

# IMPROVEMENT OF OIL PAN BY USING VALUE ENGINEERING METHODOLOGY

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## ABSTRACT:

Value engineering is a proven tool for reducing costs and increasing the value of the products. This has a direct bearing on improved competitive position in the marketplace and increased profit margins. This project describes the implementation of this tool for an oil pan design in IC Engine. Value engineering for the Oil pan aims in reducing the complicated manufacturing by virtue of the process and also by effective utilization of raw material, which directly results in reduction of material & process cost. The simplified manufacturing process will effectively improve the production rate by reducing the time taken to manufacture the product. To find the best possible alternative from the choices we have incorporated a tool named as Decision Matrix. Decision Matrix gives the most appropriate result and is even easy to use. The selected alternative method is modeled with Pro Engineer tool and is simulated in analysis tool like NASTRAN to justify the achieved vibration properties.

**Keywords:** Value Engineering (VE), Oil Pan, Cost Reduction

## INTRODUCTION:

Value Engineering (VE) is a systematic method to improve the "value" of goods or products and services by using an examination of function. Value, as defined, is the ratio of function to cost. Value can therefore be increased by either improving the function or reducing the cost.

Value Engineering may be defined in other ways, as long as the definition contains the following three basic precepts:  
Value Engineering cycle

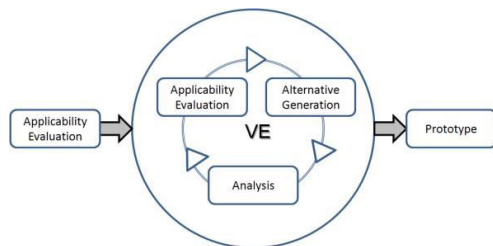


Figure 1.

1. An organized review to improve value by using multi-disciplined teams of specialists knowing various aspects of the problem being studied.
2. A function oriented approach to identify the essential functions of the system, product, or service being studied, and the cost associated with those functions.
3. Creative thinking using recognized techniques to explore alternative ways of performing the functions at a lower cost, or to otherwise improve the design.

Value Engineering, which is originated from the US military industry in the early 60s of this century, has been extensively applied in construction industry nowadays. Foo, T. H. (2002) and Chong, S. N. (2002) has given some useful frameworks on the application of VE. However, in India, VE is mostly associated to any alternative design with the intention of cost cutting exercise for a project, which is merely one of the initial intentions of the VE. This paper outlines the basic framework of Value Engineering and presents a case study showing the improvement of Oil Pan design in IC Engine.

## II. ROADBLOCKS TO COST EFFECTIVENESS:

The practice of VE doesn't imply that there may be intentional "gold plating," conscious neglect of responsibility, or unjustifiable error or oversight by the design team. VE simply recognizes that social, psychological, and economic conditions exist that may inhibit good value.

The following are some of the more common reasons for poor value:

1. Lack of information, usually caused by a shortage of time. Too many decisions are based on feelings rather than facts.
2. Wrong beliefs, insensitivity to public needs or unfortunate experience with products or processes used in unrelated prior applications.
3. Habitual thinking, rigid application of standards, customs, and tradition without consideration of changing function, technology, and value.
4. Risk of personal loss, the ease and safety experienced in adherence to established procedures and policy.
5. Reluctance to seek advice, failure to admit ignorance of certain specialized aspects of project development.
6. Negative attitudes, failure to recognize creativity or innovativeness.
7. Overspecifying, costs increase as close tolerances and finer finishes are specified. Many of these are unnecessary.
8. Poor human relations, lack of good communication, misunderstanding, jealousy, and normal friction between people are usually a source of unnecessary cost. In complex projects, requiring the talents of many people, costs may sometimes be duplicated and redundant functions may be provided. Cooper and Slagmulder, in their book, comprehensively discussed the interaction between the target costing method and value engineering. They elaborately present the Survival Zone for a product that consists of three characters:

1. Price,
2. Functionality,
3. Quality.

They discussed how these three factors interact with each other and provide the Zone for the operations of the firm. This Survival Zone is presented in Figure 2.

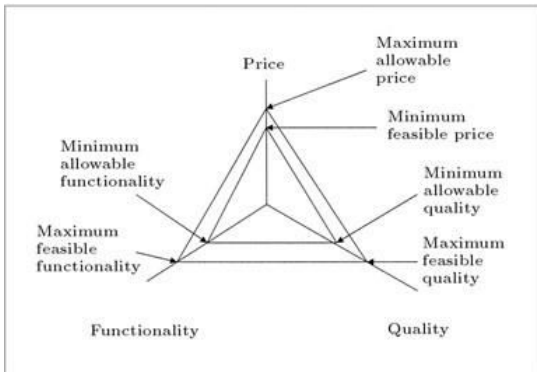


Figure 2. The survival zone for a product source

The interaction of price and functionality was, also, discussed by them. Here, an attempt has been made to incorporate the third method (QFD) in this set. It is believed that a mathematical model is the proper tool for this incorporation and its feasible region precisely demonstrates the Survival Zone, which was described in.

### III. PHASES OF VALUE ENGINEERING:

Value engineering is often done in Seven Phases:

1. General Phase
2. Information Phase
3. Function Phase
4. Creative Phase
5. Evaluation Phase
6. Investigation Phase
7. Implementation Phase

#### 1. GENERAL PHASE:

During the General Phase, the stage is set by organizing the task force, identifying the decision maker, selecting the areas of effort, assigning specific tasks to each member of the team and inspiring them for coordinated teamwork. VE work means problem solving for the decision maker. It needs considerable personal contact, so use of good human relation would mean the difference between assistance and resistance. The ground rules for the value effort are explained, laying emphasis on controlling opinions and feelings, as well as applying good business judgments based on facts.

## 2. INFORMATION PHASE

After creating the curves the Drawing file is saved in

.dxf format. The same file opened and the Curves from the .dxf file copied and pasted in the sketch mode of CATIA for the all views.

## 3. FUNCTION PHASE

The function phase is key to the value effort. Here, the BASIC and SUPPORT FUNCTIONS are defined. The keystone of value engineering lies in stating the function in a TWO WORD, VERB NOUN combination, the former to indicate the action the item performs and the latter, what is acted upon or the object of the action. Work functions are always expressed in active verbs and measurable nouns, which establish quantitative statements; Sell functions, in passive verbs and non-measurable nouns, which establish qualitative statements. It sounds simple; but it is not easy to accomplish. Costs are determined.

## 4. CREATIVE PHASE

In the Creation Phase, creative ideation techniques are used to generate a multitude of ideas, products, processes, methods, etc., to accomplish the defined function(s). It involves two mental processes; the creative and the judicial. Suppressing the judicial, a quantity of ideas providing for the defined functions is generated. Refining, evaluation, etc., come in the next phase.

## 5. EVALUATION PHASE

In the Evaluation Phase, the judicial mind is brought into active use. The quantities of ideas generated in the creation phase are now appraised, modified, refined and combined to generate the change proposal. Functions alternatives are developed compared and estimated for costs. The best ideas are selected.

## 6. INVESTIGATION PHASE

The creative ideas so refined, evaluated and compared are then subject to investigation in the investigation phase. Vendor consultations, assistance of company and industrial specialties, use of company standards, industrial and national standards, that are applicable, lead to the most reasonable, practical, low cost high value solutions, without impairing these and esteem factors, quality, safety, reliability, durability, etc.

## 7. IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

In the **Implementation Phase**, the value change alternative of merit, selected, is presented as a **VALUE ENGINEERING CHANGE PLAN (VECP)** to the management, for final approval and implementation. Just as the work started with facts, it is concluded with facts, which will speak for themselves. VECPs would be concise, show before and after comparisons, costs, advantages, disadvantages (if any), how to overcome them, plan for implementation (authority, cost, and time frame for it), as well as acknowledgement of assistance received from others. It would contain sufficient data for the decision-maker to determine the course of action to be taken as well for post-implementation audit.

**IV FLOWDIAGRAMOFVALUEENGINEERING:**

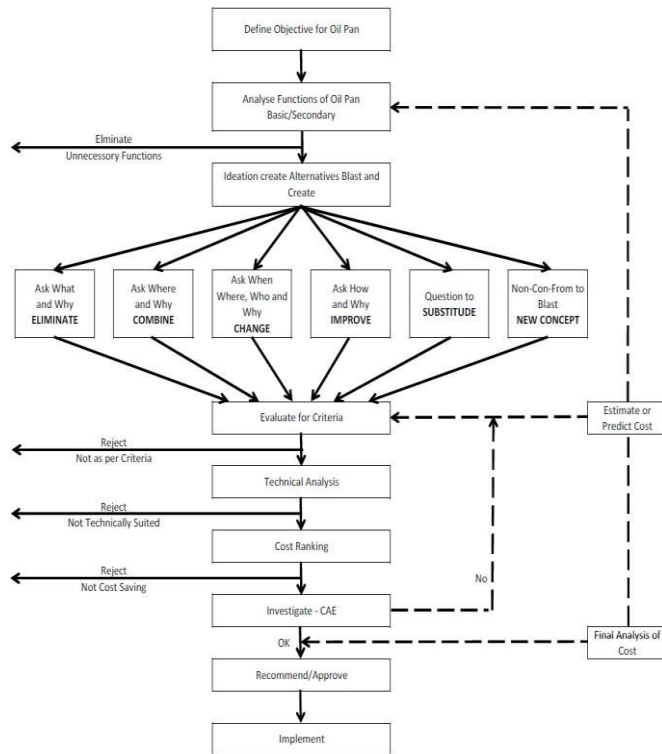


Figure3.FlowDiagramof ValueEngineering

**v INTRODUCTIONOFOILPAN:**

Oil pans (Refer Figure 4)are a major engine coolingsystem parts. They are usually constructed of Aluminum andshaped into a deeper section to fully perform its function. It isalso where the oil pump is placed. When an engine (refer figure5) is running or at rest, oil pans collects the oil as it flows downfrom the sides of the crankcase. In other words, oil pans that aremountedatthebottomofthecrankcaseservesasanoilreservoir. Engine oil is used for the lubrication, cooling, andcleaningofinternal combustionengines.



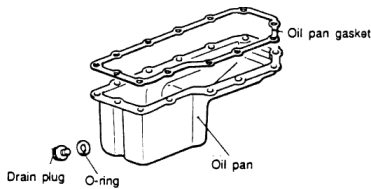


Figure4.OilPanLineDiagram

Generalphase

Thestageissetbyorganizingthetaskforce,identifying the decision makers, selecting the areas of effort,assigningthespecifictasks.

Thetasksare,

- ToreducethecostofOilPan.
- ToIncreasetheProductionrateofOilPan.

To achieve the above tasks, A work group was formed,composedofthreecostanalysts(Sheetmetal,Casting&Plastic

At the bottomof the pan is the oil drain plug that canbe usually removed to allow old oil to low out of the Engineduring an oil exchange. After the used oil drains out, the plug isscrewed back into the drain hole. Drain plugs are often madewith a magnet in it, collecting metal fragments from the oil.Some contains a replaceable washer to avoid leakage caused bycorrosionorwornthreadsinthedrainhole.

VI COOLINGSYSTEMOFENGINE:

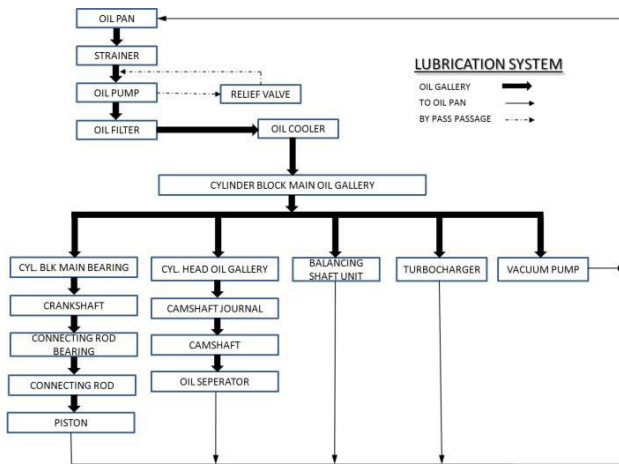


Figure6.CoolingsystemofEngin

## VII PROJECT-VE:

At this stage of VE application, the six steps suggested in the proposed methodology were carried out. specialists) of the VE department, supported by people from other departments such as Engineering, Marketing and Manufacturing.

The group was led by CAE Team Leader and author was in charge of the coordination of the study, contact with the specialists and suppliers, and the promotion of specific studies according to the work schedule plan.

### 2. Information phase:

As a primary source of information, specialists in the company, such as cost analysts, Casting specialists, as well as technical documentation about Oil Pan were consulted.

Presently Oil Pan (refer figure 7) was manufactured in Aluminum Casting Alloy (LM4) with following Chemical composition,

Copper	2.0-4.0%
Magnesium	0.15max.
Silicon	4.0-6.0%
Manganese	0.2-0.6
Nickel	0.3max
Zinc	0.5max
Lead	0.1max
Tin	0.1max
Titanium	0.2max
Iron	0.8max
Aluminium	Reminder

This manufacturing method involves, Raw material cost, Process Cost, Machining Cost, Die Cost, Material Curing time of casting and pan having volume of 6.2 Lit. and have other functional requirements. Oil Pan having 18 mounting holes with dia. 8.5mm for Oil Pan mounting with Cylinder Block.

Oil Pan having the provision for magnetic drain plug for oil drain during oil changing in Engine and magnet is provided for collecting the metal fragments in the Oil.

In the Testing, Leak test should be satisfied with 3bar pressure.

OilPan castings sheetalsopreparedforAluminumCasting Alloy pan. The Cost of the Oil Pan is Rs. 857.59 as per norms. Therequirementofquantityis20000peryear.

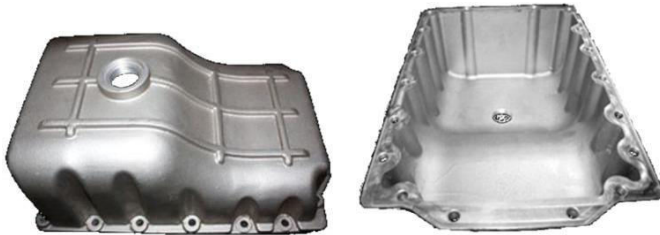


Figure7.AluminumAlloyOilPan

### 3. Functionphase:

In the Function Phase, each and every function if OilPan was analyzed. Those functions are categorized by PrimaryandSecondaryfunctions.

The diagram of the Function Analysis System Technique (FAST) was drawn to determine the interaction of the functions, supplying a systemic vision of the product under analysis, besides facilitating the scope of the study.

#### Primaryfunctions:

1. When an engine is running or at rest, oil pans collect the oil as it flows down from the sides of the crankcase.
2. Attached Drain-Plug is used for collecting metal fragments from the oil.
3. No Leakage of oil while vehicle running or rest.

#### Secondary functions:

1. Aesthetic Look
2. Finishing Quality
3. Cost
4. Easy to Manufacturing, Assemble & Serviceability



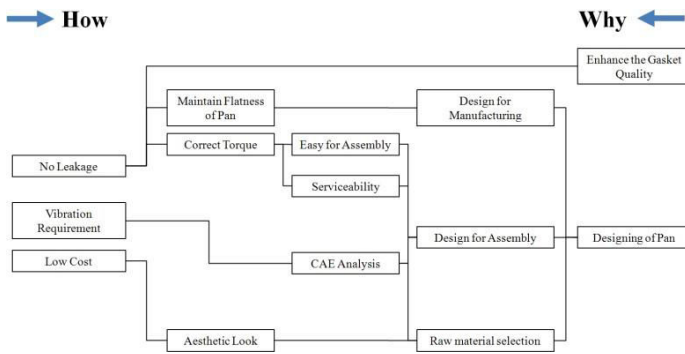


Figure8.FASTDiagramforOil Pan

**4. Creativephase:**

In the Creation Phase, creative ideation techniques are used to generate a multitude of ideas, products, processes, methods, etc., to accomplish the defined function(s).

For Oil Pan improvement, the ideas are generated by team which was having members from Maintenance, Vehicle Service, Marketing, Purchase and Design.

Generated Ideas are,

- a. Oil Pan can be manufactured in Plastic
- b. Material Change -Low cost Aluminum
- c. Decrease the Capacity of Oil Pan
- d. Can decrease the Thickness of Oil pan
- e. Can be develop the Transferent Oil Pan (PC or Acrylic)
- f. Sheet metal Oil pan will reduce the cost
- g. Changing the Supplier for cost reduction
- h. Combination of Aluminum with Sheet metal oil pan
- i. Request the supplier for cost reduction
- j. Increase the Annual Volume of Product for Cost Reduction
- k. Benchmark with other products

**5. Evaluationphase:**

In this phase quantities of ideas generated are now appraised, modified, refined and combined to generate the change proposal.

To find the best possible alternative from the choices we have incorporated a tool named as Decision Matrix (Refer Figure 9). Decision Matrix gives the most appropriate result and is even easy to use.

Decision Matrix											
IDEAS	Manufacturability	Easy of Assembly	Serviceability	Maintainability	Noise & Vibration	Possibility of Leakage	Tool Cost High > 10 Low < 10	Product Cost High > 1 Low < 10	Appearance	Rating	Remarks
2 Material Change - Low cost Aluminum	5	8	6	6	7	7	5	3	6	5.8889	
3 Can decrease the Thickness of Oil pan	5	7	6	6	7	7	5	3	6	5.7778	
4 Can be develop the Transfrent Oil Pan (PC or Acrylic Material)	3	6	6	-	7	6	1	5	9	5.375	
5 Sheet metal Oil pan will reduce the cost	8	8	7	-	4	6	3	8	7	6.375	
6 Combination of Aluminum with Sheet metal oil pan	6	4	7	4	5	5	1	3	6	4.5556	
7 Changing the Supplier for cost reduction										0	Tool Cost to be Invested
8 Decrease the Capacity of Oil Pan										0	Not Accepted
9 Request the supplier for cost reduction										0	
10 Increase the Annual Volume of Product for Cost Reduction										0	Not Accepted
11 Bench mark with other products										0	
	1 - Poor	3 - Satisfy		7 - Good		10 - Very Good					

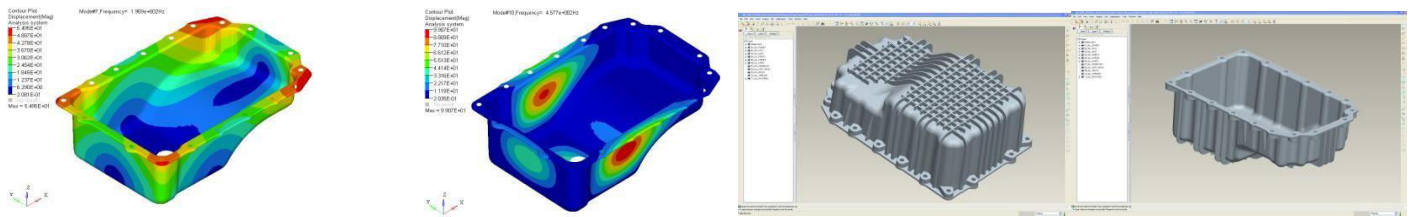
Figure9.Decisionmatrixforideasselection

Based on the above decision matrix, we finalized thebesttwooptionsforfurtherstudy.

Option1

OilPanmaterialchangedtoSheetmetalinsteadofAluminumAlloy.Manufacturingmethodalsochangedtopressingforsh eetmetalmaterial.toolwhichisusedformeshingandCAEanalysisareHypermesh.

MeshedmodelisanalyzedinNastran softwareasmodalanalysisforcheckingthenaturalfrequencylevels.



option2: DesignedPlasticOilPanbasedontheavailableplasticpandesigninthemarket.

Option2

OilPanmaterialandProcesschangedtoPlastic materialandPlasticmolding.

6. Investigationphase:

We go through the existing available sheet metal panandPlasticOilPanintheautomobileindustry.Detailedmethodologywasdevelopedbybasedonthestudyanddiscussio nwith Sheetmetalpressingandmolding expert.

**Option1:** We developed the Sheet metal 3D CAD model for further analysis. Pro Engineer software (Refer Figure 10) is used to modeling and generate 2D drawing. The model is further investigated with NASTRAN software for testing the vibration characteristics of part.

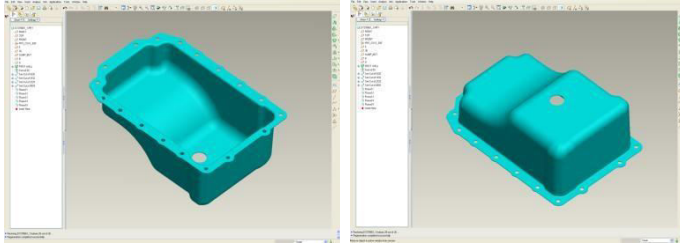


Figure 10. 3D model in Pro Engineer

Created Oil Pan model is saved in .iges format. This .iges file containing the geometry is the input for the CAE

## 6. CONCLUSION AND FURTHER WORK:

- ✓ Based on the analysis, developed sheet metal pan is not meeting the required frequency in the modal analysis. need to be strengthened and analyzed again.
- ✓ Developed Plastic Oil Pan also want to mesh and analysis to validate the vibration requirements.
- ✓ Final decision will be taken by based on CAE results and cost of the Oil Pan.

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