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FOUNDER TOOL · FILLABLE PDF

Prototype Test Plan

Plan each prototype build around one question — test matrix, issues log, and an explicit proceed / iterate / stop decision

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 01 Build definition
- 02 Test matrix
- 03 Issues log
- 04 Results & decision
- Next steps with BrahmWorks

PRODUCT / PROJECT

TEAM / FOUNDER

DATE / REVISION

2026

Bangalore · Hardware product design & engineering

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00 How to use this test plan

Use one copy per build. Fill the definition and criteria before testing; results and decision after.

1 One build, one question

Name the question this build answers and the decision it feeds. If you can't, the build is not ready to order.

2 Pick the right prototype type

Looks-like, works-like, and engineering builds prove different things. Don't read function into a looks-like model.

3 Write criteria before testing

Pass / fail criteria written after the result tend to bend to it. Agree them with whoever owns the decision.

4 Size the sample honestly

One unit passing shows it can work, not that it works every time. Note the sample size for every test.

5 Log every issue

Including the ones fixed on the bench with tape or a jumper wire. The issues log is the next build's to-do list.

6 Decide out loud

Proceed, iterate, or stop — with conditions and sign-off. Then start the next plan from the changes list.

Use your own requirements. This plan does not prescribe test methods or limits — those come from your product, users, and target standards.

Fields are fillable in Adobe Acrobat / Reader, Chrome, Edge, and macOS Preview. Save one copy per build, named with the build revision.

01 Build definition

One plan per build. Write the question this build must answer before anyone orders parts.

BUILD

BUILD NAME

REVISION

QUANTITY BUILT

BUILD DATES

BUILD OWNER

BUILT BY

GOAL — THE QUESTION THIS BUILD ANSWERS

e.g. 'Does the latch survive repeated use?' Write the decision it feeds.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Out of scope, so nobody over-reads the results

PROTOTYPE TYPE

Tick one. Each type answers different questions.

☐ Looks-like — form, size, feel, appearance

☐ Works-like — function, electronics, firmware

☐ Looks-and-works-like — integrated form and function

☐ Engineering build — design verification on near-final parts

☐ Pilot / pre-production — process, yield, and test on the line

☐ Other

RISKS THIS BUILD SHOULD RETIRE

Technical, user, cost, or supply risks

CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS BUILD

What changed and why; link the ECO or notes

CONFIGURATION

Exact revisions in this build.

MECHANICAL CAD REV

PCB / SCHEMATIC REV

FIRMWARE VERSION

OTHER (APP, CABLE...)

UNIT ALLOCATION

Which unit (serial / ID) goes to which test or user

EQUIPMENT, FIXTURES & PEOPLE NEEDED

Instruments, jigs, test users, lab time

02 Test matrix

Write criteria before testing. Typical areas: function, performance, power / battery, usability, mechanical, environmental, EMC pre-scan, life.

#	TEST	REQUIREMENT	METHOD / EQUIPMENT	PASS / FAIL CRITERIA	SAMPLE SIZE	RESULT / MEASURED	PASS	FAIL	OWNER
1							☐	☐	
2							☐	☐	
3							☐	☐	
4							☐	☐	
5							☐	☐	
6							☐	☐	
7							☐	☐	
8							☐	☐	
9							☐	☐	
10							☐	☐	
11							☐	☐	

02 Test matrix (continued)

Add the tests that did not fit. Keep one requirement per row so a pass or fail is unambiguous.

#	TEST	REQUIREMENT	METHOD / EQUIPMENT	PASS / FAIL CRITERIA	SAMPLE SIZE	RESULT / MEASURED	PASS	FAIL	OWNER
1							☐	☐	
2							☐	☐	
3							☐	☐	
4							☐	☐	
5							☐	☐	
6							☐	☐	
7							☐	☐	
8							☐	☐	
9							☐	☐	
10							☐	☐	
11							☐	☐	

03 Issues log

Log every failure, surprise, and workaround — including the ones fixed on the bench. They are the input to the next build.

#	DATE	UNIT / SAMPLE ID	TEST #	WHAT HAPPENED	SEVERITY H / M / L	SUSPECTED ROOT CAUSE	ACTION / FIX	OWNER	CLOSED
1									☐
2									☐
3									☐
4									☐
5									☐
6									☐
7									☐
8									☐
9									☐
10									☐
11									☐
12									☐

04 Results & decision

Summarise what you learned and make an explicit call. A build without a decision is a build you will repeat.

RESULTS SUMMARY

Count from the test matrix.

PASSED

FAILED

NOT RUN

OPEN ISSUES (H SEVERITY)

DECISION

Tick one, then write the conditions.

☐ Proceed

Questions answered; move to the next build or stage.

☐ Iterate

Fix the listed issues and re-test before moving on.

☐ Stop / rethink

The results challenge the concept, cost, or plan.

CONDITIONS / RATIONALE

KEY LEARNINGS

What you now know that you did not before this build

CHANGES FOR THE NEXT BUILD

Design, process, supplier, or test-plan changes

SURPRISES

Things nobody predicted — often the most valuable result

NEXT BUILD — NAME, GOAL & TARGET DATE

The next question to answer

SIGN-OFF

NAME	ROLE	AGREES WITH DECISION	COMMENT	DATE
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		

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7 / 8

Next steps with BrahmWorks

Every build should end with a decision. If the next build needs design changes, that is where we help.

What is the next build?

- ☐ Looks-like — form and ergonomics
- ☐ Works-like — function, electronics, firmware
- ☐ Engineering — near-final design verification
- ☐ Pilot — first units off a production process

THE QUESTION THE NEXT BUILD MUST ANSWER

Talk to us

brahmworks.com/contact →

Share the test plan, the issues log, and what you decided. We will help plan the next build and the design changes behind it.

WHAT TO BRING

- This test plan with results filled in
- The issues log and your decision
- Photos, CAD, or the prototype itself

Prototype development

brahmworks.com/prototype-development →

Looks-like, works-like, and engineering prototypes — designed, built, and tested with you.

Resources for founders

brahmworks.com/resources →

More fillable tools, playbooks, and guides for hardware founders — including the Hardware Founder Toolkit and the Product Anatomy Workbook.

Partner, not vendor. Prototypes are for learning fast. We plan builds around the next decision, not around a demo.