

Getting Started with 3D Printing

What it is:

A process for creating physical objects by printing in layers of material.



"3D Printer – the First Layer" Created by Luke Jones at <https://flickr.com/photos/23642145@N00/16661915478>

How it works:

Step 1: create a 3D file using a virtual design program, modeling application, or 3D scanner

Step 2: select a printer and printing material – most common are “Fused Deposition Modeling” printers, which print by extruding molten material (ABA or PLA plastic filament)

Step 3: send the file to a printer (usually using a thumb drive or SD card) and start the print

- a 2x4 solid Lego part would take about 4 minutes to print
- a semi-hollow baseball would take about 2 hours to print

Resources:

Tutorial – Lynda.com course, “Up and Running with 3D Printing” <http://tinyurl.com/ld4y5le>

Tinkercad – online application for creating 3D printable objects <https://www.tinkercad.com/>

Thingiverse – community for finding and sharing 3D printable files <http://www.thingiverse.com/>

Denver Public Library 3D Printer – free to the public <https://www.denverlibrary.org/idealab3D>



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