

I just got a 3D Printer. What do I do first?

A quick-start guide based on the Monoprice Select Mini

1. Buy tape and filament

Sample filament won't go far so you'll want more. Most users choose online retailers when shopping.

Also helpful is blue painter's tape to replace the tan tape that comes pre-installed. 3M 2090 for example.

2. Read the manual

Seems obvious, but the manual really will answer most questions. It's not long, so read it before reaching out for help. People are more likely to help you if you do.

3. Level the bed

This is huge! Most print problems are solved this way. Gently move the print head and bed around to each of the corners and use the screws to get the bed leveled out. You should be able to slide a piece of paper under the print head with only a little resistance to tugging. Pro tip: warm up the nozzle and bed first.

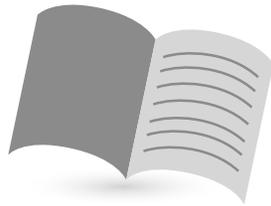
4. Print included files

This will make sure everything is working and is also a lot of fun to watch. There are several neat files on the SD card already, but you can also add more later.

5. Join a user group

If you didn't do this already, what are you waiting for? It might also be a good "step 1"

6. Have fun!

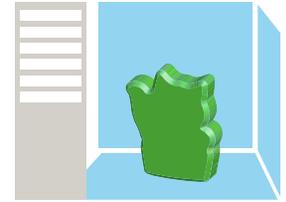


I'm ready to do more with my 3D printer

Additional early steps to take for people with a little experience

7. Install a slicer to your computer

Cura is included with your SD card, but there are other slicer programs available and some are free! Repetier and Slic3r are also popular choices.



8. Join a site like Thingiverse

Community-supported 3D model sites bring you lots of great new models to print, but you can also share your own designs, so be sure to join!

9. Tweak your settings

Find a standardized file to print, such as "Benchy" the tugboat. This will allow you to really dial in your settings. For the MP Mini, try using the so-called Magic Numbers for your layer height.

Magic Numbers

0.0875
0.13125
0.175
0.21875
0.2625
0.30625

10. Print some mods and upgrades

You might have found a few add-ons that you'd like to have, and if you're thinking ahead, you might even print a couple of spare parts.

11. Design your own 3D model

There are some great online tools, such as TinkerCAD, Fusion360, and 123D. You might also consider Blender and Sketchup.



12. Change Filament

To change filament, heat up the hotend and gently pull out the filament. Insert new filament and run a little through until the color changes to the new filament's color. *Store filament with desiccant!

