EDUC766: Alignment Overview and Chart for EZ Block Sizer Software Project

Amy Koshoshek-Winkler

Overview:

Creating an alignment chart for an instructional design project provides a good overview that connects the objectives, learning activities and assessments into one document. Having all the components documented in one place helps provide a good pathway for team members to follow; or if necessary redesign to better align the components with the terminal and enabling objectives. Using an alignment chart allows me (or another member of the team) to verify the alignment and also check that there a good variety of absorb, do or connect activities planned for the instructions to meet the objectives.

Problem Identification:

Currently ABC Company relies on contacting an outside consultant to supply important vent and/or vacuum block measurements to potential customers for future die cast products. (It sometimes takes over a week to receive the measurement calculations back from the consultant.) In the near future, ABC Company will be able to access and use a new EZ Block Sizer web-based software application that allows mechanical engineers (and/or sales employees) to enter specific information into a software application and create an inquiry and block sizing request for proposal (RFP) for vent and/or vacuum blocks for a potential die cast customer. The EZ Block Sizer software application accurately calculates the evacuation area and size of a device used to evacuate a die casting cavity used in the high pressure die casting process. The software application utilizes a series of casting and machine attributes to perform calculations providing a result that is used in selecting the block size.

Delivery Options:

The instructions for the training will be delivered via instructor-led (ILT) classroom presentations which include software demonstrations and a PowerPoint presentation that includes visuals/screenshots of the software. The instruction will also include hands-on activities with the software, small group question and answer activities with instructor and peer feedback, tests and job aids. An important part of the face-to-face training is to have access to the software demo environment via the Internet for the hands-on activities.

Alignment Chart

Terminal Objective: The mechanical engineer will access the web-based EZ Block Sizer software via a computer.				
Enabling Objectives	**Assessment Idea**	**Absorb Activity**	**Do Activity**	**Connect Activity**
Using a computer, the mechanical engineer will open a web browser and enter the EZ Block Sizer software URL into the browser address field on the first attempt	**Hands-on Activity** **Observation** of hands-on activity and instructor feedback	Read documentation	**Hands-on Activity:** The learner performs hands-on activity of opening a browser and entering the EZ Block Sizer URL into the address field. **Observation**: Instructor feedback of the learner practicing hands-on activity.	
Using a computer, the mechanical engineer will enter the user name and password to log in to the EZ Block Sizer software on the first attempt.	**Hands-on activity** **Observation** of hands-on activity and instructor feedback	Read documentation	**Hands-on Activity**: The learner performs hands-on computer activity entering their user name and password in the fields provided in the EZ Block Sizer software demo. **Observation**: Instructor feedback of the learner practicing hands-on activity.	

Alignment Chart

Terminal Objective: The mechanical engineer will navigate to the various pages in the EZ Block Sizer software.				
Enabling Objectives	**Assessment Idea**	**Absorb Activity**	**Do Activity**	**Connect Activity**
Using a computer, the mechanical engineer will locate (identify) the Home, Inquiries, Block Sizing, and Machine Database pages in the EZ Block Sizer software on the first attempt.	**Drag and Drop Matching Activity**	Read documentation	**Drag and Drop Matching Activity** Includes screenshot with the main areas of the software. The learner drags the functionality description to the correct location on the software screenshot. Learner can practice this activity multiple times.	

Alignment Chart

Terminal Objective: The mechanical engineer will identify the pertinent information entered on the customer form to create and save a new Cold or Hot Chamber inquiry and block sizing in the EZ Block Sizer software.				
Enabling Objectives	**Assessment Idea**	**Absorb Activity**	**Do Activity**	**Connect Activity**
Given a customer information form, the mechanical engineer will identify and enter the customer information into the appropriate corresponding fields in the EZ Block Sizer software Inquiry page and save the inquiry on the first attempt.	**Multiple Choice/Pick Questions** **Observation** of hands-on activity and instructor/class feedback	Watch presentation	**Multiple Choice/Pick Questions** The learner picks the required fields (picks 5 from the list of 10). Learner can practice this activity multiple times. **Observation:** Upon successfully answering the multiple pick/choice question, the learner performs a hands-on practice activity with the software. The learner enters/selects the corresponding data associated with the required fields into the Create New Inquiry page. The instructor (and software via error messages) will give feedback when necessary.	Job aid with corresponding fields checked.
Given a customer information form, the mechanical engineer will identify and enter the customer information into the appropriate corresponding fields (Cold or Hot Chamber) in the EZ Block Sizer software Block Sizing page on the first attempt. (FYI - Information entered on this page is automatically saved and recalculated.)	**Hands-on Activity** **Observation** of hands-on activity and instructor/class feedback	Watch presentation	**Hands-on Activity** The learner enters/selects the corresponding data associated with the required fields into the software demo. (FYI – This is the core of the software, so additional observation, feedback and interaction is critical to learning how this page and data inputs interact.) **Observation** Instructor and class feedback.	Job aid with corresponding fields checked.

Alignment Chart

Terminal Objective: The mechanical engineer will analyze (compare) the vent and vacuum block size input/output information for Cold or Hot Chamber inquiries and block sizing.				
Enabling Objectives	**Assessment Idea**	**Absorb Activity**	**Do Activity**	**Connect Activity**
The mechanical engineer will conclude if the variances between the ABC Company pre-set (generated and/or calculated) parameters and the customer information are correct and within the 15% variance allowed by ABC Company.	**Guided Analysis with Q & A** **True/False Questions**	Instructor shares a story and then learner watches a presentation.	**Guided Analysis** A variety of guided analysis exercises using the software that compares and contrasts data that is within the 15% variance. The learner is able to change the data input to observe the block sizing output changes. Question and Answer activities with instructor and other learners. Conduct a Question and Answer activity after each guided analysis exercise.	
			True/False Questions: Given different examples of correct and incorrect block sizing, learner will conclude if the examples are correct and within the 15% variance allowed by ABC Company.	

Alignment Chart

Terminal Objective: The mechanical engineer will produce and send the inquiry and block sizing to the customer.				
Enabling Objectives	**Assessment Idea**	**Absorb Activity**	**Do Activity**	**Connect Activity**
The mechanical engineer will send the correct inquiry and block sizing information to the customer via an email on the first attempt**.**	**Multiple Choice/Pick Questions** **Observation** of the learner sending an email.	Watch a presentation	**Multiple Choice/Pick Questions** The learner needs to pick the correct answer to conclude if the block sizing information is ready to send to a prospective client. Learner can practice this activity multiple times. **Observation**: The learner sending an email that includes the correct block sizing information.	Job aid with a correct block sizing sample of a formatted email sent to client.