

Engineering Design - Analyzing Your Solution

Ok, now it's time to look at those solutions and compare them to your specifications. This is where you will determine which solution you'd like examine further based on the specifications you came up with when you defined the problem.

It helps here to create a grid. List the possible solutions and then decide if they meet your specifications one at a time. A grid might look like the one below. This grid uses a plus sign (+) to indicate that it meets the specification, an X to indicate that it does not and a 0 to indicate that it is neutral (it neither meets nor doesn't meet the specification. An example of this might be if you had a solution that sometimes meets the specification and sometimes does not).

	Criteria 1	Criteria 2	Criteria 3	Criteria 4
Solution 1	Х	Х	0	+
Solution 2	+	+	0	Х



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Ok, now it's time to look at those solutions and compare them to your specifications. Use the "Defining the Problem" and "Developing Possible Solutions" activities here to fill in the table. In the top row you will list each of the criteria or constraints (specifications) you came up with. In the first column you will list each of your solutions (come up with a short name for each). Then go through each one and put a (+) if the solution meets the specification, an (X) if it doesn't meet the specification, and a (0) if it meets the specification only sometimes.

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