CASE STUDY: Working Under Pressure

The Graco Inc. Contractor Equipment Division manufactures paint spraying and texturing equipment for professional contractors and tradesmen. Recently Graco designed a spray texture gun based on functional models built with tough ABS plastic parts from a Dimension 3D printer.

". . . Dimension paid for itself in the first few weeks of its operation."

– Dave Thompson

Functional ABS models of Graco spray texture gun designs were field tested at pressures up to 60 psi.

The Dimension 3D Printer allowed Graco designers to quickly experiment with various gun and nozzle combinations to create the perfect spray pattern and volume. Graco estimates Dimension helped reduce development time by as much as 75%.

The Dimension Solution:

Graco built functional ABS models from parts produced on the Dimension 3D Printer for lab and field testing. Their new spray texture gun was designed to deliver ceiling, wall, and floor coatings from a pressurized hopper or pump. During lab and field tests functional ABS models successfully operated at pressures up to 60 psi.

"With each design change we were able to build new models quickly" says engineering group leader Dave Thompson. *"Sometimes we built multiple iterations of a component in one day. Trying to create that many models using SLA or SLS parts from service bureaus would have been cost- and time-prohibitive. We ran it nearly 24/7 for the first eleven months, producing enough parts to have paid for the machine a few times over. Much like a paper printer, it has become a regular fixture in our design process: We run everything from scaled-down complete units for show, to functional spray guns, clips, fans, and more."*

An essential tool for everyone on the design team.

Dimension 3D printing can help you quickly fine tune designs and cut weeks – even months – from your development schedule. Now you can test form, fit and function and explore as many design iterations as you like – over your network, right from your desktop.

Stratasys, Inc.
14950 Martin Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-2020 U.S.A.
+1 866.721.9244 US Toll Free
+1 952.937.0070 Fax

info@DimensionPrinting.com
www.DimensionPrinting.com

DCS203

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