



# Optimize Plastic Part Designs: Injection Molding Simulation in Autodesk Fusion 360

CP500672

Mason Myers & Tim VanAst

Autodesk: Principal Implementation Consultants



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# Optimize Plastic Part Designs: Injection Molding Simulation in Autodesk Fusion 360

- Class ID: CP500672
- Product(s): Fusion 360
- Topics: Automotive and Industrial Design, Injection Molding, Product Design, Simulation and Analysis, Software Training
- Session Description
- Just because you designed a plastic part, doesn't mean it can be manufactured at scale. Product design has a significant impact on the cost and timing to manufacture your parts. You will learn how to identify and address costly manufacturing issues with Injection Molding Simulation in Fusion 360.
- Learning Objectives
- Simulate the injection molding process to improve manufacturability
- Learn the potential manufacturing issues your plastic part design may have
- Use the guides to help you understand the changes that you should make to reduce cost and time to market
- Validate that your design is ready to be injection molded

# Tim VanAst



Celanese



**AUTODESK**  
Moldflow Insight

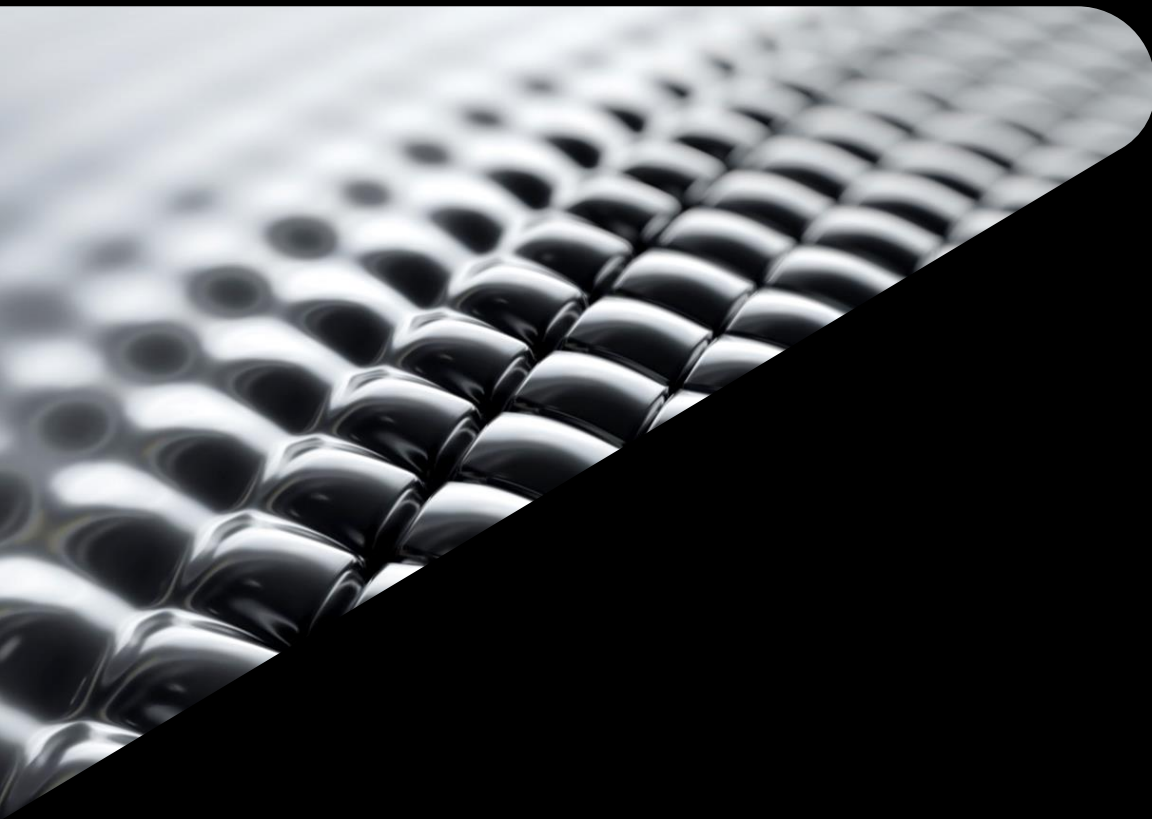
CERTIFIED EXPERT

# Mason Myers



**AUTODESK**  
Moldflow Insight

CERTIFIED EXPERT



**Fusion 360**



# Fusion 360



# Analyze product performance

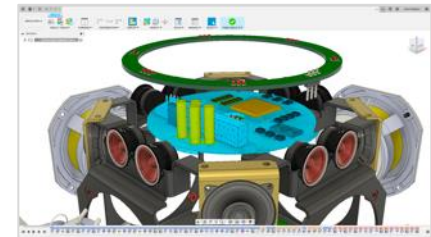
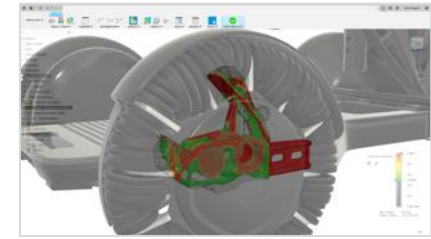
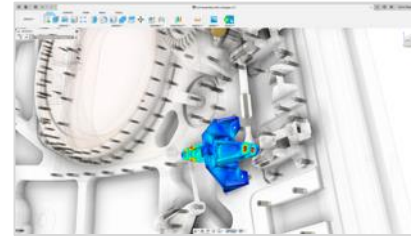
## Simulation

### Benefits

- Reduce cost of physical prototyping
- Early detection of design flaws
- Avoid product performance issues
- Compare benefits of design changes
- Simulate real world condition

### Capabilities

- Static & non-linear stresses
- Modal frequency
- Thermal & thermal stress
- Buckling & Event
- **Plastic Injection Molding**

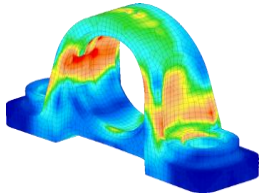


# Fusion 360



# Autodesk Simulation Portfolio

Structural  
Mechanics



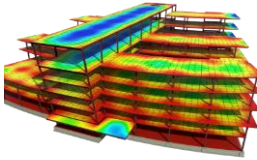
I

NAS

F

360

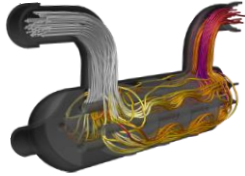
Structural  
Architecture



R

PRO

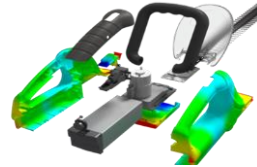
Flow & Thermal  
Analysis



C

CFD

Molding Processes



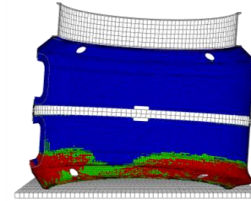
M

ADV

M

INS

Composite  
Materials



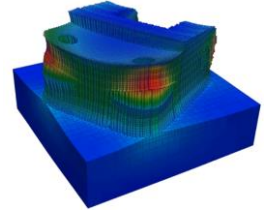
I

NAS

M

INS

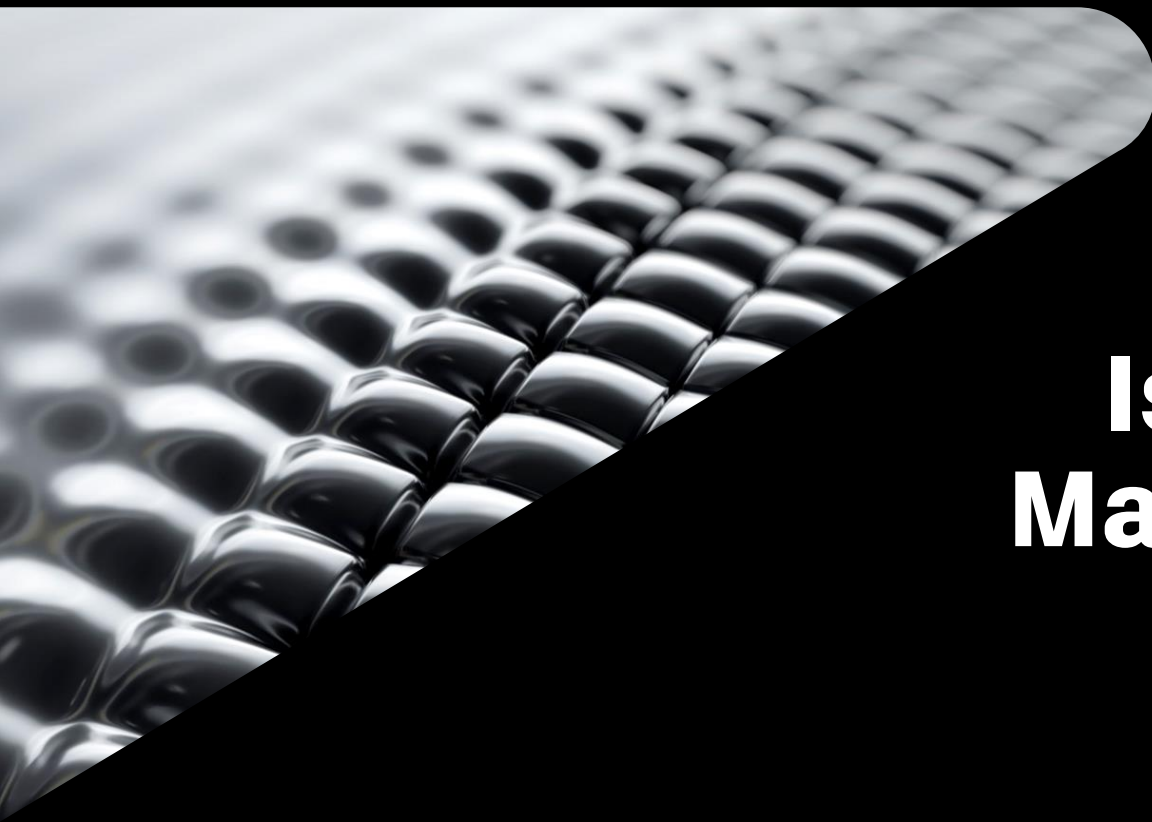
Additive MFG  
Optimization



N

NFB

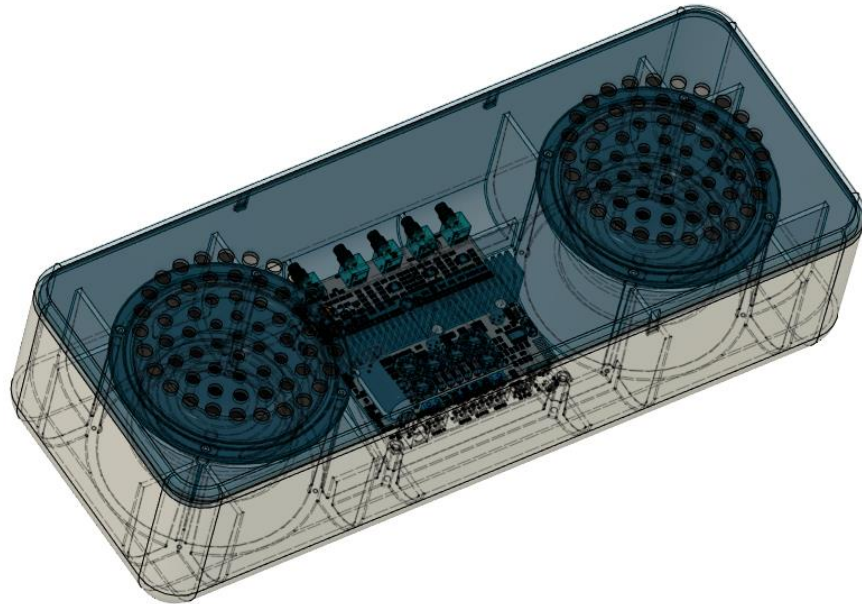




**Is Your Design  
Manufacturable**

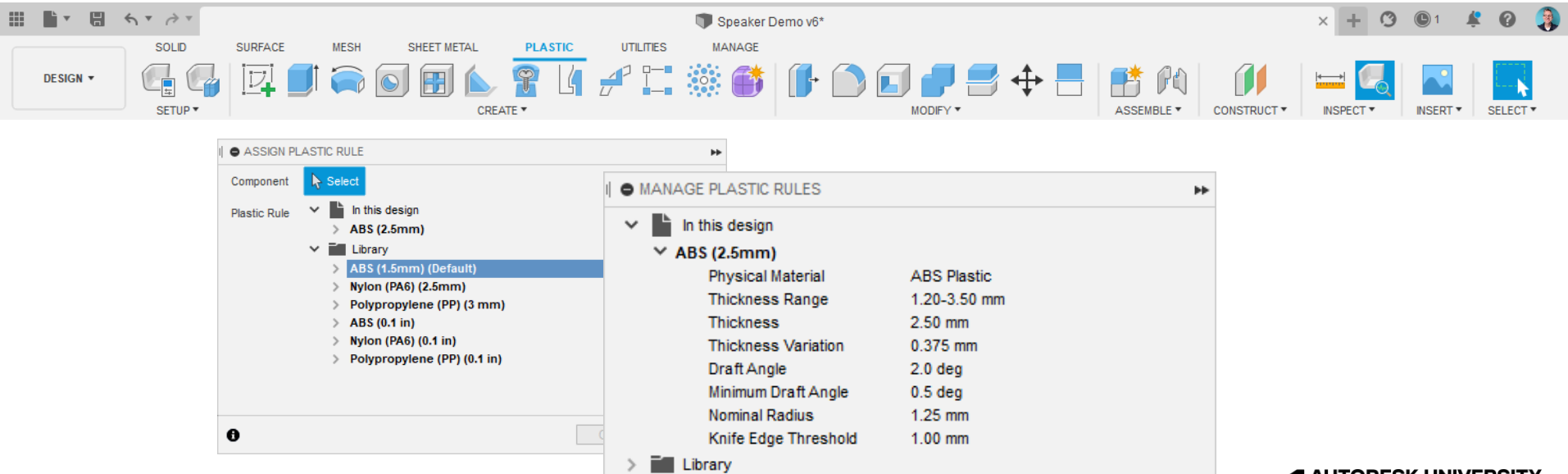
# Congratulations! You've Designed a Part

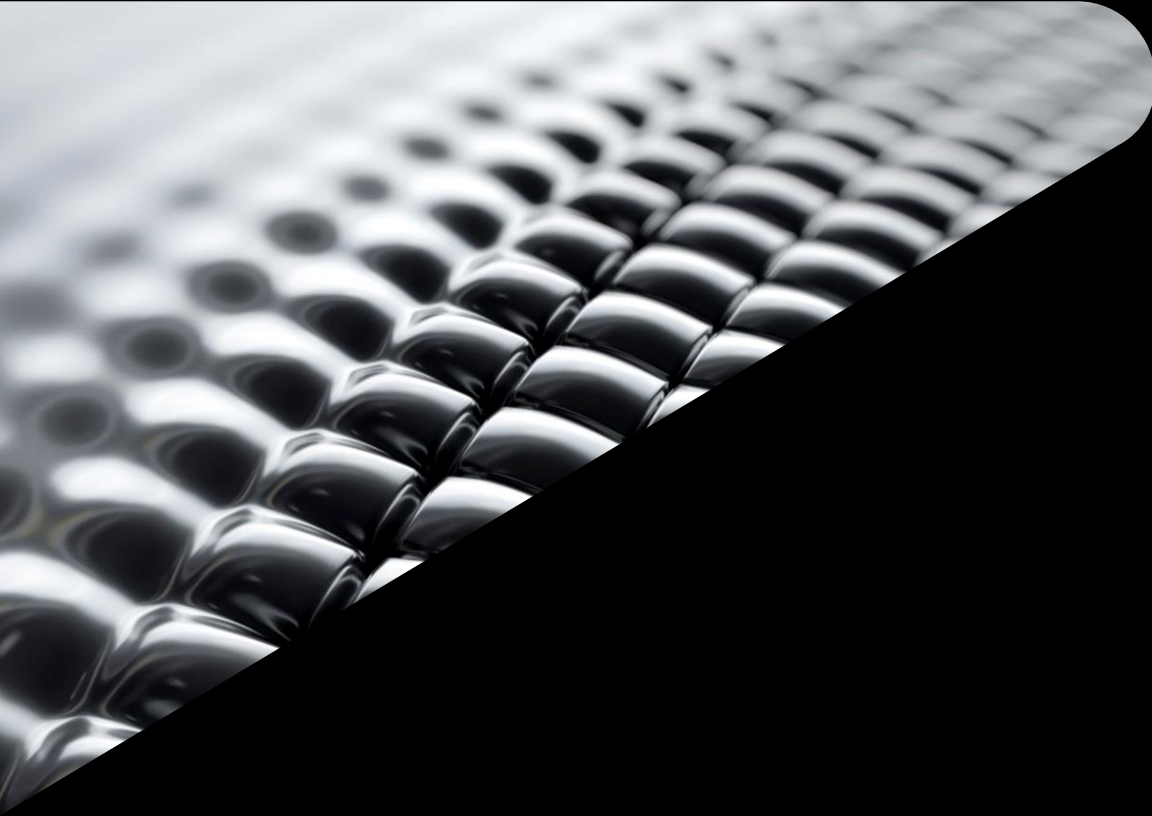
...but is it manufacturable?



# Fusion : Product Design Extensions

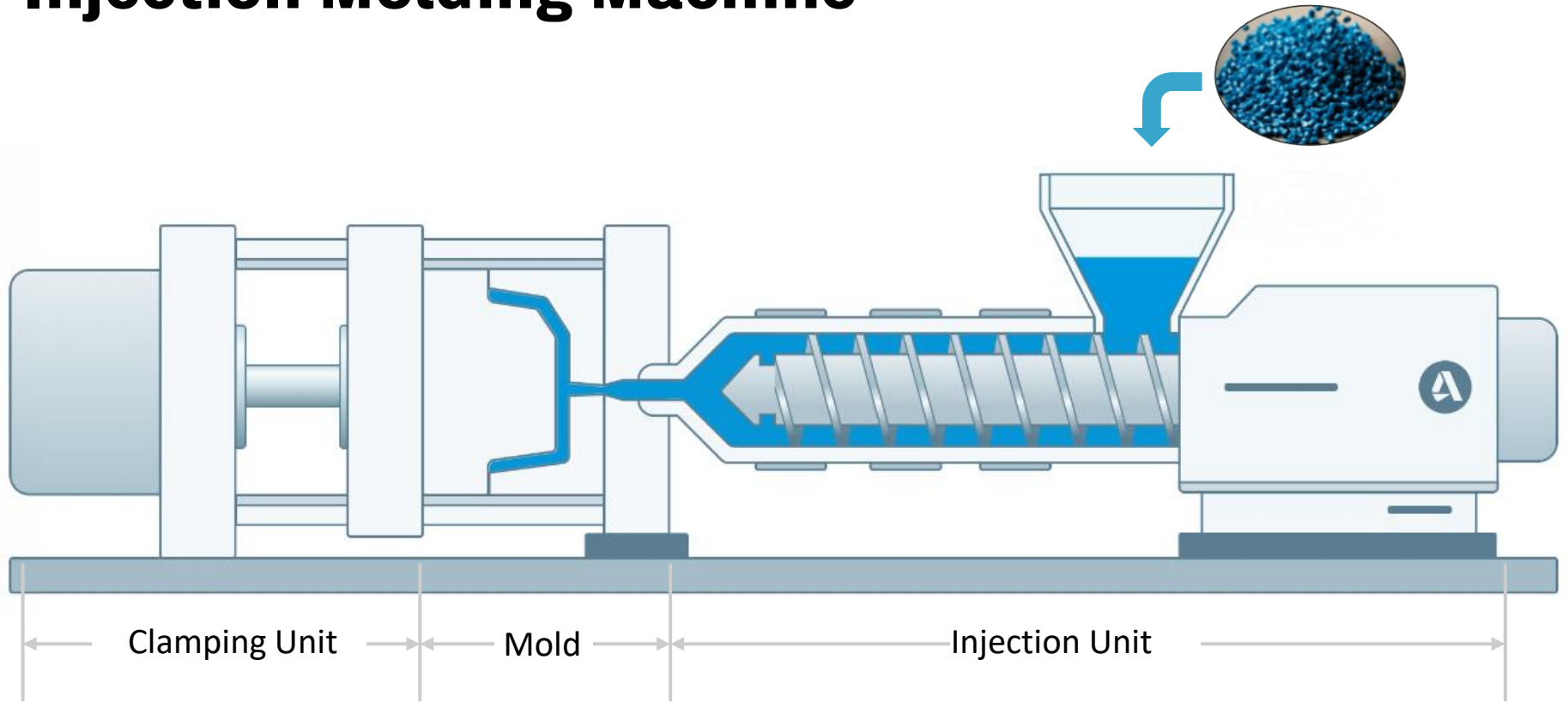
- CP500808 | Creating the Autodesk University Factory Name Badge with the New Product Design Extension
  - Thursday at 1:30 PM – don't miss it



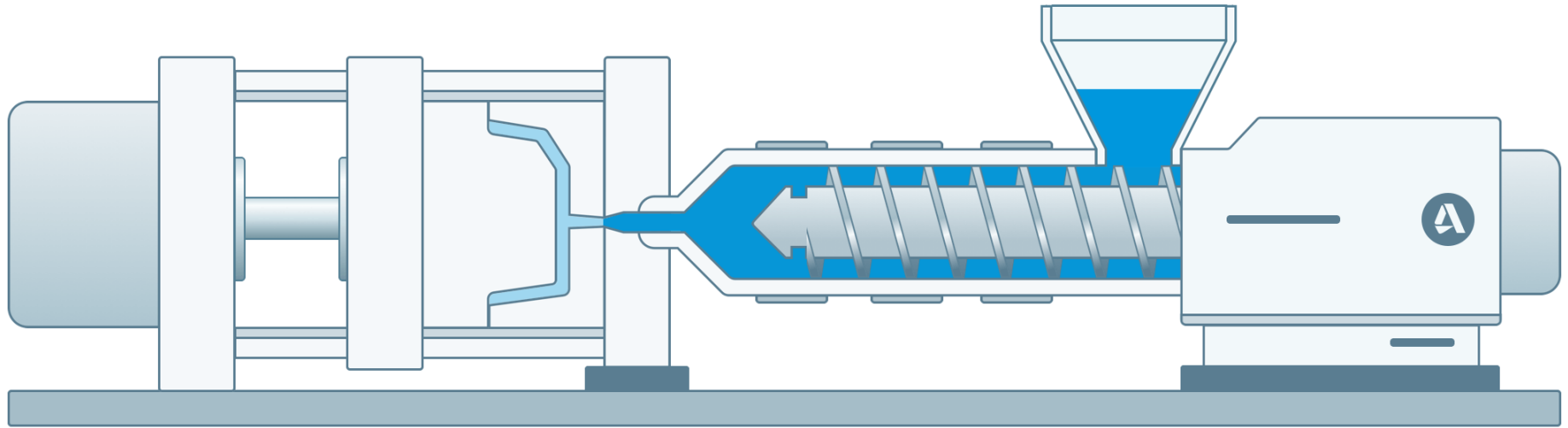


# **Review of Injection Molding Process**

# Injection Molding Machine

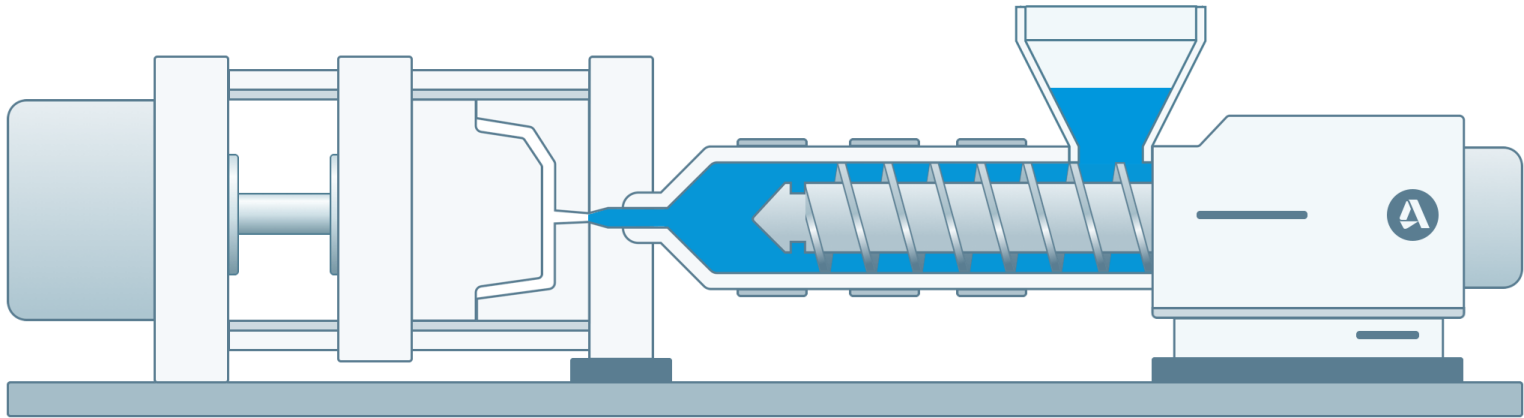


# Injection Molding Cycle



# Filling Phase

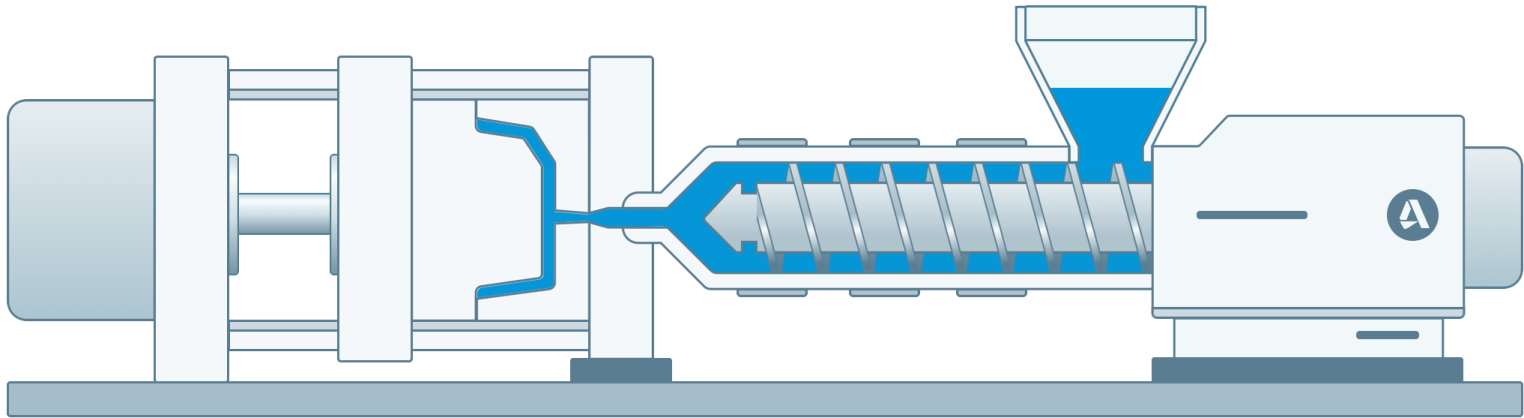
- Mold Closes
- Screw moves forward
- Frozen polymer skin forms as cavity is filled





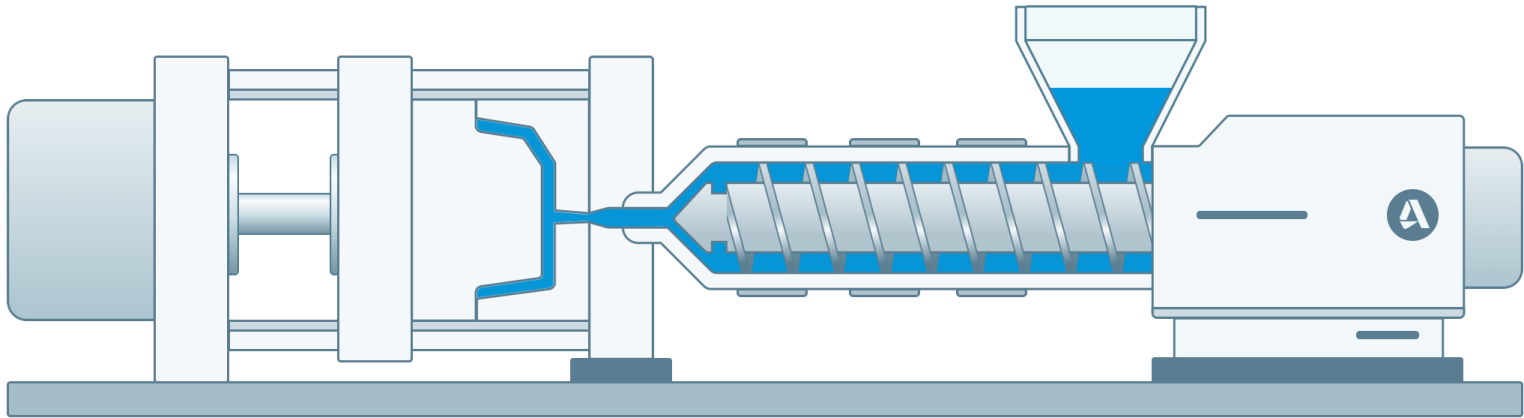
# Packing Phase

- Cavity filled
- Additional pressure applied
- Gate freezes



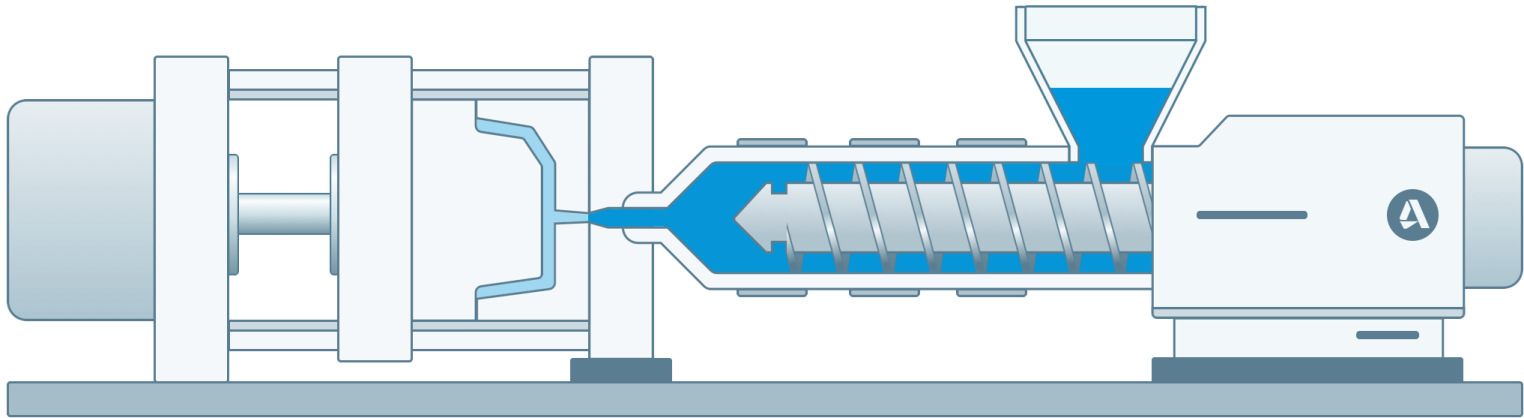
# Cooling Phase

- Part cools to ejection temperature
- Screw rotates back

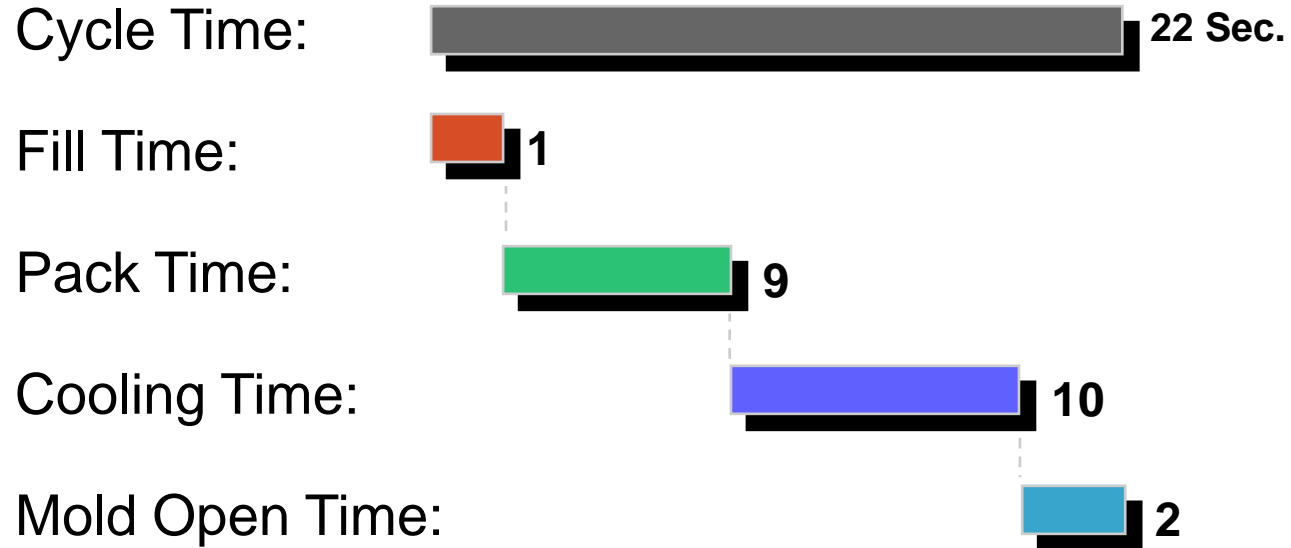


# Mold Open Phase

- Mold opens
- Part is ejected from the mold
- Mold closes and process is repeated



# Injection Molding Cycle – Linear Timeline



# Injection Molding Process Control



Mold Temperature

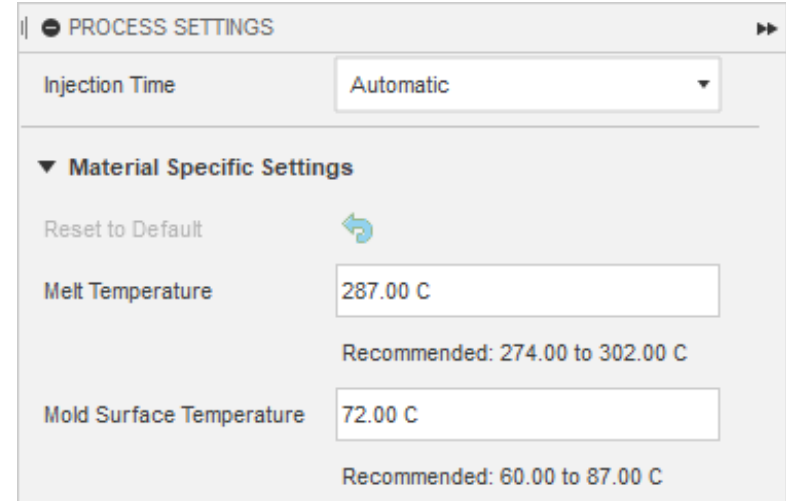
Melt Temperature



Injection Control

# Injection Molding Process Settings

- Injection Time
- Resin Melt Temperature
- Mold Surface Temperature
- Default values per material selected



The screenshot shows a software interface titled "PROCESS SETTINGS". It contains a dropdown menu for "Injection Time" set to "Automatic". Below this is a section titled "Material Specific Settings" with a "Reset to Default" button. Two temperature settings are visible: "Melt Temperature" at 287.00 C with a recommended range of 274.00 to 302.00 C, and "Mold Surface Temperature" at 72.00 C with a recommended range of 60.00 to 87.00 C.

Setting	Value	Recommended Range
Injection Time	Automatic	-
Melt Temperature	287.00 C	274.00 to 302.00 C
Mold Surface Temperature	72.00 C	60.00 to 87.00 C

# Material Choice

STUDY MATERIALS

Clear all

Browse

All

Recents (6)

Favorites (1)

Filters

Collapse all

Clear all

Description

Manufacturer

Material structure

Date last modified

Material ID

Family abbreviation

☐ ABS

☐ ABS+PA

☐ ABS+PA6

☐ ABS+PA66

☐ ABS+PBT

☐ ABS+PC

☐ ABS+PET

☐ ABS+PMMA

☐ ABS+PVC

☐ AFS

All Results (12385)

Study Material 

Generic PP

Manufacturer	Trade name	Family abbreviation	
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic TPU	TPU	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PPO+PS (+ fiber)	PPO+PS	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PET	PET	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PET (+ fiber)	PET	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PEEK	PEEK	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic TPE	TPE	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PPO+PA	PPO+PA	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic SAN	SAN	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PA46 (+ fiber)	PA46	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PPE+PS	PPE+PS	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic TPO	TPO	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic HIPS	HIPS	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PA6	PA6	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PMMA	PMMA	...
Generic Shrinkage Charact...	Generic PPE+PS (+ fiber)	PPE+PS	...

Rows per page: 100 1 of 124 |< < > >|

Select Cancel

STUDY MATERIALS

< Return to search

TFX-210 ☆

Search in this material

Description

Recommended Processing

Rheological Properties

Thermal Properties

pVT Properties

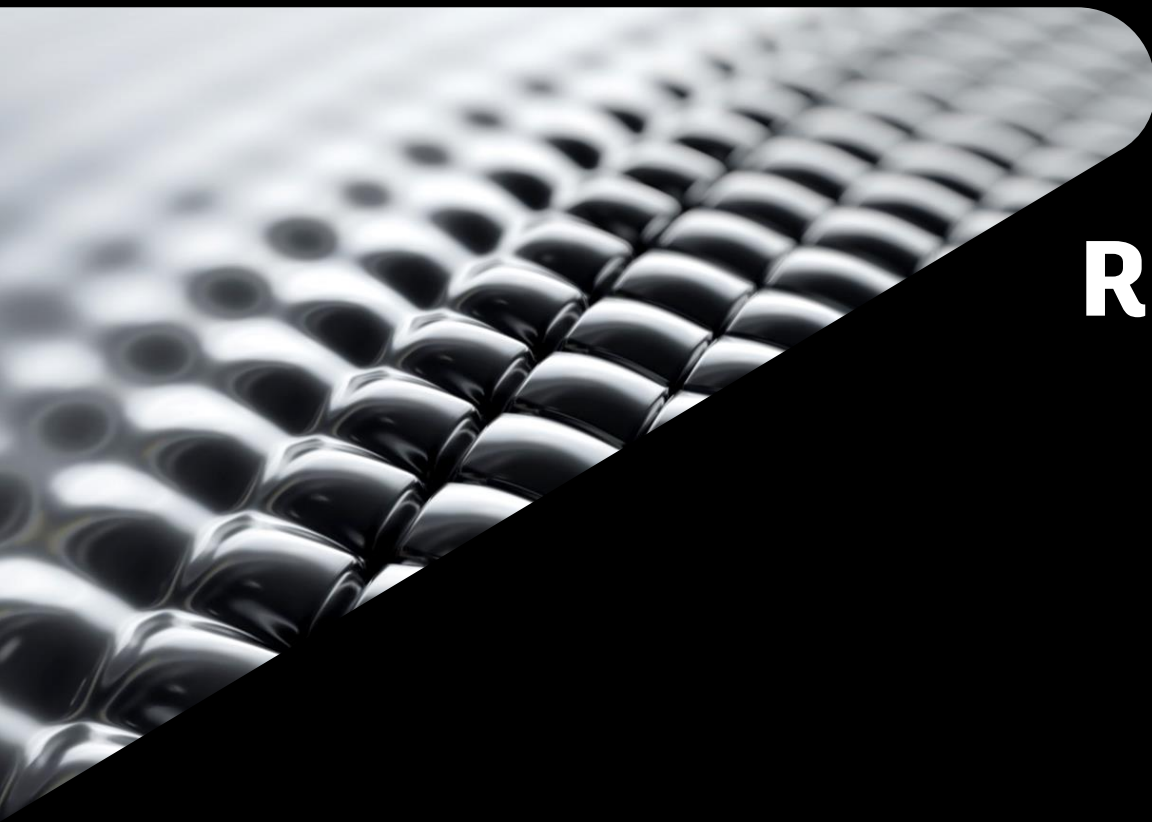
Mechanical Properties

Shrinkage

Environmental Properties

Material Data Completeness

1



# **Rules for Good Plastic Part Design**

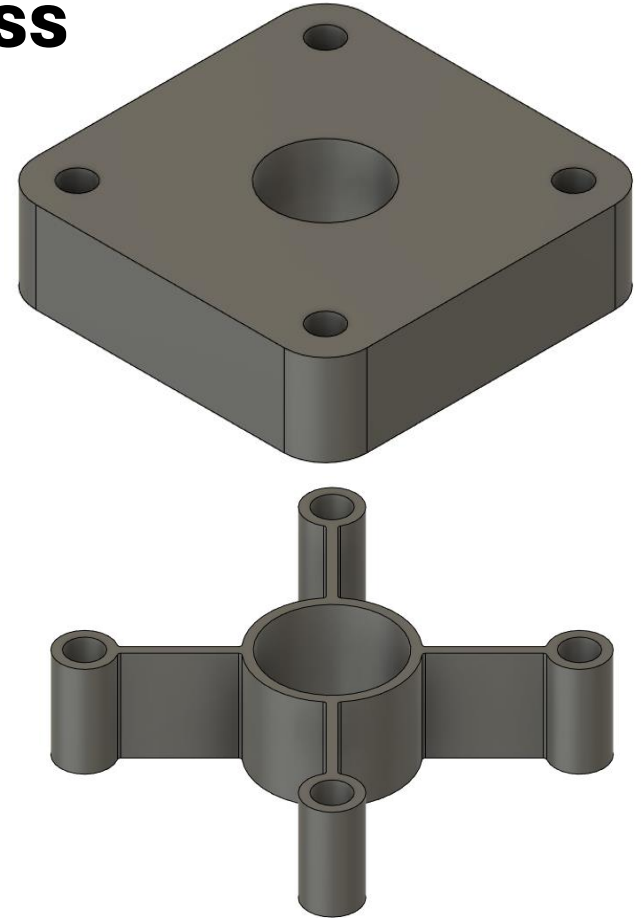


# Rules for good plastic design

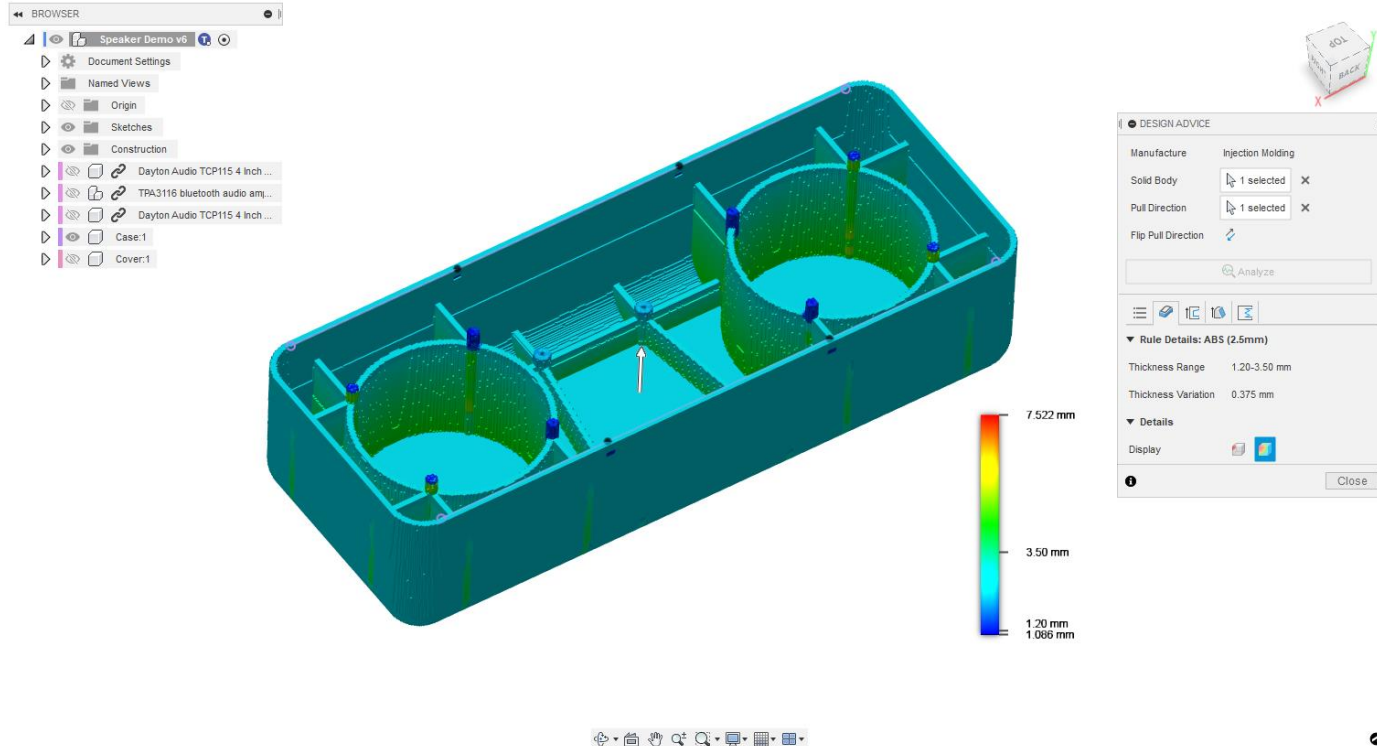
1. Uniform wall thickness
2. Uniform wall thickness
3. Radii
4. Draft
5. Undercuts

# Rule #1 : Uniform Wall Thickness

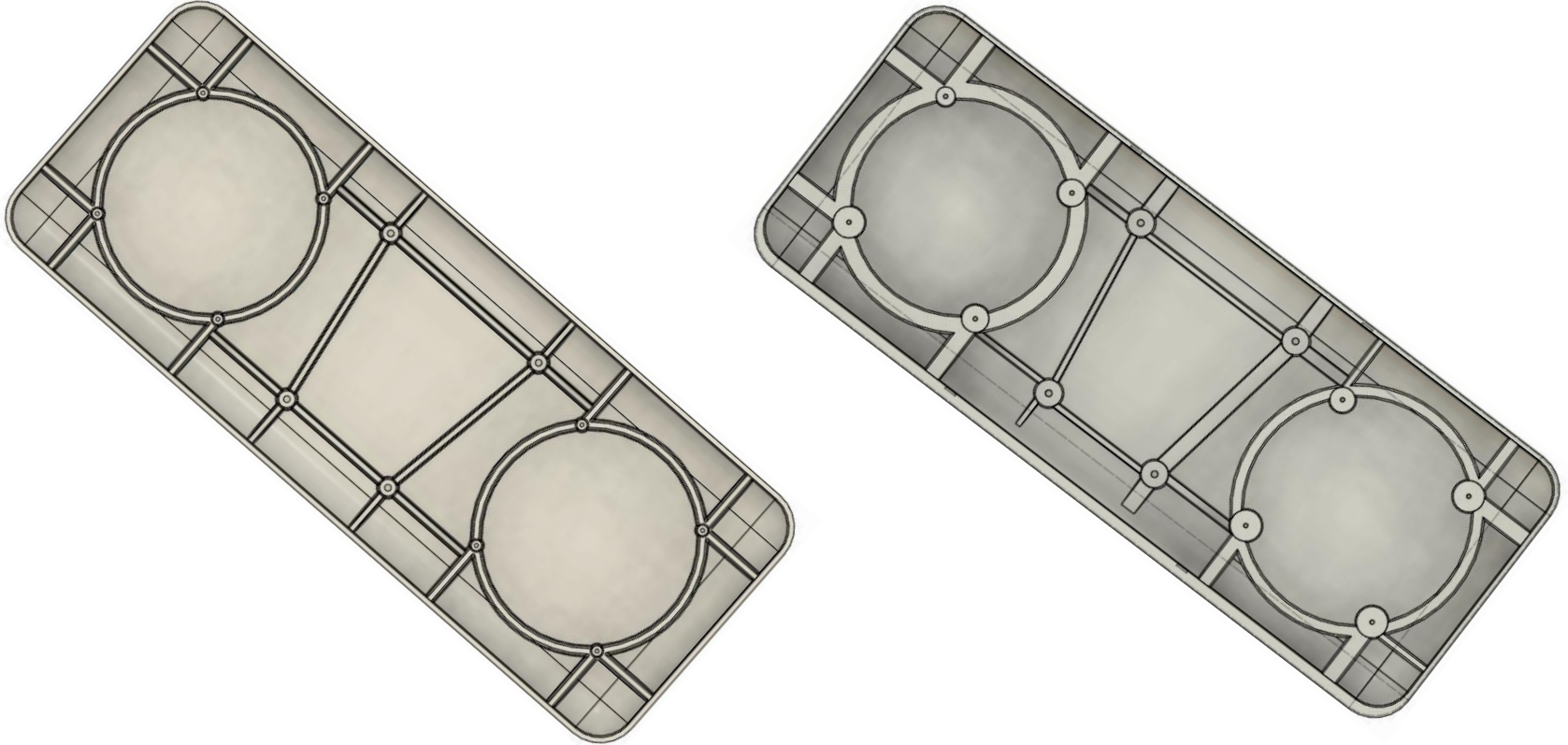
- First rule of plastic part design typically broken
  - Uniform wall thickness
- Uniform wall thickness help produce
  - Even filling patterns
  - Uniform temperatures and pressures
  - Uniform cooling
  - Uniform shrink & warp



# Rule #1 : Uniform Wall Thickness

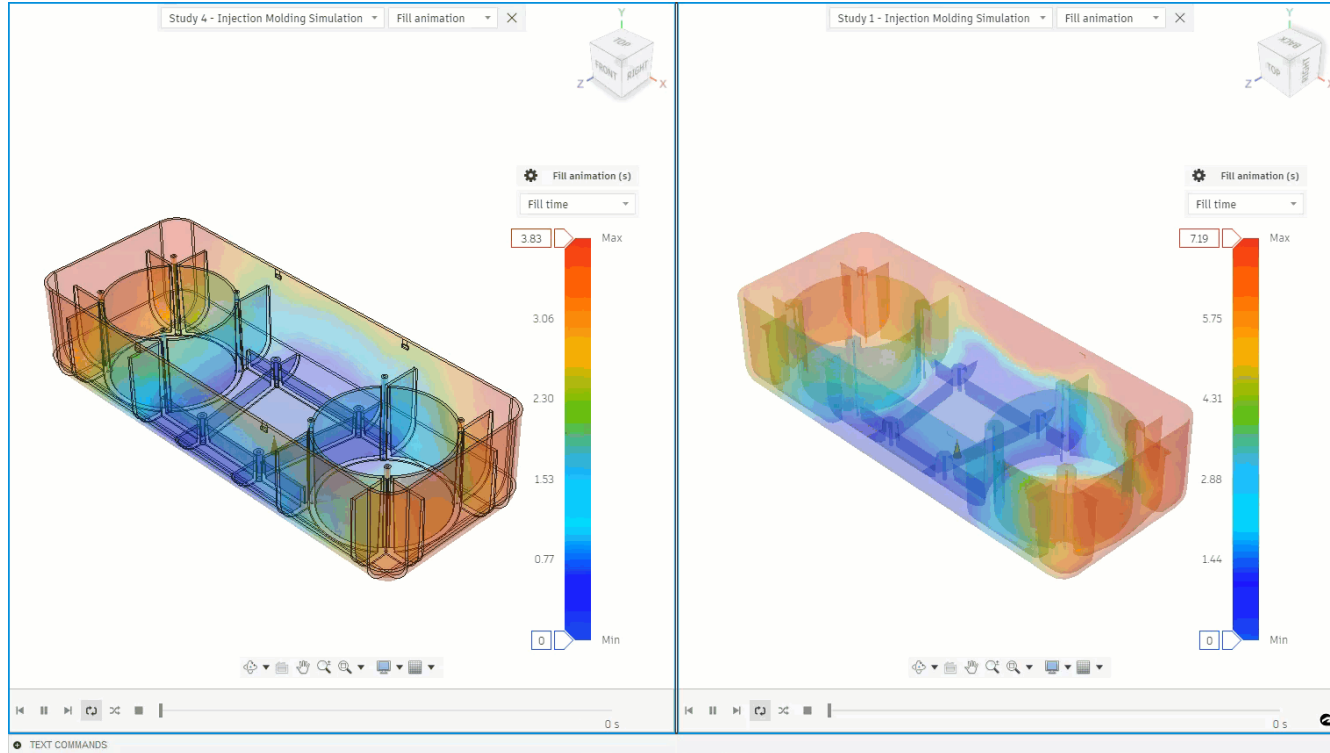


# Rule #1 : Uniform Wall Thickness



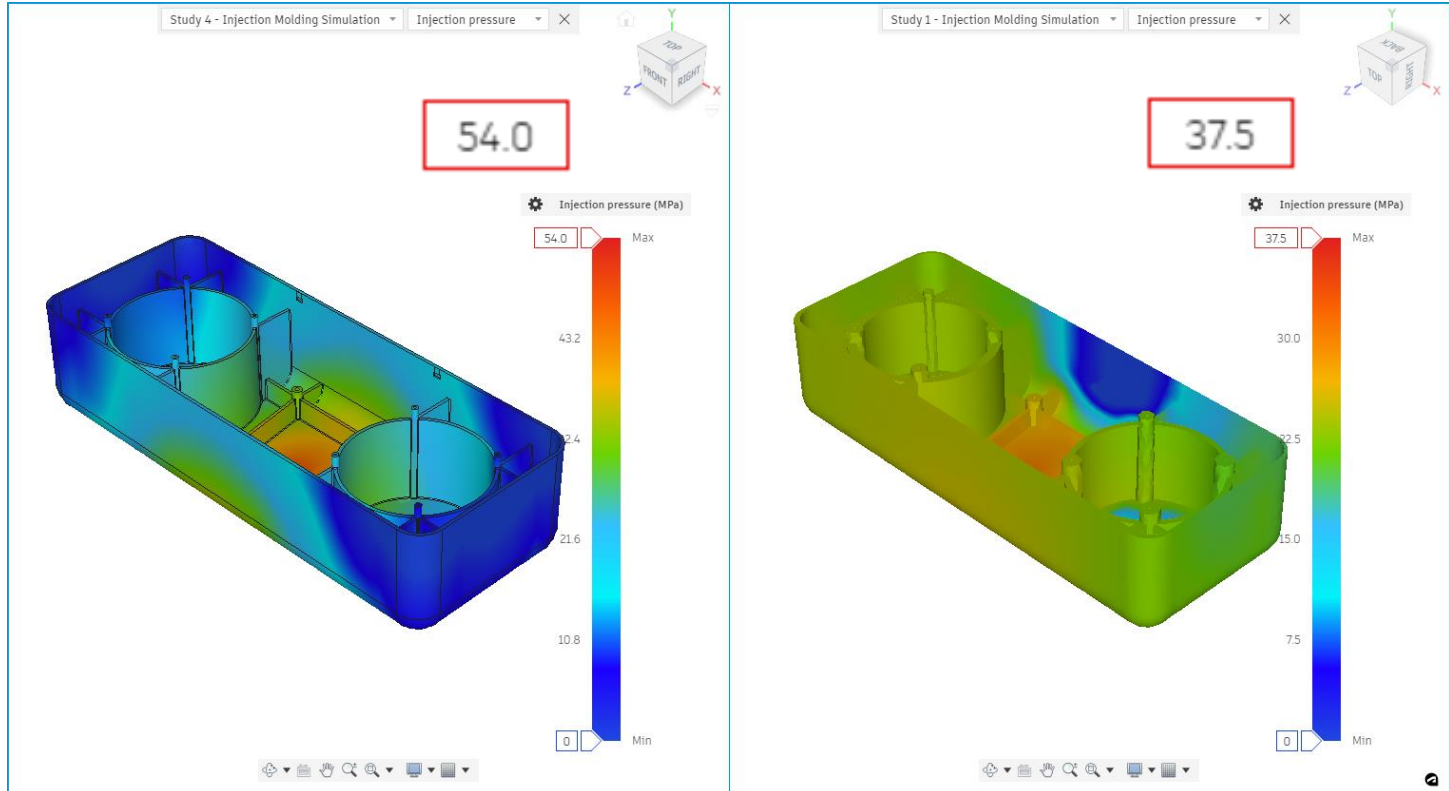
# Rule #1 : Uniform Wall Thickness

## Fill Time



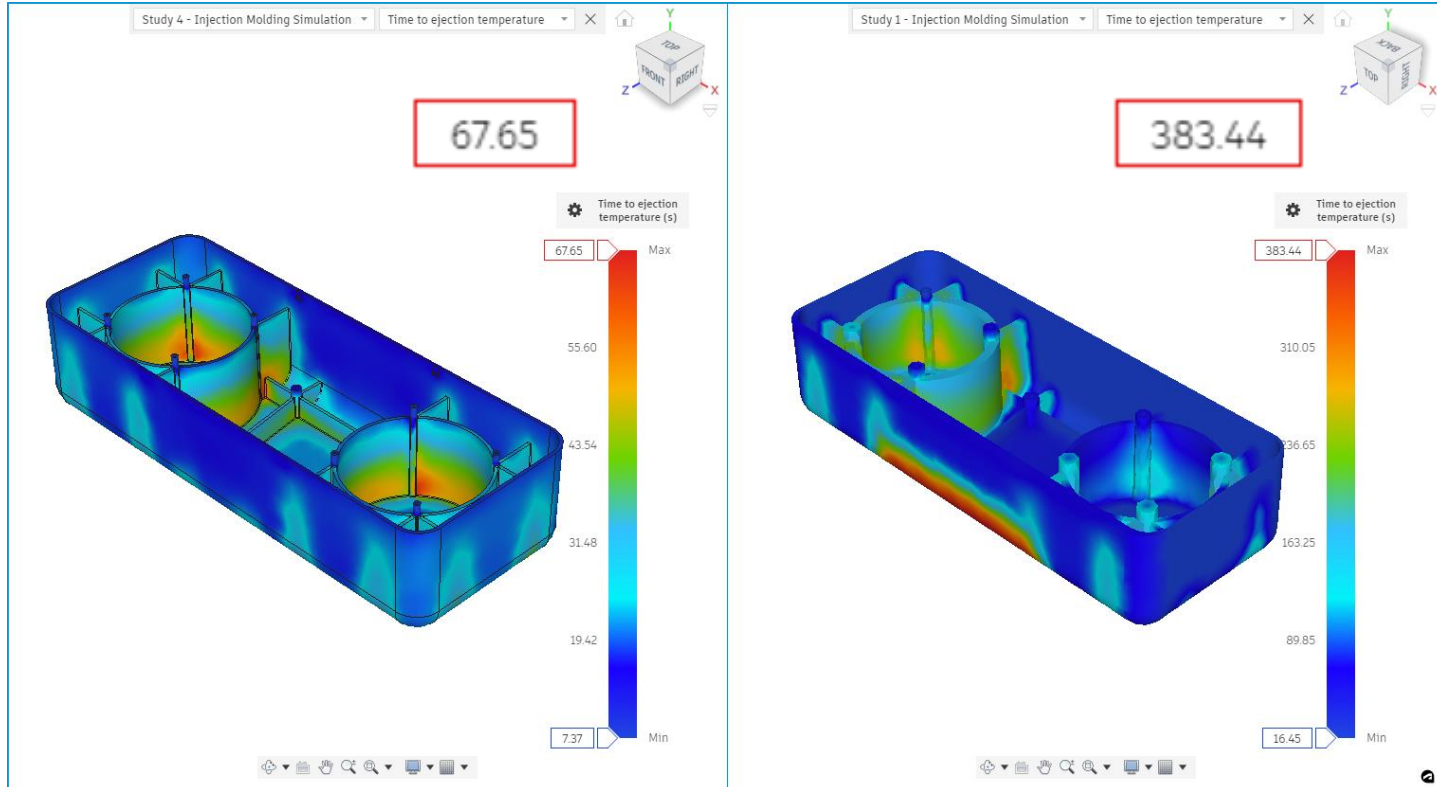
# Rule #1 : Uniform Wall Thickness

## Injection Pressure



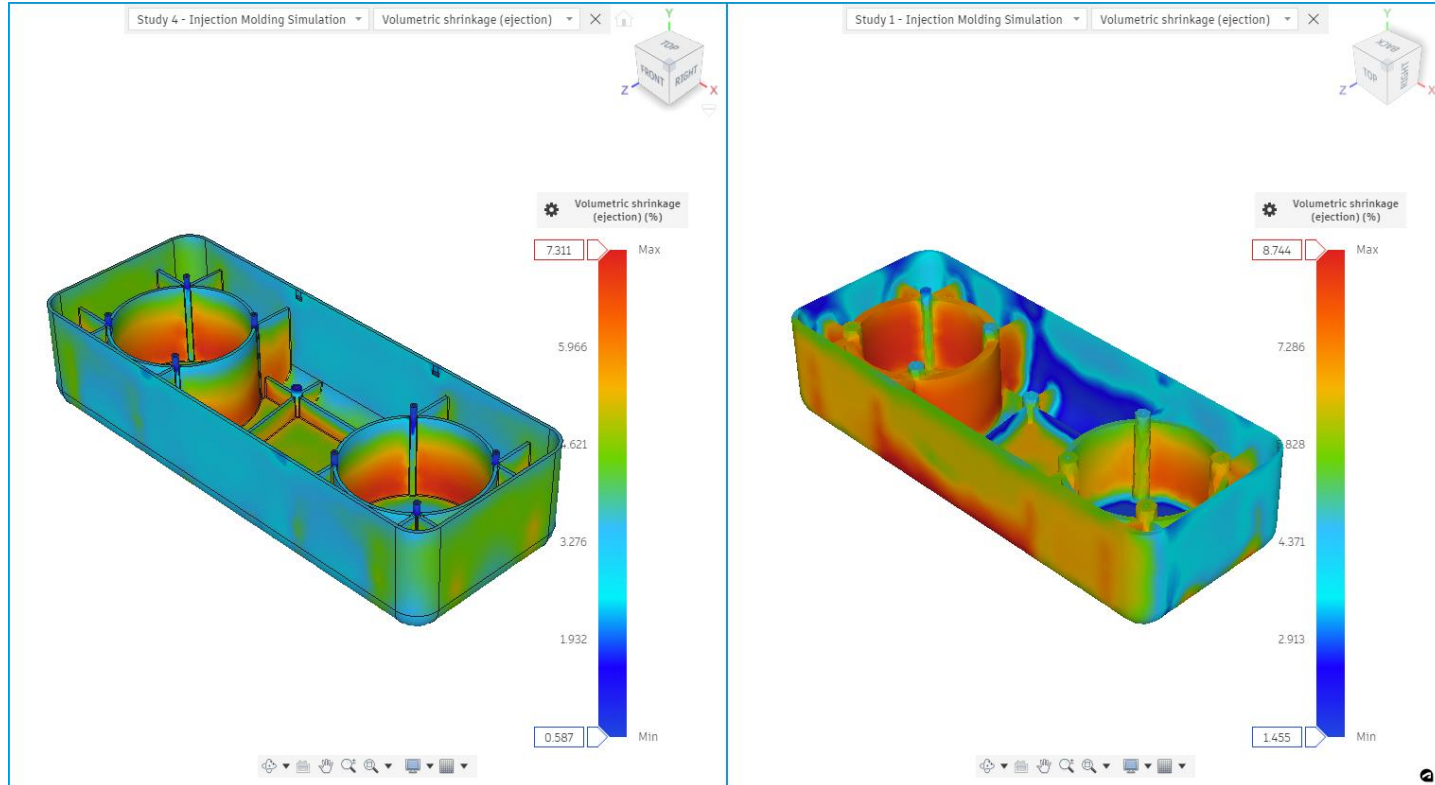
# Rule #1 : Uniform Wall Thickness

Time to Reach Ejection Temperature



# Rule #1 : Uniform Wall Thickness

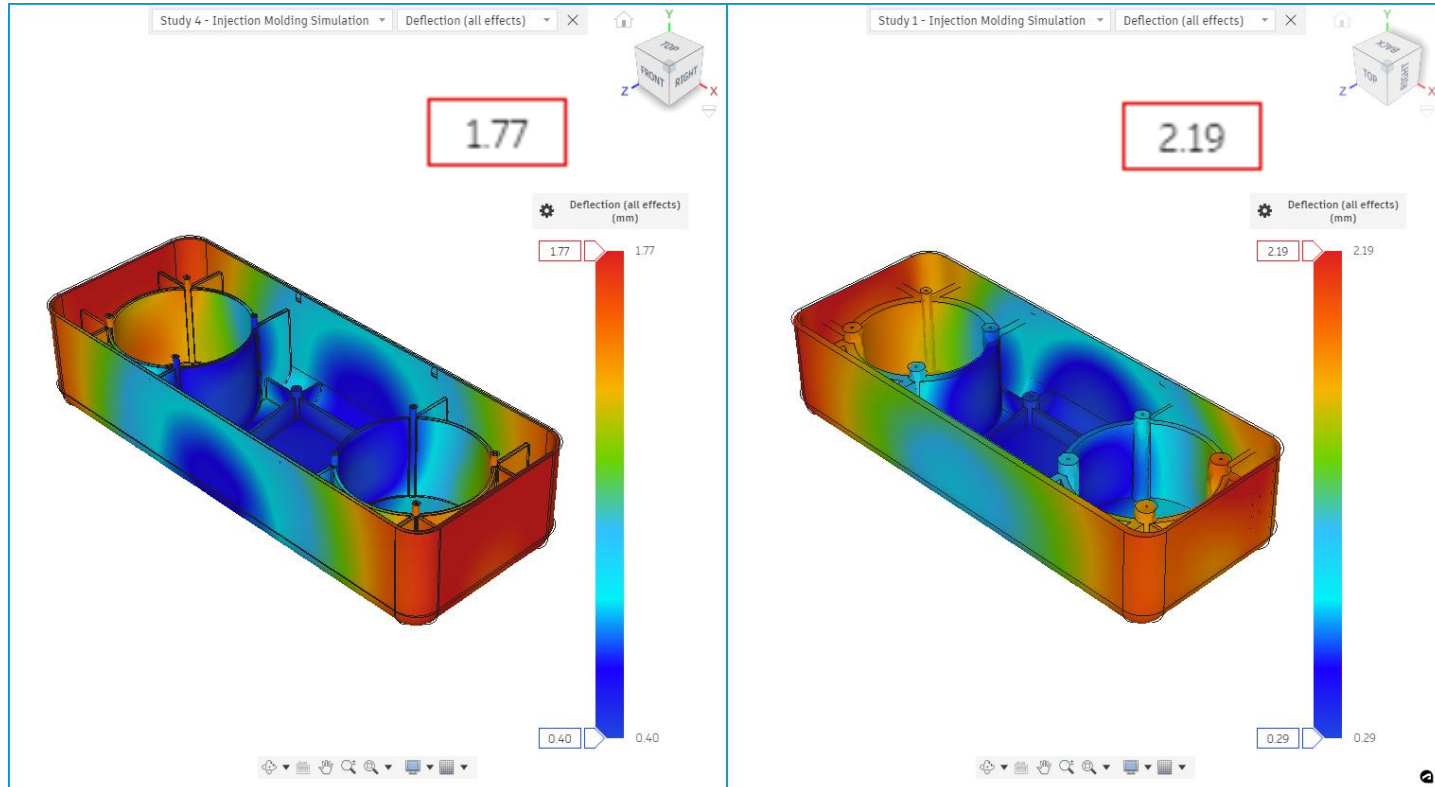
## Volumetric Shrinkage





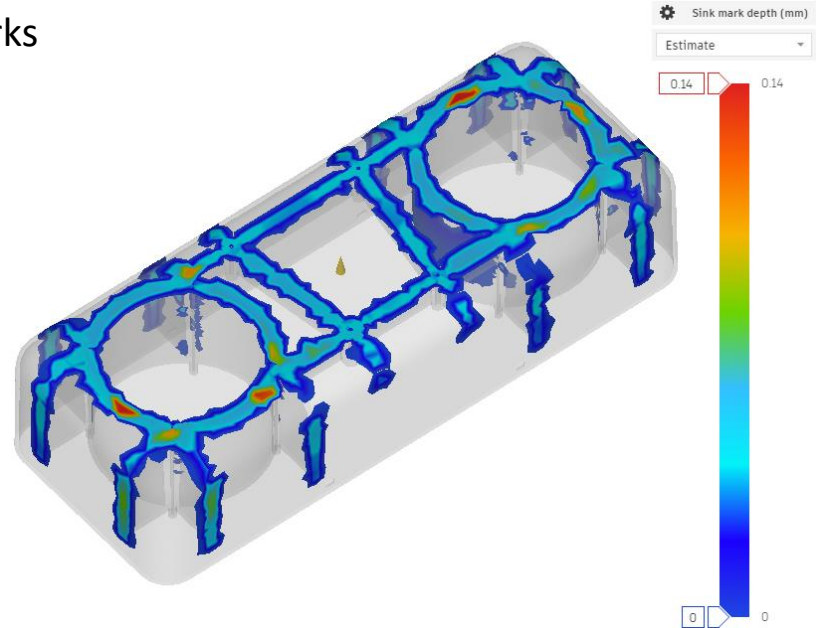
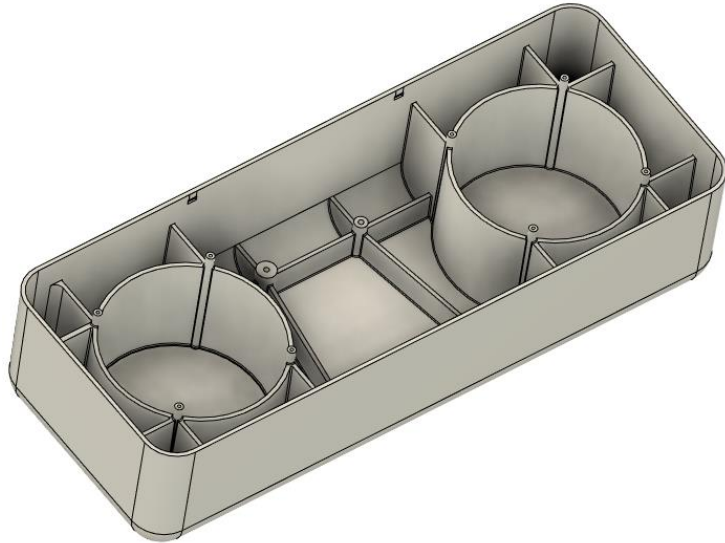
# Rule #1 : Uniform Wall Thickness

## Deflection



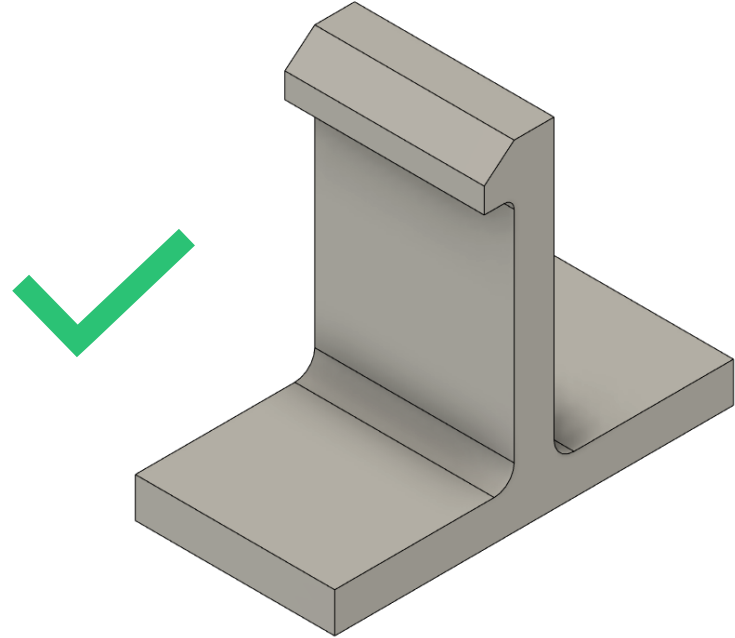
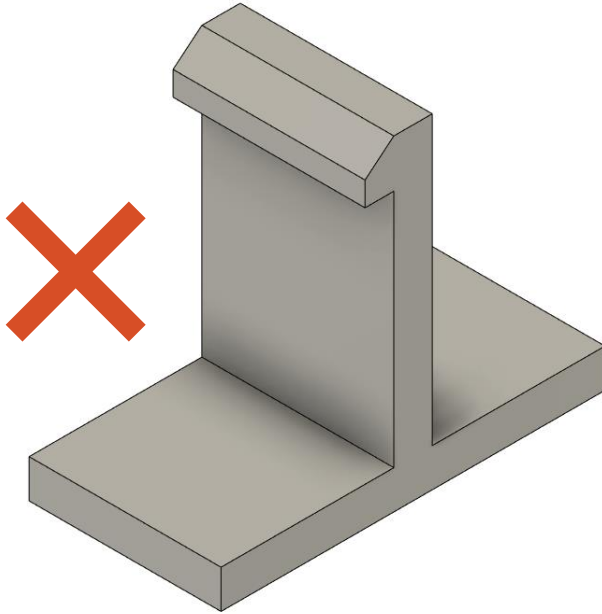
# Rule #1 : Uniform Wall Thickness - Ribs

- Normally 50-75% of part wall thickness
- Thicker ribs may create visual defects like sink marks



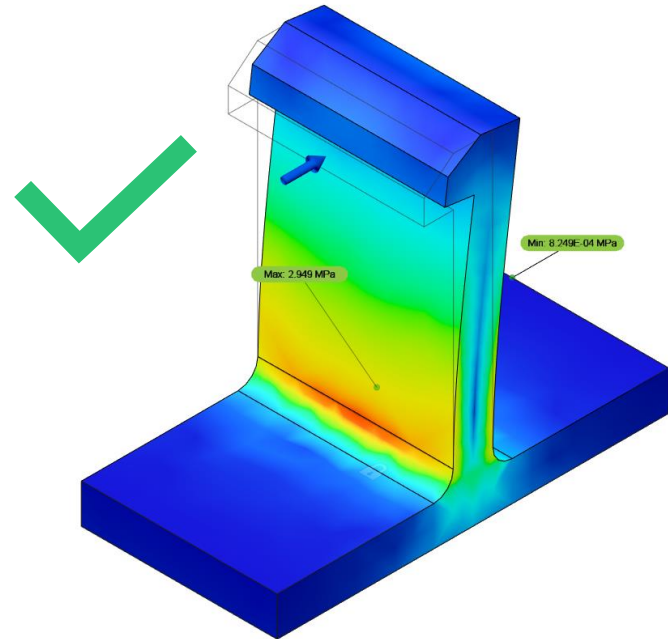
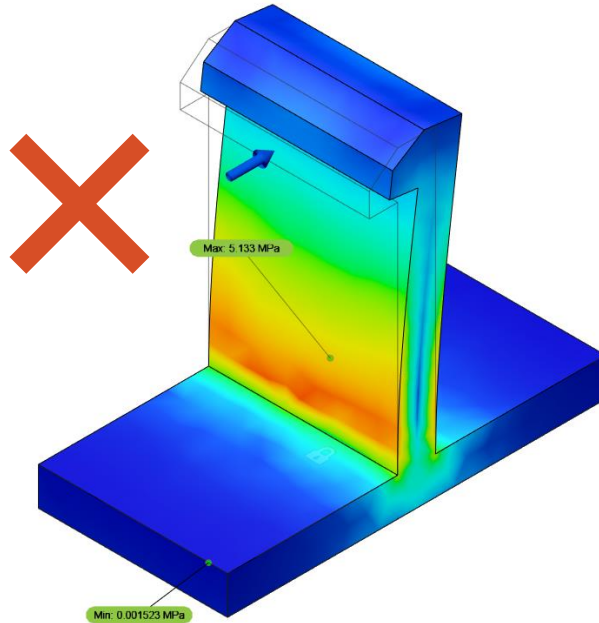
# Rule #3 : Radii

- Sharp Corners create stress concentrations



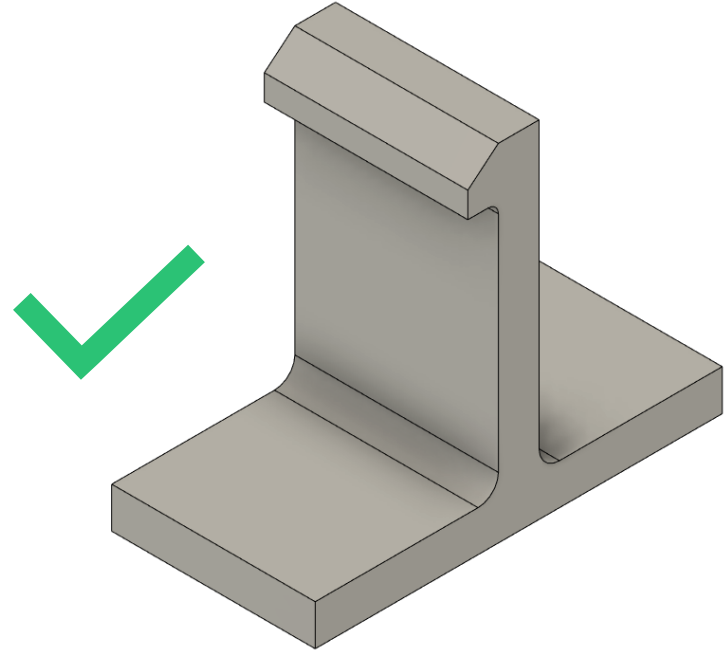
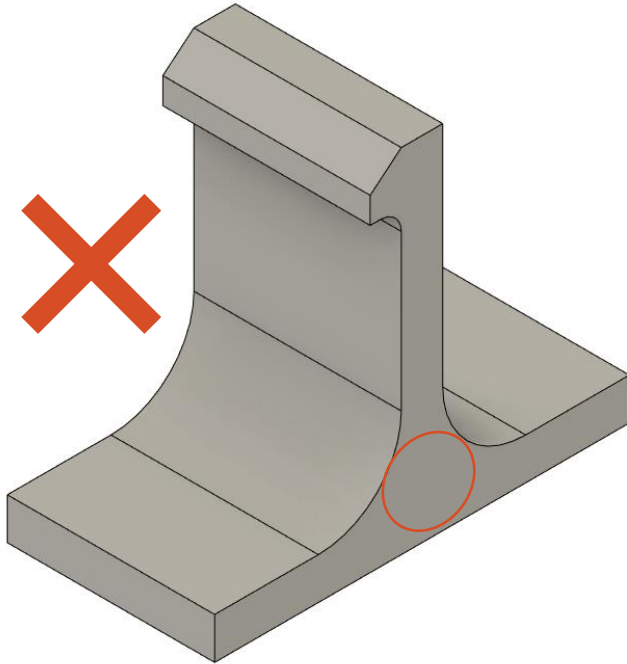
# Rule #3 : Radii

- Sharp Corners create stress concentrations



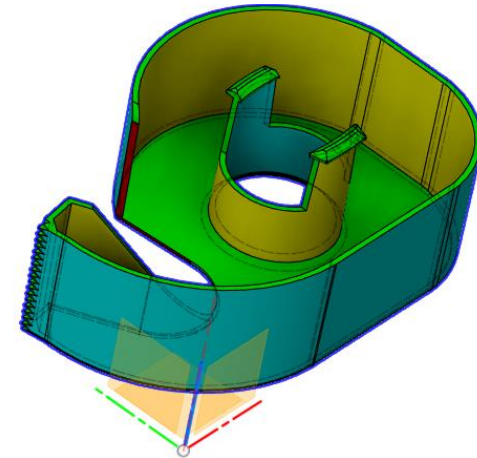
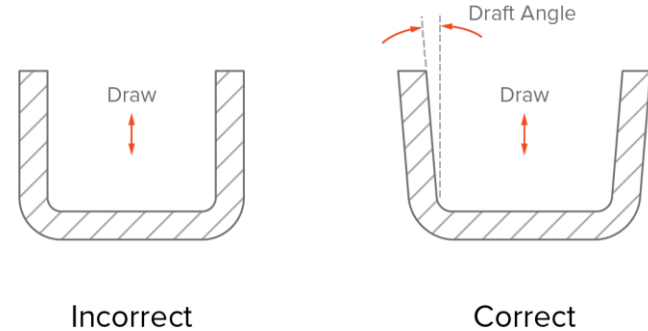
# Rule #3 : Radii

- Too much of a good thing can be bad



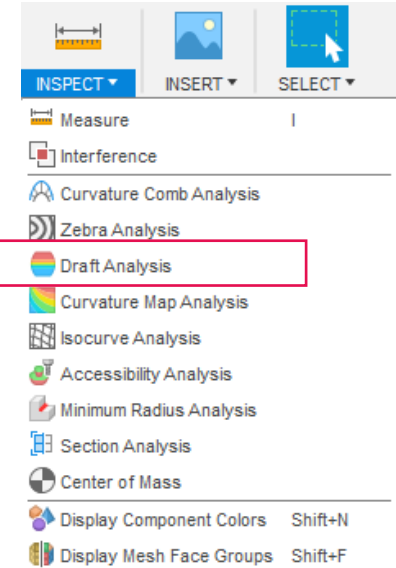
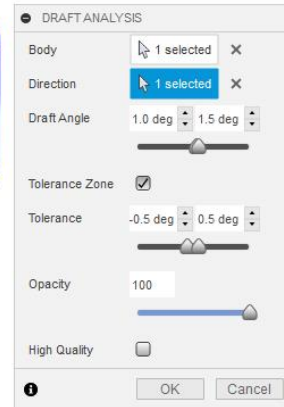
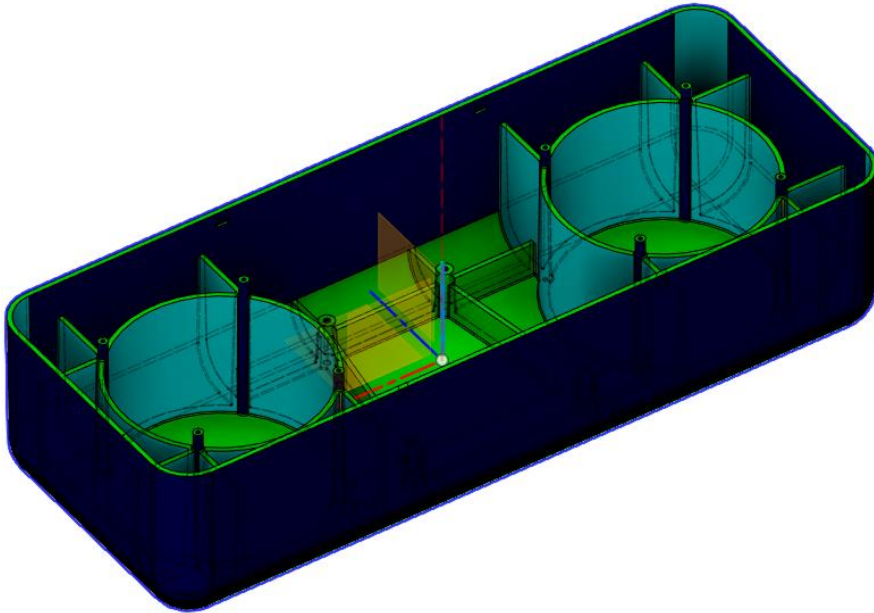
# Rule #4 : Draft

- Draft on a design allow it to be pulled from the tool
- The amount of draft will depend on the material, surface finish, and length of draw



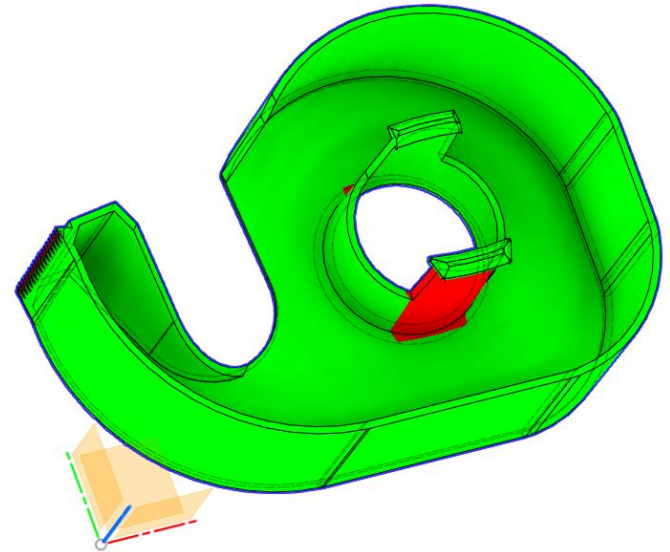
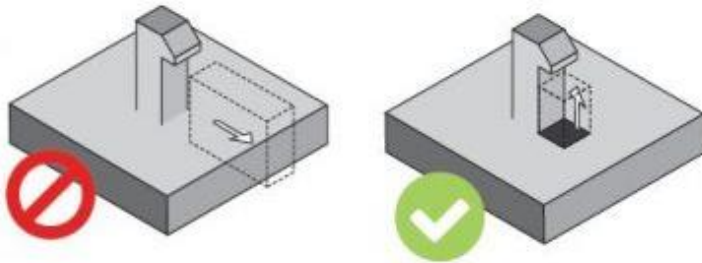
# Rule #4 : Draft

- Use Draft Analysis to double check your design



# Rule #5 : Undercuts

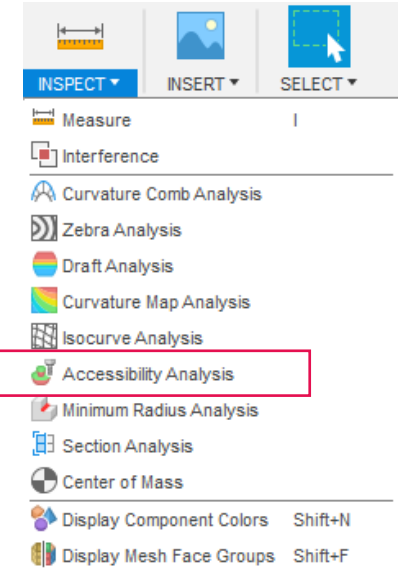
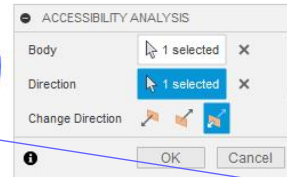
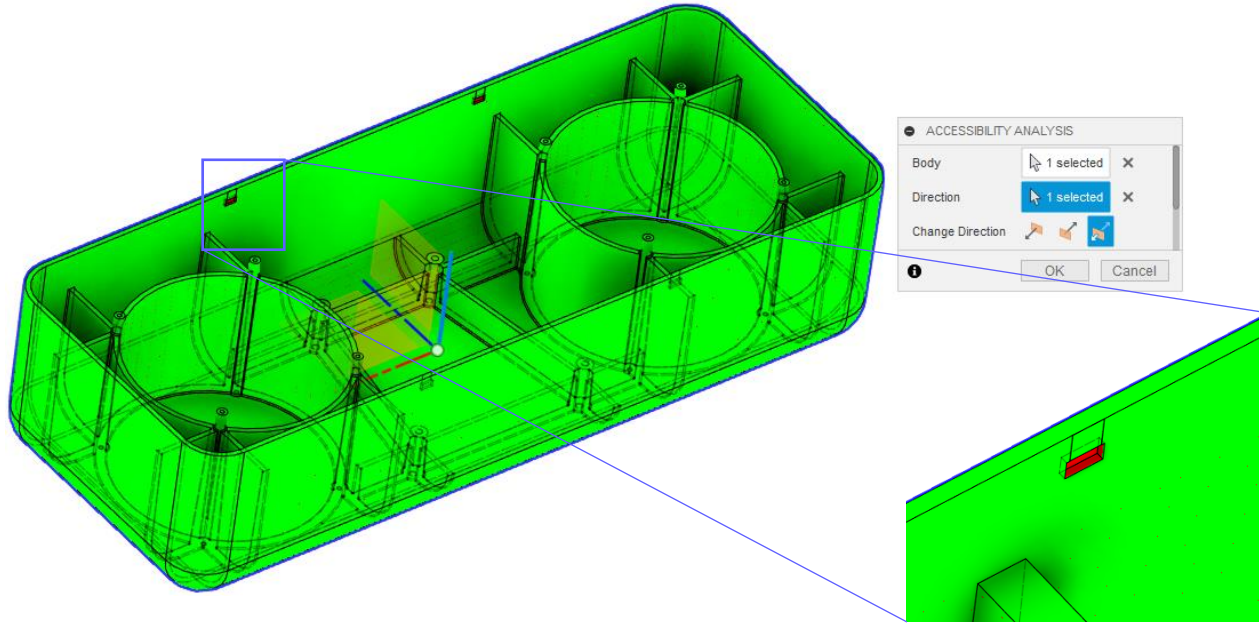
- An Undercut prevents the tool from opening after the part has been made
- “Action” in the tool can relieve these undercuts so that the part can be ejected

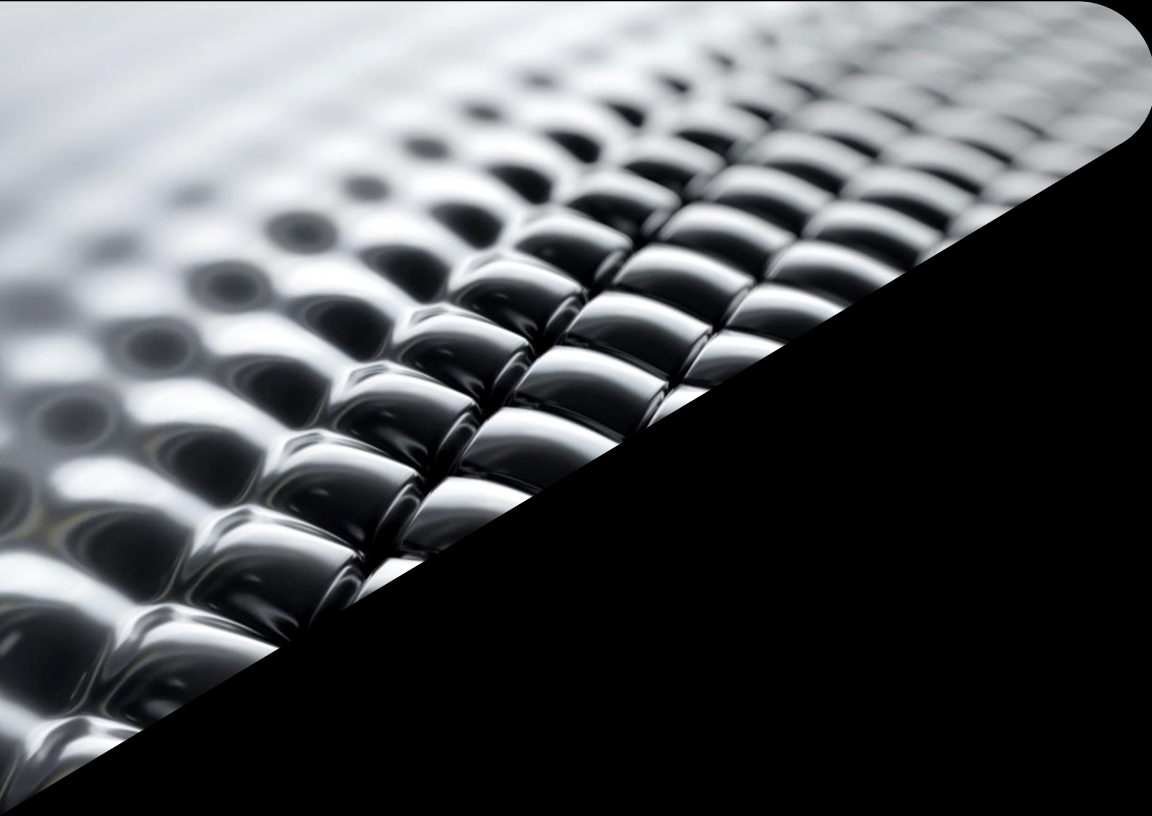




# Rule #5 : Undercuts

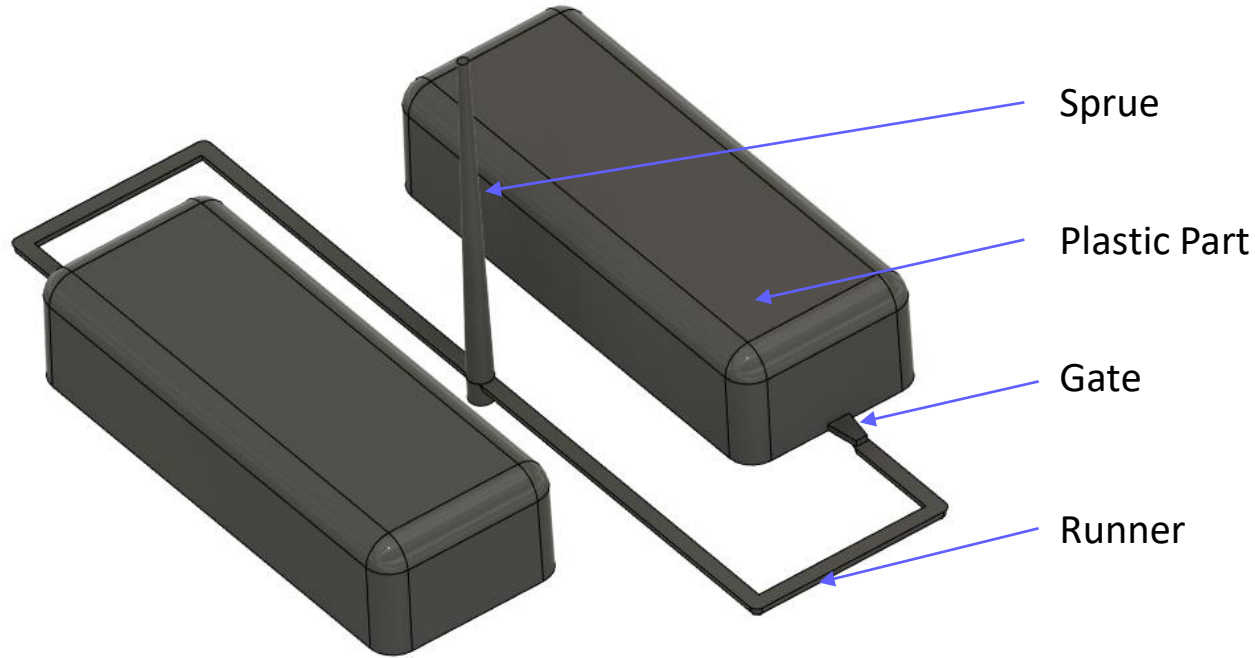
- Use Accessibility Analysis to double check your design



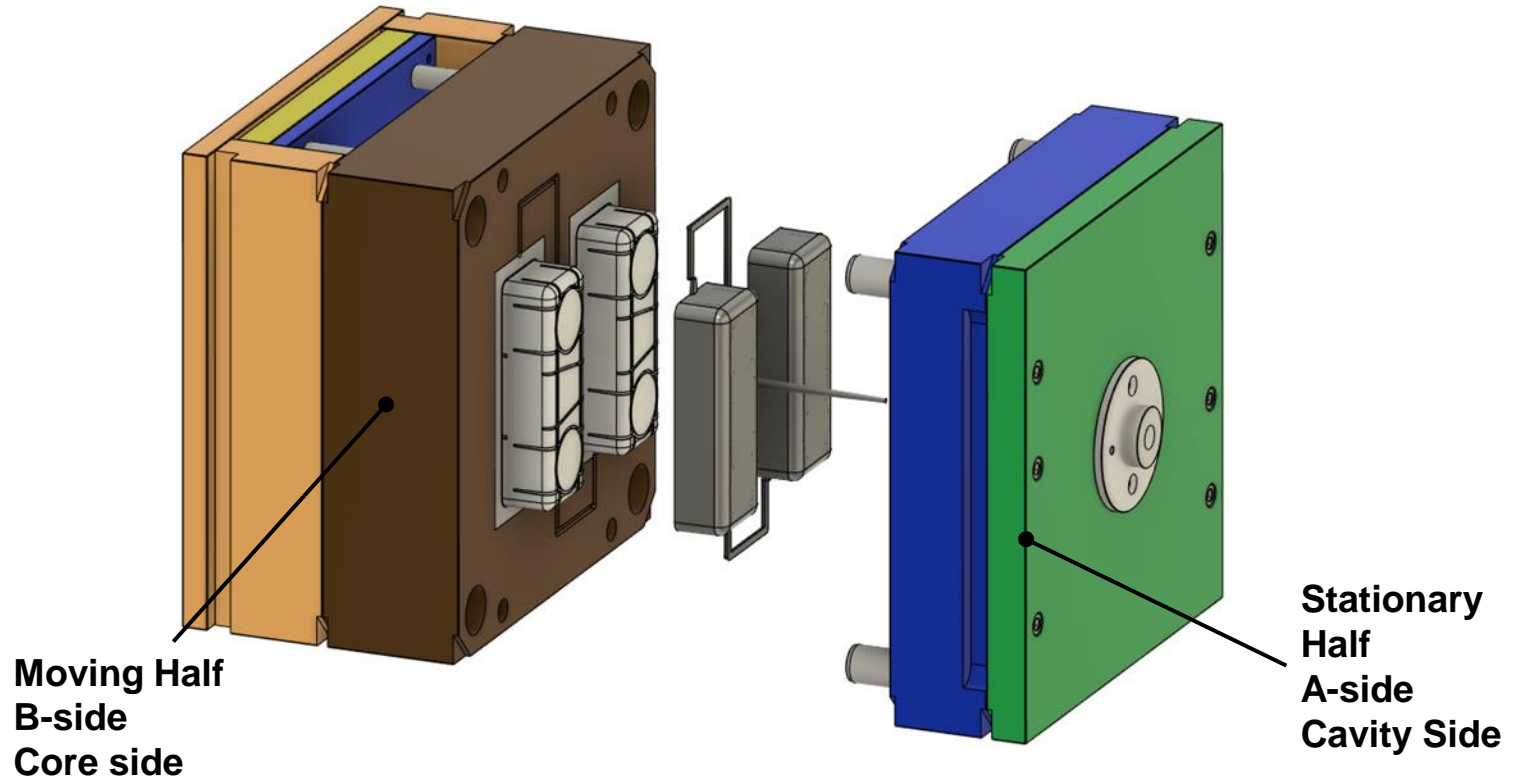


# **Review of an Injection Molding Tool**

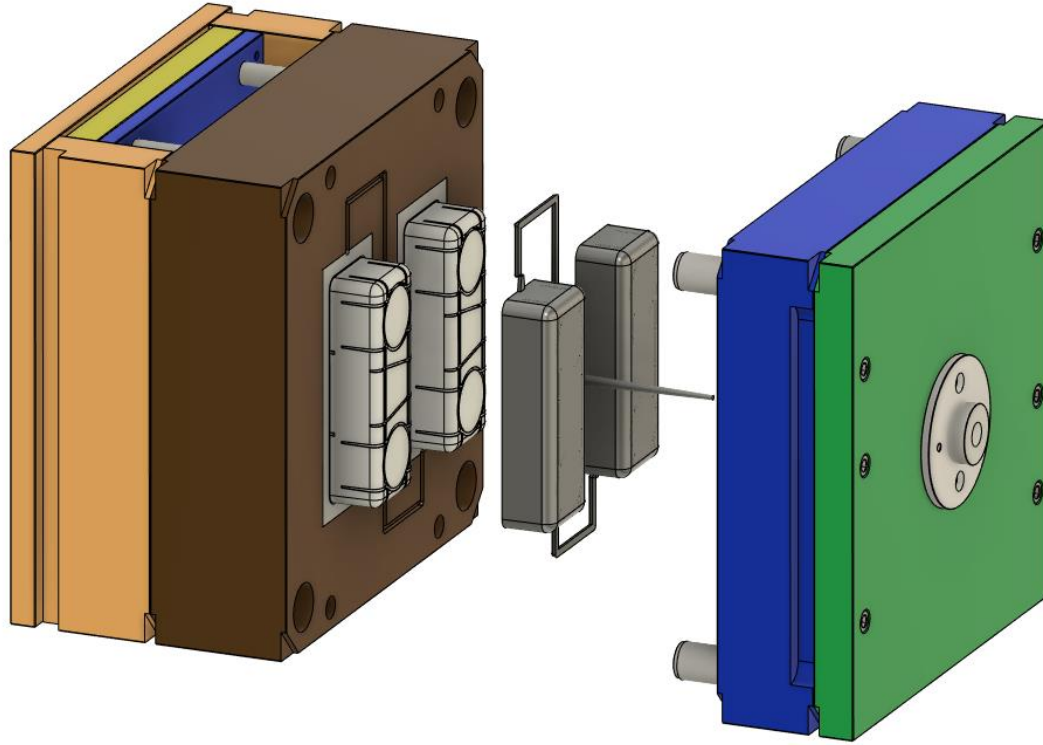
# Gate and Runner



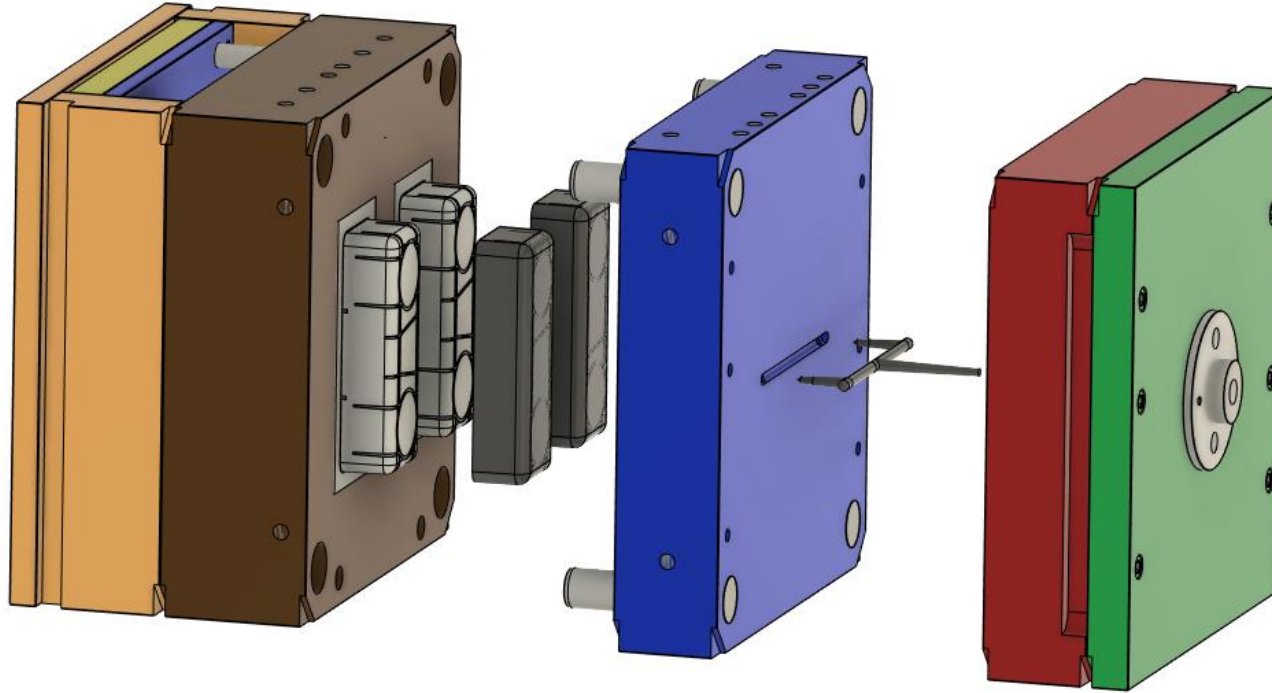
# The Injection Mold



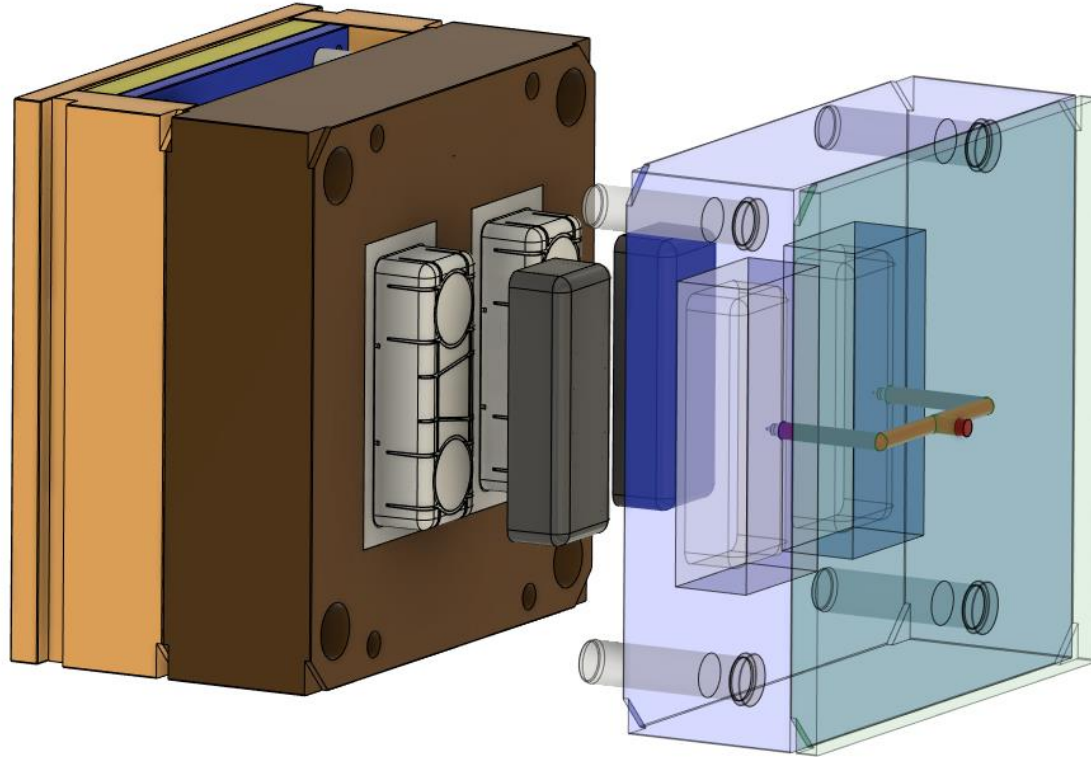
# 2 Plate Cold Runner



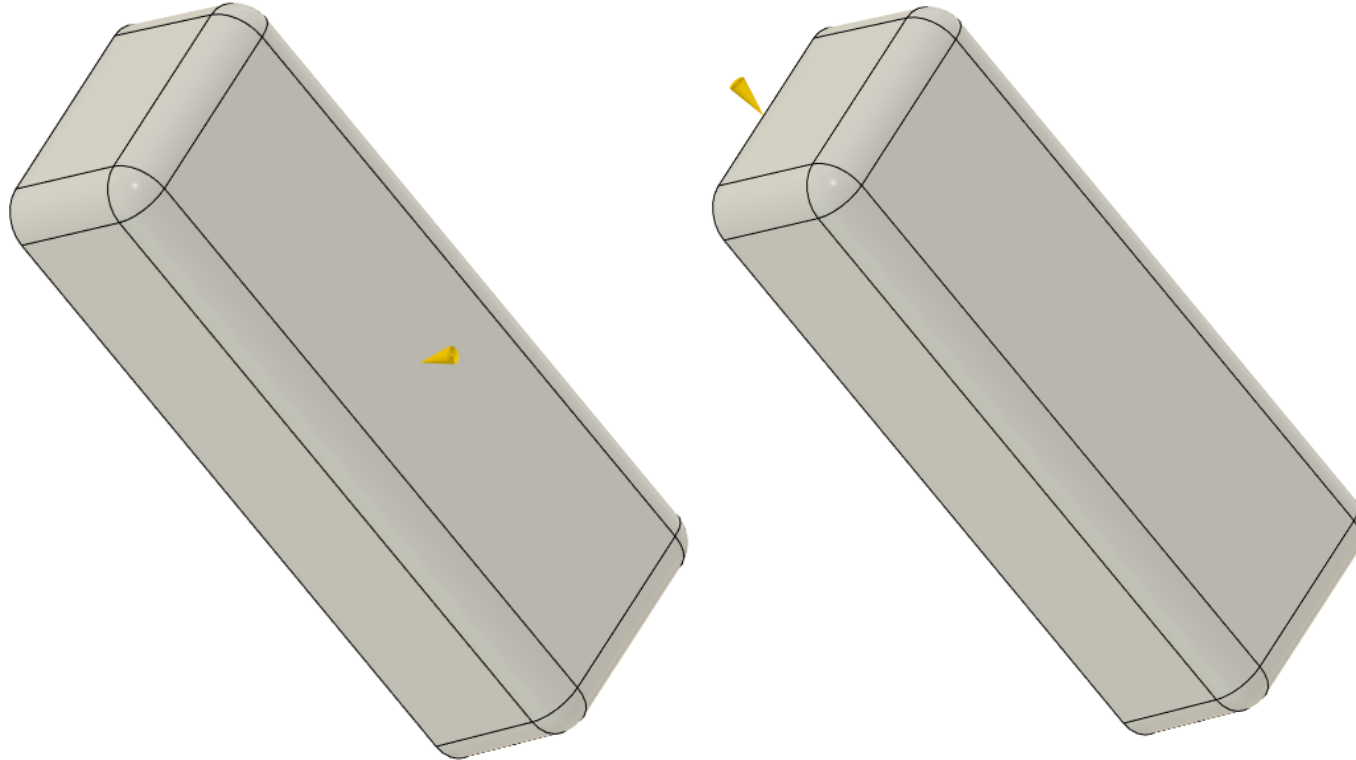
# 3 Plate Cold Runner



# Hot Runner

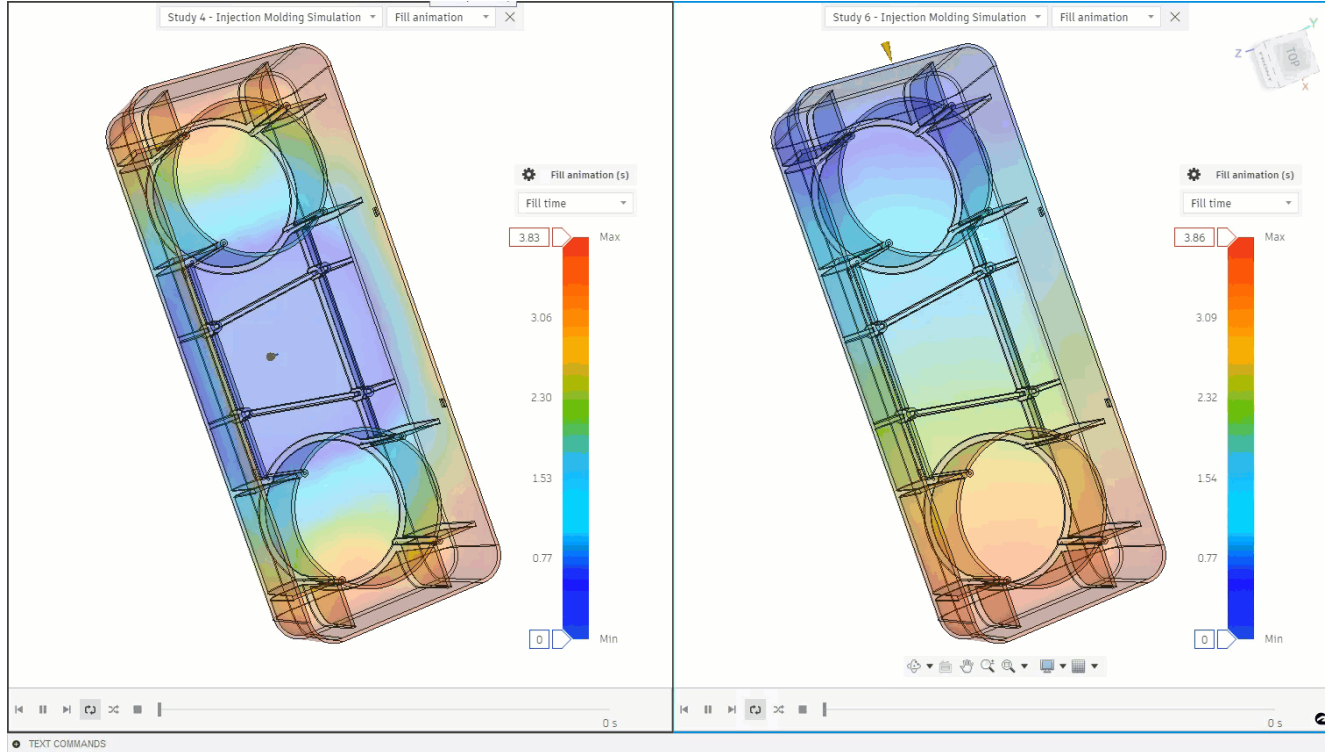


# Gate Location

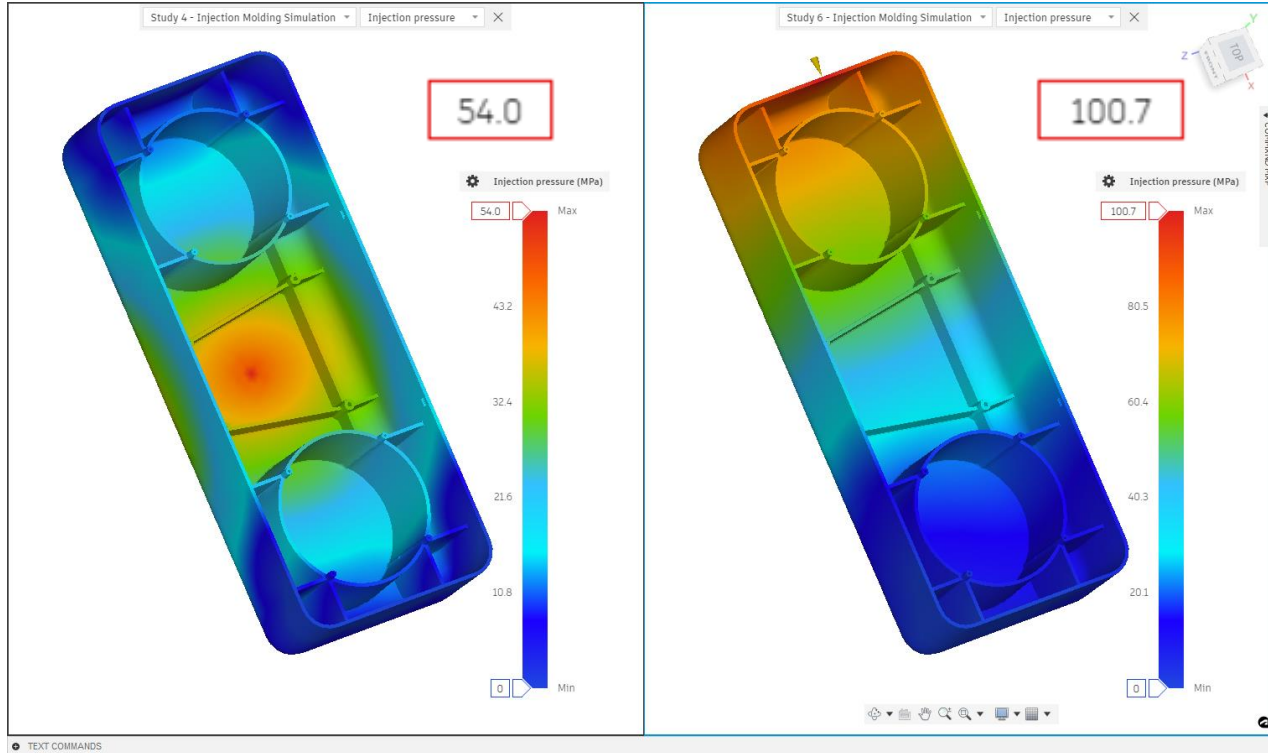




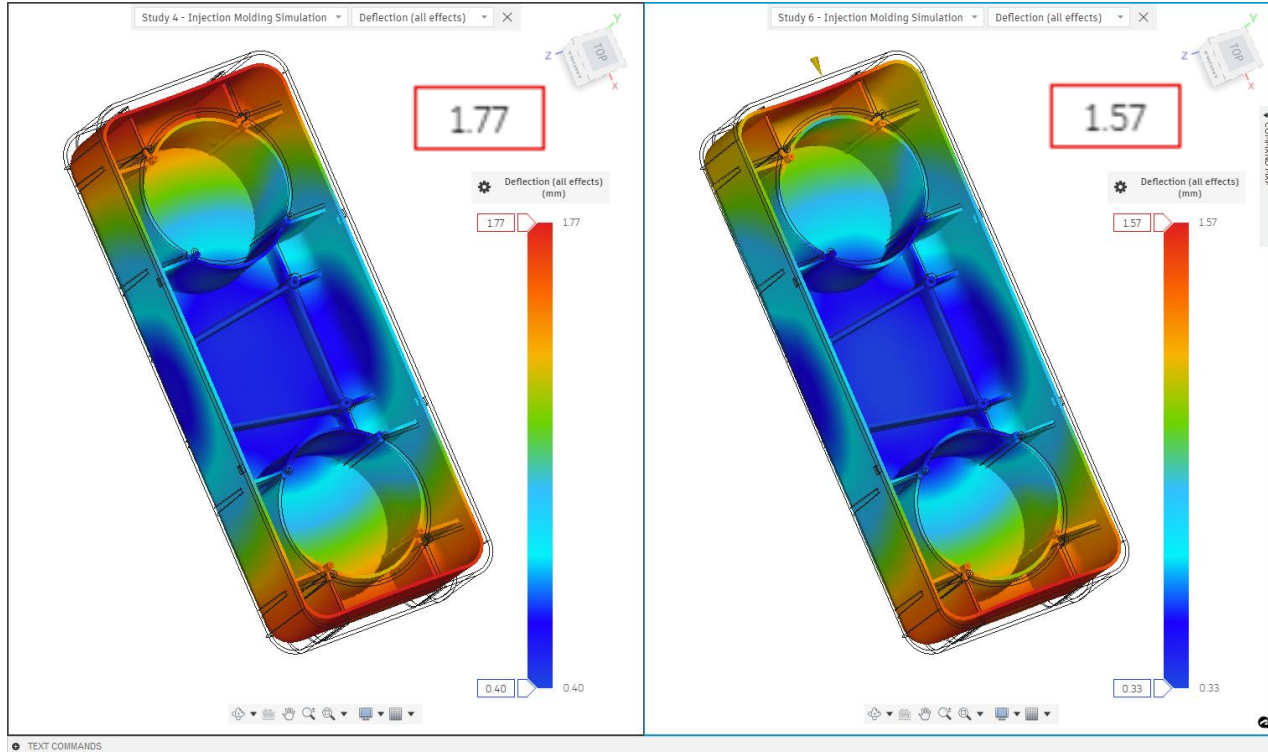
# Gate Location Comparison - Filling

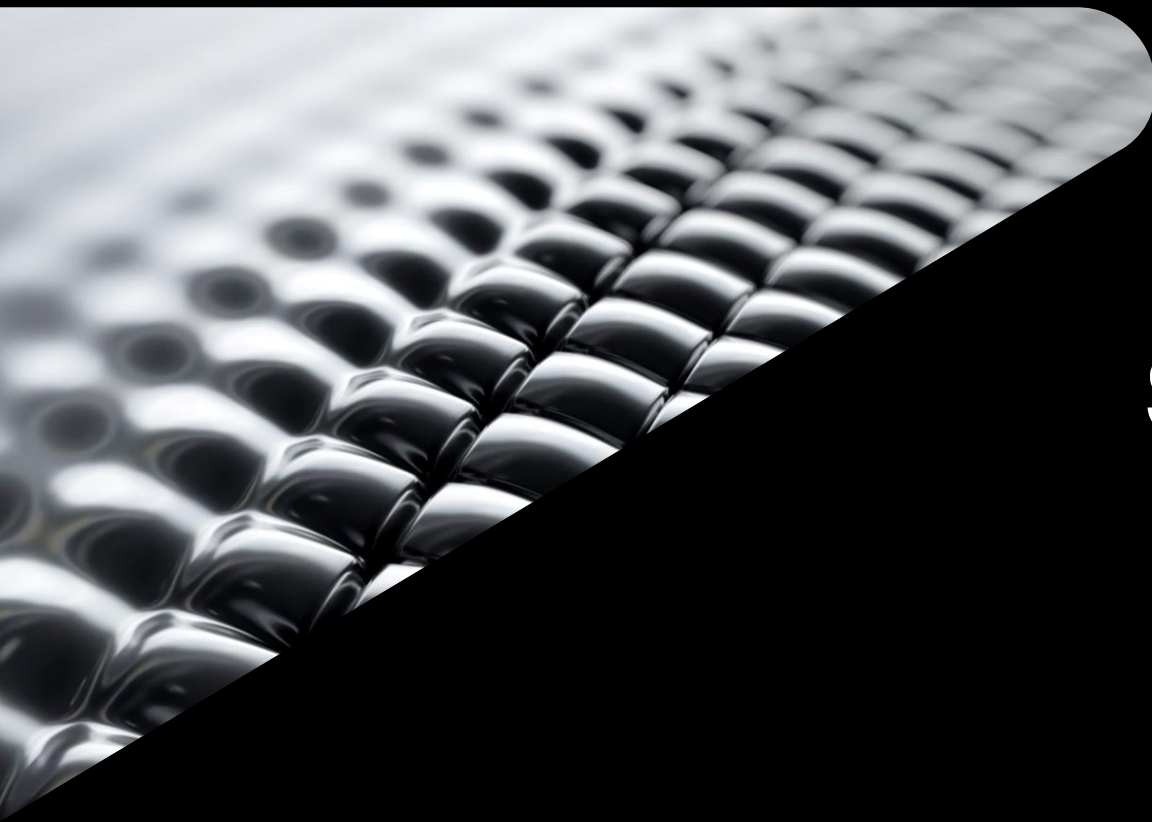


# Gate Location Comparison – Injection Pressure



# Gate Location Comparison - Deflection





# **Injection Molding Simulation in Fusion 360**

# Summary

1. Uniform wall thickness
2. Uniform wall thickness
3. Radii
4. Draft
5. Undercuts

