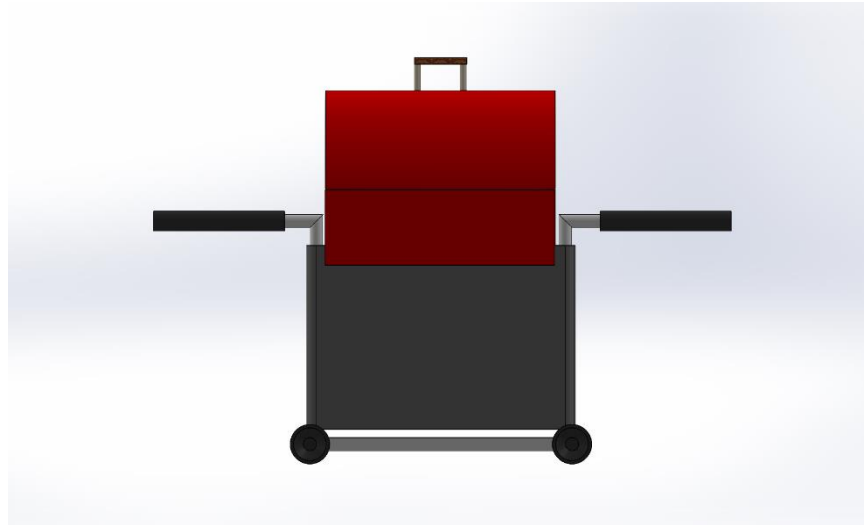


Grill

Rebecca Might



When we were assigned our final SolidWorks project, I had no idea what to make. Everything I saw throughout my week, I considered how good of a SolidWorks project it would make. I was talking on the phone one day with my dad and he bragged about all the delicious food he was cooking on the grill that night for my family's dinner. I thought about what it would take to make a grill in SolidWorks, and realized it would be a perfect project, not impossible, but it would surely challenge my abilities.

From working with SolidWorks for a semester, I knew that going into a project like this without a clear idea of what to do was not an option. I planned out exactly what I wanted the grill to look like, including every part and dimension. This took a fair amount of time, and I noticed that most of my classmates were getting ahead by jumping right into the building process, so it was a bit discouraging at first, but in the end this planning period is what saved me the most time. For the most part, I stuck to my plans. A few dimensions needed to change, and I added two wheels to the original two I had planned on. I am very glad that I took the time to plan out my grill.

Because of my plans, building the parts was not a very difficult task, but I definitely improved on all of the basic features of SolidWorks. Assembling however was not such a simple job. Going into the project, I was not good at mating, so this was a big challenge, but I finally did figure it out and get all of the grill parts assembled. I decided to create a hinge to allow the lid to open and close. This was the most difficult and frustrating part of my project. Making the hinge was a challenge, but I learned many features such as how to make a hole for different types of screws and how to use the mirror feature. When I went to attach the hinge to my grill, it would not assemble correctly no matter what I tried. Unfortunately, I did not get to use the hinge that I made, but I am still glad that I made it because I learned new and very helpful SolidWorks skills.

My understanding of SolidWorks is so far beyond what I ever thought it would be at the beginning of the semester. I used to think of it as an impossible software, but now I think of it as a fun challenge to create anything you can imagine.

