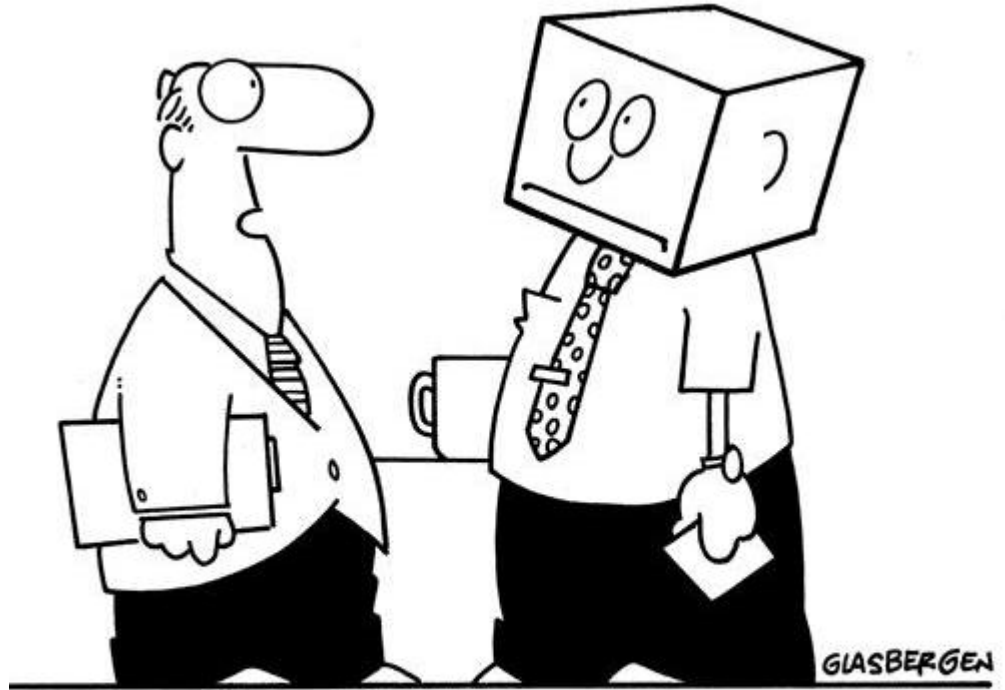


Writing a Design Specification

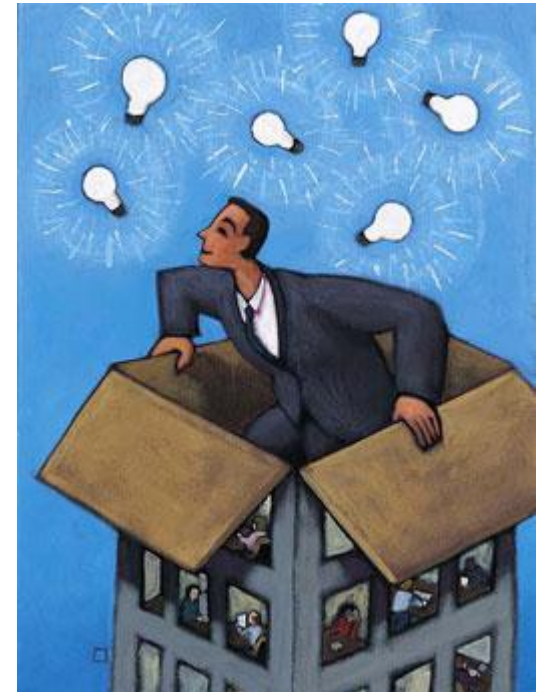


**“Thinking outside of the box is difficult
for some people. Keep trying.”**

Design Specifications

In the same way that analysis and research are often bound together, the design brief, the research process and the development of a product design specification are all linked and may be developed simultaneously. Your design specification should include **measurable** characteristics that will help you design with manufacture in mind. It needs to include enough detail to develop **feasible design ideas**, but leave room for creative thinking. Use the following checklist to help develop your design specification:

- The product **purpose, function and aesthetics**
- Market and **user requirements** the expected **performance** requirements of the product, materials and components
- The kind of **manufacturing processes, technology** and **scale of production** you may use
- Any values issues that may **influence** your design ideas, such as cultural, social or environmental



Your design specification should guide all your design thinking and provide you with a basis for generating design ideas.

The specification can change and develop as research is carried out, often starting as an outline specification until the final design specification is reached.

This is used as a Check when testing and evaluating design ideas and provides information about the product that can help to monitor its quality of design.

The design specification is therefore an essential document that sets up the criteria for the design and development of your product

Specification criteria can also be used later on to guide your thinking when developing a manufacturing specification.

