

3D Printing How-To FAQs

What Printer?

Ender 3

- <https://smile.amazon.com/Comgrow-Creality-Ender-Aluminum-220x220x250mm/dp/B07BR3F9N6>

Ender 3 Pro?

PRUSA Mini

- “Not chinese”...really? Is that like my “domestic” chevy and dodge trucks that were built in Mexico/South America?

Matt's Gucci Raise3D

- Dual extrusion
- High temps

I see attachments and upgrades, what do they do? Do I need them?

- <https://smile.amazon.com/Comgrow-Upgraded-Replacement-Aluminum-Extruder/dp/B07B5118T7>
 - Upgraded drive parts. These components push the plastic into the extruder head, to be laid down. Upgraded metal components have a longer life and may clog less.
- <https://smile.amazon.com/Creality-Enclosure-Temperature-Soundproof-Dustproof/dp/B0852TT63F>
 - An enclosure helps keep temperatures higher, for use with materials that aren't the standard PLA.
- <https://smile.amazon.com/Motherboard-Mainboard-V1-1-5with-Customized-Non-Standard/dp/B07TFTVTXK>
 - Replacement motherboard in the event of an electronics failure.
- <https://smile.amazon.com/0-4mm-Hotend-Creality-CR-10S-Printers/dp/B0872R1477>
 - An all-metal hot-end has a longer service life, and can better withstand higher temperatures.
- <https://smile.amazon.com/Creality-Assembled-Extruder-Capricorn-Pneumatic/dp/B082PGCF2B>
 - Another all-metal hot-end.

Where do I download the files?

The internet is a hell of a place. I can't tell you for certain these links will be working forever, but as of the time of this writing (April 2020), there are tons of places to get files. For general stuff, check out thingiverse. For the real good stuff, you have to do a little more work. Right now

[DEFCAD](#) is up and running, which requires a quick account setup process. Aside from that, Ivan the Troll has a great [repository](#) of projects he's been involved with or adjacent to.

FOSSCAD publishes [repositories](#) of arm-related files on a regular basis. They are several gigs in size. I will caution that many files found in these "megapacks" are untested. Do your research.

What print material?

For starting out, I recommend [eSun PLA+](#), and [Sunlu PLA+](#). It's a little less brittle than standard PLA. But for parts where strength isn't as important, regular old PLA works and is super easy to work with. [Hatchbox](#) has worked well.

As you gain experience, you'll play around with nylon and carbon-infused filaments. But for starting out, stick with PLA and PLA+.

What if I'm a technological walnut?

That's okay! Walnuts, provided they can follow simple directions, should be perfectly well suited to getting the job done.

There's a printer sitting on my desk, now what?!

Congratulations! You should do some research now. Our friend CTRL+PEW has an excellent [getting started guide](#) that covers all this.

What are common setup mistakes to not repeat?

- Leveling: Don't rush straight into printing. Get your printer's bed level. If your printer has an auto-level feature, read about how to use it. If it doesn't, I recommend taking a sheet of paper and running it back and forth under the print nozzle, at several different locations along the print bed..
- Make sure your print nozzle is higher than the bed before you start. The nozzle crashing into the bed can cause damage.

Can I AK receiver?

You can indeed [Plastikov](#). The receiver works on AKM-pattern firearms. Commonly available parts kits with pre-populated and headspaced barrels make for a fairly easy and straightforward project.

How do I Glock?

There are myriad glock, and other handgun frame models that work well with 3D printing. Getting your hands on a complete parts kit, everything less receiver, and some DIY work with aluminum blocks to create rails, can result in a great, long-lasting handgun. You can find tutorials on these projects in the previous links.