

Where to find and download 3D models

MakerBot Thingiverse

Thingiverse <http://www.thingiverse.com>

The premier repository of 3D models online. Includes many file types and even designs you can customize if signed in. Upload your own designs. Run by parent company MakerBot. Does not require an account to download models. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has its own subsection of models available at: <http://www.thingiverse.com/met/about>.



Tinkercad Gallery <https://www.tinkercad.com/things/>

Tinkercad runs one of the most popular cloud services for designing 3D objects. By default objects designed with Tinkercad are private, but some Tinkercad users choose to publicly share their models in the Tinkercad Gallery. This gallery is not the most well developed 3D model repository, but it makes up for this with how easy it is to modify gallery designs. Go to <https://www.tinkercad.com/search/> to search this repository. Free account required for downloading or modifying 3D models.



AUTODESK® 123D®

Autodesk 123D <http://www.123dapp.com/Gallery/content/all>

The company behind popular 3D design tool Tinkercad, Autodesk's 123D is a competitor to Thingiverse. Requires account to download models. Autodesk has split off content museums have uploaded at <http://www.123dapp.com/Search/museum/content/all>.

GRABCAD

Grabcad <https://grabcad.com/library>

Grabcad is another large repository of free 3D models. An account is required to download designs. Search using keywords or use their advanced search function.



3D Warehouse <https://3dwarehouse.sketchup.com/index.html>

Many of the designs in this repository are architectural or interior-design related, as parent company Trimble's SketchUp 3D design program is best for those applications of 3D design. Convert SKP 3D files to STL or OBJ for 3D printing on Ela Library LulzBot 3D printers. Account required to upload models, no account required to download models.

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The Free 3D Models <http://tf3dm.com/#>

Its name is very inaccurate as this repository allows you to buy 3D models and download free 3D models. Its categories are great for browsing. You can also search by file type (STL and OBJ work on Ela Library LulzBot 3D printers). No account is required to download free models.



Sketchfab <http://www.sketchfab.com>

You can find paid and free downloadable 3D objects on this repository designed most specifically for artists. Models uploaded to Sketchfab can be embedded into other pages like YouTube videos for others to view. It supports many 3D formats, so make sure to check before download (Ela Library LulzBots can print STL or OBJ files – you may need to convert models from Sketchfab). The British Museum has uploaded content to Sketchfab at <https://sketchfab.com/britishmuseum>.



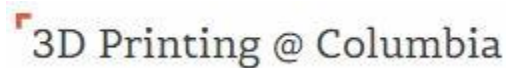
Pinshape: <https://pinshape.com/>

Download free 3D models with an account, buy 3D models, or sell your own designs with an account. This ability to sell models makes this community very vibrant – you'll still find many very creative designs available for free.



Turbo Squid <http://www.turbosquid.com/>

Geared at 3D printing professionals, TurboSquid has a wide variety of models you can pay to download, but fewer free models. Set price maximum and minimum to \$0 to search for free models.



Columbia University <http://3dprint.cul.columbia.edu/category/featured/>

Vetted individually, these categorized high quality models may be what you're looking for.

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Smithsonian Institution <http://3d.si.edu/>

Browse through models of the Smithsonian Institution artifacts. Preview and modify models in your web browser. Requires account to download models.

Blender 3D Model Repository

For The Users - By The Users

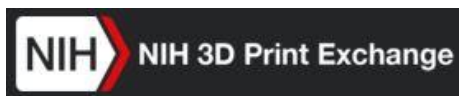
Blender 3D Model Repository <http://www.blender-models.com/>

This smaller repository of models is a fan site of the 3D design product Blender (<http://www.blender.org/download/>). Browse through its models by category. No account is required to download models. Account required to upload models. Most models are in the Blender file format and will have to be converted to STL or OBJ for printing on Ela Library LulzBot 3d printers.



NASA <http://nasa3d.arc.nasa.gov/models>

Download free space-related models like satellites and space shuttles from NASA. Many are in the .3ds file format, which needs conversion to STL or OBJ for 3d printing with Ela Library LulzBot 3D printers.



US National Institutes of Health <http://3dprint.nih.gov/discover>

Download medical, anatomical, molecular, protein, bacteria, cell, and other health-related 3D models from the NIH website. Check out their curated collections: <http://3dprint.nih.gov/collections>. Account required to upload models, no account required to download.



Trek Meshes <http://www.trekmeshes.ch/>

Just like it sounds, search and download Star Trek 3D models.

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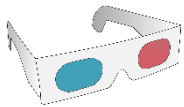
Archibase Net <http://archibase.co/gdl>

Upload or download free architectural models at this niche repository.



Yeggi <http://www.yeggi.com/>

Is this list starting to get a bit long for you? Yeggi is a 3D model search engine, rather than a repository. It searches other sites that actually host the models such as Tinkercad.



bld3r.com

Bld3r <http://www.bld3r.com/>

Bld3r is both a repository for 3D models and an attempt to have one space for the 3D printing community online. You can upload models after creating a free account or download models without an account. Its search function can be a bit wonky, searching tags rather than keywords in model title and descriptions. Models are organized by tags and also by popularity, newly uploaded, and if they are parts for a certain printer. There are also sections for news and 3D printing and modeling tutorials.

REPABLES

Repables <http://repables.com/>

Repables is a smaller repository of 3D models, its community appears to focus on designing and uploading replacement parts. An account is required to upload files, no account is required to download files.



YouMagine <https://www.youmagine.com/>

This well-designed and developer-friendly repository houses more than 10,000 models. Check out their collections for ideas.

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cgtrader

CGTrader

The CGTrader repository stores more than 250,000 models, some meant for graphics and virtual reality, others for 3D printing. CGTrader can also allow you to post 3D job requests for more advanced 3D designers to design custom models for you.

STL Finder

STL Finder <http://www.stlfinder.com/>

This meta-search engine searches many other 3D model repositories, making clear the source and price of models you find.

3DShapes Beta

3DShap.es <https://www.3dshap.es/>

Along with helping you search multiple 3D model repositories by size, format, and cost, 3DShap.es allows you to search, as its name suggests, by shape. Use either their example shapes or upload your own 3D model as a base shape to search from.



Cults.

Cults3D <http://cults3d.com/>

Cults 3D is a repository of artistic 3D models. Its sections include fashion, jewelry, and architectural models. Account required to download free models or pay for paid models.

3DAGOGO

3DAGOGO <https://www.3dagogo.com/>

3DAGOGO is mostly a marketplace for paid 3D models, but also houses some free models. Sort by best sellers or most downloaded. Advanced search allows filtering out multi-part models, models that print slowly, and more. Account required.

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3D File Market.com <http://3dfilemarket.com/>

Unique among the repositories we've tested, 3D File Market has humans check each 3D model submitted by users. This weeds out models that will be impossible to 3D print. Most models are free. Account required. Check out their unique categories including desk organizers, low-poly models, coffee accessories, and more.



Redpah <https://www.redpah.com/>

Redpah is another dual free/paid repository. No account is required for free models. Account required to purchase models. Check out their sections including replacement parts, automotive, and DIY.



Yobi3d <https://www.yobi3d.com/#!/>

Yobi3D searches only free 3D models from multiple sources and allows you to preview them in 3D before downloading. Its infinite scrolling interface encourages browsing. Its advanced search has the unique capability of searching the number of vertices and polygons in models.

MY MINI FACTORY GUARANTEED 3D PRINTABLE

My Mini Factory <https://www.myminifactory.com/>

Rather than focusing on having the most 3D models, My Mini Factory focuses on curating them with contests to encourage new 3D designs in unique areas and sections including electronics & computers, props & cosplay and more. Account required to download.



Clara.io <https://clara.io/library>

Clara.io is a repository integrated into a web-based 3D design application. Its search options include filtering out models that can't be edited in their web application. When viewing models, you're encouraged to click through to their editor. Clara.io emphasizes its community of designers, not the number of models uploaded.

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Other 3D model sources

A list of a few more 3D model repositories is available at:

<http://3dprintingforbeginners.com/3d-model-repositories/>

Converting 3D models

If you need to convert 3D models from one format into another, there are a ton of ways to do that. Many 3D design programs will allow you to import files in one format and then export them in a different format. There are also programs and websites that simply convert 3D files for you. Two that we've used are <http://www.greentoken.de/onlineconv/> and <http://www.meshconvert.com/>.

Once you've found and downloaded a 3D model

Upload 3D models for printing on the Ela Library LulzBot 3D printers at:

<http://www.eapl.org/create/forge/3d-print-job-submission>