Before submitting a Maker Portfolio, please review the guidelines for MIT's other admissions portfolios.

Please submit media to illuminate your portfolio. With each attachment, include a short description to help us understand what specifically we're looking at. Each project should have a story — we want to hear about your goals, motivations, issues, setbacks, learnings, and decisions. Make sure to share your problem-solving process, not just your visible end result.

How to write a good Maker Portfolio

- In general, we want clear technical explanations that provide useful context. What is it? What did you do? Why did you make it this way? How does it work? What's interesting about it?

- Sometimes, less is more. If you're particularly prolific, we'd love to hear *more* about fewer projects because it helps us understand your process and journey as a maker.

- **Be clear about the current state of any projects that are still in progress.**

- Your portfolio helps us evaluate things *you've* created. **Be clear about your specific contributions**, particularly if you utilized kit components, open-source designs, tutorials, mentors, heavyweight libraries/frameworks, pre-made models, existing hardware, game-making engines, etc.
    - **If submitting a group project**, tell us about your role and how you collaborated with your team.
    - Please cite the full names of collaborators who are also applying to MIT or submitting a Maker Portfolio.

- **Make it as easy as possible for the reviewer to find your work in the wild.** When applicable, include links to project websites, the app store, GitHub, online demos, your personal portfolio, etc. However, we do not guarantee that we will review anything outside Slideroom.

- We take plagiarism *very seriously*. Any deliberate plagiarism attempts (i.e., not including credited fair use of appropriately licensed work) will result in automatic disqualification. For plagiarism purposes, GenAI work is considered the same as taking credit for another human's work.

- Awards and other recognitions are *not* a strong portfolio evaluation signal for us, so please keep them to a very brief mention.

Things we cannot review

- **Patents, patent applications, incorporation, or other legal processes.** However, if you would like to tell us about a project which you *incidentally* also happen to have patented, we will gladly review a concise *engineering project writeup* of what you have made. *We will not read your actual patent.*

- **Any project belonging to a different MIT portfolio's *department***, even if your project cannot be submitted to that portfolio.
    - In other words, we will *not* review musical compositions or performances, acting pieces, creative writing, drawings, etc., regardless of whether they do or don't meet the submission guidelines for the official MIT arts portfolios.

- **Any material that lacks a technical explanation, or that does not help explain your project(s).**
    - We cannot review photos or videos without explanations. All media must come with clear explanations of your work.

- **We cannot review writeups that were created for a very different audience**, such as customers, investors, lawyers, etc. We will *not* review sales pitches/decks, advertisements, movie trailers, media of you receiving awards, patents, or other legal documents. You must submit clear technical explanations that fit our guidelines.

Attachments we accept

- Photos (each photo must have an accompanying description/explanation)

- Video demonstrations
    - **No more than two minutes *total* of video.**
    - Please **only** submit videos that either help explain your projects in a way that cannot be more effectively explained through text/photos, or that prove that your projects work.
        - Videos are most useful to us for projects that involve physical mechanisms or animations.
    - *There is no bonus for submitting a video, for acting, or for being on camera.* If you do decide it's best to submit a video, consider using a voiceover or overlays to make your video more time-efficient.

- **No more than one PDF of technical writeup(s).**

Domain-specific requests

Team competitions

If you work on a student team with a multi-generational history, such as a FIRST Robotics team, please provide your team's number/designation, and a link to your team's website (if one exists).

Software projects

- Minimum requirements for us to review a code project:
    - A clear & concise explanation/demo of your project, which is able to stand alone as an explanation without reading your source code.
    - Read-access to your source code. Github is our preferred third-party host if convenient for you, but other methods are fine if you don't have an account.
    - Point out 1-3 specific places in your code (filepath & line number range) that you want to show off, and explain why. This helps us save valuable reviewer time by starting with the points that give us the most insight into you.

- We may or may not choose to download/run executable files. If your project involves an executable, please include a video runthrough of how you use it, to save time for your reviewers.

- A reminder that we take plagiarism seriously and we are very, very good at finding it. Any deliberate attempts at plagiarism will automatically result in your disqualification from admission to MIT.
    - **AI-assist** will not count against you if you have clearly described how you use it, and are using it like any other assistive/autocompletion tool to simplify generation of tedious language-standard code.
    - However, if you auto-generated *any core points of your project that you are claiming as your own original & unique work* without properly citing use of your tool stack, we will consider it plagiarism. While there are practical uses for this kind of tool, the Maker Portfolio is not the place for it. Your portfolio should showcase your engineering-appropriate critical thinking and your ability to understand low-level details.
    - (Plagiarism of course does not include clearly-credited fair use of third-party material – just do your best to document all your sources & assistive tools, and you'll be fine.)