

P type – positive type semiconductor

Packaging – the containers in which products are sold

PCB – a printed circuit board

Permanent stitch – the final strong stitching

Performance requirements – The technical considerations that must be achieved within the product

Perspective – giving the impression of depth

Photosynthesis – the process in plants of making glucose by using energy from the sun

PIC – peripheral interface controller, the microcontroller

Pickling – preserving with vinegar

Pictograms – drawings of certain actions like ironing, washing etc

Pictorial drawings – a realistic, rendered drawing of the project

Piezoelectric – a material which can change shape when a voltage is applied, and vice versa

Pilot hole – a small hole used to stop materials splitting when using nails or screws

Pinion – a smaller gear

Pivot point – a point of rotation

Planishing – hammering the surface of sheet metals

Plastic memory – when reheated thermoplastics try to return to their previous shape

Pneumatics – using compressed air to move things

Polymer – a molecule formed when monomers are joined together

Polystyrene foam – a thermoplastic material used for modelling

Port – where air enters and leaves a pneumatic component

Potentiometer – a variable resistor

Precious metals – rare metals such as gold, silver and platinum

Presentation drawings – coloured drawings which show the product as if in 3D

Preserve – to keep fruit or vegetables from spoiling

Preset resistor – a screwdriver operated variable resistor

Primary research – research which you collect

Prioritise – the order in which things need to be done

Product - the finished article

Programmable – a chip that can be loaded with a program and run

Programmer – a device which programs computer chips

Properties – the characteristics of a material or ingredient

Proposals – the things you intend to do

Protein – body building material

Prototype – a model to test an idea before production

Pulley – a wheel with a groove in its rim for a belt to run in

Pulse width – the time a digital signal is on or off

Pulses – a general word for beans, peas and lentils

PVA – poly vinyl acetate