



CHECKLIST

10 COMPONENTS YOU SHOULD NEVER USE IN A PRODUCT

USB Micro-B Connectors

- [*] Never use USB Micro-B connectors in production products
- [*] Instead, use USB-C for modern products (required by EU regulations)

Through-Hole Components

- [*] Never default to through-hole parts when SMD equivalents exist
- [*] Instead, use SMD components for automated assembly and lower cost

Barrel Jack Power Connectors

- [*] Never use barrel jack connectors for customer-facing power input
- [*] Instead, use USB-C with Power Delivery for most consumer products

Unshielded DC-DC Converter Inductors

- [*] Never use unshielded inductors with switching regulators
- [*] Instead, use shielded inductors from Würth, Coilcraft, or TDK

Cheap Electrolytic Capacitors

- [*] Never use no-name electrolytic capacitors in your BOM
- [*] Instead, use Panasonic, Nichicon, or Rubycon branded capacitors

Bare Pin Headers

- [*] Never use bare 2.54 mm pin headers as production connectors
- [*] Instead, use JST, Molex, or Hirose connectors with keying

Mechanical Relays

- [*] Never default to mechanical relays when solid-state alternatives work
- [*] Instead, use solid-state relays or MOSFETs for DC loads

Single-Source or EOL Components

- [*] Never design with single-source or end-of-life components
- [*] Instead, verify second-source alternatives before committing to BOM

Counterfeit or Clone ICs

- [*] Never buy ICs from unauthorized distributors or gray market sources
- [*] Instead, purchase from authorized distributors like Mouser, DigiKey, or Arrow

Hobby-Grade Sensors

- [*] Never use Arduino-style hobby sensors in production products
- [*] Instead, use industrial sensors with I2C/SPI interfaces from reputable suppliers

For Entrepreneurs and Startups:

Develop and launch your electronic product **FASTER** without costly mistakes!

Doing it alone is slow and risky. Small missteps now can become big problems later. Skip the mistakes and launch faster.

→ Frustrated things aren't moving as fast as you want?

Feeling unsure what to do next? ←

Meet your guide: John Teel



Hey there, I'm a former microchip design engineer at Texas Instruments and founder of a hardware startup that sold products in hundreds of retail stores. My chip designs are in devices from Apple, Intel, and more.

Now, my full-time focus is helping people like you bring new electronic products to life, without wasting time, money, or risking everything.

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