

Professional vs. Consumer-level Printers

3D Printing 101

stratasys

You prototype. It doesn't matter if you're working in consumer goods, packaging, or as part of a design team. What you 3D print needs to look like the real thing, feel like the real thing and work like the real thing. This is the whole point of doing what you do. This is why you've turned to 3D printing. You know 3D printing can give you prototypes faster, cheaper and better than any other method. And a 3D printer is a 3D printer, right? We're glad you asked.

Reliability and Repeatability

A printer should print reliable, repeatable parts. Sound obvious? Sure. But is it true? Sometimes. Do you need to print 24/7 or just a few times a month? Chances are you answered "all the time." But even if you answered 'just a few times a week,' does this mean reliability loses its value for you? Probably not. Sales teams love to tell you you don't need to spend the big bucks for features that you'll never need. But even if you 3D print one prototype a week (and we'll bet you print far more than that!), does that mean it's okay to buy the cheaper printer since you don't use it 24/7? If you think yes, think again. What happens when it fails and you're away or when you need high fidelity and it's not clean? If you want to bring your innovative product to market ahead of the competition you need a 3D printer that's a tool not a toy.

Accuracy and Part Quality

So you work in consumer goods packaging and you prototype nail polish bottles. Is accuracy and quality of the threads between the lid and the bottle a concern? Have you ever spilled nail polish? There's your answer. Of course accuracy and quality are important. This is your work, your business, your life. Have you ever met anyone who told you the accuracy and quality of your work wasn't important? The right 3D printer opens up design possibilities for complex parts and moving assemblies you've only dreamed about. The right professionalgrade 3D printer gives you parts that don't just show but can actually tell your story.

Ease of Set-Up and Use

Maybe you have lots of spare time to struggle with set-up, calibration and software interface of your 3D printer at work. No? We didn't think so. Of course, everyone will say they have user-friendly 3D printers. If you've ever had one of these so-called user-friendly hobby printers you're probably already scoffing. Open-source software not interfaced with your 3D printer can be a recipe for disaster. True plug-and-play 3D printing means only a few steps to set up, auto-calibration, and an integrated software system that can be processed in a few clicks, sent wirelessly to the printer and started with the press of a button.

WHAT'S GOOD DESIGN WORTH TO YOU?

Make designs come to life with the most reliable, professional-grade 3D printer out there. Stop babysitting print jobs and wasting time fixing parts gone wrong. Save on everything that matters to your bottom line, and watch your designs come to life with less hassle. Start prototyping like a professional.



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Stratasys F123 Series				Desktop Hobby Printer
Superior part consistency and quality, wide choice of engineering- grade materials, part accuracy +/- 0.010	✓	ACCURATE		Part accuracy specifications not provided, leading to unpredictable results and delayed decisions
Built for high utilization, constant temperature control and engineering- grade technology, print the same high-quality part every time	✓	RELIABLE		Hardware not designed or tested for high utilization which creates frequent failures including clogging and part curling/warping
Plug-and-play for any user level, fast material swaps, auto-calibration, redundancy sensors, fast-draft mode	✓	EASY TO USE	X	Must recalibrate parameters for each print job, requiring operator with high-level technical expertise
Quiet, fully enclosed system, auto- locking door for safety	\checkmark	OFFICE FRIENDLY		Noisy low-cost motor, not enclosed, no protection from hot extruder
Hands-free soluble support allows for extreme complexity, produce complex parts with fine features, minimal post-print manual labor	✓	COMPLEX PARTS		Time-consuming, manual effort required to remove support from fine-feature details and makes for more expensive jobs
Large builds possible up to 14x10x14in / 355x254x355mm	✓	BUILD SIZE		Small average build size 8x8x8 in/203x203x203 mm, while large parts curl/warp
24-hour global support, replacement parts easily available	√	SERVICE		Users must troubleshoot issues, replacement parts not available through manufacturer and hard to locate
Cloud-based, easy-to-use GrabCAD Print software	\checkmark	SOFTWARE		Limited functionality, clunky user interface, limited language options
Low maintenance, high productivity, minimal down time or wasted resources, ROI in as little as 6 months	✓	ROI		Short-term investment for short- term system life, wasted time and resources fixing part errors and machine failures, costing more in reality



Easy as 1-2-3

The world of prototyping isn't waiting for you to catch up. Gain the edge with a professional-grade 3D printer that's reliable, repeatable, accurate and easy-to-use. Your customers won't believe how amazing you are.

The question isn't professional vs. consumer-level 3D printer. The only real question is F1, F2 or F3.

The Stratasys F123 Series professional-grade 3D Printers. For the way you NEED to prototype.

MAKE THE CHOICE

