

LEE WILKERSON

Mechanical Engineer · Product Design & Manufacturing Consultant

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SUMMARY

Degreed mechanical engineer and business developer with 15+ years designing, machining, and building physical products end to end — from early-stage CAD through production tooling, manufacturing process, and the business fundamentals that get a product to market. A hands-on utility player across engineering, fabrication, and operations, with equal fluency in fundraising, financial modeling, and brand development. Currently available for consulting, technical advisory, or a collaborator / technical co-founder role.

CORE COMPETENCIES

CAD & Design: SolidWorks (advanced surfacing, assemblies, BOM, drawings), SolidWorks Visualize, SolidWorks CAM, DXF programming for waterjet/laser

Machining & Fabrication: CNC mill/router, lathe, surface grinding to ± 0.0005 ", waterjet, laser, sheet metal, tooling & fixture design

Composites: Mold design & CNC-programmed plugs, vacuum infusion, hand layup, gel coat & cosmetic finishing, resin systems

Electrical & Fluid Systems: 120/240/480V 3-phase wiring, VFD & control panels, pneumatic circuits, pump selection, process plumbing, glycol chilling, CO2 distribution

Business & Startup: Fundraising (SAFE/convertible notes), financial modeling, pitch decks, patent process, global sourcing, brand development

EXPERIENCE

Exactlee Design & Development — Founder / Design & Manufacturing Consultant

San Luis Obispo, CA · 2026–Present

- Independent product design and manufacturing consulting practice: CAD, prototyping, composites, CNC machining consulting, and startup advisory
- Mechanical engineering advisor, SLO Small Business Development Center — mentors first-time founders and engineering students

Space Campers — Co-Founder

San Luis Obispo, CA · 2020–2026

- Designed and built a composite truck cap and pop-up wedge camper for the Tesla Cybertruck, full-stack ownership of design, engineering, manufacturing, and brand
- SolidWorks surfacing, assemblies, and CAM; CNC-programmed MDF/foam mold plugs; vacuum infusion and hand-laid composite production
- Raised capital via SAFE and convertible notes; built investor financial models and pitch decks; filed design and utility patents
- Delivered 20+ units to customers; product launch press coverage drew millions of views in its first week

Whalebird Kombucha — Co-Founder / Business Partner

San Luis Obispo, CA

- Built the company from an empty facility: secured the space, designed and built production equipment, and ran fermentation operations
- Designed and installed glycol chilling, CO2 distribution, and CIP systems; specified pumps and process plumbing
- Developed a tank-geometry fermentation method that naturally held kombucha under 0.5% ABV without intervention

Specialty Silicone Products — Production Engineer

San Luis Obispo, CA

- Designed new production tooling and operated knife-coater systems for precision silicone layers over substrates

- Troubleshoot production floor issues — gel inclusions, cure defects, substrate adhesion — across injection-molded, extruded, and cast silicone lines

Breedt Inc. — Machine Shop / Tool Room Lead

- Managed a 5-person shop team at age 24 across CNC mills, waterjet, laser, and sheet metal fabrication
- Built press tools, pneumatic saws, and precision fixtures under master toolmaker Andries Breedt

WISErg — Lead Engineer, Bioreactor Design

Redmond, WA

- Led design of biodigesters that intake, weigh, grind, and process grocery-store food waste on-site, continuously monitoring pH and moisture
- Redesigned the production unit from a \$300k price tag down to \$70k; the version that was actually built and delivered in numbers

EDUCATION

B.S., Mechanical Engineering *(not a licensed Professional Engineer)*

PATENTS

Design patents granted; utility patents pending for Space Campers products (Cybertruck composite camper shell and wedge camper systems)