

Iterative design development

Iterative design development is the process of analysing, evaluating and modifying designs, then repeating the process until a better design is found.

It is a cyclic process.

That means that the process goes around and around.



1. Analysis. The first step in the iterative design process is an analysis of an idea, design or product. That means we must study the design to identify the various parts, what the parts are made of, how the parts fit together etc. and identify any problems that must be resolved.

2. Evaluation. The second step in the iterative design process is an evaluation of the idea, design or product.

That means we must test the design to check that it matches the specification precisely, e.g. testing that the specified materials have been used, that the parts are the correct size and colour etc.

We may also evaluate by applying emotions, prejudices, likes and dislikes, e.g. do you like the shape, the colour, the material etc.

The evaluation may be done by a group of people or by a single person.

3. Improvements. The third step in the iterative design process is working out improvements to the idea, design or product.

That means we must develop the design by thinking of ways of making the design better in some way.

4. Recording. The fourth step in the iterative design process is recording the improvement or change to the design.

Improvements and other changes to a design are usually recorded by drawing the improved design and by adding notes to the drawing to explain your thinking.

This type of drawing is called "notes and sketches".

Start the cycle over again.

Start the cycle again by analysing the modified design. The cycle is repeated until the best solution is developed.