



# Design and fabrication of a low-cost and programmable dip coating machine

Christy Dunlap<sup>1</sup>, Skylar Featherstone<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Smith<sup>1</sup>, Man Vu<sup>1</sup>, Amanda Williams,  
Jason Bailey, Han Hu<sup>\*</sup>

*Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, USA*

## ARTICLE INFO

*Article history:*

Received 21 May 2022

Received in revised form 14 September 2022

Accepted 22 September 2022

*Keywords:*

Dip coating

Precision control

Cycling performance

Electric motor

Arduino

Open-source

## ABSTRACT

Dip coaters provide a compact device that can be used to obtain uniform and consistent coatings on a substrate. This article describes a less costly dip coater design with similar specifications to other dip coaters. The machine consists of a NEMA 23 stepper motor, touch screen display, and acrylic housing to protect the substrate from dust. The machine is programmed using Arduino IDE, allowing for easy changes to be made. The small size of the dip coater makes it ideal for use in labs. The majority of the components require no alterations after purchase, allowing for easy replacements and construction.

© 2022 The Author(s). Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

## Specifications table

| Hardware name          | A Low-Cost and Programmable Dip Coating Machine   |
|------------------------|---|
| Subject area           | Engineering and Material Science  |
| Hardware type          | Mechanical engineering and materials science  |
| Open Source License    | GNU GPL v3  |
| Cost of Hardware       | \$569   |
| Source File Repository | <a href="https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/3AB6Z">https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/3AB6Z</a> |

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +1 (479) 575 6790; Fax: +1 (479) 575 6982.

E-mail address: [hahu@uark.edu](mailto:hahu@uark.edu) (H. Hu).

<sup>1</sup> C. Dunlap, S. Featherstone, M. Smith, and M. Vu contributed equally to this work.

## 1. Hardware in context

A precision dip coater is a machine that holds a substrate and immerses it into a solution, which dwells there motionless to allow the coating to be applied, and then withdraws fully so that it can dry. The immersion and withdrawal occur at constant speeds, controlled by the machine. This process is then repeated depending on the number of cycles required by the customer.

There are several ways to coat a substrate. Some common ways include roll coating, thermal spray, spin coating, and dip coating. Roll coating works by passing a substrate through rollers that are coated. In the thermal spray process as substrate is sprayed with the coating [1]. Spin coating works by distributing a coating by spinning the substrate. Dip coating is the process that dips a substrate directly into a solvent. Each method is useful in different situations. Some are more appealing for factory use while others are better for lab use. There are disadvantages and advantages to each method. For example, spray coating provides a less even coating. By using a dip coater, the user can precisely coat a substrate. The thickness of the coat can be controlled by adjusting how long the substrate is held in the coating and the number of cycles. The amount of the substrate that is covered can be adjusted by changing the travel distance.

Many designs for dip coaters exist in the market. Typically, they include a stepper motor which allows for a very precise and controlled movement; the best sellers include a digital control panel which are programmed to offer adjustable travel distance based on the sample size, control of the speed for both the immersion and withdrawal rate of the sample holder, and control over the number of cycles performed.

A dip coater provides an easy way to coat a substrate to be used in a lab setting. They have been used for a wide range of applications. For example, Mechiakh et al. used a dip coater to deposit TiO<sub>2</sub> for characterization studies. [2] Mahadik et al. goes over a low cost and generalized method for forming a superhydrophobic coating. [3] Salles et al. tested the effectiveness of Titanium carbide MXene thin films prepared using dip coating as a transparent conductor for use in electrochromic devices. [4] Ma et al. used a developed in-house micro-precision dip coating station to coat microneedles with a molten coating intended for water-insoluble drug delivery [5]. Jeong et al. investigated dip coating film composition with solutions containing small particles [6].

One drawback is the price of precision dip coaters. The most competitive dip coaters on the market range anywhere from \$1000 to \$3000, yet the price ceiling is much higher [7].

There have been several groups that have designed their own dip coater to avoid spending such high prices. For example, Castillo-Vilcatoma et al. designed a dip coater under 100 dollars using recycled parts. Their machine used an Arduino board and software to achieve a dipping speed range of 0.1–6 mm s<sup>-1</sup> [8]. Loza M. et al designed a spin coater and dip coater using Arduino [9]. Their dip coating device achieved speeds ranging from 0.6 cm h<sup>-1</sup> to 30 cm min<sup>-1</sup>. Adámek constructed a dip coater [10]. His devices' velocity can be set from 0 to 20 mm s<sup>-1</sup>. Mohdisha sought to improve the performance of a dip coater by limiting vibration through their choice in components, such as motor or nuts [11]. These designs are personalized to what components they have available and can be difficult to replicate and adapt or they lack complete instructions for assembly. The dip coater design presented here provides a base model that can be easily modified to meet different specifications.

## 2. Hardware description

The dip coater design is broken into two subassemblies, the machine portion and circuit portion. The machine portion consists of the acrylic panels, linear actuator assembly, and clip. The acrylic panels act as both a base and dust protection layer for the machine. The linear actuator assembly is the main component of the machine, it consists of an acme lead screw and a mount. A clip is attached to the mount through a corner bracket. The clip is used to hold a substrate during dipping. The machine is assembled using nuts and bolts to allow for easy assembly and changes in the design. The top acrylic panel is attached to the rest of the machine through strong Velcro to allow for easy access to the linear actuator and motor. This design also allows for changes to be made to meet the consumer's needs. For example, if a longer travel distance is desired, then the linear rail guide, acrylic side panels, and quick framing sides would just need to be scaled up. The circuit portion consists of a NEMA 23 stepper motor, ELEGOO Uno R3 board (used as a motor controller), a TB6600 motor driver, a limit switch, and a touchscreen shield. The Uno is programmed using Arduino IDE to allow the user to easily input desired specifications such as travel distance, number of cycles, speed, dwelling time, and drying time through the touchscreen [12]. The user also has the option of connecting the ELEGOO Uno R3 to a computer through a USB cord and directly changing the specifications through Arduino IDE. Arduino IDE is commonly used for customizable applications. For example, Lüken et al. uses an Arduino nano microcontroller to control an automated tangential-flow diafiltration device. The controller in their device is used to control pumps, output to a LCD display, and receive information from sensors [13].

The dip coating machine is programmed where when it is initially turned on, a homing button must be pressed to cause the mount to rise until it reaches the limit switch to ensure each use starts from the same location. The design also includes a reset button to stop the machine at any time during use. All of the circuits are housed in a circuit box and mounted to the left of the rest of the machine, allowing for easy access and providing protection for the circuit from the coatings used in the dip coater. This dip coating machine design allows for easy customization from the user and has a broad range of applications.

- Due to the small size of the machine, this dip coater machine is ideal for use in a lab setting.
- It can be used for preparing substrates for studies in material properties.
- The dip coating machine can be used for applying a wide variety of films to a substrate. For example, a test was made with a mesh copper as the substrate and a gel coating was applied with the dip coater to make the mesh superhydrophilic.

### 3. Design files

All the design files (CAD and Arduino code) can be found at <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/3AB6Z>.

#### 3.1. Hardware files

| Design file name  | File type | Open source license | Location of the file                                    |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Complete Assembly | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/tk8sn">https://osf.io/tk8sn</a> |

- See appendix for location of actuator assembly, screws, and additional machine framing CAD files used in the complete assembly ([Fig. 18](#)).

##### 3.1.1. Circuit box assembly files

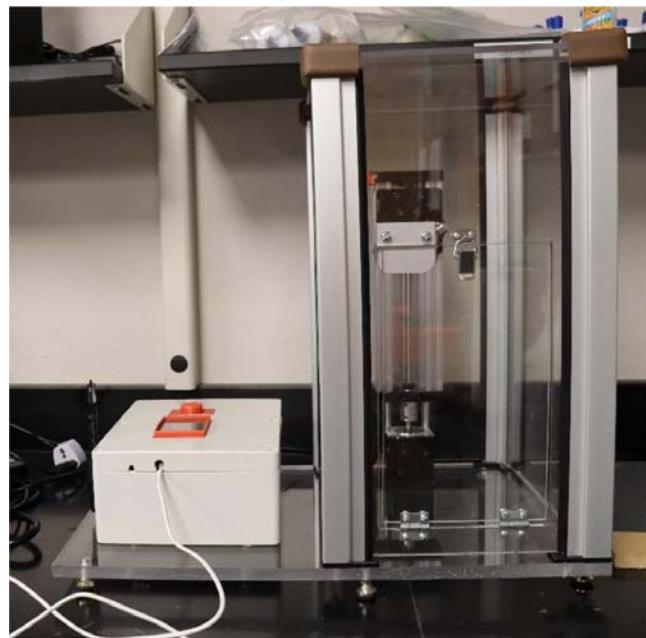
| Design file name    | File type | Open source license | Location of the file                                    |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Circuits box top    | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/7txa3">https://osf.io/7txa3</a> |
| Circuits box bottom | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/8qu2s">https://osf.io/8qu2s</a> |
| Riser               | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/e8bm9">https://osf.io/e8bm9</a> |
| Button              | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/s2u35">https://osf.io/s2u35</a> |
| Buttoncover         | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/xsa2p">https://osf.io/xsa2p</a> |

- The circuits box top CAD file ([Fig. 8](#)) shows what cuts were made in the originally purchased box lid. Holes were made on the top as well as the sides for the touchscreen, reset button, and wires.
- The circuits box bottom CAD file ([Fig. 10](#)) shows what holes were drilled in the purchased box to attach it to the acrylic base.
- The riser is a 3d printable piece ([Fig. 14](#)) to lift the touchscreen and button to be level with the top of the circuit box.

##### 3.1.2. Machine framing files

| Design file name | File type | Open source license | Location of the file                                    |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Door Assembly    | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/mxnyj">https://osf.io/mxnyj</a> |
| Door Panel       | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/uw38n">https://osf.io/uw38n</a> |
| Door             | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/5erp9">https://osf.io/5erp9</a> |
| New Housing Base | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/rf9ju">https://osf.io/rf9ju</a> |
| Side Panel L&R   | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/64sef">https://osf.io/64sef</a> |
| Side Panel       | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/bjnux">https://osf.io/bjnux</a> |
| Top Panel        | CAD       | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/b4umj">https://osf.io/b4umj</a> |

- The acrylic door panel was purchased to size from tap plastics like the other acrylic sides. However, a door was cut out of this panel from an outside machining shop.



**Fig. 1.** The complete assembly of the dip coating device. The machine consists of a circuits box with a touch screen control pad and an enclosed chamber for the dip coating to take place.

- The acrylic back panel CAD file ([Fig. 9](#)) shows the location that holes were drilled in the cut to size acrylic sheet from tap plastic. These holes were added to attach the linear actuator to the machine.
- The machine base CAD file ([Fig. 11](#)) shows what holes were drilled in the acrylic panel for the circuit box, leveling feet, and corner quick frame bases to be attached.

### 3.2. Software files

| Design file name | File type    | Open source license | Location of the file                                    |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------|---|
| dipcoater        | Arduino Code | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/jgtav">https://osf.io/jgtav</a> |
| Motor_Test_Code  | Arduino Code | GPL-3.0             | <a href="https://osf.io/m64yt">https://osf.io/m64yt</a> |

- The Dip Coater Code file has the Arduino code that is uploaded to the ELEGOO Uno R3.
- The Motor Test Code file has Arduino code that can be used to check if the motor is connected properly.

## 4. Bill of materials

### 4.1. Bill of materials - controls components

| Designator  | Component | Number  | Cost per unit- | Total Cost -  | Source of materials | Material type |
|---|-----------|---------|----------------|---|---------------------|---------------|
| TB6600 Motor Driver   | 1         | \$11.99 | \$11.99        | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/UsongShine-Stepper-Controller-Arduino-Printer/dp/B07HHS14VQ/">https://www.amazon.com/UsongShine-Stepper-Controller-Arduino-Printer/dp/B07HHS14VQ/</a>   | Non-specific        |               |
| ELEGOO UNO R3 Starter Kit   | 1         | \$29.75 | \$29.75        | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01D8K0ZT4/">https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01D8K0ZT4/</a>   | Non-specific        |               |
| Excellway Power Supply  | 1         | \$10.99 | \$10.99        | <a href="https://www.banggood.com/Excellway-9-24V-72W-AC-01-DC-Adapter-Switching-Power-Supply-Regulated-Power-Adapter-Display-ELI-Plug-p-1250656.html?akmClientCountry=America&amp;akmProtocols=0&amp;mmids=search&amp;p=NU2712260249452018108&amp;custominxid=429307&amp;cur_warehouse=cn">https://www.banggood.com/Excellway-9-24V-72W-AC-01-DC-Adapter-Switching-Power-Supply-Regulated-Power-Adapter-Display-ELI-Plug-p-1250656.html?akmClientCountry=America&amp;akmProtocols=0&amp;mmids=search&amp;p=NU2712260249452018108&amp;custominxid=429307&amp;cur_warehouse=cn</a>   | Non-specific        |               |
| Ksmile DC Connector Adaptor   | 1         | \$5.99  | \$5.99         | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Female-Power-Adapter-Connector-Camera/dp/B01ER6QWAY/">https://www.amazon.com/Female-Power-Adapter-Connector-Camera/dp/B01ER6QWAY/</a>   | Non-specific        |               |
| NEMA 23 Stepper Motor   | 1         | \$27.99 | \$27.99        | <a href="https://openbuildspartstore.com/nema-23-stepper-motor/">https://openbuildspartstore.com/nema-23-stepper-motor/</a>   | Non-specific        |               |
| Resistance Touch Screen   | 1         | \$18.99 | \$18.99        | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01EUJVME/">https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01EUJVME/</a>   | Non-specific        |               |
| Cylewet 6Tcs V-153-1C25 Micro Limit Switch Long Straight Hinge Lever Arm SPDT Snap Action LOT for Arduino (Pack of 6) CYT1068 | 1         | \$6.99  | \$6.99         | <a href="http://www.amazon.com/Cylewet-V-153-1C25-Straight-Arduino-CYT1068/dp/B071NSRHK3/ref=sr_1_1_spائchild_1&amp;keywords=limit+switch+for+arduino&amp;qid=1617127748&amp;sr=1-1-spions&amp;psc=1&amp;spla=ZW5cnlwdGVkUXVhGImaWWVfUE0MzUW5Nz5YKMA4WkEnzZW5jcnlwdGVkQWRjZDBMDcNTE0TJGMjdKNpDMv0vVzAmzd2lkZ2V0tmFzT1zcF9hdGYmYvWn0aw9upWNaWnrUmVkaXly30mz2Gb0b3RmB2dDboJaz10cnVl">http://www.amazon.com/Cylewet-V-153-1C25-Straight-Arduino-CYT1068/dp/B071NSRHK3/ref=sr_1_1_spائchild_1&amp;keywords=limit+switch+for+arduino&amp;qid=1617127748&amp;sr=1-1-spions&amp;psc=1&amp;spla=ZW5cnlwdGVkUXVhGImaWWVfUE0MzUW5Nz5YKMA4WkEnzZW5jcnlwdGVkQWRjZDBMDcNTE0TJGMjdKNpDMv0vVzAmzd2lkZ2V0tmFzT1zcF9hdGYmYvWn0aw9upWNaWnrUmVkaXly30mz2Gb0b3RmB2dDboJaz10cnVl</a>   | Non-specific        |               |
| GifRun Screw Shield Expansion   | 1         | \$9.28  | \$9.28         | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/GifRun-Shield-Expansion-Arduino-EK7007/dp/B014SGTP20">https://www.amazon.com/GifRun-Shield-Expansion-Arduino-EK7007/dp/B014SGTP20</a>   | Non-specific        |               |
| BNTECHGO 18 Gauge Silicone wire 10 ft red and 10 ft black Flexible 18 AWG Stranded Copper Wire                                | 1         | \$6.98  | \$6.98         | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/BNTECHGO-Silicone-Flexible-Strands-Stranded/dp/B01AQ036M/ref=sr_1_35_sspa=7chid=1&amp;keywords=silicone+wire+&amp;qid=6171301808&amp;sr=8-35_spons&amp;psc=1&amp;spla=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhGImaWWVyhbGImaWWVyEYvK1UU1G0QcvXzFN1mVY315GHRZEIKPUEwNDQ2NDW1MF2EWVUJICR1Lrz2lmVvuY2j5eCHRZEIKPUEwMzk0D0TBHWipRTV2RDVaSEcmr2lkZ2V0tmFzT1zcF9rdGYmYvWn0aw9upWNsaaNvUmVkaXly30mz2Gb0b3RmB2dDboJaz10cnVl">https://www.amazon.com/BNTECHGO-Silicone-Flexible-Strands-Stranded/dp/B01AQ036M/ref=sr_1_35_sspa=7chid=1&amp;keywords=silicone+wire+&amp;qid=6171301808&amp;sr=8-35_spons&amp;psc=1&amp;spla=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhGImaWWVyhbGImaWWVyEYvK1UU1G0QcvXzFN1mVY315GHRZEIKPUEwNDQ2NDW1MF2EWVUJICR1Lrz2lmVvuY2j5eCHRZEIKPUEwMzk0D0TBHWipRTV2RDVaSEcmr2lkZ2V0tmFzT1zcF9rdGYmYvWn0aw9upWNsaaNvUmVkaXly30mz2Gb0b3RmB2dDboJaz10cnVl</a> | Non-specific        |               |

#### 4.2. Bill of materials – Enclosure

|   | Designator Component  | Number | Cost per unit- \$ | Total Cost - \$ | Source of materials   | Material type |
|---|---|--------|-------------------|-----------------|---|---------------|
| 1                                       | Enclosure for Circuits (10.4 × 7.12 × 3.7 in.)  |        | \$22.99           | \$22.99         | Amazon  | Polymer       |
| 1                                       | Acrylic Base (Thickness = 1/2 in, Width = 14 in, Length = 20 in, Color: clear)                      |        | \$52.50           | \$52.50         | <a href="https://www.tappластics.com/product/plastics/cut_to_size_plastic/acrylic_sheets_cast_clear/510">https://www.tappластics.com/product/plastics/cut_to_size_plastic/acrylic_sheets_cast_clear/510</a>                                   | Acrylic       |
| 2                                       | 1.00" X 1.00" Tube Profile (Length = 17 in)   | 4      | \$4.83            | \$19.32         | <a href="https://8020.net/9030.html">https://8020.net/9030.html</a>   | Metal         |
| 3 (Back panel)<br>10,12<br>(Door panel) | Acrylic Back and Door Panel (Thickness = 1/4 in, Width = 8 in, Length = 17 in, Color: clear)        | 2      | \$13.60           | \$27.20         | <a href="https://8020.net/9030.html">https://8020.net/9030.html</a>   | Acrylic       |
| 4                                       | 90 Degree Corner Base Connector   | 4      | \$1.45            | \$5.80          | <a href="https://8020.net/9242.html">https://8020.net/9242.html</a>   | Polymer       |
| 5                                       | C-Beam Linear Actuator Bundle   | 1      | \$112.99          | \$112.99        | <a href="https://openbuildspartstore.com/c-beam-linear-actuator-bundle/">https://openbuildspartstore.com/c-beam-linear-actuator-bundle/</a>   | Other         |
| 6                                       | Corner Bracket  | 1      | \$27.90           | \$27.90         | <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/15655A41/">https://www.mcmaster.com/15655A41/</a>   | Metal         |
| 7                                       | Miniature Spring Clamp  | 1      | \$2.65            | \$2.65          | <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/6076A17/">https://www.mcmaster.com/6076A17/</a>   | Metal         |
| 9                                       | Acrylic Left and Right Panels (Thickness = 1/4 in, Width = 12 in, Length = 17 in, Color: clear)     | 2      | \$20.40           | \$40.80         | <a href="https://www.tappластics.com/product/plastics/cut_to_size_plastic/acrylic_sheets_cast_clear/510">https://www.tappластics.com/product/plastics/cut_to_size_plastic/acrylic_sheets_cast_clear/510</a>                                   | Acrylic       |
| 11                                      | Mortise-Mount Hinge with Holes (Nonremovable Pin, Zinc-Plated Steel, 1" x 1/2" Door Leaf) (1598A52) | 2      | \$1.12            | \$2.24          | <a href="https://www.tappластics.com/product/plastics/cut_to_size_plastic/acrylic_sheets_cast_clear/510">https://www.tappластics.com/product/plastics/cut_to_size_plastic/acrylic_sheets_cast_clear/510</a>                                   | Metal         |
| 13                                      | Draw Latch (Screw on, 304 Stainless Steel, 1-3/4" Long × 7/8" Wide) (6082A12)                       | 1      | \$6.77            | \$6.77          | <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/6082A12/">https://www.mcmaster.com/6082A12/</a>   | Metal         |
| 14                                      | Quick Frame End Cap   | 4      | \$1.25            | \$5.00          | <a href="https://8020.net/9210.html">https://8020.net/9210.html</a>   | Polymer       |
| 15                                      | Acrylic Top Panel (Thickness = 1/4 in, Width = 10 in, Length = 14 in, Color: clear)                 | 1      | \$14.00           | \$14.00         | <a href="https://www.tappластics.com/product/plastics/cut_to_size_plastic/acrylic_sheets_cast_clear/510">https://www.tappластics.com/product/plastics/cut_to_size_plastic/acrylic_sheets_cast_clear/510</a>                                   | Acrylic       |
| 16                                      | Thin Hex Nut - M5   | 2      | \$0.10            | \$0.20          | <a href="https://openbuildspartstore.com/thin-hex-nut-m5/">https://openbuildspartstore.com/thin-hex-nut-m5/</a>   | Metal         |
| 18                                      | Medium-Strength Class 8.8 Steel 1 Hex Head Screw Zinc-Plated, M4 × 0.7 mm Thread, 16 mm Long        | 1      | \$7.26            | \$7.26          | <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/91280A136/">https://www.mcmaster.com/91280A136/</a>   | Metal         |
| 19                                      | Swivel Leveling Mount Zinc-Plated Steel with Rubber Cushion and 10-32 Threaded Hole                 | 6      | \$4.30            | \$25.80         | <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/6103K81/">https://www.mcmaster.com/6103K81/</a>   | Metal         |
| 20                                      | Low Profile Screws M5 (10 Pack) (12 mm)   | 2      | \$1.09            | \$2.18          | <a href="https://openbuildspartstore.com/low-profile-screws-m5-10-pack/">https://openbuildspartstore.com/low-profile-screws-m5-10-pack/</a>   | Metal         |
| 21                                      | Aluminum Door Stop No. 4483   | 1      | \$5.30            | \$5.30          | <a href="https://8020.net/4483.html">https://8020.net/4483.html</a>   | Metal         |
| 26                                      | Hillman #10-32x 1-in Phillips/ Slotted Combination-Drive Machine Screws (6-count)                   | 1      | \$1.28            | \$1.28          | <a href="https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-10-32-x-1-in-Phillips-Slotted-Combination-Drive-Machine-Screws-6-Count/3035880">https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-10-32-x-1-in-Phillips-Slotted-Combination-Drive-Machine-Screws-6-Count/3035880</a> | Metal         |

(continued)

| Designator Component   | Number | Cost per unit- | Total Cost - \$ | Source of materials   | Material type |
|--|--------|----------------|-----------------|---|---------------|
| 22 & 23 Hillman #10-32x 3/4-in Phillips/ Slotted Combination-Drive Machine Screws (8-count)    | 1      | \$1.28         | \$1.28          | <a href="https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-10-32-x-3-4-in-Phillips-Slotted-Combination-Drive-Machine-Screws-8-Count/3035879">https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-10-32-x-3-4-in-Phillips-Slotted-Combination-Drive-Machine-Screws-8-Count/3035879</a>   | Metal         |
| 24 and 25 Hillman #4-40 × 1/2-in Phillips/ Slotted Combination-Drive Machine Screws (14-Count) | 1      | \$1.28         | \$1.28          | <a href="https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-4-40-x-1-2-in-Phillips-Slotted-Combination-Drive-Machine-Screws-14-Count/3036645">https://www.lowes.com/pd/Hillman-4-40-x-1-2-in-Phillips-Slotted-Combination-Drive-Machine-Screws-14-Count/3036645</a>   | Metal         |
| Gorilla Super Glue Gel   | 1      | \$6.84         | \$6.84          | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Gorilla-Super-Glue-gram-Clear/dp/B082XGL21J/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&amp;keywords=gorilla+glue&amp;qid=1625866263&amp;sr=8-3">https://www.amazon.com/Gorilla-Super-Glue-gram-Clear/dp/B082XGL21J/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&amp;keywords=gorilla+glue&amp;qid=1625866263&amp;sr=8-3</a> |               |

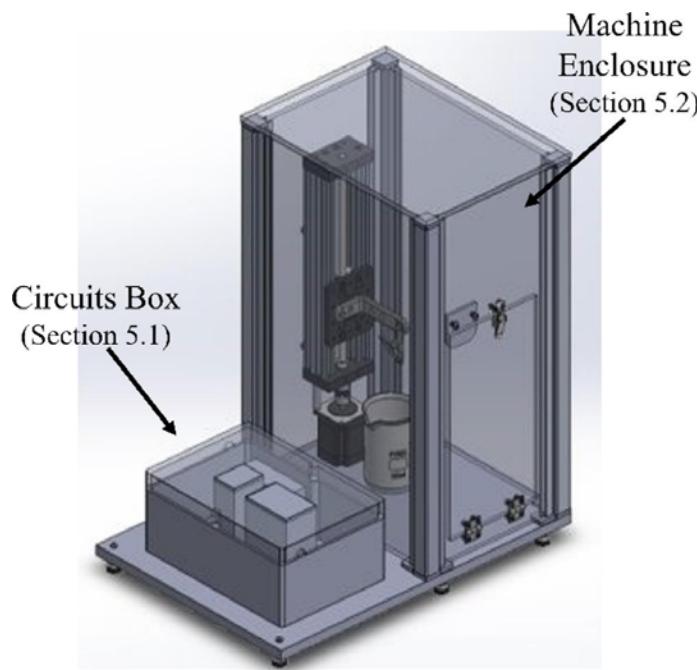
#### 4.3. Bill of materials – Enclosure and controls connections/ finishing touches

| Designator Component   | Number | Cost per unit- \$ \$ | Total Cost - \$ \$ | Source of materials   | Material type |
|--|--------|----------------------|--------------------|---|---------------|
| 15 Series Economy Panel Gasket No. 2115 (30 feet)  | 16     | \$0.53               | \$8.48             | <a href="https://8020.net/2115.html">https://8020.net/2115.html</a>   | Polymer       |
| Black U Channel Edge Trim Seal 1 EPDM 33/64" high X 11/32" Wide – 5 Feet Length (1.55 M) | 1      | \$8.99               | \$8.99             | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07DGFMZJF/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_api_glt_fabc_5ZT02DGGJVCK1N19714F_.encoding=UTF8&amp;th=1">https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07DGFMZJF/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_api_glt_fabc_5ZT02DGGJVCK1N19714F_.encoding=UTF8&amp;th=1</a>   | Polymer       |
| Alex Tech 10ft-1/4" 10ft-3/8" 10ft-1/2" Split Wire Loom Tubing Wire Conduit – Black      | 1      | \$12.99              | \$12.99            | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Alex-Tech-50ft-Tubing-Conduit/dp/B07TWB5MKD/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&amp;keywords=electrical%252Btube&amp;qid=1616694105&amp;sr=8-3&amp;th=1">https://www.amazon.com/Alex-Tech-50ft-Tubing-Conduit/dp/B07TWB5MKD/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&amp;keywords=electrical%252Btube&amp;qid=1616694105&amp;sr=8-3&amp;th=1</a>   | Non-spec      |
| Stylus Pen   | 1      | \$11.87              | \$11.87            | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Stylus-Professional-Navigation-Resistance-Capacitive/dp/B07PCXP2Z/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&amp;keywords=stylus+pen+for+resistance+touchscreen&amp;qid=1624885783&amp;s=electronics&amp;sr=1-4">https://www.amazon.com/Stylus-Professional-Navigation-Resistance-Capacitive/dp/B07PCXP2Z/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&amp;keywords=stylus+pen+for+resistance+touchscreen&amp;qid=1624885783&amp;s=electronics&amp;sr=1-4</a> | Non-spec      |
| Gorilla Super Glue Gel   | 1      | \$6.84               | \$6.84             | <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Gorilla-Super-Glue-gram-Clear/dp/B082XGL21J/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&amp;keywords=gorilla+glue&amp;qid=1625866263&amp;sr=8-3">https://www.amazon.com/Gorilla-Super-Glue-gram-Clear/dp/B082XGL21J/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&amp;keywords=gorilla+glue&amp;qid=1625866263&amp;sr=8-3</a>   |               |

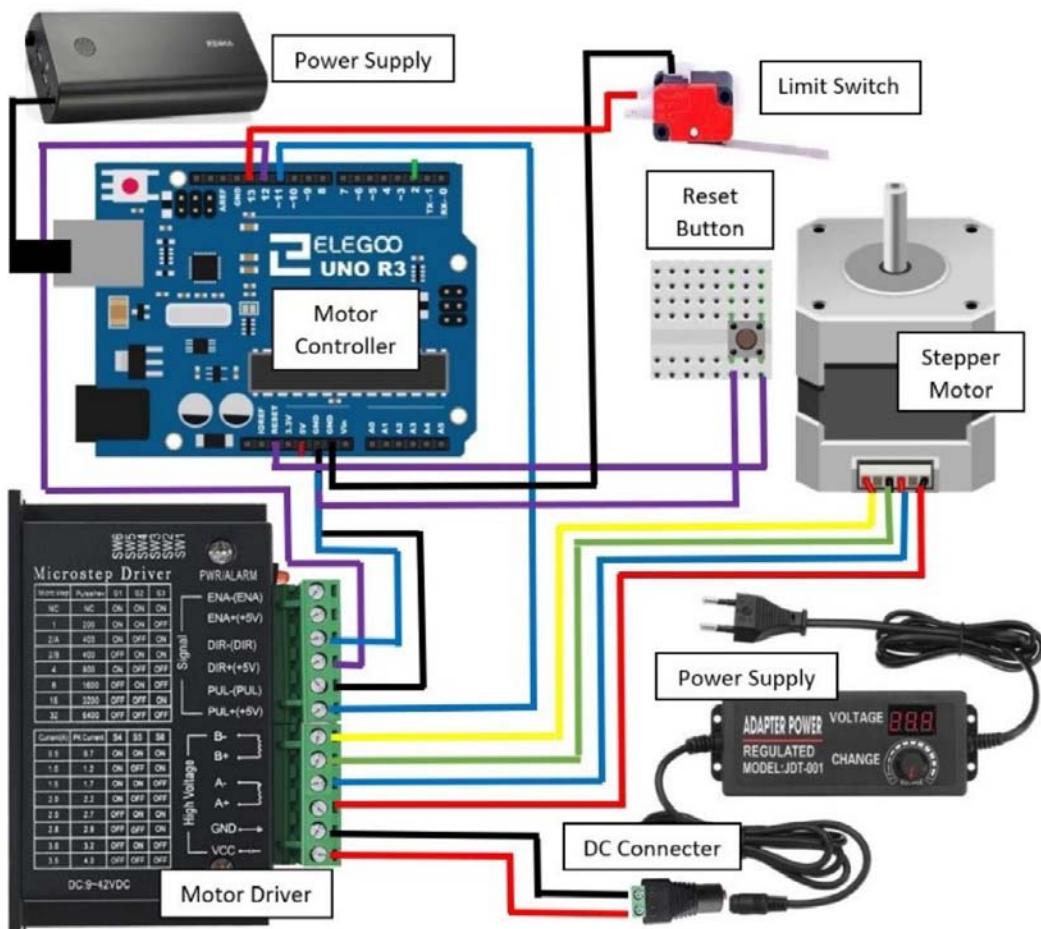
The majority of the materials needed can be purchased and used as they come, such as the quick framing, screws, and circuit components. The acrylic front and the circuit lid require holes to be cut out through the use of a laser cutter or saw. The acrylic base, acrylic front, acrylic back, and the bottom of the circuit box require holes to be drilled.

#### 5. Build instructions

The construction process is broken down into three separate sections. The first is connecting the controls portion of the device. This includes the connections made in the circuit and uploading the needed code to control the machine. The second section is constructing the enclosure portion of the machine. This includes a linear actuator, acrylic enclosure, and the circuits enclosure. The last section goes over how to connect the machine framing the circuit portion. This includes filling the circuit box, mounting the linear actuator, and covering the wires.



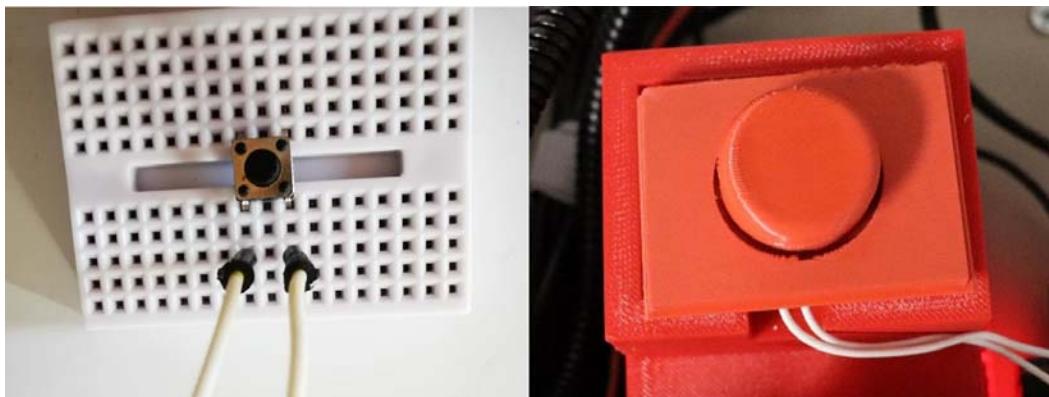
**Fig. 2.** CAD drawing of the design.



**Fig. 3.** Schematic of circuit excluding the touch screen.

### 5.1. Build instructions - Controls

1. Directly connect the screw shield expansion to the ELEGOO UNO R3 from the starter kit.
2. Connect the touch screen to the screw shield expansion. It will fit directly into the terminals.
3. Connect the TB6600 motor driver to the NEMA 23 Stepper motor. The NEMA 23 motor comes with a 4-conductor wire with an attached connector that plugs directly into the stepper motor. For the TB6600 motor driver, the switches were flipped that correspond to 200 steps per revolution. It is important to note that a motor from a different manufacturer may have a different color set for the wires. For the specified motor, the connections are made as follows:
  - a. The yellow wire on stepper motor to B- terminal on the TB6600
  - b. The green wire on stepper motor to B+ terminal on the TB6600
  - c. Blue wire on stepper motor to A- terminal on the TB6600
  - d. The red wire on stepper motor to A+ terminal on the TB6600
4. Connect the DC Connector to the TB6600 motor driver. The connections are made as follows:
  - a. GND terminal on the TB6600 to the – terminal on the DC connector using a black wire.
  - b. VCC terminal on the TB6600 to the +terminal on the DC connector using a red wire.
5. Plug in the AC/ DC adapter power supply to the DC connector.
  - a. The AC/DC adapter power supply is set to 24 V. This power supply is used for just for the motor driver. The ELEGOO UNO R3 Board is powered from the computer.
6. Connect one of the buttons to the small breadboard. Place the button so it is on both sides of the breadboard. Both of these components can be found in the starter kit.
7. Connect two wires to the button. Both are on the same side of the breadboard as shown in Fig. 4.
8. Cover button with 3d printed button and button cover. This portion could also be replaced with any button.
9. Solder the red and black wires to the limit switch. Based on the labels in Fig. 5, solder the black wire to Gnd and the red wire to +.
10. Connect all components to the ELEGOO UNO R3. All of the following will be connected through the screw terminals on the screw shield expansion board. Some components will be connected to the same terminal on the ELEGOO UNO R3. Make the connections as follows:
  - a. Ground on the ELEGOO UNO R3 to
    - i. Gnd on the limit switch (black wire)
    - ii. DIR-(DIR) terminal on the TB6600

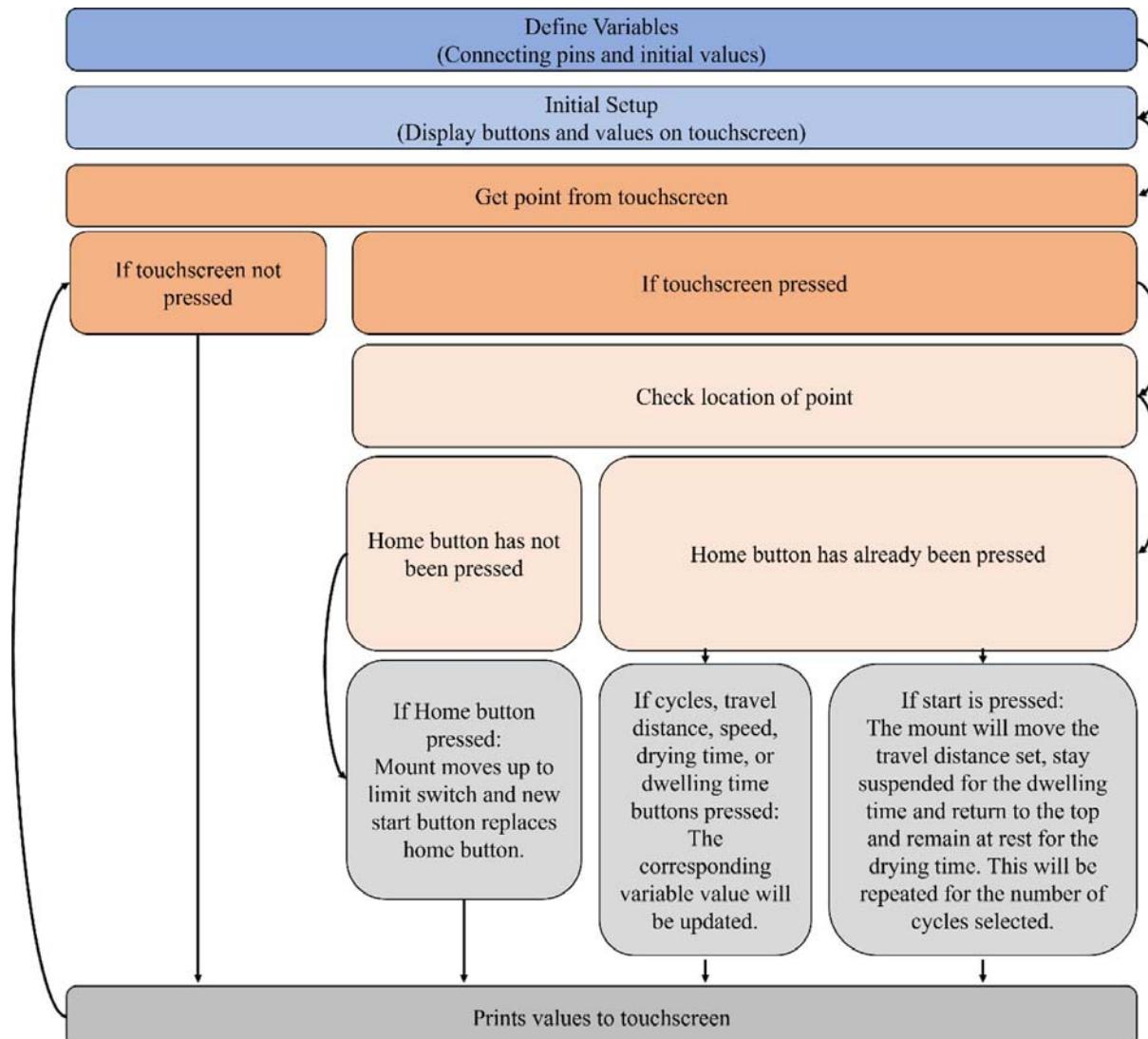


**Fig. 4.** Reset button connected to a small breadboard and covered with 3d printed button cover.



**Fig. 5.** Limit switch with reference labels for connections.

- iii. PUL- (PUL) terminal on the TB6600
  - iv. The button (Either wire connected to the breadboard with the button will work)
  
  - b. Reset pin on the m ELEGOO UNO R3 to the other wire on the breadboard with the button
  - c. Pin 13 on the ELEGOO UNO R3 to the + part of the limit switch (red wire)
  - d. Pin 12 on the ELEGOO UNO R3 to the DIR+(+5V) terminal on the TB6600
  - e. Pin 11 on the ELEGOO UNO R3 to the PUL+(+5V) terminal on the TB6600
11. Use Arduino IDE to open the code provided.
12. Install the needed libraries
- a. Adafruit Touchscreen, Adafruit TFTLCD Library, and Adafruit GFX library
13. Connect the ELEGOO UNO R3 to a computer using the USB connector in the starter kit.
14. In Arduino IDE, open the tools dropdown and chose the board as “Arduino Uno” and select the correct port. Upload the code to the board.
- a. To check to ensure the motor turns the proper way, there is test code included that when uploaded should cause the mount to move down then back up. (Down referring to when the mount is moving toward the motor.)
  - b. The other code file has the code needed to run the machine. Once uploaded to the ELEGOO board, the device can be used without being connected to the computer. [Fig. 6](#) presents the flow chart of the code. Although, the device can be used independently, the Arduino code allows for easy editing to be made by the user to meet more specialized specifications needed of the machine. [Section 6.2](#) provides more details on editing the code.



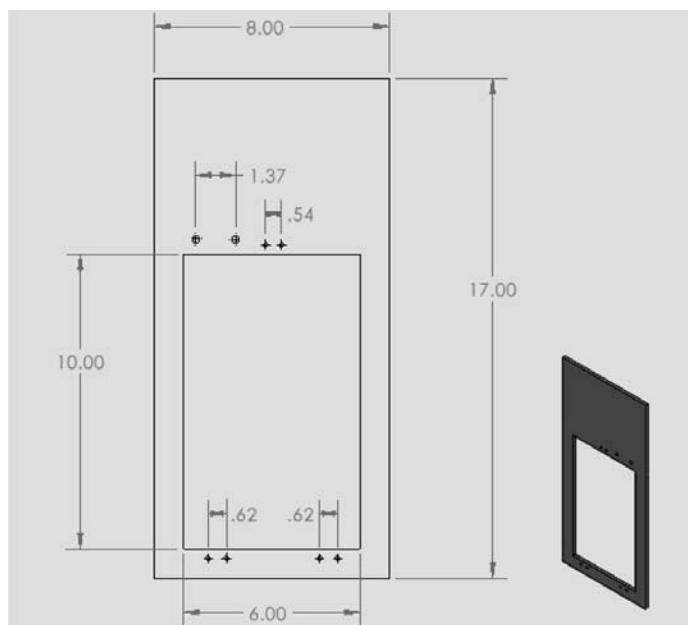
**Fig. 6.** Flow chart for operation procedures of the code.

## 5.2. Building instructions – enclosure

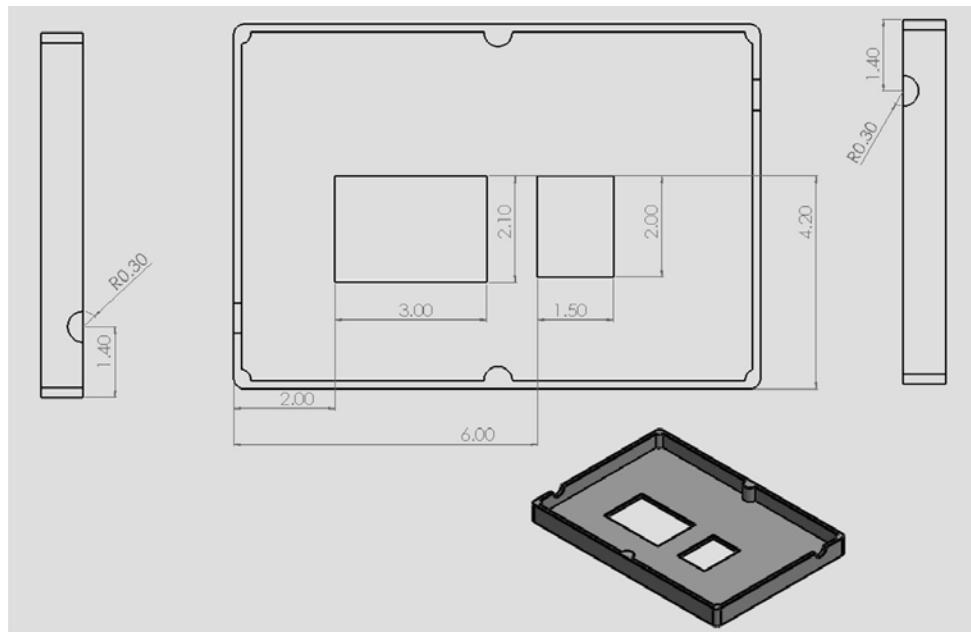
15. Attach the corner bracket (6) to the mount (included in the linear actuator bundle) using a 16 mm long Med-strength class 8.8 steel hex head screw (18) and attach the spring clip (7) to the end of the corner bracket using a Phillips #10-32x 3/4in screw (22,23).
16. Slide 4 12 mm Low Profile Screws M5 (20) screws in the back outermost channels of the linear rail guide from the linear actuator bundle. Two screws on each side.
17. Assemble the linear actuator bundle from open builds and the NEMA 23 stepper motor. There are several tutorials available that can be followed [14]. Be sure to keep the screws in the linear rail guide from step 2 during assembly. The linear actuator bundle includes a lead screw with a 2 mm pitch. The assembled linear actuator with the motor, corner bracket, and clip are shown in Fig. 7.
18. Have the door cut out of front acrylic piece (10,12) as shown in Fig. 8 by taking acrylic to a machine shop. Both pieces will be used in the design.
19. Have holes in the circuit enclosure lid cut out as shown in Fig. 9. These holes are for the touchscreen and reset button.
20. Drill 8 holes in the front acrylic piece (10) for the hinges, latch, and doorstop and 8 holes in the door portion of the front panel (12) for hinges and the bottom part of the latch.
21. Drill 4 holes in the back acrylic piece to be used for attaching the linear actuator as shown in Fig. 10.
22. Drill 4 holes in the circuit enclosure base as shown in Fig. 11 for mounting the circuit box to the base of the machine.
23. Drill holes in the acrylic base (1) shown in Fig. 12. These are holes for attaching the quick framing base connectors, circuit box, and swiveling level mounts.
24. Attach hinges (11) and latch (13) using size 4, 1/2 in long Phillips screws (24 and 25) and attach the doorstop using size 10, 3/4 in long Phillips screws (22 and 23) to the acrylic front panel and door (10,12).
25. Attach 90-degree corner base connectors (4), circuit box, and leveling mounts (19) to acrylic base (1) shown in Fig. 13. All are attached using size 10, 1 in long Phillips screws (26). For each 90-degree corner base connector, one side is held with a hex nut while the other side is screwed directly into one of the swiveling level mounts.
26. Slide the quick framing sides (2) over each of the base connectors (4) shown in Fig. 14.
27. Put the gasket on the front and back of both sides of the side acrylic panels (9) and slide them into the grooves of the quick framing on the right and left sides of the machine.



**Fig. 7.** Assembled linear actuator bundle.



**Fig. 8.** CAD drawing of the acrylic door panel.

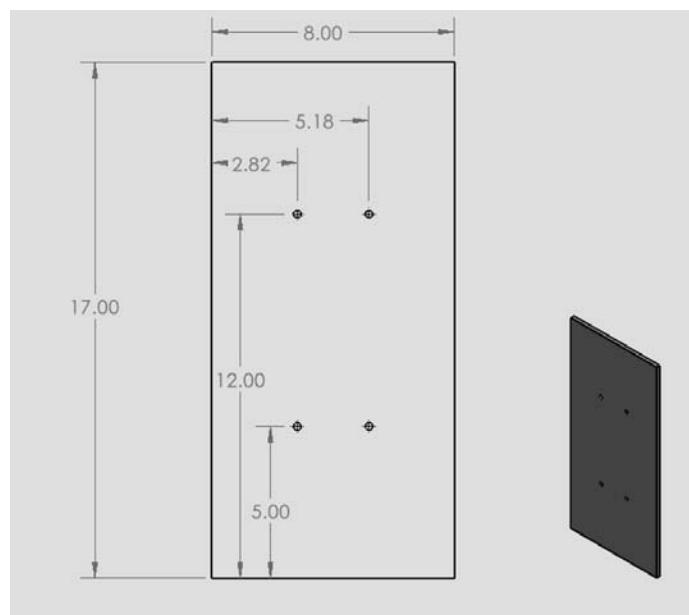


**Fig. 9.** CAD drawing of circuit box lid showing holes that were made for the touchscreen, reset button, and wires. (Drawing dimensions are in inches).

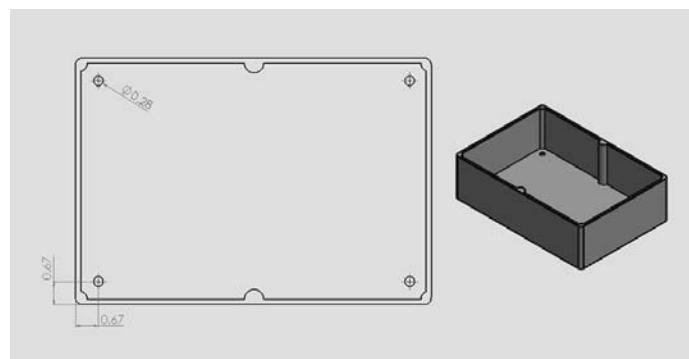
28. Put the gasket on the front and back of both sides of the front acrylic panel (10,12) and slide into the grooves of the quick framing in the front of the machine.

### 5.3. Building instructions – connecting the circuit to the Machine

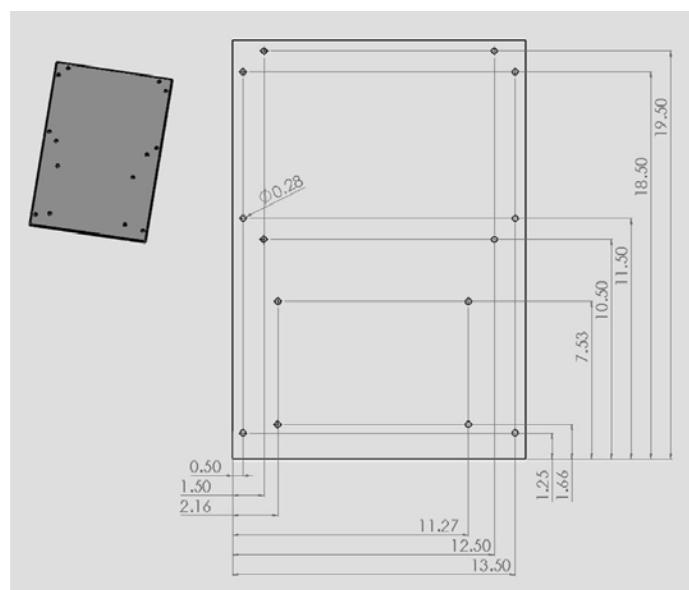
29. Use glue to attach the limit switch to the top of the linear actuator.
30. Place the linear actuator and motor in the machine.
31. Use the wire loom tubing to cover the wires from the limit switch and motor.
32. Put the gasket on the front and back of both sides of the back acrylic panel (3) and slide into the grooves of the quick framing on the back.
33. Line up the screws on the back of the linear rail guide with the holes in the acrylic back panel (3).



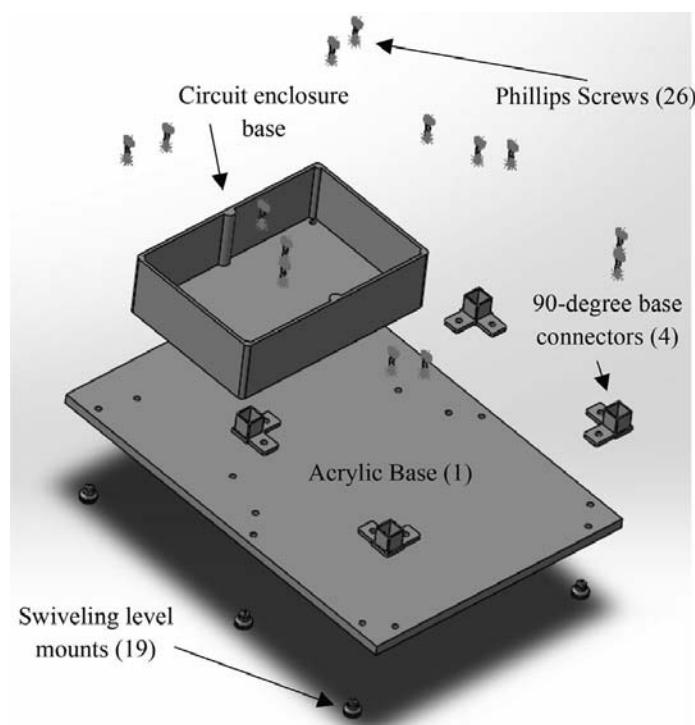
**Fig. 10.** CAD drawing of the acrylic back. The holes are drilled to attach the linear actuator.



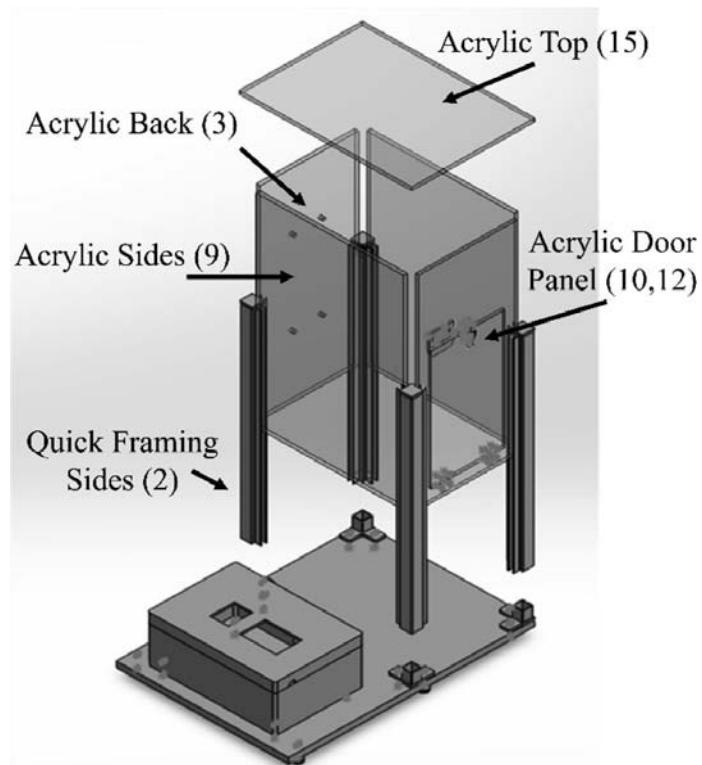
**Fig. 11.** CAD drawing of circuit box bottom showing 4 holes made to attach the box to the machine base. (Drawing dimensions are in inches).



**Fig. 12.** CAD drawing of the acrylic base showing what holes were made to attach the circuit box and machine enclosure. (Drawing dimensions are in inches).

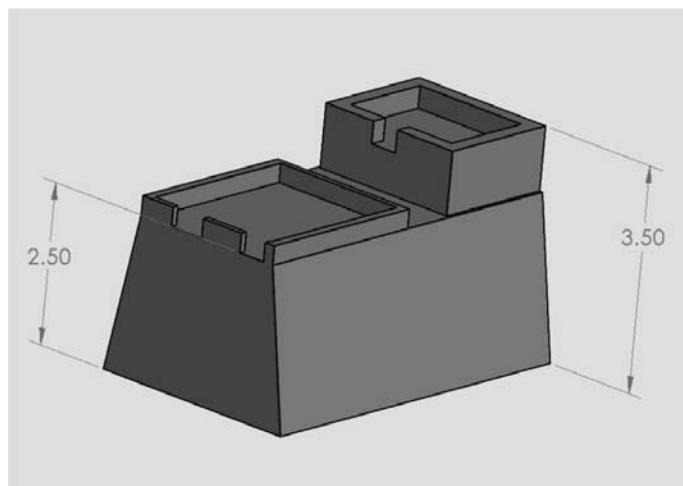


**Fig. 13.** CAD drawing showing how the circuit box, 90-degree corner base connectors, and leveling mounts should be attached to the acrylic base.

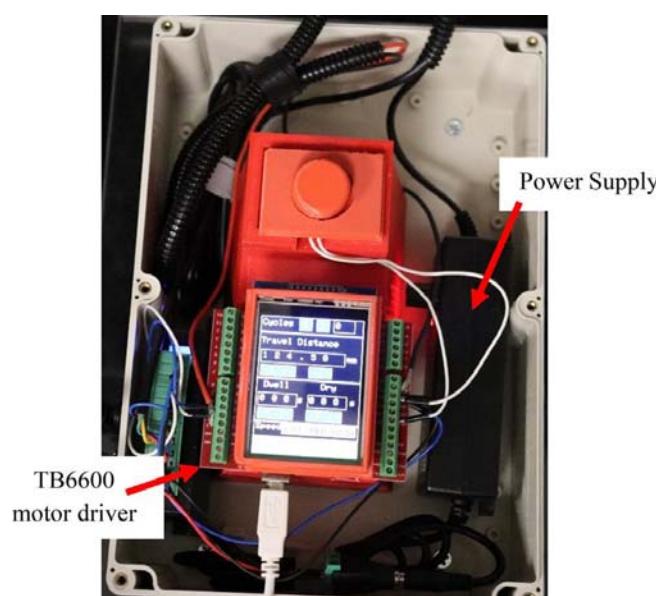


**Fig. 14.** Assembly view of the machine. The framing is first attached, acrylic panels are slide on the sides, and the acrylic top is attached with Velcro.

34. Use 4 M5 hex nuts (16) to secure the linear rail guide to the acrylic back panel.
35. Either 3D print the riser block shown in Fig. 15 or use risers to lift the touch screen and reset button to the height of the box.
36. Place the ELEGOO UNO R3 and reset button on the riser.
37. Place the TB6600 motor driver and box portion of the power supply on each side of the riser holding the touch screen and reset button. This is shown in Fig. 16.
38. The USB wire comes out of the front of the box while the power cord, and cords that connect to the motor and limit switch go out of the back of the circuit box.
39. Place the lid of the circuit box over the circuit box, ensuring everything lines up with the holes that were cut. (Touchscreen, reset button, USB cord, wire loom tubing, and power supply cord.) Then, screw the lid on with the screws that came with the circuit box (Fig. 17).
40. Put the caps of the quick framing on each framing piece.
41. Stick the Velcro on each of the four framing caps and in the four corners of the top piece of acrylic (15).
42. Attach the acrylic top to the machine (15).
43. Stick stylus on circuit box.



**Fig. 15.** 3D printable riser for lifting the touchscreen and reset button. This could be replaced with anything that will lift the screen to the top of the circuits box.

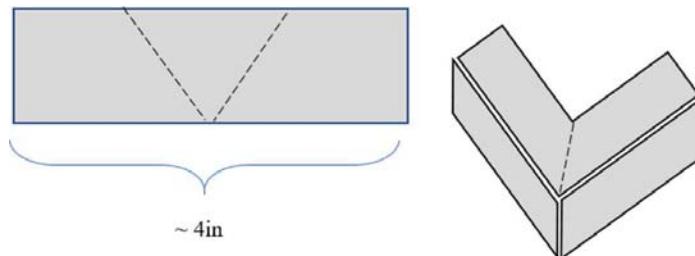


**Fig. 16.** Completed circuit.



**Fig. 17.** Outside of completed circuit box.

44. Cut the U channel edge trim into 4 pieces of approximately 4 in. long. Cut a 90- degree corner out of the top part of each piece in the center. After cutting the U channel edge bend it to create the shape shown in [Fig. 18](#). Then glue each one onto the 4 top corners of the machine. These are included as a safety feature to avoid sharp corners around the top of the device.



**Fig. 18.** Diagram showing how to cut U channel and how to fold it to glue around 4 corners of machine top.

## 6. Operation instructions

### 6.1. Operating instructions – with preprogrammed variables

1. Plug the machine into a wall outlet.
2. Connect the USB cord to another power supply. (Computer or a USB wall charger.)
3. The machine will automatically turn on when plugged in.
4. Before it can be used, press the home button on the touch screen. This will move the mount of the dip coater up to the limit switch so the machine will start from the same height each time.
5. Clip the substrate to be coated to the mount of the machine.
6. Place a beaker of the coating in the machine under the substrate.
7. Now using the stylus, the desired settings can be chosen. There are 5 different variables that can be adjusted from the touchscreen.

- a. Cycles (variable c; default 1): This is the number of dips the machine will perform when start is pressed. One cycle is defined as going down the desired travel distance, dwelling for desired time and returning to the original starting height then holding for the desired drying time.
  - b. Travel Distance (variable td; default 100 mm): This is how far down the mount will travel when start is pressed.
  - c. Dwelling time (variable holddwell; default 0 s): This is the amount of time the mount will remain stopped once it's traveled the complete travel distance down.
  - d. Drying time (variable holddry; default 0 s): This is the amount of time the mount will remain stopped after returning to its starting position.
  - e. Speed (variable speedVal; default 1250): This variable is related to the speed the mount will travel going up and down. The relationship between speedVal and the speed (mm/s) is  $speedVal = \frac{1250}{speed}$ . There are three speed settings programmed for the machine (low = 0.5 mm/s, med = 1 mm/s, fast = 5 mm/s). These can be adjusted by altering the code, specifically variable speedVal, and reuploading it to the ELEGOO UNO R3.
8. Once the desired settings are chosen, press start to start the cycles.
9. If the machine needs to be stopped at any point, press the reset button. This will reset the ELEGOO UNO R3 and the machine will stop moving. Once this is pressed, the touch screen will reset so home will need to be pressed again and the settings will need to be chosen again to continue operating the machine.

## 6.2. Operating instructions – editing code

1. Download Arduino IDE on a computer [4].
2. Connect the USB cord from the ELEGOO UNO into the computer.
3. Open the “Dip Coater Code” file in Arduino IDE.
4. Change the desired features. Everything from the look of the touchscreen, max travel distance, speed values, etc., can be adjusted through the code.
5. The code is organized in the form:
  - a. Installing libraries and Defining variables
    - i. This section first imports the libraries needed for the touch screen. These libraries must be installed in Arduino IDE before using them.
    - ii. It also defines the pins used for the touchscreen and motor connections.
    - iii. Other variables are also defined here such as colors, initial values, travel distance, and the three speed options.
  - b. Initial Setup
    - i. This section of code is executed each time the machine is turned on. It includes details on which pins are outputs vs inputs and produces the initial display on the touch screen.
  - c. Loop Function
    - i. This section of code is executed continually after the machine is turned on.
    - ii. The first thing that is done, is the travel distance, dwelling/ drying times are calculated. This is because the code is written such that in these cases, the place values are changed by the user, so these changes must be converted to variables to be used.
    - iii. The beginning *if statement* checks if the touchscreen has been pressed.
    - iv. Once the screen is pressed, the point is saved as coordinates and passed through a series of *if statements* to determine which button has been pressed.
      1. The first *if statement* is for the home button. When activated, the motor will move up to the limit switch and back down a few steps and stop. Then, the home button is replaced with a start button.
      2. The next *if statements* are for the cycle buttons. When pressed here, the number of cycles will increase/decrease by one.
      3. Then the travel distance buttons are listed. These will change the place value of the total travel distance.
      4. The next *if statements* control the speed. When activated, the selected speed is highlighted and the speed is set to the associated value.
      5. The dwelling time *if statements* are then listed followed by the drying time. These act similar to the travel distance by changing the place value of the times.
      6. Lastly, an *if statement* for the start button is listed. When this button is pressed, the machine will begin the dipping process, based on the selected speed, dwelling/ drying times, number of cycles, and total travel distance.

6. Any of the code can be adjusted to meet desired specifications. One helpful feature is the serial monitor in the Arduino IDE. It can be used to print out information to ensure your touchscreen is working properly without risking an issue with the motor. For example, if changing the location of the buttons on the screen is desired, a print line could be added after the if statement for the buttons. This print line would then output to the serial monitor each time the button is pressed.
7. The last step is to select the board "Arduino Uno" and the correct port. Then press the upload button.
8. Now the device is adjusted so that without the computer it will retain these changes.

## 7. Validation and characterization

To demonstrate the real-life applications of our dip-coater, two separate tests were performed. One to show the performance of the machine and another to show an application for the coating. Both tests use copper mesh and are coated in a PAM hydrogel made by mixing Acrylamide (AM), Methylenbisacrylamide (BIS), Polyacrylamide (PAM), 3',5'-Diethoxyacetophenone (DEOP), and distilled water. [15,16]. These ingredients were proportioned by weight at 50:1.5:0.5:1:47 wt% respectively. DEOP is a photoinitiator, where the polymerization is initiated by reactive species such as radicals [17]. It was found that an increase in the monomer concentration created the need for a longer time to mix. To adjust for this factor, the first three ingredients were mixed with the water for up to 1 h at 600 rpm. Because DEOP creates a photosensitive effect, this ingredient was added to the solution last and was mixed for about 30 more minutes. To test the performance of the dip coating machine, one experiment used a 0.009" diameter copper mesh cut into 6 separate substrates. Each strip was dipped in the hydrogel solution at different speeds; 0.01, 0.5, 1, 3, 7 and 10 mm/s. Each run of the dip coater used 1 cycle and a 10 s dwell time. The width of each mesh strip was measured using a caliper and the mass of each sample was measured before coating with an analytical balance. After coating the mesh strips, they were cured under a UV light for 90–240 mins. After 90 min, each sample's mass was once again recorded. Then, the length of the coating coverage was measured using a caliper. Using these measurements, the thickness of the coating for each speed after the curing process was calculated from  $\text{thickness} = \frac{m}{\rho l w \alpha}$ . Where  $m$  is the mass of the coating,  $\rho$  is the density of the hydrogel,  $l$  is the length of the coating, and  $w$  is width of the copper foil. And  $\alpha = \frac{2\pi D}{S}$  represents the ratio of the active surface area over footprint, where  $D$  is the diameter of the wire and  $S$  is the spacing between wire. The copper mesh used here has a diameter of 0.009" and a spacing of 0.011". The density was found by averaging the densities based on the percent weight of the ingredients in the mixture.  $\rho_{\text{mix}} = 100 / \left( \frac{50}{\rho_{\text{AM}}} + \frac{1.5}{\rho_{\text{BIS}}} + \frac{0.5}{\rho_{\text{PAM}}} + \frac{1}{\rho_{\text{DEOP}}} + \frac{47}{\rho_{\text{water}}} \right)$ . Fig. 19 shows these thicknesses compared to the set speed for the dip coater. As observed in Fig. 19, the thickness increases with the immersion/removal speed up to 6.98 mm/s and then get saturated. The post cure 10 mm/s sample thickness is lower than the 7 mm/s post cure trial. This could be attributed to error in the measurements or some of the mesh breaking off at some point during the process and effecting the mass measurement. Fig. 20 shows the microscopic images of the copper mesh before and after coating in the hydrogel, taken using Navitar Zoom 6000 optical microscope.

This hydrogel coating makes the mesh superoleophobic and superhydrophilic with a water contact angle of less than 10 degrees. Fig. 21 shows the snapshots of water contact angle observed on one of the coated copper meshes, taken using OCA 15EC contact angle goniometer. Fig. 22 shows the effect of the coating thickness on the static, advancing, and receding con-

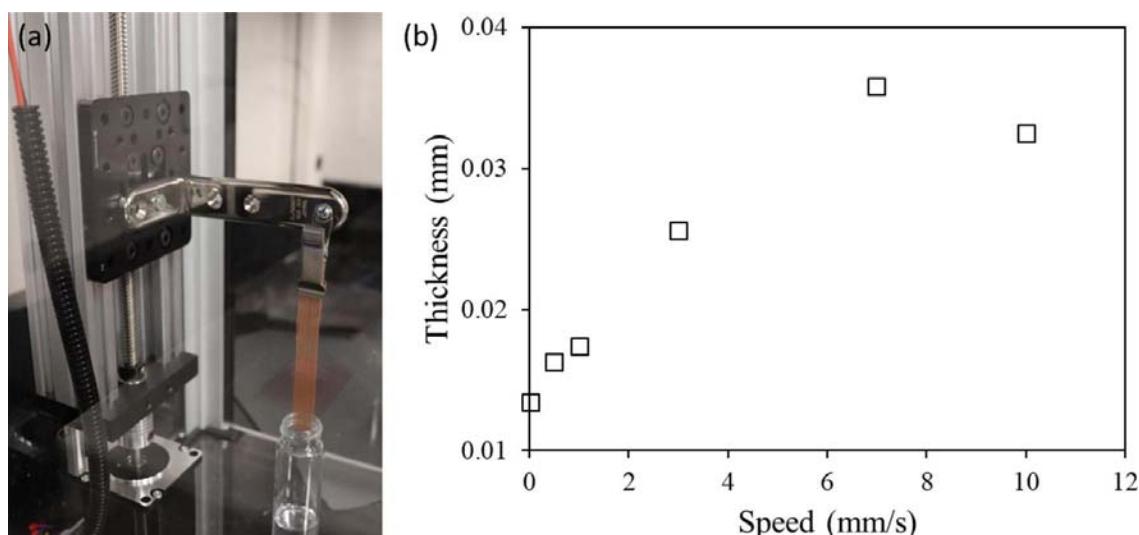
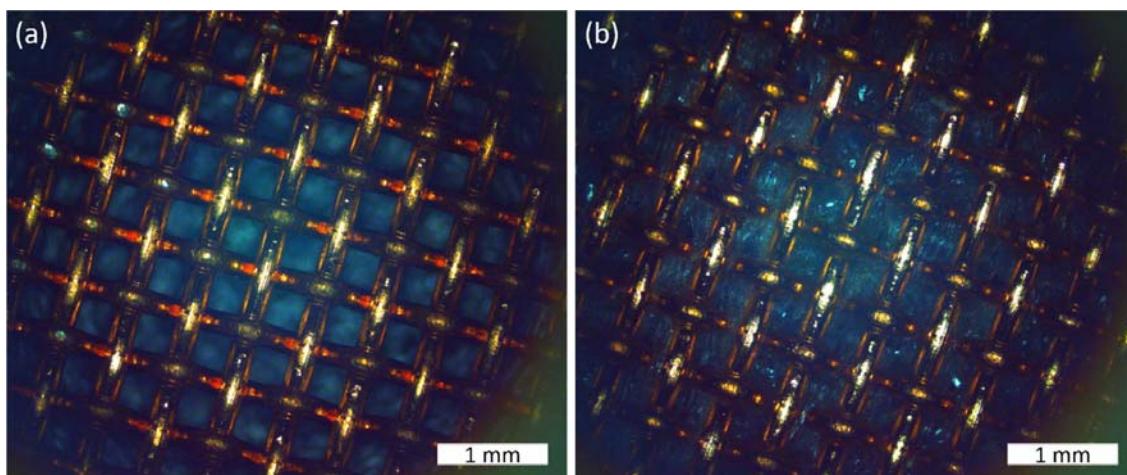
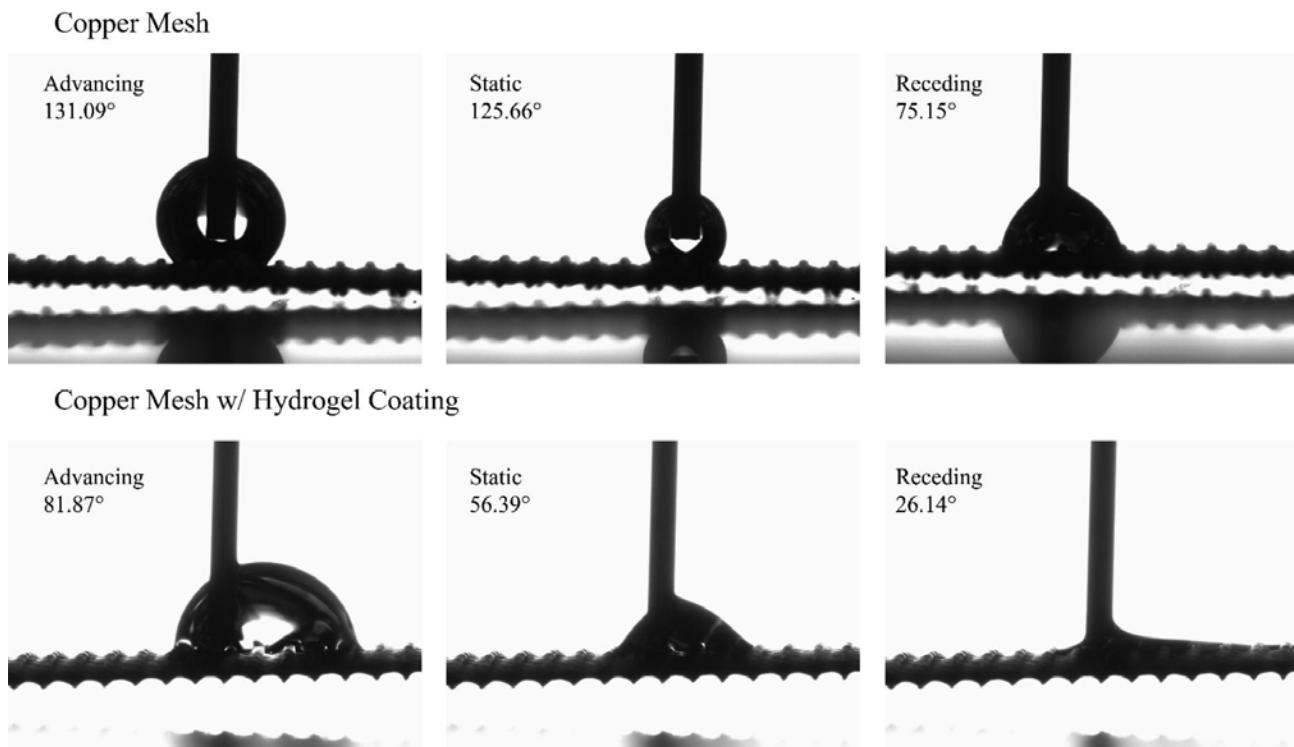


Fig. 19. Dip coating test results showing (a) the dip coater in process of coating one copper mesh strip and (b) the thickness of coating versus the immersion/removal speed for the copper mesh after curing with UV light for 90 mins.

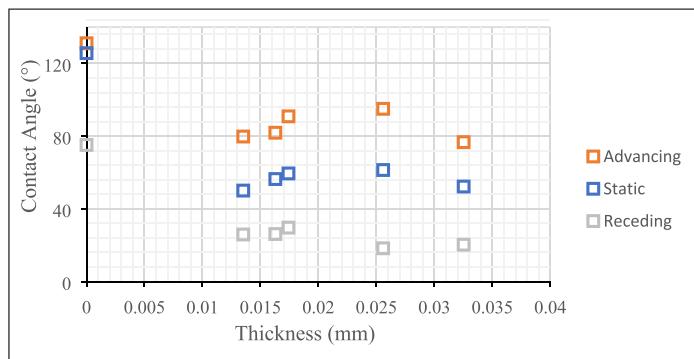


**Fig. 20.** Microscopic images of copper mesh (a) before and (b) after coating with hydrogel, taken using a Navitar Zoom 6000 inspection microscope with a 5 $\times$  objective.



**Fig. 21.** Contact angle measurements of copper meshes before and after coating with hydrogel using a goniometer with distilled water and a starting droplet of 2  $\mu$ L and 15  $\mu$ L/2s speed with a 6 s break.

tact angle changes. The contact angle is lower than the mesh with no coating so it did produce a hydrophilic effect but not to the expected extent. It can be seen that all three contact angles are higher than the copper mesh with any thickness of hydrogel applied. The coated mesh can be used to separate oil and water to assist in many different processes. This would include, but not be limited to, oil spills, manufacturing wastewater, and water produced in drilling and fracking processes. The other experiment used a 3"  $\times$  3" copper mesh with 0.0022" diameter wire. The experiment began by adjusting the settings on the touch screen to have the machine perform 2 cycles with a travel distance of 130.00 mm, dwell time of 10 s, and dry time of 10 s. After automatic calibration, the machine was able to perform the work that it was set to do smoothly with no significant issue. The sample was then removed from the machine and moved to a UV resin curing light chamber to dry out for 4 h. The



**Fig. 22.** Static and dynamics contact angles of copper meshes with hydrogel coating versus the thickness of coating layers. Thickness of 0 represents copper mesh without coating.

sample should be able to isolate water from oil after this dipping and curing process. The result from this test run showed that the actual performance and the predicted performance are on par with each other which means that the project was executed successfully.

#### Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

#### Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the Arkansas EPSCoR Data Analytics that are Robust & Trusted (DART) through seed grant number 22-EPS4-0028, under NSF grant number OIA-1946391.

#### Appendix

## Design files from other sites needed in complete assembly

| Type                  | Design File                   | Link   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Actuator Assembly     | C-Beam-Linear Actuator 250 mm | OpenBuilds <a href="https://grabcad.com/library/c-beam-linear-actuator-250mm-1">https://grabcad.com/library/c-beam-linear-actuator-250mm-1</a> |
|                       | Corner Bracket                | McMaster-Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/15655A41/">https://www.mcmaster.com/15655A41/</a>  |
|                       | Spring Clamp                  | McMaster-Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/6076A17/">https://www.mcmaster.com/6076A17/</a>  |
| Machine Framing Files | 2115 Panel Gasket             | 80/20 <a href="https://8020.net/2115.html">https://8020.net/2115.html</a>  |
|                       | 4483 Door Stop                | 80/20 <a href="https://8020.net/4483.html">https://8020.net/4483.html</a>  |
|                       | 6082A12_DRAW LATCH            | McMaster-Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/6082A12/">https://www.mcmaster.com/6082A12/</a>  |
|                       | Corner Base Connector         | <a href="https://8020.net/9242.html">https://8020.net/9242.html</a>  |
|                       | End Cap                       | <a href="https://8020.net/9210.html">https://8020.net/9210.html</a>  |
|                       | Quick Frame Corner            | <a href="https://8020.net/9030.html">https://8020.net/9030.html</a>  |
|                       | Hinge                         | McMaster-Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/1598A52/">https://www.mcmaster.com/1598A52/</a>  |

(continued)

| Type   | Design File  | Link   |
|--------|--|--|
| Screws | 8.8 Steel Hex Screw 16 mm                            | McMaster- Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/91280A136/">https://www.mcmaster.com/91280A136/</a>   |
|        | Swivel Leveling mount with threaded hole             | McMaster- Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/6103K81/">https://www.mcmaster.com/6103K81/</a>   |
|        | Hex nut for actuator (M4x0.7 mm) (90591A255)         | McMaster- Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3500">https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3500</a>   |
|        | Hex nut for Phillips screw (larger) (90480A195)      | McMaster- Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3498">https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3498</a>   |
|        | Hex nut for Phillips screw (smaller) (90480A005)     | <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3498">https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3498</a>  |
|        | Hillman 10-32x34 in Phillips screw (med) (91735A831) | McMaster- Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3308">https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3308</a>   |
|        | Low Profile Screw M5 (0.8 mm)                        | OpenBuilds <a href="https://openbuildspartstore.com/low-profile-screws-m5-10-pack/">https://openbuildspartstore.com/low-profile-screws-m5-10-pack/</a>   |
|        | Phillips screw (large) (91735A833)                   | McMaster- Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3308">https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3308</a>   |
|        | Phillips screw (small) (91735A106)                   | McMaster- Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3308">https://www.mcmaster.com/catalog/128/3308</a>   |
|        | Smaller Phillips screw                               | McMaster- Carr <a href="https://www.mcmaster.com/sheet-metal-screws/steel-phillips-rounded-head-screws-for-sheet-metal/">https://www.mcmaster.com/sheet-metal-screws/steel-phillips-rounded-head-screws-for-sheet-metal/</a> |

## References

- [1] Scientific, Biolin. Dip Coaters: Fabrication & Deposition of Thin Films: KSV NIMA.
- [2] R. Mechiakh, N. Ben Sedrine, J. Ben Naceur, R. Chtourou, Elaboration and characterization of nanocrystalline TiO<sub>2</sub> thin films prepared by sol-gel dip-coating, *Surf. Coat. Technol.* 206 (2–3) (2011) 243–249, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.surfcoat.2011.06.053>.
- [3] S.A. Mahadik, V. Parale, R.S. Vhatkara, D.B. Mahadik, M.S. Kavale, P.B. Wagh, S. Gupta, J. Gurav, Superhydrophobic silica coating by dip coating method, *Appl. Surf. Sci.* 277 (2013) 67–72, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsusc.2013.04.001>.
- [4] P. Salles, D. Pinto, K. Hantanasirisakul, K. Maleski, C.E. Shuck, Y. Gogotsi, Electrochromic effect in titanium carbide MXene thin films produced by dip-coating, *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 29 (17) (2019) 1809223, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ADFM.201809223>.
- [5] H. Ma, Yunzhe, Gill, Coating solid dispersions on microneedles via a molten dip-coating method: development and in vitro evaluation for transdermal delivery of a water-insoluble drug, *J. Pharm. Sci.* 103 (11) (2014) 3621–3630.
- [6] D.H. Jeong, M.K.H. Lee, V. Thiévenaz, M.Z. Bazant, A. Sauret, Dip coating of bidisperse particulate suspensions, *J. Fluid Mech.* 936 (1942) 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1017/jfm.2022.79>.
- [7] Dip Coater, Low Price Precision Dip Coating Machine. Ossila, [www.ossila.com/products/dip-coater?variant=8806309101685](http://www.ossila.com/products/dip-coater?variant=8806309101685).
- [8] D. A. Castillo-Vilcatoma, S. J. Loarte, A. A. Fernandez-Chillcce, E. C. Pastrana, R. Y. Pastrana, Designing and fabrication of a low-cost dip-coater for rapid production of uniform thin films, *Química Nova*, 45(1) (2022) 97–100, 10.21577/0100-4042.20170805.
- [9] D. M. Loza, V. H. Guerrero, R. Dabirian, Construction of low cost spin and dip coaters for thin film deposition using open source technology. (2014).
- [10] P. Adámek, Construction of dip-coater, *Edukacja – Technika – Informatyka*, 16(2) (2016) 152–156, 10.15584/eti.2016.2.20.
- [11] B. Khairuldin Mohdisha, P. Darul Ridzuan, Design Dip Coater For Wet Coating Technology, (2005).
- [12] Team, The Arduino. Arduino Downloads. Arduino, [www.arduino.cc/en/software](http://www.arduino.cc/en/software).
- [13] A. Lüken, M. Bruckhaus, U. Kosfeld, M. Emondts, M. Wessling, Automated tangential-flow diafiltration device, *HardwareX* 10 (2021) e00200.
- [14] Nov., C Beam Actuator Build Instructions, YouTube 11 (2015).
- [15] C.M.R. Madhuranthakam, A. Alsubaie, A. Elkamel, Performance of polyacrylamide and poly(acrylamide/sodium acrylate) hydrogel-coated mesh for separation of oil/water mixtures, *J. Water Process Eng.* 26 (2018) 62–71, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jwpe.2018.09.009>.
- [16] Z. Xue, S. Wang, L. Lin, L. Chen, M. Liu, L. Feng, L. Jiang, A novel superhydrophilic and underwater superoleophobic hydrogel-coated mesh for oil/water separation, *Adv. Mater.* 23 (37) (2011) 4270–4273, <https://doi.org/10.1002/adma.201102616>.
- [17] M. Shirai, Photoinitiated polymerization, in: S. Kobayashi, K. Müllen (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Polymeric Nanomaterials*, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2021, pp. 1–7



**Christy Dunlap** is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Arkansas. She obtained her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and B.S. in Mathematics with Applied Concentration from the University of Arkansas in 2021. Her research covers system design, DNA sequencing, thermal data analytics, and multimodal fusion.



**Skylar Featherstone** obtained her B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arkansas in 2020 with a minor in mathematics. She completed an internship at the Innovation Plaza in St. George, Utah, where she refined her skills in AutoCAD teaching students and members. There she worked with 3D printers and other design and development machinery. Skylar is currently working as a Mechanical Engineer at L3Harris Technologies.



**Matthew Smith** is from Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated in Spring 2021 from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He has done two internships at Central Arkansas Water developing AutoCAD skills and learning about utility design and has experience with hands on mechanic work on cars.



**Man Vu** is from Vietnam. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical engineering from the University of Arkansas in Spring 2021.



**Amanda Williams** is an undergraduate student majoring in Mechanical Engineering with the Aerospace Concentration. She is passionate about sustainability and creating new products. Amanda has completed the Transition to Leadership Program, directed by TransformCo, which focused on the management of sales teams. Along with sales management, she has experience drafting product designs. During her experience working for DivProCo LLC, Amanda drafted products that included the design of injection-molded polymer handles and steel blades. She is experienced in Java, MATLAB programming, and SolidWorks. Amanda enjoys building robotic arms and learning more about aerospace technologies in her free time.



**Jason Bailey** is an Instructor at the University of Arkansas and the Senior Capstone Design Coordinator for the Mechanical Engineering department. Jason's professional experience includes automation, instrumentation, tool design, FEA and DFM. He teaches Mechanical Engineering Laboratory, Machine Element Design, Capstone Projects I and II.



**Han Hu** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Arkansas. After he received his Ph.D. from Drexel University in 2016, He joined Purdue University for his postdoctoral research in the School of Mechanical Engineering and the Cooling Technologies Research Center. His postdoctoral research was focused on modeling and experimental studies of thin-film evaporation, disjoining pressure, and pool boiling. In August 2019, Dr. Hu joined the University of Arkansas and has been directing the Nano Energy and Data-Driven Discovery Laboratory since then. The research of his lab covers experimental characterization and multi-scale modeling of two-phase heat transfer enhancement on micro-/nano-structured surfaces, immersion cooling of power electronics, infiltration, and capillary wicking, diffusion kinetics in high-entropy alloys, proton adsorption and transport in carbon nanotubes, base calling using convolution-augmented transformers, and data-driven models for heat flux and boiling regime predictions using convolutional long short-term memory networks and convolutional neural networks.