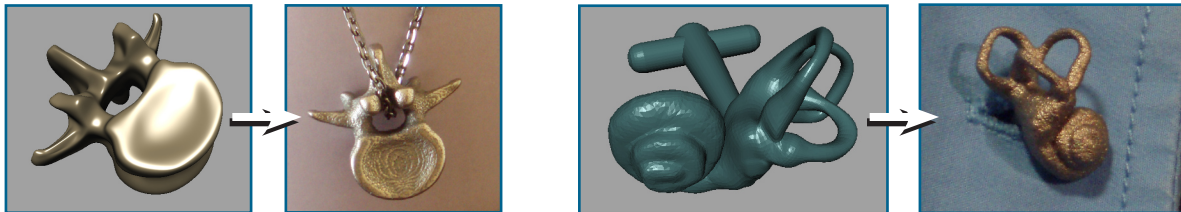


3D (Jewelry) Printing with

www.shapeways.com

How-to tips:

Modeling for 3D printing is just like making any other 3D model! - just keep in mind it has to make sense as a closed sculptural form (no non-manifold geometry allowed). Size limits and printing resolution vary from material to material - generally though upper limits are around 30cm cube.



Measure twice and print once - unless you have the patience for several rounds of test prints, make sure to measure your item carefully - making/sketching a rough prototype to size is not a terrible idea.

When you upload your file (lots of file types available), **there's an option to let other people buy your model directly from Shapeways** - if you set up a shop you can mark up your item and make a profit - but if you want control over who can buy your model, be sure to set the item as 'Not for Sale.'

The only drawback right now is the time it takes to receive your printed objects - stainless steel is usually about 3 weeks, and things like glass or gold-plated stainless steel are a month or more. So be sure to let the client know the printing and shipping timeline, too!

What materials can I print in? (for complete list go to website)

Full Color Sandstone



White Strong and Flexible



Glass



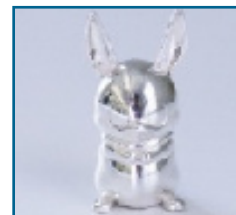
Stainless Steel (including several different finishes)



Ceramic (extreme wait times right now though)



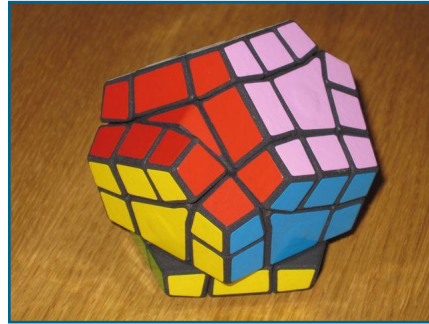
Silver (!)



What other cool things have people made with 3D printing?



Reaction Vase by Nervous System:
<http://n-e-r-v-o-u-s.com/>



"Family Fudged" by Oskar van Deventer:
<http://www.shapeways.com/shops/oskarpuzzles>
(additional assembly required for this one!)



"Heart Pendant - 3D and Stylized" by Lincoln Kamm:
<http://www.shapeways.com/shops/novakingway>



"Thorn Dice" by Chuck Stover:
<http://www.shapeways.com/shops/madebywombat>

What if I don't want to use Shapeways?

There are other options out there that are great depending on what you're making - I've only used Shapeways, as they seem to be the most robust and user-friendly option in the market right now, especially in terms of material options (although their current shipping/production times might make me try a different service. The only other downside with Shapeways is the variability in stainless steel color - it can come out a range for warm and cool silvers).

Some others to check out:

Offload Studios - offloadstudios.com | High detail, full color, caters to sculptural works.

Ponoko - ponoko.com | Most similar to Shapeways. Large range of materials, even large size objects (furniture) and fabrication of electronics

Crystalline - www.crystalline-rp.com/ | These guys have a very impressive client list - from Google to Disney to Warner Brothers - and cater to motion picture and industrial design printing needs.

Moddler - www.moddler.com/ | Impressive detail, limited materials. Submit a model first to get a printing quote.