

# Kyle D. Narkiewicz

Consumer Product Development | Industrial Design | Product Management | Design Innovation

1.717.599.6020 - Lancaster, PA - [kylendesign@gmail.com](mailto:kylendesign@gmail.com) - [www.linkedin.com/in/kylednarkiewicz](http://www.linkedin.com/in/kylednarkiewicz)

## PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

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 parametric CAD modeling, building working prototypes, and manufacturing methods, who excels at creating market successful consumer products within a scheduled time frame and budget utilizing the stage-gate design 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. International work-group experience communicating and traveling to suppliers globally and a deep understanding of the role of diversity in a company. Experience tackling the ever-changing challenges with creating products for various channels and markets across the globe. Diligently growing as a professional and constantly improving work efficiency and the personal developmental process, to strengthen being as effective and efficient as possible.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

**Product Development:** 14+ years of product development in successfully launching 100+ innovative products to the consumer market across major retailers in different product segments with a focus on soft-goods, hard-goods, specialty materials, and cutting edge manufacturing processes.

**Collaboration:** Deep understanding of design for manufacturing and communication working directly with suppliers in a stage-gate design process turning concepts into market viable solutions.

**Consumer Research Led Innovation:** Focused on delivering highly organized market research and trend presentations which leads to developing human-centric products and innovations, while exceeding business goals and executive expectations.

## EXPERIENCE

**Chicco USA (Artsana), Lancaster, PA** - *NPD Engineer and Product Design Manager*

November 2021 - PRESENT

**Key Projects:** *Potty Training Combo Potty, Toddler Training Toilet, Diaper Changing Pad, Quick-Fold Stroller*

- Lead designer and product manager on new category opportunities; responsible for research and development expanding the current company product offering
- Advanced product design for juvenile focused product categories; strollers, travel systems, play-yards, highchairs, car seats
- Model shop prototyping and 3D printing innovative concept designs utilizing various Stratasys, Ultimaker, & Bambu SLS rapid prototype machines
- Research into category and consumer trends providing market analysis to the executive team

- Detailed design, trend presentations, detailed drawings for manufacturing and collaboration with cross-functional marketing, sales, and NPD teams to develop new and innovative products

### **Gator Co, Tampa, FL - Product Design Manager (Internal Promotion)**

September 2018 - October 2021

**Key Projects:** *ICON Series Gig Bag, Studio Furniture Collection, Utility Cart, ID Creator Tree, GTR Power Supply*

- High-profile project lead designer pushing innovation into the company product portfolio which spans multiple categories and channels
- Advanced product development in a stage-gate process utilizing Wrike
- Creating concept renders on iPad Pro in Sketchbook and detailed design and drawings utilizing CAD modeling in SolidWorks
- Advanced prototype renderings in Keyshot and Photoshop
- Preliminary 3D printing on Makerbot and advanced prototype testing with focus on speed to market, with redesigns eliminating expensive tooling costs
- Manage individual designers and help them reach goals on all company industrial design activities
- New products released since 2015 have sold over two-million units globally across three brands
- Rebranded company logo assets, packaging, and brand identity pushing toward a modern company image better representing the ethos of multiple brands such as Gator Cases, Frameworks, and Levy's
- Implemented standardized documentation for use by NPD team members
- Work directly with customers (internal and external) to gather product design requirements, develop industry leading solutions and relay design communications within ID team
- Help set required design levels and standards for input for various design processes
- Management of peer review process, complete final review and design approvals
- Developed brand standards for products, packaging, spec sheets, and instruction sheets.
- Workload monitoring, assignment input, and general team coaching/ assistance to develop individual skill-sets of the ID team

### **Gator Co, Tampa, FL - Senior Industrial Designer**

September 2014 - September 2018

**Key Projects:** *Transit Series Gig Bag, LED Guitar Case, Closet Guitar Bags, Guitar Stool Combo, VESA Quadpod Stand, iMac Tote Bag, Company Logo Design and Rebranding, Creative Pro Camera Bags, Elite Keyboard Furniture*

- Oversee design projects from inception to completion working with PM and Marketing
- Leading and mentoring a team of designers pushing their capabilities to new heights
- Product content lead for packaging, product brand guidelines, product spec sheets, and more
- Innovate multiple product categories with a focus on sewn goods including Gator Cases, Frameworks, Slappa, a technology sewn goods line of products and Levy's Leather, the industry leading guitar strap brand.
- Bring an attitude of positive energy, organization, and responsibility to the company
- Lead by example and follow-through of ideas and communication
- Overall critical thinking and creative improvements across multiple business units
- Design and develop hard and soft goods, which includes; sewn bags, molded storage cases, stage equipment, and storage solutions for the Gator consumer brands
- Co-manage the product development and creation of products for OEM customers such as Fender, Zildjian, Shure, Amazon, Harman and many more with a primary focus on the music industry
- Create tech packs highlighting materials, design language, construction techniques, dimensions, specs and hardware details for factory sample development, prototyping, and production

- Develop products for external customers in the music, sports, recreation, and leisure industries
- Implement the New Product Development (NPD) process for a rapidly expanding company with a widening customer base
- Co-develop product development timelines with cross-functional teams to track product progression through the development stages
- Research and document competitive product features, industry trends, and relevant new materials
- Work with domestic and international suppliers to build prototypes, source various hardware and fabric components, and complete final product manufacturing
- Implement new processes to effectively expand the design capabilities of the product development department
- Create and collaborate on innovative product packaging, graphics, and content for all new products for music retailers and online stores
- Extensive knowledge of cut-n-sew materials and processes which includes; foams, fabrics, lamination, sonic welding, technical sewing methods, embroidery, and more
- Working knowledge of injection molding, rotational molding, metals, wood, and foam

### **ClosetMaid, Ocala, FL - Industrial Designer I**

March 2011 - March 2014

**Key Projects:** *Closet Solutions Collection & ArrangeMents Collection at Target, ShelfTrack Elite at Home Depot*

- Translate 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
- Develop products and collections meeting strict new product process goals.
- Collaborate with the internal innovation team, product managers, marketing managers, engineering team, manufacturers/vendors and outside design-consulting firms
- Guide and implement the updating and cost reduction of currently existing products to aid in profitability
- Unified the design process through providing customers and buyers with knowledge of what their target demographic should be, details of the existing product marketplace, and future color and material predictions
- Align concepts with the latest home decor, fashion, and interior design trends. Gather research and trend forecasting annually by visiting multiple shows dedicated to the latest advances in home building, woodworking, and fabric trends and techniques

## **EDUCATION**

### **Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA - BFA Industrial Design**

2006 - 2010

Activities and societies: Varsity Lacrosse 2006-2009

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

### **Solidworks Mechanical Designe - Associate**

2015