

With the design we selected, numerous gear calculations were needed to ensure correct operation of the machine. With our two levers, we had to accurately deliver the 180° of motion required to the flaps. For the long side of the foil flaps, we had to achieve 180° of motion both forward and back in one lever turn, for only one of the flaps. We designed it this way to prevent the two long foil flaps for colliding into each other. This is why the planetary gear was design. With the correct number of teeth and pitch on each gear in the set, the first flap folds in and comes back out before the second flap folds in.

Because most gears are produced through stamping, we decided to use the on-campus 3D-printer to print the non-standard ones. Also, more of the complex parts that were not easily machinable were printed. This included the planetary gear set, Gear A, each flap, and most of the angular flap assembly. By using the 3D printers, we were able to create otherwise cost-prohibitive parts for significantly cheaper.

A prototype was built to test out the motion of the rods and gears. We used  $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood to build the first unit, for easy assembly and dimensional trials. This was the unit that was showcased at the Senior Design Day Presentations. While the prototype was not quite a looks-like and functions-like model, it was able to show the inner workings of the gears to observers.

The actual machine is to be built shortly after the prototype is completed. It will be the final product that Gilbert Chocolates receives, and could potentially be marketed to other small businesses. The final product costs \$430 to manufacture, and with further development, could potentially be reduced further.

# Chapter 6: Conclusion

This project was begun with the intent of designing a machine capable of decreasing the time needed for Gilbert Chocolate's employees to wrap candy bars. By doing so, the workers could spend more time producing more chocolate to sell. Furthermore, the machine needed to be affordable for a small business, and needed to easily moveable for when it was needed.

The importance of all of these design criteria cannot be overstated. If the machine failed to reduce the time required to wrap the bars, the machine serves little benefit over wrapping by hand. Furthermore, if the machine costs well over \$1000 dollars, the payback time may be undesirable. With further research and development, these machines could be improved and optimized for Gilbert Chocolates, but also for other small chocolate businesses. As the product is optimized, the cost of manufacturing can be reduced, making it more beneficial for more companies, and reducing their payback time.

We believe that this machine achieved its purpose. The price was below the stated price requirement, it reduces the time required to wrap the bars, and is contained within a cubic foot. We also believe that this product is marketable to other small chocolate businesses looking to reduce wrapping time without spending an exorbitant amount of money on a machine way beyond their product capabilities.

# Appendix



**Figure 42: Concept drawings for solution 7**







**Figure 43: BOM**



**Figure 44: Total Expenditures**