



A quick guide to 3D printing

Here at South Dublin Libraries, we offer a Free 3D print service.

This service is offered with the aim of encouraging borrowers to explore the range of STEAM services that South Dublin Libraries are involved in delivering.

There are a few simple steps for creating your 3D project.

You will need to bring your own design, downloaded as an STL file, to the library on your own USB.

But first, **choose what you want to print!**

Find thousands of premade designs on sites such as thingiverse.com. You can **pick a print, which someone has already designed**, and there are 1000s to choose from.

Go to www.thingiverse.com and have a look. When you find a design you like, simply download your design and save your file as an STL.

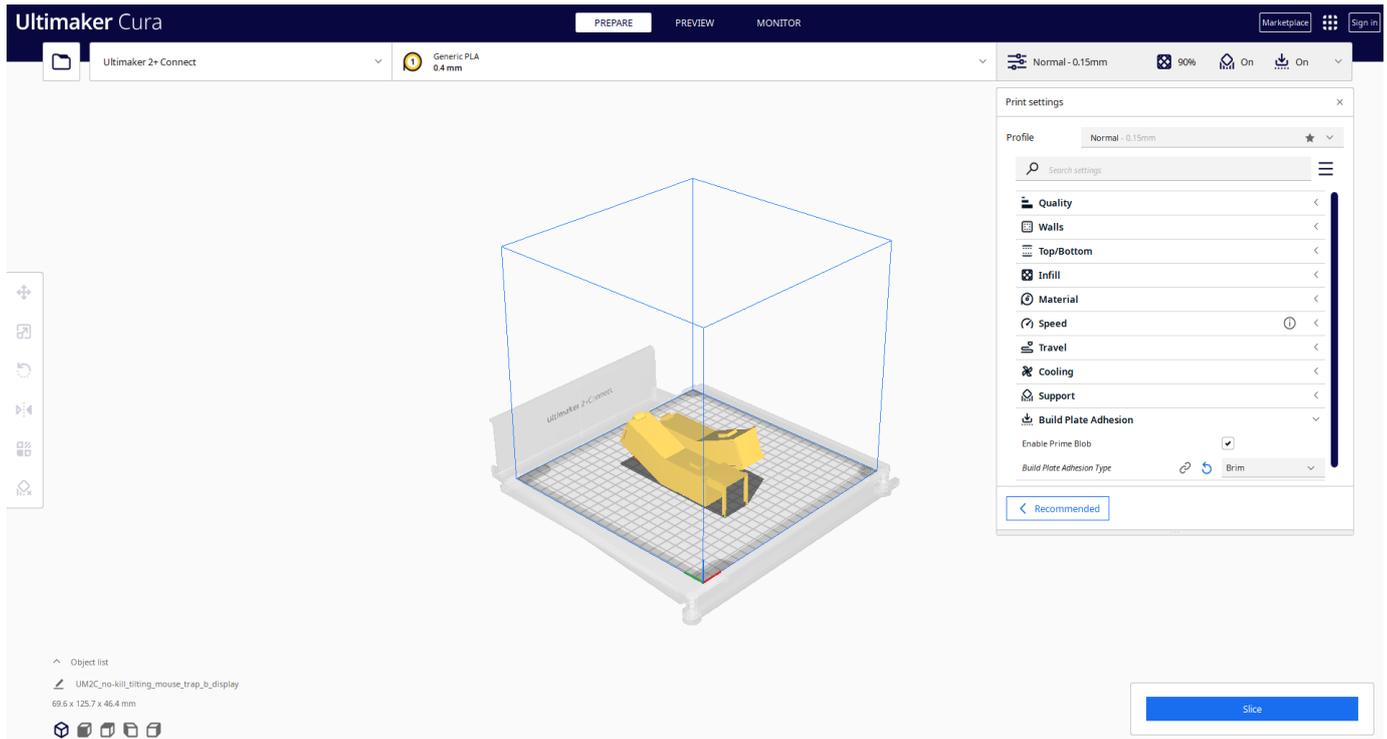
If you want **to make your own print from scratch**, then go to www.Tinkercad.com. This is a design tool which allows you to create your own design. Simply download your design and save your file as an STL.

Next, **run your design through Cura**. This allows the size, density and support structure to be amended for printing. Go to: [Professional 3D printing made accessible | Ultimaker](#)

The CURA software gives you a virtual version of the printer in the library.

Choose [Ultimaker 2 connect](#) when installing and you're ready to go.

Run CURA and open your saved file. When you're happy with the size and shape click on the SLICE button to **save your project to a USB and bring it to your library** for printing.



We have several different coloured plastics, to choose for your print.

Once we have processed your design, we will inform you how long the print will take.

Don't forget that we're here to help, so call if you need a hand. See you soon!