**Obinna Ikeako\_24071595\_Critique**

Solar powered fountain 1J1AS01A021

1. Write a critique of the original instructions (instructions for a solar powered fountain). Discuss problems with (A) content, (B) layout, (C) organisation, (D) writing style, and (E) graphics.
2. Using any software tool of your choice, revise the instructions and improve on the original.

* You can be as imaginative as you like in your approach to the layout and design of the new instructions.

**ORGANIZATION & LAYOUT.**

* Table of contents are missing.
* There is no page numbering in this document. ‘A0’ is written at the top right-hand corner of each page. This is confusing.
* Manufacturers name and product model are absent. They should be on the title (first) page.
* 1J1AS01A021 is written at the bottom right hand of the title page. It is unclear what this refers to.
* The instructions requesting customers to remove the protective film from the solar panel (A) should come first, rather than being buried towards the back of the manual.
* The label ‘Accessories’ should be renamed and called ‘list of parts’ or ‘parts list’.
* The orientation of the manual is not consistent. The last page (specification), is oriented in sideways in a Landscape format, unlike the prior pages.
* Information should appear in the order the audience will want-need to assemble the product. The numbers (1,2,3,4,5 etc.) should have been used to show the order to follow when assembling the solar powered fountain.
* The manual should have had a distinct and separate heading for the cleaning instructions.
* I question the relevance of the final page (The specifications page).
* The manual should have an introduction for customers
* The manual should include contact details and a telephone number for the consumer to refer to
* A warning sign could be used instead of text, in appropriate points in the document

**GRAPHICS**

* The front-page graphic of the fountain and a black sun, do not look realistic. The picture of the fountain does not resemble the finished product. The Black sun is unnecessary.
* The table should have used a different Letter and number for connecting pipe B7, to clearly distinguish it from the nozzles.
* The graphics for the accessories are inconsistent because some of the accessories are drawn as three dimensional, but others (A, B4, B5, C) are drawn as two dimensional.
* In Installation Step 4: Install the fixed rod, instructions say “Put D into C”. Meanwhile the graphic (Fig 2.) indicates the user should “put C into D”.
* In Installation Step 5: “Put H into G”, the lettering is so small, it is difficult to distinguish between ‘H’ and ‘G’. (Fig 3)
* The attachment of the anti-collision poles and fasteners to the bottom of the solar panel pump was poorly described, and the pictures are not clear. I found the process confusing to understand.
* The figure drawn between figure 3 and figure 4, is blurred, and does not have a title
* There should be a disclaimer indicating that accessories are not drawn to scale.

**CONTENT & STYLE**

* The print is not of high quality.
* The sentences are occasionally too verbose instead of being simple and clear.
* The instructions are inconsistent, not well organized, and fail to achieve their purpose. Parts of the manual were difficult to understand.
* Incorrect formatting of figures/diagrams. Standard format requires figures to have a brief description and to be left adjusted.

**REDESIGN PROCESS**

My first approach to this challenge was to read and re-read the original instructions. It was important for me understand the product myself, before attempting to instruct others in how to use it.

Original accessories page on the left, my redesign showing the introduction and contents page on the right. Michelle Mercier 2025.

I sourced images from several different websites in order to find the clearest images of each part. The images I chose for each part were all photos, and shown from similar angles. For the contents page, I edited all the part photos together into a cohesive image, removed all backgrounds, and labelled each part simply with either a single number or letter.

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I also attached labelled photos to each page of (re)written instructions, as a visual aid. It was difficult to find and edit so many matching photos, however I’m satisfied with the result, so I believe the effort was worth it.

I ensured that all of the pages were numbered, the sections clearly labelled, and a table of contents was provided on the inside cover. All images in the improved instructions manual were full-colour photos of a similar style and quality.

I wrote out brand new instructions in plain English. I also added a troubleshooting section, segmented by which problem the user could be facing, to allow the user to quickly find the solution to their issue. This replaced a cluttered notes section in the original instructions.

References.

Tufte, E. (2001) The Visual Display of Quantitative Information. 2nd Ed. Graphics Press.

Markel, M. and Selber, S.A. (2021). Technical Communication. 13th ed. USA: Macmillan International.