

# Saket Vora

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## Summary of Qualifications

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- Hardware Engineering Manager & System Architect for high volume, high quality consumer electronics.
- Designed products in mobile devices, wearables, automotive, aerospace, lighting, appliances, etc.
- Highly experienced across multiple domains: hardware design & execution, program management, manufacturing operations, industry research, data analytics, team building, org culture & processes.
- Cumulative 9+ months of on-the-ground factory build experience across 16 trips to China.
- End-to-end ownership: concept & architecture, rapid hands-on prototyping, bringup & testing, design for manufacturing, working across hardware, software, product, and operations domains.

## Work Experience

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**Stealth Aerospace Startup**, Redwood City, CA 9/2024 - Present

### Lead Avionics Electrical Engineer

- Responsible for entire avionics architecture & design of a novel aerospace vehicle.
- Key systems include: high performance microcontrollers, embedded Linux SBCs (Jetson Orin Nano & Raspberry Pi), IMUs, GNSS, magnetometers, airspeed sensors, servos, cameras (LWIR & RGB), mmWave radar, multi-cell lithium ion batteries, radios (WiFi, LoRA, ISM, etc), antenna selection
- Schematic/layout, build, & bringup of 7+ different PCBs across 5+ iterations in less than 12mo.
- Owned all wire harnessing and cable interconnects (15+ cables) across a dozen connector families.
- Assembly SOPs, wrote factory test software, vendor engagement, participated in field flight testing.

**SV Product Consulting**, Santa Cruz, CA 11/2019 - Present

### Founder & CEO

- Consulting for consumer electronics specializing in product definition, system architecture, hardware development, organization structure, design for manufacturing, and production.
- Notable Clients
  - **Humane, Inc.**, San Francisco, CA 9/2023 - 7/2024
    - Root-caused & fixed catastrophic ship-stop peak power problem at PVT
    - Identified major gap in battery fuel gauge algorithm & led validation efforts to improve
    - Peak and idle power characterization and optimization, working across Wireless (Cellular, WiFi), SystemSW, CV/ML Algorithms, Thermals, etc.
    - Discovered and drove implementation of a module standby power state resulting in 25-38% standby idle power reduction (massive step for a post-ship platform).
    - Extensive work with Qualcomm mobile platforms, multi-chip platforms, and batteries.
  - **Reconnect Inc.**, Portland, ME 1/2020 - 12/2020
    - Served as 'VP Hardware' for a startup wanting to build a human-centered compassionate tech stack for the criminal justice market.
    - Designed low power wearable device to interface with mobile phones, beacons/hubs, along with location & low powered GPS and cellular chipsets.
  - **Coral Labs**, San Mateo, CA 1/2020 - 11/2020
    - Architected a novel computer-vision, laser augmented surface profiling system for a at-home automated nail manicure device.
    - Guided the team through the industrial design exploration process with Whipsaw.

**Mill Industries, Inc.**, Menlo Park, CA

*Mill designs organic food waste processing units to reduce methane emissions in landfills.*

Lead Systems Engineer

2/2021 - 2/2022

- First EE Systems hire; designed platform architecture spanning microcontrollers, wireless connectivity, sensors, motor control, wire harnessing, product integration, UX, power, and EMC.
- Extensive sensor validation & downselection (gas, temperature, environmental) work via test reactor.

*Note: Resigned after one year due to pressing family needs; became stay-at-home father to support family.*

**Inboard Technology, Inc.**, Santa Cruz, CA

*Inboard designs micromobility vehicles - electric scooters & skateboards for consumer & fleet markets.*

VP of Engineering

6/2019 - 10/2019

- Leadership across all aspects of engineering including hardware, software, cloud, and manufacturing.
- Key contributor to fundraising efforts, strategic partnership discussions, and customer relations.

*Note: Company shutdown in 10/2019 due to lack of funds.*

**Noon Home, Inc.**, Cupertino, CA

*Noon Home creates premium residential lighting control systems with award winning UX and modular design.*

Head of Hardware Engineering

9/2017- 5/2018

- Led hardware organization of electrical, mechanical, firmware, and lab teams; reporting to the CEO.
- Helped refine product roadmap, re-think system architecture for next-gen products for features & cost, and worked with Operations team for vendor selections & cost-down opportunities.
- Successfully guided team through UL qualification process during critical pre-launch phase.
- Advocated & helped architect novel communication protocol mux through product's existing blade connectors to greatly speed up debug & programming of form-factor devices.

*Note: My role was affected in a strategy shift accompanying a RIF in 5/2018.*

**Pearl Automation, Inc.**, Scotts Valley, CA

*Pearl developed premium automotive retrofit driver assistance products to make driving safer & convenience.*

System Architect & Product Lead

6/2014- 6/2017

- Founding team member (employee #5) in a fast-paced start-up (80+ people with \$50M in funding).
- Helped drive product definition & system architecture across EE, ME, SW, and Product domains for a fully wireless rearview camera with stereovision-powered obstacle alerts and low-latency video.
- Spearheaded efforts around data architecture & analytics, including vendor selection.
- Led deep dive into mapping for autonomous vehicles – key vendors, business model, and PoCs.
- Policy & industry researcher around AVs, OEMs, Tier1/2 suppliers, NHTSA, & Regulatory landscape.
- Contributor to social media presence & strategy, including Medium posts and podcast interviews.

*Note: Company shutdown in 6/2017 due to lack of funds after failed acquisition talks.*

**Apple Inc.**, Cupertino, CA

Hardware Engineering Manager – Apple Watch

9/2013 – 6/2014

- Managed a team of 8 engineers responsible for product architecture, hardware design, build support, and validation for first-generation Apple Watch. Contributed to hiring and org structure.
- Tackled complex manufacturing & supply chain issues for the innovative, fully integrated S1 chip.
- Successfully brought together EE, RF, Touch, Display, UX, and Security teams to identify critical architecture issue that resulted in a silicon spin to resolve (US Patent: 9299072).
- Helped architect & secure cross-functional buy-in for a brand new debug & development ecosystem that the connector-less, iOS-based Watch required (first of its kind for Apple).

Hardware Systems Integrator – iPhone

10/2012 – 9/2013

- Owned main logic board schematic & design for iPhone 5S, responsible for optimal integration of core SoC, Memory, PMIC, Cameras, Acoustics, Displays/Touch, and Sensors.
- Technical lead on driving multiple ship-block critical issues to resolution.
- Represented hardware team & presented key issues at weekly executive reviews.

## Hardware Systems Integrator – iPod

9/2010 – 10/2012

- Technical Lead for 7<sup>th</sup>-gen iPod Nano. Drove chipset selection & system architecture, owned schematic & board design, led HW/FW integration efforts, managed factory & build validation.
- Schematic and board lead for 4<sup>th</sup>-gen iPod Shuffle.

## **Education**

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Stanford University, Stanford, CA

2007 – 2009

- M.S. in Electrical Engineering

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

2003 – 2007

- B.S. in Electrical Engineering, summa cum laude.
- Park Scholarship: most prestigious, merit-based, 4-year scholarship at NC State.

US Citizen, native born.

## **Everything Else**

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- I'm father to three young girls (7yo eldest, and 5yo twins) and a white fluffy dog named Luna
- My wife (Chrissy Meyer) is a deeptech VC partner at Root Ventures
- Has lived in Santa Cruz by the ocean for the last 12 years but still doesn't surf (yet) or mountain bike (yet)
- Coaches kids recreational soccer, Bay FC season ticket holder (women's professional soccer team)