Remote CO₂ Laser Engraver/Cutter

May 8, 2020

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ENT 498 Senior Design II

Mert Bal

Statement of Purpose (Executive Summary):

The goal of our project was to develop and manufacture a CO2 laser engraver capable of being remotely controlled via the internet using a custom-built interface. The purpose of our project was to provide access to individuals who may be interested in creating custom laser engraved works but who didn't necessarily have access to a CO2 laser engraver. Our product would allow users to design and monitor their own custom works from the comfort and security of their own homes. Our basic designs were inspired from multiple DIY examples that we found online, but nothing we found had remote access. To add this functionality, we used Microsoft Visual Studio and Client – Server based communication protocols to provide real time information about the status of the laser. We believe that our project is relevant, especially today amongst the COVID-19 outbreak, when remote access and control have become the new normal.

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Scope and Methodology:

The scope of the Remote CO2 Laser Cutter/Engraver project was to create a laser cutter system with the ability to monitor its status via an internet connection. The laser should be able to cut/engrave common types of projects with the inclusion of remote monitoring technology. To achieve this, the laser is monitored by an Arduino that is also used to control the motion of the laser device. The Arduino then sends the status of the laser machine to a Visual Studio program on a computer. This Visual Studio program takes this information and projects it to a viewer of the computer by way of a simple graphical user interface (GUI). A separate program in Visual Studio sets up a client - server communication with a remote computer to project screenshots of the first computer at 1ms intervals. This effectively allows anyone with proper credentials to connect to the laser device and view the laser's status.

After doing much research online for DIY laser cutter/engraver, we decided to go with a medium size cutting area (1000mm X 900mm). We also decided that using the Arduino would be the best to use with all the experience that we had already gained using them in multiple classes. This made understanding the coding process a little easier.

The code (GRBL) was written by Simon Svale Skogsrud in 2009 and released as on open-source (github.com). This was his idea for this code from the beginning. He wanted to make the code available to everyone and this was the biggest reason for using the Arduino IDE. Most DIY enthusiasts prefer this code because it is open-source and constantly updated with fixes to problems that they may have. Many people use it to keep from having to pay the high prices of

g-code programs. Most of the code was already done, just needing a few lines of the code deleted (making it a comment, not actually deleting it entirely), as well as adding some lines of code.

In using the Arduino Mega, this gave the CO2 laser more than enough digital and analog ports, memory, and processor power. The Arduino IDE is one of most widely used for most DIYers for many different applications other than just CO2 laser. Many people are using the Arduino in their 3-D printing machines as well. The GRBL code is used to interpret the g-code that most manufacturing facilities use. The biggest problem with Arduino right now is that it is only capable of operating in 3-axis (X. Y, and Z). Arduino is not capable as of right now for rotational axis. A quick search found that many people are working modifying the code to make this a possibility.

The majority of the CO2 laser is built using extruded aluminum. The reason for this was to save on weight of the entire project. We wanted to make the CO2 laser light for portability. The plan was also to try and build a rolling system for the laser as well. This was the reason for wanting to keep the weight down. Once the main frame was built, we were able to see what the size our work area was going to look like. This is also were we started to lay out how and where the electronics for laser were going to housed. The CO2 laser is attached to the top of the main frame to make laser alignment easier.

The cooling of the laser is done from a completely independent system. The main unit also houses all the water that is used for cooling of the laser, as well cooling the water that is coming from the laser housing unit. This type of system makes things much easier because it is all one unit instead of having a water holding tank, cooling unit, and many more water lines than just to and from the laser. This also saved weight due to fact that the cooling system is not mounted to the laser housing. We did realize that this would make one more thing that would have to be

carried along with the laser housing. Also, in doing this, this helps to keep the laser unit from becoming heavier on one side of the housing due to the mounting of the cooling unit.

The decision was made to go with a 60-Watt CO2 laser. This would give us the capability to engrave many different types of material (wood to thin metal). To help control the position of the head of the laser (X-axis and Y-axis), we used Nema 23 stepper motors. The reason for this was the ability to add height control of the head of the laser and knowing that this was going to add some weight to the X and Y axis, the Nema 23 would not have a problem in moving that extra weight due to extra torque that they would provide over the Nema 17 stepper motor. We decided to go with a ball screw type system to allow for more accurate control of the laser head during operation. Most other DIY CO2 lasers use the belt type system. We wanted something with more control and precision.

The hardware that was used to build the laser was purchased locally at hardware stores and online form amazon. The hardware was one of the last things purchased in bulk due to knowing for sure how and where things were going to go. So, instead of buying things up front and not knowing if we were going to use them, we decided to buy them as the laser was being put together. We tried to buy things with hardware included or buy some hardware that we knew that we going to need.

Findings:

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak the project was unable to be fully integrated; however, much progress was made toward the completion of this project and a proper proof of concept was able to be completed. We found that it was possible to complete the remote portion of the project successfully by sending physical inputs from the real world to a Visual Studio program using the Arduino. From there the GUI was sent virtually across a LAN network to another computer for viewing. As of now the functionality of this system is limited to being within a single building. For many instances where this technology would be used that would be acceptable because it allows the status of an Arduino controlled device to be monitored anywhere within a single building/workplace. To expand the range of the system to anywhere in the world, a static IP would be required. This would allow a device from anywhere to be able to connect to the server computer and view the projected screenshots. One way to work around this safely is to have a designated internet connection for the device being remotely monitored. This way the safety of the files for the rest of the company would not be compromised by allowing outside sources to connect to a businesses network. Another limitation was the inability to test the remote monitoring portion with the laser itself. Upon the completion of the laser, the GUI program would have incorporated a camera positioned at the laser to provide better information about the status of the laser project.

Conclusion and Recommendations for Further Study:

The restrictions placed on our group as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from fully realizing our project. However, we do believe that we've provided proof of concept with remote functionality while the assembly of the laser itself is the only remaining open item. If we had completed the assembly process, we planned to further refine our online interface to be more pleasing. Currently the interface is a very simple form that gives users very basic options but we would have liked for it to also display live video of the laser at work. We also wanted to create a progress bar that would display the designs percent completion in real-time so that users could easily monitor their designs progress.

While we are a bit disappointed that we never produced a functioning laser engraver, we believe that we have everything that we need to do so, including the required knowledge and understanding. We also believe that the pandemic itself has actually strengthened our opinion that our project is more relevant today than ever before. Remote access is the way of the future and not just in manufacturing applications, but in just about every industry. COVID-19 has shown all of us what work is still possible due to networking and communication technology. More and more jobs, schools, and even recreational events will be conducted remotely going forward, and we believe that this project has made us more prepared for that eventuality.

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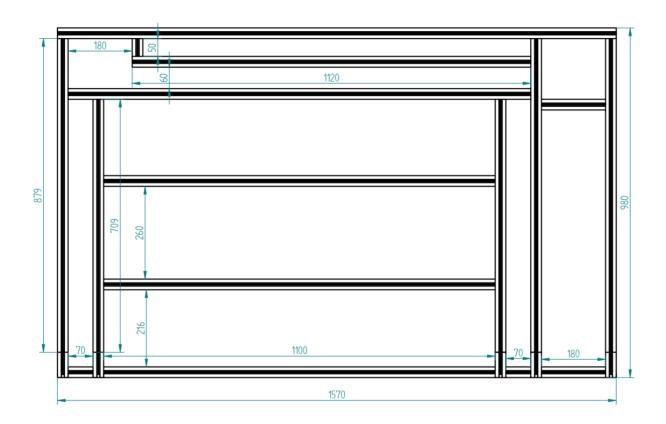
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Appendices:

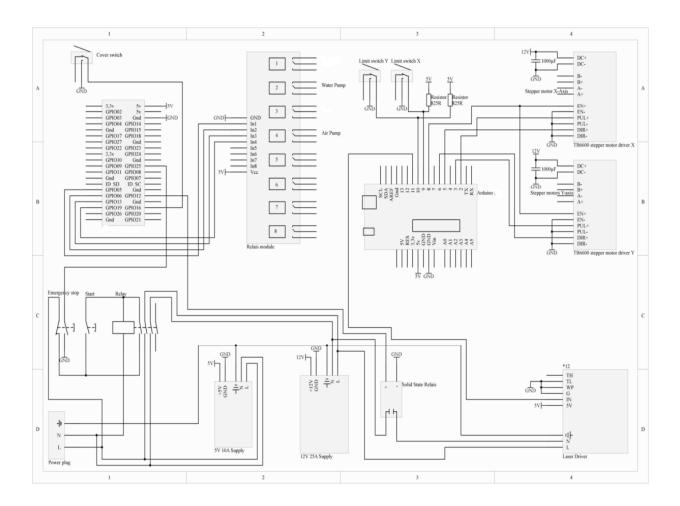
| | | Unit | |
|------|---|--------|---------|
| Qty. | Part # & Description | Cost | Amount |
| 3 | Aluminum Extrusion 48" (1220 mm) Clear Anodize Misumi Series 5 (20mm x 40mm) - 4 pack | 129.99 | 389.97 |
| 2 | Boeray 2020 Series M5 T Slot Aluminum Profile | 10.99 | 21.98 |
| 2 | iExcell 100 pcs M5 x 10 mm 10.9 grade alloy steel | 7.98 | 15.96 |
| 3 | PZRT 2020 Series Aluminum Profile Connector Set, 20 Pcs (Silver) | 24.59 | 73.77 |
| 2 | Boeray 3-Way End Corner Bracket Connector (Silver) | 11.59 | 23.18 |
| 4 | Befenybay 4PCS/Set Corner Bracket Plate with 20PCS | 13.99 | 55.96 |
| 2 | uxcell Straight Line Connector | 8.73 | 17.46 |
| 1 | Vinmax Industrial Water Chiller | 189.98 | 189.98 |
| 2 | Uxcell a16031400ux0193 8 mm x 10 mm Silicone Translucent Tube | 10.62 | 21.24 |
| 1 | SenTECH 60W CO2 Glass Laser Tube | 249 | 249 |
| 1 | Garosa Laser Engraving Machine Red Oxide Film Aluminum CO2 Laser Head Set | 89.99 | 89.99 |
| 1 | Cloudray 60W Co2 Laser Power Supply 110V for CO2 Laser Tubes MYJG-60W | 119.99 | 119.99 |
| | Cloudray Co2 Laser Tube Holders Flexible Dia.50-80mm | 43.99 | 43.99 |
| 1 | Rattmmotor 3 Axis CNC Kit Nema 23 Stepper Motor | 285 | 285 |
| 1 | 4pcs Nema 23 Stepper Motor Steel Mounting Bracket with Mounting Screws | 11.99 | 11.99 |
| 1 | 3Pcs 6.35x10mm CNC Stepper Motor Jaw Shaft Coupler | 15 | 15 |
| 1 | Emergency Stop Button 660V 10A Red Sign | 8.99 | 8.99 |
| 1 | URBEST Plastic Drag Chain Cable Carrier | 10.99 | 10.99 |
| 1 | 8 Channel DC 5V Relay Module with Optocoupler | 8.78 | 8.78 |
| 1 | TinaWood 2PCS SSR-40DA 40A Solid State Relay Load | 13.68 | 13.68 |
| 1 | Baomain Delay Timer Relay | 11.29 | 11.29 |
| 1 | Arduino Mega 2560 | 38.5 | 38.5 |
| 1 | 22GA Hook up Wire Kit | 17.95 | 17.95 |
| 1 | 18awg Electronic Wire Kit IN STOCK 17 FEB 2020 | 15.99 | 15.99 |
| 2 | Befenybay Small V-Wheel with Plate for 2020V | 15.99 | 31.98 |
| 1 | CNCCANEN Ball Screw SFU1605-1050mm | 56 | 56 |
| 1 | Happybuy Linear Rail 3 Ballscrew RM1605 kit | 278.96 | 278.96 |
| 3 | DSG16H Ball Screw Nut Housing Seat Mount Bracket | 11.99 | 35.97 |
| | Bolts and washers | | 250 |
| | | | |
| | Total | | 2403.54 |

Final Cost Breakdown

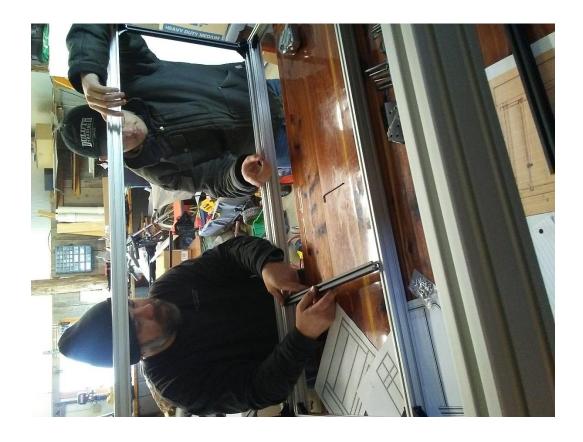
12



DIY Frame Schematic Baseline



Wiring Layout based on DIY



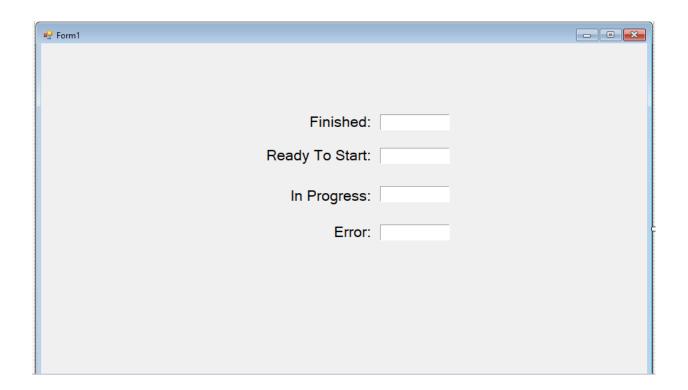


Team Photos





Current State of Laser Unit



GUI Prototype

Visual Studio Code Included Separately

Meeting Journals

| MIAMI UNIVERSITY REGIONAL LOCATIONS Hamilton : Middletown - West Chesses | Meeting Journal Department of Engineering Technology ENT 497/498 - Senior Design Project Project Title: |
|---|---|
| Advisors Mod 1801 18 Student: Broother Absorbly 18 Student: Nicholas Lewis 18 Student: Nicholas Lewis 18 Student: 1 | Meeting Date: 9-12-2019 Meeting #3 Location: Southern State |
| Topics Discussed Research of design process | es for the laxers |
| | |
| · Research of design process Talked about adding mobility. · Theorized using adjustable | to convent models to table for verticle surfaces |
| - Talked about adding mubility - Theorized using adjustable | to convent models to table for Verticle Surfaces |
| Responsibilities/Actions | to current models To table for Verticle Surfaces |
| Responsibilities/Actions Taken | 900 table for Verticle Surfaces |
| Responsibilities/Actions Taken | to coment models to table for verticle surfaces and the task of improve on the laser as a seperate base of us. |



| Advisor: Mert Bal | Present |
|---|------------|
| Student: Jonathan Al | pernathy W |
| Student: Jason Dich Student: Nicholas Le | |
| Student: | |

Meeting Date: 9-19 - 2019

Meeting # 4
Location: State

Topics Discussed

Self - Changing e Bike idea debated

Automotic ignition Started Key-fob proximity idea

Automotic Laser Cytter/Englaver system online input
by clients w/ queued projects to delivery

Responsibilities/Actions
Taken

We are fairly confident we are going with the laser/cutter engraver idea. Each group member has been assigned to Start preparing the proposal Jason is in charge of cost analysis. Jon is in large of the Gantt chart, and Nick is in charge of technical writing.

Next Meeting Date: 9-26-2019

Location: Southern State



| Advisor: Mer+ Bal | Present |
|--|---------|
| Student: Joseph Dick Student: Josephy Alamony | M |
| Student: Nighton Lewis | IVI |
| Student: | 11 |

Meeting Date: 9-36-364 Meeting \$15 Location: Southern State

Topics Discussed

We have decided to move forward with

the Online in put for a loser engrover.

Going forward we just need to continue

(esearch toward preparing the formal proposal.

Responsibilities Actions
Taken

Jason will work on preparing a cost estimate and applying for sociarships.

John will create a time/bant chart (reate organizational milestones.

I will begin preparing the formal proposal.

Next Meeting Date: 19-3-2514 Location: Southern State

| M | MIAMI UNIVERSITY |
|---|--|
| | REGIONAL LOCATIONS Hamilton · Middletown · West Chester |

| 1 | Present |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Advisor: Mert Bal | IV |
| Student: Jason Dick | IN |
| Student: Tonathan Abernath | N IN |
| Student: Nicholas Lewis | 114 |
| Student: | |

Meeting Date: 10-3-2019 Meeting # 6
Location: Suttlem State

Topics Discussed

Trouble has arisen with the funding. The VA will only cover 13rd the cost of the project. We are now looking at the Armin Fleck scholorship. We are otherwise still Working on preparing the remainder of the formal proposal

Responsibilities/ Actions
Taken Complete the Armin Fleck Scholorship Hope to have rough drafts next class of the formal proposal. Southern Style Next Meeting Date: 10-10-3019 Location:



| Advisor: Mert Bal | Present |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Student: Jason Dick | IVI |
| Student: Jonathan Abernathy | 14 |
| Student: N: cholas Lewis | 14 |
| Student: | |

Meeting Date: 10-10-2019

Meeting #7
Location: Southern State

Topics Discussed

It Milestones and how they will fit on our

timeline

It Looked at Alternative Components, need to decide

Specifically to build Bom + Budget.

It was break down

the talked about the work break down

and wha's responsible for what.

Responsibilities/Actions

Taken

Finalizing responsibilities project proposal

Jul next week.

Next Meeting Date: 10-17-2019

Location: Southern State

Project Title:

Advisor: Mert Bal [V]

Student: Jason Dick [V]

Student: Jonathan Abarnathy [V]

Student: Nicholas Lewis [L]

Meeting Date: 10 - 17 - 2019

Meeting #8

Location: Southern State

Topics Discussed

Specific step by Step Plan for the project.
Using two ardvinos, each with dedicated purposes.
One to communicate between Visual Studio and the laser and the other to control the laser.

Responsibilities/ Actions

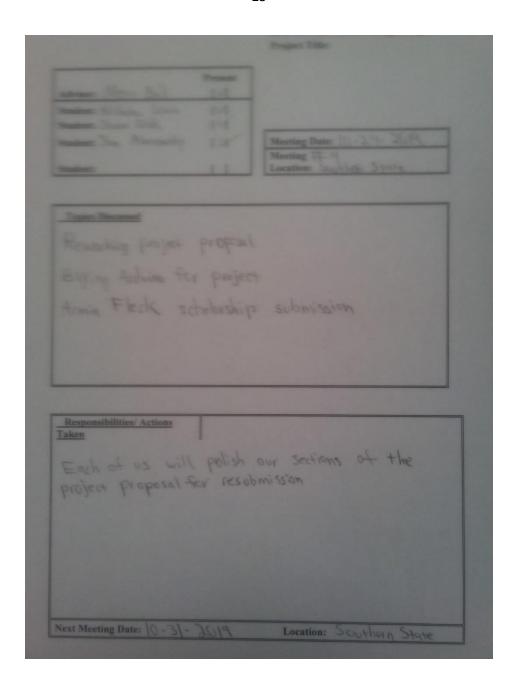
Taker

Jason is putting the finishing touches on the Cost analysis.

Jon is finishing the gantt chart.

Nick will begin reaserch and creation of the internet communication program.

Next Meeting Date: 10-24-2019 Location: Southern State



| MIAMI UNIVERSITY REGIONAL LOCATIONS Manifron - Middlesown - Heat Chester | Meeting Journal Department of Engineering Technology ENT 497/498 - Senior Design Project Project Title: |
|--|---|
| Advisors Men Bal IV Students Nichelas Leas IV Students Desartion Absorbably M Students Desartion Dick IVI Students | Meeting Date: 10-31-2019 Meeting Date: 10-31-2019 Location: Southern State |
| Project proposal resolutions of Scholorship Plans | |
| | |

Next Meeting Date: 11 - 7- 2019

Location: Southern State



| Advisor: Mar Bal | Present |
|---|---------|
| Student: Jason Dick Student: Jorathan Alern Student: Nicholas Lewis | 1 11 5 |
| Student: | |

Meeting Date: 11-07-2019
Meeting Location: Sathern State

+ Scholarship - Lunds needed for project moderals.

* Budget

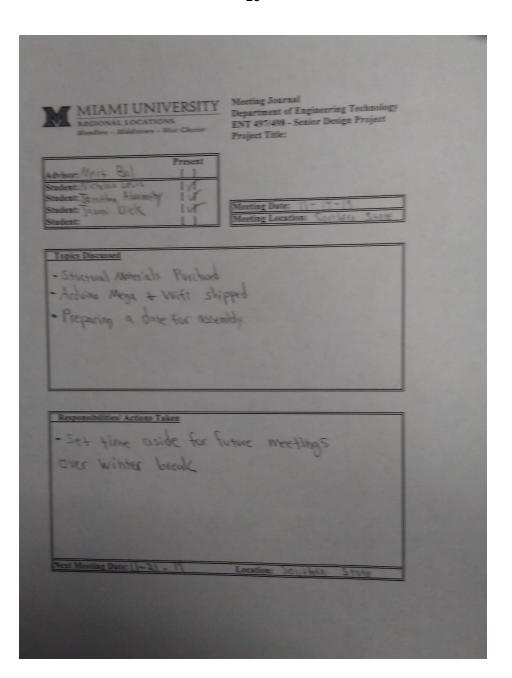
* Ordering Ardvino's today.

Responsibilities/Actions Taken

+ Jason to Submit scholarship request.
by 11/8/19.

Next Meeting Date: [- 14 - 2019

Location: Southern State





| Advisor: Mers Bal | Present [V] |
|---|-------------|
| Student: Michalis Lewis Student: Town Oil | N |
| Student: Torathan Aberto | Shy I'V |

Meeting Dute:
Meeting Location: September 550-4

Topics Discussed

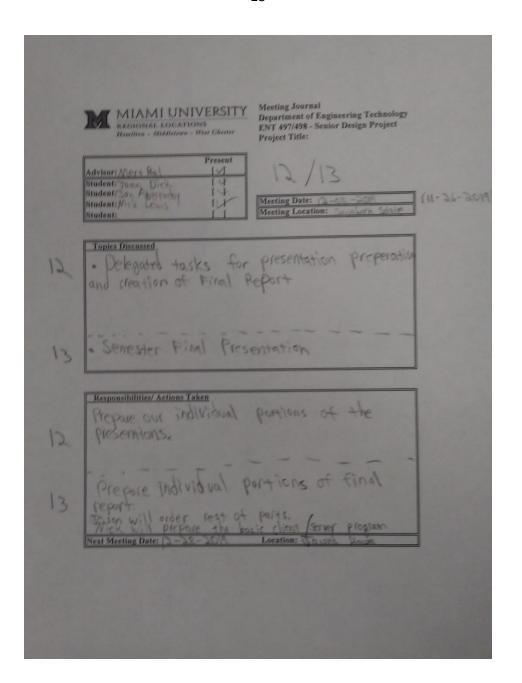
- · Finalize plans for meeting times ever winter break.
- . Planned tasks for firal report and presentation
- · Talked about essay assignment

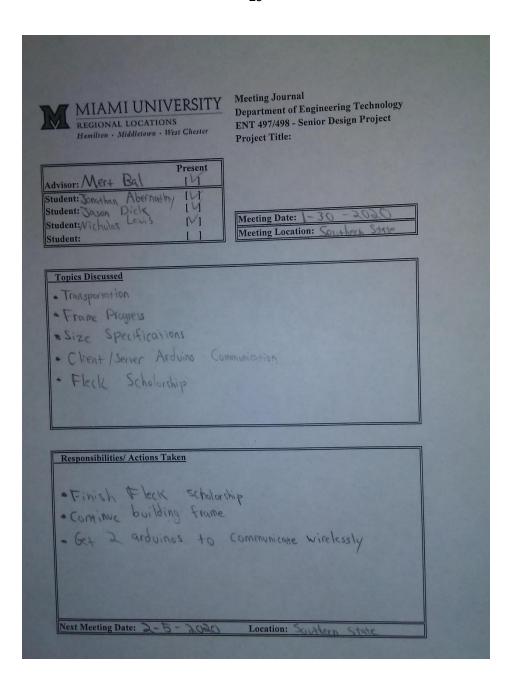
Responsibilities/ Actions Taken

- · Prepare final report and presentation
- · Complete individual essay assignments

Next Meeting Date: Q- 5 - 17

Locations Dealthean State







| | Present |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Advisor: MET+ BO | W |
| Student: Jonathan Aberry | NI page |
| Student: Josep Ock | 114 |
| Student: Wich los Lewis | 14 |
| Student: | |

Meeting Date: 3-4-3030

Topics Discussed

- Out of stock project comparate alternative options.
- . Photos of the project and the description.
- · Ambox surandings for open enclosure

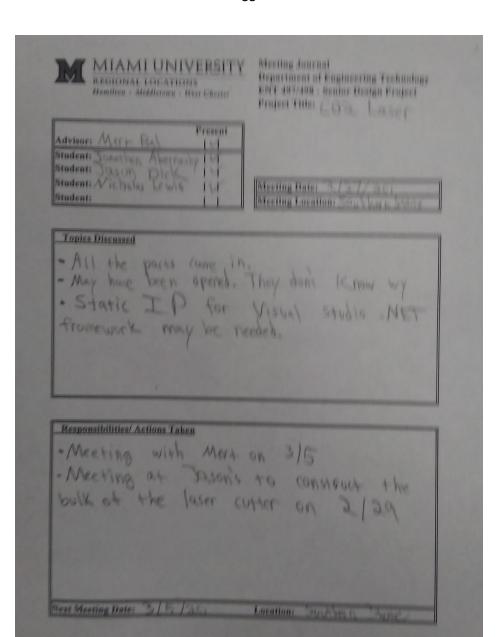
Responsibilities/ Actions Taken

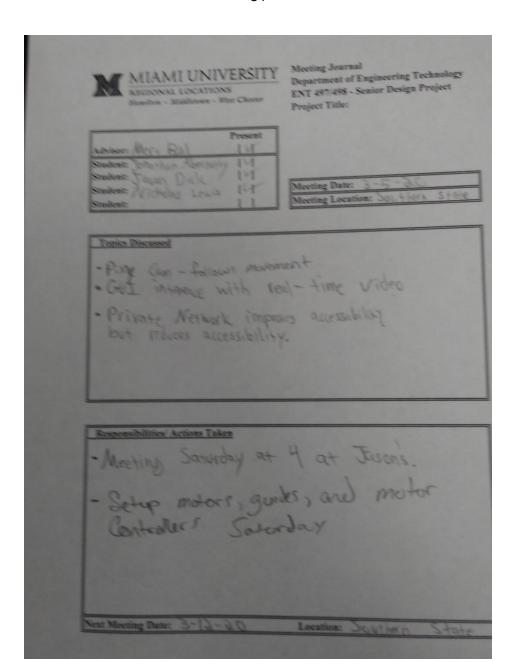
- -Meeting in Person at Jason's on 2-15
- · Nick will create visual studio interface with active X
- Finish parts list with updated parts to be submitted

Next Meeting Date: 9 2-13-2620 Location: Southern State

| REGIONAL LOCATIONS Hamilton · Middletown · West Chester | ENT 497/498 - Senior Design Project Project Title: |
|---|--|
| dvisor: Mer+ Bal IVI tudent: Michalus Lewis IVI tudent: Sanathan Abermaky IVI tudent: | Meeting Date: 2-13-20 Meeting Location: Southern State |
| Topics Discussed Out of Stock parts Shipping must come Pick up from Mianni | from order list to Miami first or Ship to us? |
| Responsibilities/Actions Taken - Meeting Saturday - Progress Pictures | |
| Next Meeting Date: 2-20-20 | Location: Southern State |

| MIAMI UNIVERSITY REGIONAL LOCATIONS Hamilton · Middletown · West Chester | Department of Engineering Technology ENT 497/498 - Senior Design Project Project Title: |
|--|---|
| Advisor: Meit Ral Middent: Johanna Abernathy Middent: Joseph Dick Luis Student: Michalas Lewis Luis Student: | Meeting Date: 2-20 - 20 Meeting Location: 50 A herry 5-40-6 |
| Topics Discussed **Continuing the ass **A Discussed an altern Unat Would arrive to | all Compinent to |
| Responsibilities/Actions Taken Coordinated with Me Components that arrived Nick to pick up by Assembly process to resu Components in-hand. | noon 2/21/20. |
| Next Meeting Date: 27-30 | Location: Southern State |





| Advisor: Mert Be Student: Josephan Student: Mert Jana Student: Mert Jana |) | Meeting Date: |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Student: | | Meeting Location: WebeX |
| · No Poster | | ifacting our class |
| Yourube Pier | - (Useful Too | |
| Responsibilities/ Ac | ctions Taken | |
| Work an | W(00000) 6 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | |
| and | presentation Report | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Next Meeting Date: 1 | 1-9. 10 | |
| | 1-1-90 | Location: \AbbeX |

| REGIONAL | I UNIVERSITY LOCATIONS iddlecown · West Chester | Meeting Journal Department of Engineering Technology ENT 497/498 - Senior Design Project Project Title: |
|--|---|---|
| dvisor: Mer } tudent: tudent: tudent: | LEWS [V] | Meeting Date: Meeting Location: |
| Presentation Powerpoint separately than throw it together. What could be added in the future | | |
| | | |
| Responsibilities/ A | | a. Mass. / |
| - Split Juson | responsibilities | on presentation/report |
| - Split | responsibilities Nick | |

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|--|---|---|
| Advisor: Mert Bal Student: Nicholas Le Student: Jonathyn A Student: Jason Diclo Student: | bernathy | Meeting Date: We We Meeting Location: 1/1/2/2 |
| Topics Discussed Google meet Presentation Submit a | t for you | tube upload of |
| Group Mee Whole presen | ting with | Mert for the stead of splitting |
| Responsibilities/ Actions | s Taken | |
| Meeting an | Sunday | |
| | | |
| | | |

