

# Rubber Duck Engineering

A 2024 Photography Challenge Submission

Team BA2 - Ba2 Robotics

Sam Fischbach, Omeed Shahhosseini, David Mkrtchyan, Eric Jacoby, and  
Ian Candelario

Los Angeles, California

Our submission, titled “Rubber Duck Engineering”, embodies what makes us unique. Unlike most VEX U teams, or most robotics teams in general, we don’t come from one unified location. Our small team of five is spread out across Southern California, some hours apart from each other. This creates regular problems where we are unable to see each other for weeks or even months at a time. However, robotics is a team based sport. In order to keep our team alive and functioning, we use remote contact and communication methods, like Discord and Zoom to host our team meetings. And we took that a step further with our method of “Rubber Duck Engineering,” a practice where one member of our team verbally explains their process of whatever engineering task they are approaching to the rest of the team to help diagnose problems even while apart.

The photo attached for our submission is a picture of one of our meetings in which we used Rubber Duck Engineering. We were able to be together in a sense, despite being separated by dozens and dozens of miles. When approaching this online challenge and questioning what made us stand apart from the rest, we realized it's the fact that we, ourselves are apart from each other that makes us unique. This team stretches boundaries for each other, and the Rubber Duck keeps us strong.