

Babos

A work log app that shows, with bubbles, how much of your head each project is taking up

WHEN

Aug - Oct 2026

PLATFORMS

macOS, Windows, iPhone

LANGUAGES

Japanese, Chinese, English

01

Background and goal

BACKGROUND

Freelance projects often lack clear date milestones. I only kept notes, and the tools I had used at work were technical and unintuitive.

PROBLEM

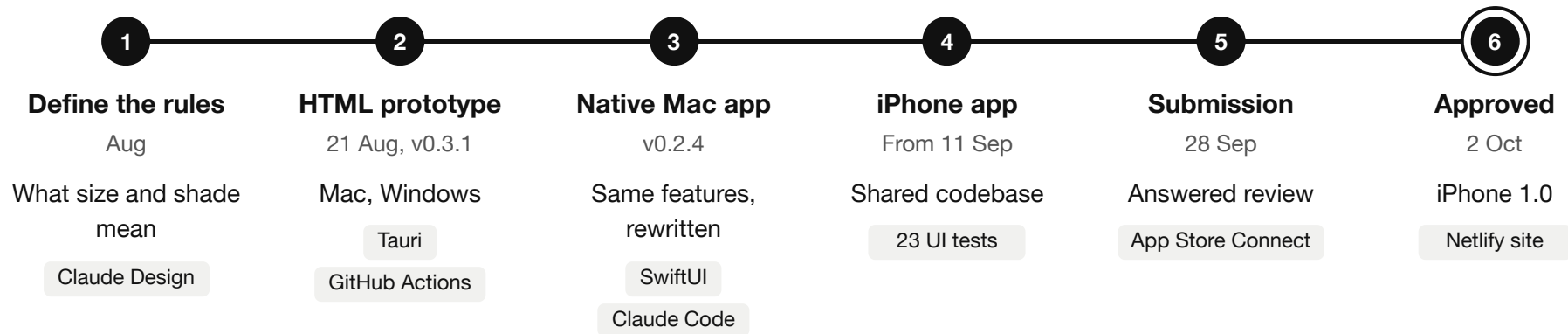
Those tools split work by date. The costliest part is the middle, going back and forth with the client. Once the direction is agreed, the rest follows and the end is the lightest.

GOAL

Intuitive, relative and relaxed: a progress log that feels like a pocket notebook.

02

Process

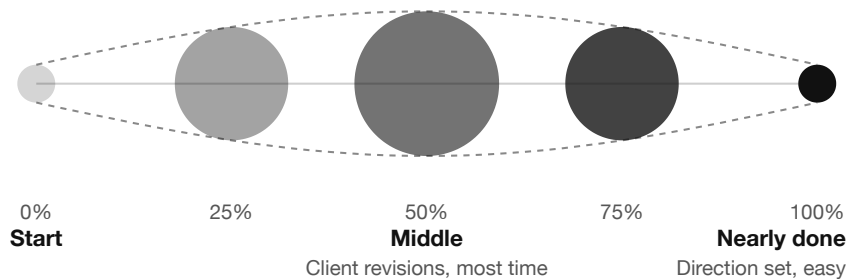


03

Design rule

One shape, two meanings

Bubble size = how much mental load it takes now (small, large, small)
 Shade = how far along (darker = closer to done)



TRADE-OFFS Tried, then cut

- ☒ ~~Progress ring~~
- ☒ ~~Fading opacity~~
- ☒ ~~Importance sets size~~

- ☒ **Size = mental load**
- Shade = progress so far**

04

Problems and fixes

Four key corrections

PROBLEM

Saving failed and the screen showed nothing

On launch, old data overwrote the original file

After a failed read, saving wrote an empty file

Review asked for more information and showed "Rejected"

WHAT I DID

→ Show the save status in Settings so errors are no longer swallowed

→ Added a gate: no writing until the file has been read

→ Block saving and warn; automatic daily backup, keep 7

→ Recorded a walkthrough video and answered each item

PRINCIPLE

→ **If you must catch an error, leave a way out on screen**

→ **Check the order first, features second**

→ **Data must never be lost**

→ **Spell out the review rules before submitting**

05

Working split

I decide, AI builds

MY ROLE

Product definition

Visual, interaction

Acceptance

Release

01

Me
Define needs

02

AI
Build

03

AI
Explain code

04

Me
Accept, weigh

05

AI
3-way check

06

Me
Choose fixes

07

Me
Answer review

06

Results

3

Languages
JA, ZH, EN

3

Platforms
Mac, Windows,
iPhone

23+11

Automated tests
UI, unit

4

Data-loss risks
fixed before release

1.0

iPhone approved
Mac version in review

Claude's view

The collaborator's opinion, not written by the author.

Claude's view Collaborator's opinion	
WORKED WELL • One shape, two meanings, from a real observation. • Rejected options and formula rationale recorded.	COULD BE BETTER • Validated only by the author so far. • Data-loss risks found only after submission.
AUTHOR Catches errors, takes evidence Admits weaknesses Wants process, not talk Delegates, but understands	

Company details are anonymised. No screenshots or internal data are included.