

# FFF 3D Printing Masters for Casting and Molding Applications



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#### **Focus on FFF Process**

Everything in this presentation is in relation to the

#### FFF

(fused filament fabrication) method of 3D printing







#### Remove the final metal part



#### **Applies to Various Types of Sand Casting Patterns**





#### **Basic 2-Part Mold Process**





#### **Advantages of 3D Printing for Casting & Molding**

- Remove process steps
  - Time savings
  - Cost reductions



- Faster speed to market
- Gain competitive advantage







http://www.usaltg.com/



But what about the surface finish of fused filament 3D printing?





#### Surface Finish to Nozzle Size / Layer Height Testing





#### **Surface Finish Check with Profilometer**









#### Avg. size in $\mu$ in or $\mu$ m



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#### Sample #2

Nozzle	0.6 mm
Infill	10%
Extrusion Width	0.63 mm
Layer Height	0.3 mm
Surface Finish	200 µin







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Nozzle	0.6 mm
Infill	15%
Extrusion Width	0.78 mm
Extrusion Height	0.15 mm
Surface Finish	146 µin







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#### Sample #4

Nozzle	0.4 mm
Infill	10%
Extrusion Width	0.46 mm
Extrusion Height	0.1 mm
Surface Finish	105 µin







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#### **1.2mm Nozzle Testing**





#### Sample #5

Nozzle	1.2 mm				
Infill	10%				
Extrusion Width	1.40 mm				
Extrusion Height	0.6 mm				
Surface Finish	1,666 µin				
Note: 6 top, bottom, outside lay	/ers				

3D Platform – Sample #5 Nozzle: 1.2mm Infill: 10% Extrusion - Width: 1.4mm Height: 0.6mm 6 Top, bottom, and outside layers



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Nozzle	1.2 mm						
Infill	10%						
Extrusion Width	1.40 mm						
Extrusion Height	0.3 mm						
Surface Finish 1,413 µin							
Note: 6 top, bottom, outside lay	/ers						





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#### Sample #7

Nozzle	1.2 mm						
Infill	10%						
Extrusion Width	1.40 mm						
Extrusion Height	0.3 mm						
Surface Finish 1,416 µin							
Note: 10 top, bottom, outside la	ayers						

**3D Platform – Sample #7** Nozzle: 1.2mm Infill: 10% Extrusion - Width: 1.4 mm Height: 0.3mm 10 Top, bottom, and outside layers

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#### **Full Size Part Analysis**

• 16" wide

• 23" long

• 10" high





#### **Surface Finish to Print Time Relationship**

	Sample #2	Sample #3	Sample #4	Sample #5	Sample #6
Filament Dia. (mm)	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85
Nozzle Dia. (mm)	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.2	1.2
Extrusion Width	0.63	0.78	0.46	1.4	1.4
Layer Height	0.3	0.15	0.1	0.6	0.3
Top Layers	10	10	10	6	6
Bottom Layers	10	10	10	6	6
Perimeter Shells	10	10	10	6	6
Infill %	10	15	10	10	10
Infill Pattern	Grid	Grid	Grid	Grid	Grid
Default Print Speed (mm/min)	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
Surface Finish	200 µin	146 µin	105 μin	1,666 µin	1,413 µin
	5.09 μm	3.71 μm	2.67 μm	42.33 μm	35.98 μm
Estimated Print Time	171 hours 24 min	271 hours 0 min	547 hours 4 min	44 hours 48 min	80 hours 36 min
	7.1 days	11.3 days	22.8 days	1.875 days	3.4 days



#### **Analytic Methodology**

- Test settings on a section of the part
- Adjust **1 setting** at a time
  - Layer height, extrusion width, temperature, etc.
- Run simulations on the full part to analyze print times
  SIMPLIFY3D<sup>®</sup>



#### Simplify3D (Licensed to Mark Huebner) File Edit View Mesh Repair Tools Add-Ins Account Help Build Statistics Feature Type Preview Mode Travel Build time: 6 hours 24 minute Outer Perimeter Filament length: 42084.7 mm **Inner Perimeter** Plastic weight: 335.59 g (0.74 lb) Gap Fill Material cost: 8.39 Solid Laver Infill Bridge Support Dense Support Raft Skirt/Brim Build table Travel moves Prime Pillar Ooze Shield Toolhead Retractions Coloring Feature Type Real-time Updates Live preview tracking

**3D PLATFORM** 

# Design the Part for FFF 3D Printing

- Vertical surfaces produce best surface finish
- Change curves or shallow angles to 45° when possible
- Eliminate support material and minimize scarring printing at 45°







# Ways to Use Post-Processing

- Fill and sanding
- Material smoothing
  - ABS with acetone vapor
  - Smooth-On treatment
    - <u>www.smooth-on.com</u>
- Automotive techniques / High-build primer







Video Links:

How to Achieve Mirror Finish in Large Format FFF Prints: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UA42OFMo-SU</u>



Post Processing in 3D Printing: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bc-zTKs4\_1Y</u>

#### **Casting Example**







#### **Casting Example**



Prototype Shop

**U.S. ARCHITECTURAL** 

CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE

LIGHTING

Sand placed in a temporary core box, the 3D printed master pressed into sand, and removed manually  Molten metal poured into mold

Aluminum Cast Prototype





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## **Casting Example**

- Final sanding on metal cast piece before final mold created for high volume production
- Metal allows for easier use of tools
  - Die grinder
  - **Power sander**
  - Plays to metal working skills





#### **The Bottom Line**

- Old Way
  - Outside service bureau
  - Fragile SLA parts
  - 2-3 week lead time
  - Avg. cost \$3,000 per part

#### • NEW Way

- 3D print strong PLA parts in house
- Lead time cut to 2-3 days
- 40+ projects completed in year one
- Savings **\$50,000** annually
- Decreased lead time for customer
- Gained competitive advantage





"In what we saved versus going outside to have things printed, the machine paid for itself within six months."

Tim Carraher, Lead Engineer







3D Printed PLA Masters

#### Cast Aluminum Prototypes











## **UMBC Mold Application**

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

- UMBC chapter of SAE Race Team
- Process used ...
  - 3D printed mold master
  - Light fill and sanding
  - Sealed with spray gel coat
  - Layup carbon fiber reinforced hood
  - Remove from mold
  - Trim, sand and paint to finish



## **UMBC Mold Application**

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

#### Old Way

- Shape master by hand with a variety of materials
- Process would take weeks to months
- Difficult to hold accuracy

#### • NEW Way

- 3D print PLA part in 2 days
- Had carbon fiber layup in less than 1 week
- Highly accurate shape due to controlled print of master



# New and Developing Materials

# polymaker

- PolySmooth<sup>™</sup> and Polysher<sup>™</sup>
  - Made smooth in alcohol mist / atomizer
  - <u>http://www.polymaker.com/shop/polysmoothpolysher/</u>
- PolyCast<sup>™</sup>
  - Can be smoothed with Polysher™
  - Complete clean burnout
  - <u>http://www.polymaker.com/home/polycast-info/</u>







# New and Developing Materials

- Graphene
  - Clean burnout with pure graphene
  - Testing with graphene blended materials such as Haydale enhanced PLA
  - <u>http://www.haydale.com/solutions/3d-printing-solutions/</u>
  - <u>http://shop.3dfilaprint.com/graphene-enhanced-pla-285mm-3d-printer-filament-750gms-8527-p.asp</u>
- Wax Filament from MachineableWax.com
  - Can be sculpted and shaped after printing
  - Clean burnout from mold
  - <u>http://www.machinablewax.com/product.php?product=52</u>



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