While you will be working in teams of two, it is expected that each individual will design and fabricate a functional device.

It is acknowledged that interaction between teams in the class is highly beneficial. To that end, any conversations, calculations, analyses, ideas and tests may be shared among the teams, but the device design and fabrication must be an individual effort. Note that this collaboration policy does not extend to replicating others’ ideas. Occasionally two people will arrive at a very similar solution independently, sometimes one person will see a great idea in someone else’s device, and finding no superior alternative will want to incorporate it. This duplication is permissible, however, not encouraged. Competitors usually maintain a high level of secrecy around their device, and blindly copying an idea or strategy may be risky.

In many respects, you should treat this design project as similar to an ordinary homework set. It is permissible to collaborate with your classmates and seek the advice of the instructor, TA’s, M.E. Shop staff, other class participants, other students, however, the final product must be your own work.

At the end of the term, for grading purposes, you must be able to indicate the boundary of the functional device that you designed and fabricated, and in particular to distinguish it from the device that your teammate designed and fabricated.

Additionally, it is vital to acknowledge the contributions of others to your ideas, by a suitable notation in your design notebook. If you are concerned about the acceptable limits to collaboration, discuss the situation with the instructor(s).

Do your own work, and as always, it is best if you use your own ideas and concepts.