

Objet24 3D Printer Systems



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7,479,510
7,500,846
7,604,768
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DOC-14024

Revision A1

July 2014

Revision A1 refers to the following pages, updated from Revision A:
2-5, 2-7



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Using This Guide

This user guide provides instructions for installing, operating and maintaining Objet 3D printing systems. It explains how to use features, and provides practical examples to guide you as you use the system.

This document is meant to be used with Objet24 3D printers, running software version 24.1.1, and with Objet Studio software version 9.2.

This guide assumes that:

- all the hardware, software, and network components of your Objet system are installed, configured, and operating correctly.
- the operator has a working knowledge of the Windows® PC platform.

For More Information

Visit <http://www.stratasys.com/> for more details about Objet printer technology, products and consumables, and for service and support contacts.

For other documents that relate to Objet24 3-D printing systems, and for this document in other languages, contact your regional Stratasys Customer Support office.

If you have any questions about the information presented in this document, or if you have any comments or suggestions for future editions, please send a message to c-support@stratasys.com.

Terms Used in This Guide

build tray	<i>In Objet Studio:</i> The surface displayed on the screen that represents the actual build tray in the printer. <i>In the printer:</i> The surface upon which models are produced.
cleaning fluid	Cleanser for flushing material feed tubes and the printing block, used to completely remove Model and Support material from the system before loading another type of material in the printer and before long-term shutdown. The cleaning fluid is supplied in material cartridges.
client/user workstation	The workstation on which Objet software is installed, used for preparing build trays for production on Objet printers. (There is no limit to the number of client workstations in the local network.)
Objet™ printer	The Objet 3D printer referred to in this guide.
Printer computer	The computer inside the Objet printer that operates it. (This is sometimes referred to as the “embedded” computer.)
Printer interface	The GUI (graphical user interface) used for controlling the Objet printer.
Printer software	Software running on the computer inside the Objet printer, that controls all printer operations.
host/server workstation	The workstation that interfaces directly with the Objet printer and is typically positioned next to it.
Job Manager™	The part of Objet Studio software that manages production jobs before they are sent to the Objet printer.
Model material	Material used for building models.
Objet Studio™	The software with which users prepare jobs for producing models.
OBJTF (Objet Tray Format)	The extension of a file that contains all of the information needed for a model-printing job on Objet 3D printers. An <i>objtf</i> file is used to send a print job to an Objet 3D printer.
OBJZF (Objet Z Format)	The extension of a compressed “wrapper” file containing all of the files used in an Objet Studio build tray. Using <i>objzf</i> files, a printing job can be saved as a single file, for convenient storage and transfer.
resin	The base substance from which photopolymer printing materials are made for use in Objet printers. In Objet Studio and printer-application screens, “resin” refers to cartridges of model and support materials.

SLC	A file type used with Objet software. (These files are bitmaps of individual slices of the object. For more information, see page 3-4.)
STL	A file type used with Objet software. (For more information, see page 3-4.)
Support material	Material used for supporting the structure of models during production.

Safety

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Safety Features

Objet 3D printers are designed to comply with CE and FCC standards. They are equipped with the following safety features:

Cover interlock switch

The power supplied to the UV lamp and the motion motors is turned off when the cover is opened.



WARNING: Do not defeat (override) the interlock switch. Doing so could result in serious personal injury. If the interlock switch does not function correctly, do not use the printer, and contact your service provider.

Cover lock

The cover is locked while the printer is working. It is released when the printer reverts to *pause* or *stop* mode.



WARNING: Do not defeat (override) the safety lock. Doing so could result in serious personal injury. If the safety lock does not function correctly, do not use the printer, and contact your service provider.

UV screen

The transparent section of the cover blocks harmful UV radiation, allowing the operator to view the model as it is being made.

Circuit breaker

The power to the printer is turned off in case of electrical overcurrent.

Note: The circuit breaker is only accessible to service personnel.

Grounded chassis

The chassis of the printer is grounded, to prevent electrical shock.

Note: The power outlet must be properly grounded, in accordance with the local electric code, to provide this protection.



Figure 2-1: Front and back views of the Objet24 printer



If the Objet 3D printing system is not used as specified in this guide, the safety features may not provide adequate protection.

Symbols and Warning Labels

The following table lists the warning labels located on or in Objet printers.

Warning Symbol	Meaning	Location	Comments
	Hazard (general)	On the name plate on the back of the printer.	Read the instructions in this document before operating the printer.
	Hot surface	On the print-head block.	Risk of burns. Do not touch this surface after printing.
	High voltage	Near the UV lamp connector. Near the power-supply enclosures.	Risk of electric shock.
	Ultraviolet radiation	Near the UV lamp.	Risk of injury from ultraviolet radiation.
	Moving parts	On top of the printing assembly.	Risk of injury from moving parts.

Safety Guidelines

The following general guidelines, together with the instructions provided throughout this user guide, ensure user safety while operating and maintaining the Objet system. **If the system is not operated as specified, the user's safety may be compromised!**

Printer Installation

- Installation and removal of the printer should only be done by qualified service personnel.
- Connect the printer to the electric outlet using a power cord that is safety-certified.
- The electric outlet should be easily accessible, near the printer.
- Never connect the power plug to an outlet that does not have a ground (earth) wire, and never disconnect the ground. Doing so might expose the operator to serious danger from electric shock.
- Leave a minimum of 20 centimeters between ventilation openings and walls or other objects.

Printer Operation

- The printer should only be operated by persons trained by a Stratasys customer-support representative.
- All personnel operating or maintaining the printer should know the location of first aid and emergency equipment and how to use it. **Never block access to this equipment!**
- Keep fingers and other body parts clear of the printer cover when closing it.
- Never attempt to open the main cover of the printer while it is working!
- Never override the interlock safety switch!
- If the interlock safety switch ever fails, **do not use the printer**.
- Several parts of the printer remain extremely hot even after it has stopped operating. Avoid touching the UV lamp and the print block.

UV Radiation

- The UV lamp used in the printer emits dangerous radiation.
- If the UV lamp remains on when the printer cover is open, do not stare directly at the UV light. Shut down the printer and call your Stratasys service provider.

Printer Maintenance

- Service operations should be performed only by qualified personnel who have been instructed in relevant safety precautions.
- Notify co-workers and those who have access to the Objet system before beginning non-routine and hazardous work.



Report any potential dangers and safety-related accidents to your safety officer or to other appropriate authorities.

Model and Support Materials

Model and support materials are made of chemical substances. Although precautions must be taken when handling these materials directly, all model and support materials used by the Objet system are handled in sealed cartridges. Normally, operators of the printer should never be directly exposed to hazardous materials. In the unlikely event of a leak or spill, follow the instructions that are included with the printing-material cartridge used.

- Store model and support materials indoors, in a dry area with adequate ventilation, between 16-27 degrees Celsius (60-81 degrees Fahrenheit). Never expose them to flames, heat, sparks, or direct sunlight.
- Keep model and support materials away from areas where food and drink are stored, prepared and consumed.
- Uncured printing material is considered a hazardous substance, requiring certain precautions when directly handling it. To prevent skin irritation, wear **neoprene** or **nitrile gloves**. If there is any chance that model and support materials might splash into the eyes, wear safety goggles. Prolonged direct contact with printing materials can cause an allergic reaction.
- When handling UV-cured models that may not be completely cured on the surface, common latex gloves are adequate.
- To prevent respiratory irritation, ventilate areas where model and support materials are used. The ventilation system should totally replace the air at least four times per hour.
- Clean up model-material and support-material spills with disposable towels or other absorbent, non-reusable material, such as sawdust or activated charcoal. Rinse the spill area with denatured or isopropyl alcohol (IPA), followed by soap and water. Dispose of the absorbent material in accordance with local regulations.
- Do not wash contaminated clothing at home; clothing should be professionally laundered.
- Dispose of contaminated shoes, belts and other leather items in accordance with any applicable regulations. Absorbed printing material may re-expose the user when these items are worn.

UV Lamps

UV lamps used by the printer to cure printing materials contain a small amount of mercury. In the unlikely event of lamp breakage, avoid inhaling mercury vapor, and ventilate the room. If the lamp ruptures (breaks) during operation, leave the room and ventilate it thoroughly (for about 30 minutes).

Use protective gloves to prevent contact with mercury and other lamp components. Carefully remove spilled mercury with a method that prevents the generation of mercury vapor, such as a syringe, packing tape or paper.

Place the broken lamp, mercury and contaminated materials in an air-tight, non-metallic container. Dispose of the container in accordance with applicable regulations.

First Aid for Working with Printing Materials

In general, try to avoid direct contact with uncured printing material. If skin or eyes come into contact with it, wash the area immediately and thoroughly with water, and follow these first-aid instructions.



The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) that accompanies printing materials contains important safety information. Keep this in an accessible place where these materials are used and stored.

Contact with Skin

If uncured printing material comes in contact with skin, wash the affected area immediately and thoroughly with soap and cool water, then remove contaminated clothing. Pay particular attention to flushing the hair, ears, nose and other parts of the body that are not easily cleaned.

- Use cool water to prevent skin pores from opening, so that the liquid material does not easily penetrate the skin.
- Do not use solvents to clean skin.
- If large areas of skin have been exposed, or if prolonged contact results in blisters, seek medical attention. In any case, if irritation persists, seek medical attention.
- Avoid the accidental transfer of printing material from the hands to other areas of the body, especially to the eyes.
- If protective cream was used, do not reapply it until the skin has been completely cleansed.

Contact with Eyes

If uncured printing material comes in contact with the eyes, flush immediately with large amounts of water for 15 minutes and seek medical attention.

- Avoid sunlight, fluorescent light, and other sources of ultraviolet radiation.

The wearing of contact lenses when handling liquid printing materials is not recommended. If the liquid splashes into the eyes when contact lenses are worn, immediately remove the lenses and flush the eyes with water.

- Clean and disinfect the contaminated lenses.
- Do not wear contact lenses until eye irritation disappears.

Ingestion

If printing material is swallowed, refer to the instructions included with the cartridge. *Seek medical attention immediately.*

Inhalation

Vapors from printing materials can be irritating to the respiratory system. If respiratory irritation occurs, expose the victim to fresh air immediately.

- If the victim has stopped breathing, perform artificial respiration or cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- Seek medical attention immediately.
- Keep the patient warm but not hot.
- Never feed anything by mouth to an unconscious person.
- Oxygen should be administered by authorized personnel only.

Waste Disposal

Fully cured printed models can be disposed of as ordinary office trash. However, special care is required when handling printer waste (uncured printing material).

- Printing Materials
- When removing the waste container from the Objet printer, wear neoprene or nitrile gloves.
 - To prevent liquid waste from splashing into the eyes, wear safety goggles.
 - Liquid waste from the Objet printer is classified as hazardous industrial waste. Therefore, printing-material waste must be packaged and disposed of in a manner that prevents human contact with it and contamination of water sources.
 - Empty model-material and support-material cartridges contain residue of their contents. Some leakage of this residue may occur through the broken cartridge seal. Therefore, handle and store empty cartridges with care.
 - Do not attempt to reuse empty cartridges, and do not puncture them.
 - Dispose of used cartridges and waste containers in accordance with local regulations.
 - Discard contaminated clothing, shoes, empty containers, etc., in accordance with any applicable regulations.

- UV Lamps
- UV lamps used by the printer to cure printing materials contain a small amount of mercury, and are considered "Universal Waste." Recycle or discard used lamps in accordance with applicable regulations.

Broken lamps:

After ventilating the area, use protective gloves and carefully remove spilled mercury with a method that prevents the generation of mercury vapor, such as a syringe, packing tape or paper. Place the broken lamp, mercury and contaminated materials in an air-tight, non-metallic container. Dispose of the container in accordance with applicable regulations.

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Figure 3-1: The Objet24 3D Printer

Work Configurations

The Objet 3D printing system can be set up as a single-station system or as a multi-station system. When connected to a local computer network, the system can serve multiple users. In such configurations, each user workstation (client) prepares files with Objet Studio software for production. A server (host), typically next to the 3D printer, acts as a job manager that sends production jobs to the printer for production.

Figure 3-2 shows the Objet24 printer set up in a multi-client configuration.

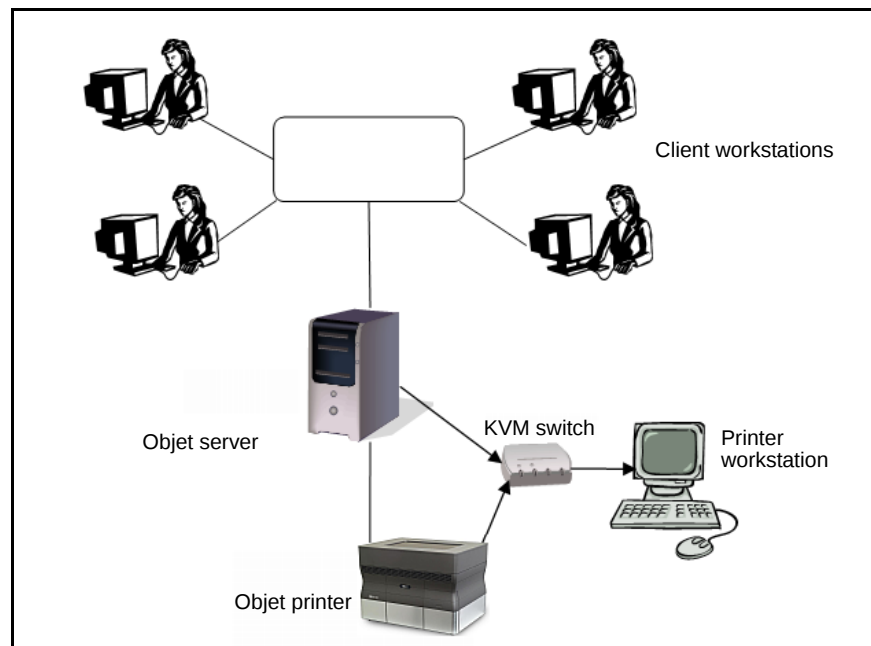


Figure 3-2: Multi-client network configuration

When installing the Objet software, you choose whether to install it as a client station or as a master station (server or standalone station).

The Objet software arranges the jobs it receives according to their priorities, model-material type, and other factors. In multi-workstation configurations, the operator of the server—typically the production administrator—has total control over the jobs sent to the 3D printer, and can prioritize and delete jobs, review job history and reprint a job, and so on.

Source Files

Objet 3D printing systems produce three-dimensional models designed with most 3D CAD tools and with other job-specific 3D applications. Objet systems accept:

- STL Files
- SLC Files

Objet systems feature the capability of producing both types of model files simultaneously.

STL Files

STL is short for *Standard Triangulation Language*. This language views any object as a collection of surfaces, and describes each surface of the object as a collection of triangles.

For example, a square can be described as two triangles; a cube (six squares) as 12 triangles. Curved surfaces need more triangles to describe them. The higher the tolerance (for smooth surfaces), the more triangles are needed. The result is that high-quality object descriptions mean very heavy files.

Most CAD software can export STL files. The Objet system utilizes these files for building models (rapid prototyping), and also for directly making molds for mass-producing items.

STL files can be ASCII (text) files or binary files. The content of the ASCII file begins with “solid” and ends with “end-solid” (both lower case). Between these keywords is a list of the triangles that describes the faces of the solid model. Each triangle defines a single normal vector directed away from the solid’s surface, followed by its X-Y-Z coordinates. These are expressed as Cartesian coordinates and are floating-point values. The coordinates of all triangles should be positive and should fall within the volume of the model.

SLC Files

SLC is short for *Stereo-Lithography Contour*. SLC files describe two-dimensional contours of the three-dimensional models. These contour lines are polylines.

SLC files are ASCII (text) files that save models as a series of slices. This means that models based on SLC files cannot be orientated; only their scale (size) and position on the build tray can be controlled. For this reason, the model’s orientation must be suitable for production before it is saved as an SLC file. Because of the nature of SLC files, the appearance of models in Objet Studio may be different than the solid-object images displayed from STL files.

Printing Materials

Objet printers produce models by jetting thin layers of printing materials on the build tray, until the complete model is formed. Two types of material are used in this process:

- *Model* material—which makes up the finished model
- *Support* material—which fills gaps and spaces in the model during printing, and is removed after printing

Storage	Materials used for printing models with Objet printers are made of resins, which are composed of reactive monomers and oligomers. Although printing materials are supplied in sealed, UV-proof cartridges, care must be taken when storing and handling them. Follow these guidelines to protect operators and the environment, and to ensure optimum results. • To ensure product stability, do not allow these materials to come into contact with metal. Plastics made from monomer-soluble substances (such as polystyrene or polyvinyl chloride) are not suitable for storing Objet printing materials. • When not in use, keep material cartridges tightly sealed to prevent contamination, the effects of exposure to UV radiation, and accidental spillage. • Store material cartridges indoors, in a dry area with adequate ventilation, between 16–27 degrees Celsius (60–81 degrees Fahrenheit). If exposed to heat or flames, cartridges may burst or ignite. • Signs of premature polymerization in material cartridges may include bulging, leaking, the emission of heat, and unusual odor. Exposure to heat can cause resin to gel in the cartridge. • Make sure that material cartridges are stored in accordance with all local regulations and other applicable requirements.
Shelf Life	Materials used for producing models have a limited shelf life. The expiry date on the label is valid when properly stored in an undamaged, unopened cartridge. Always rotate your stock, so that the cartridge with the earliest date is used first.
Exposure to Light	If printing materials are not in their sealed cartridges, make sure to shield them from sunlight and other sources of UV radiation, such as fluorescent and mercury-vapor lights. Exposure to UV radiation causes an increase in viscosity and, eventually, solidification.
Safety Considerations	Before being cured, resins are hazardous materials. To prevent possible health hazards, follow these precautions regarding printing materials: • Do not expose to flames, heat or sparks. • Prevent contact with skin and eyes. • Ventilate areas where they are handled. • Keep them separate from food and drink. Cured plastic parts, however, are safe. They can be handled and stored without precautions.
Disposal	Dispose of cartridges of Objet model and support material in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. If necessary, the cartridges can be disassembled for recycling.



You can find more safety information about resins in “Safety Guidelines” on page 2-4, and “First Aid for Working with Printing Materials” on page 2-6.

Work Environment

Extreme heat and humidity conditions can adversely affect the operation of the Objet 3D printer. Therefore, it is recommended that you use ventilation or air-conditioning systems, if necessary, to keep the work area within the following ranges:

- 18°–25° C (64°–77° F)
- 30%–70% relative humidity

Workstation Requirements

The following tables list the requirements for computer components used with Objet 3-D printer software.

	Requirement
Computer Type	Server workstation: Standard desktop PC (not a portable or all-in-one computer)
Mouse/Keyboard Connection	Server workstation: USB, PS/2, or RS-232 (wireless components unacceptable)
Processor	Minimum: Intel® Pentium® 4, 3.0 GHz, 512 KB of memory Recommended: Intel® Core™ i3 or better
Operating System	• Windows® XP <i>Professional</i> SP2 - or • Windows® 7 32/64-bit¹ <i>Professional, Ultimate, Enterprise, Starter, Home Basic, Home Premium</i> editions
Graphics Card ²	Open GL® Memory: 512 MB (minimum), 1 GB or more (recommended)
	For dental applications: • ATI™ Radeon™ HD 5970, with 2 GB of memory - or • NVIDIA® GeForce® GTX 285, with 2 GB of memory
RAM	8 GB or more ¹
CD Drive	IDE CD ROM
Hard-Disk Drive	80 GB or larger
Network Card	LAN TCP/IP (2 for server workstation; 1 for client workstation)
Video Card	Server workstation: VGA connector ³
Monitor	Resolution: optimum for screen used Color quality: 32 bit
Monitor Cable	VGA connector ³

1. On 64-bit operating systems, Objet Studio runs as a 32-bit application, but it can utilize up to 8 GB of memory.
2. The following graphics cards were tested in Stratasys labs:
 - NVIDIA® Quadro® Family—FX570, FX1700
 - NVIDIA® GeForce® Family—6200 TurboCache™, 7300 GT
 - Intel® Express Chipset—82915G/82915GV/82910GL, Q965/Q963, Q35, Q45/Q43, 82852/82855
 - ATI® display adapter—Radeon™ HD 5670, Radeon™ E6760
3. The KVM switch requires VGA video connections. If the server workstation has a DVI video connector, a VGA adapter is needed. The cable from the monitor must have a VGA connector.

Note: You control both the built-in printer computer and the server workstation with same keyboard-monitor-mouse set by using a KVM switchbox.

Preparing Files for Use with Objet 3D Printing Systems

Before using files with Objet 3D printing systems, you must convert them in your CAD program to either *stl* files or *slc* files. (For an explanation of these file formats, see “Source Files” on page 3-14.)

After converting the model files, it is recommended that you check them for defects in an STL-repair application (such as Magics™, by Materialise®) before opening them in Objet Studio and producing the model.

You can print several models or parts at the same time, after arranging them on the build tray in Objet Studio. The following are the maximum dimensions for a single model printed on the Objet24 printer:

- *With glossy finish*—
 - X-axis: 234.00 mm (9.21 inches)
 - Y-axis: 192.00 mm (7.55 inches)
 - Z-axis: 148.60 mm (5.85 inches)
- *With matte finish*—
 - X-axis: 233.00 mm (9.17 inches)
 - Y-axis: 191.00 mm (7.52 inches)
 - Z-axis: 148.30 mm (5.83 inches)

Converting CAD Files to STL Format

This procedure may vary slightly, depending on the CAD software used, but the following instructions generally apply.

To convert a file to STL format (in a CAD program):

1. From the File menu, select **Save As**.
2. In the *Save As* dialog box, open the *Save As Type* pull-down menu and select *.STL.
3. Click **Options** and set the following parameters:
 - **Total Quality**—approximately 0.01 mm (deviation tolerance / linear-dimension tolerance)
 - **Detail Quality**—approximately 5° (angle tolerance)

Note: Lowering these values produces more accurate models, but results in larger files and longer loading and processing times. For this reason, it is generally not recommended that you use lower values.
4. In the file format option, choose *binary* or *ASCII*. (Both binary and ASCII formats can be used in Objet Studio. However, binary files are smaller, so this option is recommended.)
5. Click **OK** or **Save**.



For more information, search for “CAD to STL” on objet.com.

Converting Files to SLC Format

When converting files to SLC format, it is recommended that you set a layer thickness of 15 microns (0.015 mm). Since SLC files cannot be orientated in Objet Studio, it is important that models are properly orientated before being saved as SLC files. Considerations for suitable model orientation are explained in “Model Orientation” on page 5-20.

Objet Studio Software

Objet Studio software for the Objet 3D printing system consists of two main screens:

- Tray Settings / Model Settings
- Job Manager

Tray Settings / Model Settings

In the *Tray Settings* and *Model Settings* screens, you prepare source files for production in Objet 3-D printers. Objet Studio offers you a wide variety of file-preparation options, but always consists of the following basic procedure:

1. Inserting one or more objects on the *build tray*
2. Positioning the object(s) on the tray
3. Configuring object and tray parameters
4. Saving the tray configuration as an *objtf* (Objet Tray Format) file
5. Sending the *objtf* file to the Objet 3D printer for production

Using Objet Studio to perform these tasks is described in detail in chapter 5, “Using Objet Studio.”

Job Manager

The *Job Manager* screen is different for client workstations and for the computer connected directly to the Objet 3D printer.

- In Objet Studio installed on the directly-connected computer (server), the *Job Manager* screen displays the queue and status for all jobs sent to the 3D printer by the server itself and by all client computers on the network. All jobs displayed can be edited and manipulated.
- In Objet Studio installed on client computers, the *Job Manager* screen displays the queue and status only for jobs sent to a 3D printer server from that computer. Only these jobs can be edited and manipulated from the client computer.



Client computers can be connected, via the local network, to different Objet 3D printers, but only to one at a time. The *Job Manager* screen displays the status of the 3D printer to which the client is currently connected.

4

Installing Objet Software

How to Install Software for the Objet 3-D Printing System..... 2

How to Install Software for the Objet 3-D Printing System

The Objet Studio setup wizard guides you when installing the Objet software. During installation, you must choose to install either the server (“host”) application or the client application.

To install Objet software:

1. Insert the Objet Studio CD into the disk drive.
2. Right-click the Start button and select Explore (or use any other method for displaying files on the computer).
3. Open the CD-drive folder and select Setup.
4. If you are installing an Objet Studio upgrade, make sure that your printer is compatible with it by checking the list displayed.

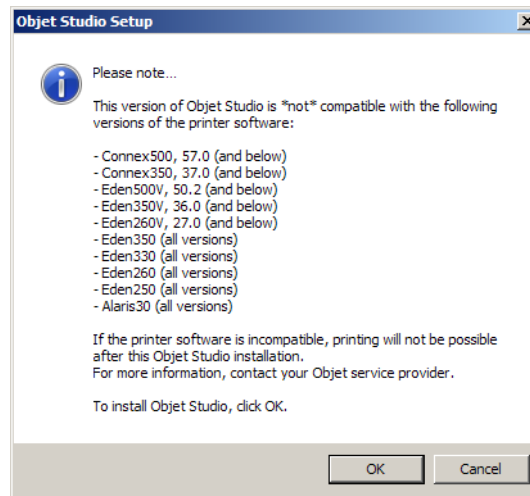


Figure 4-1: Object Studio compatibility check

5. To install Objet Studio, you must agree to the license agreement. After reading its terms, click Yes to continue, or No to close the wizard.

If you click Yes, the following screen should appear.

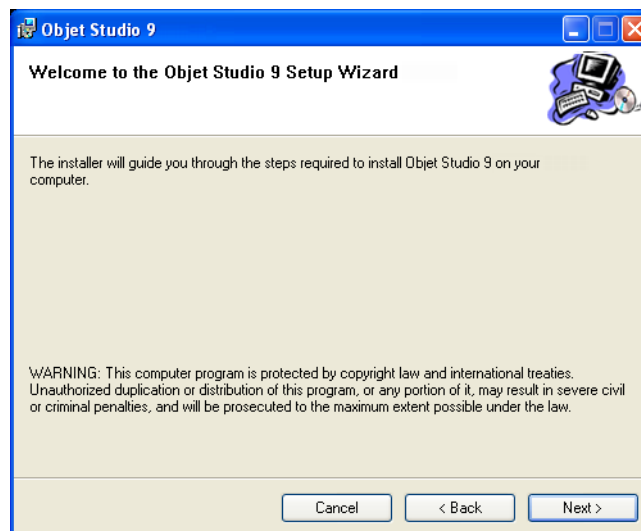


Figure 4-2: Object Studio installation wizard—Welcome screen

6. Click Next to begin installation.

7. In the *Select Features* screen, select the required installation option.

Select Object Studio for a server computer...

- if you are installing Object Studio on a server (“host”) computer—the computer directly connected to an Objet printer.
- if you are installing Object Studio on a standalone (off-line) computer.

Select Object Studio for client workstations if you are installing Object Studio on a “client” workstation—a remote computer that prepares print jobs and then sends them to a server computer.

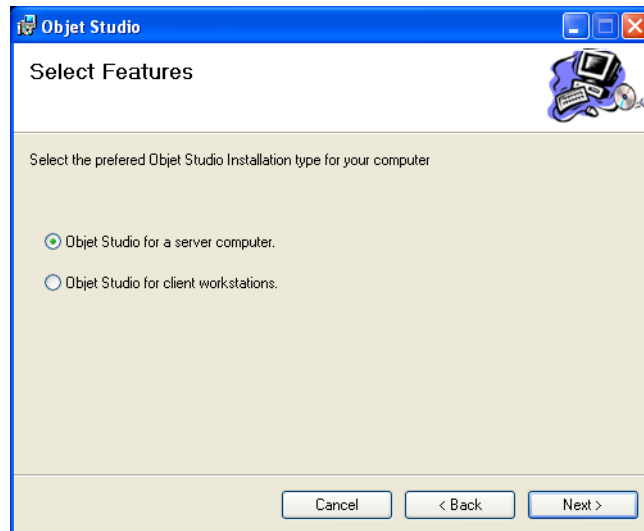


Figure 4-3: Object Studio configuration selection

8. In the *Select Installation Folder* screen, verify the destination folder and click Next.



It is recommended that you do not change the default destination folder.

Click **Disk Space** to check the space in the destination folder.

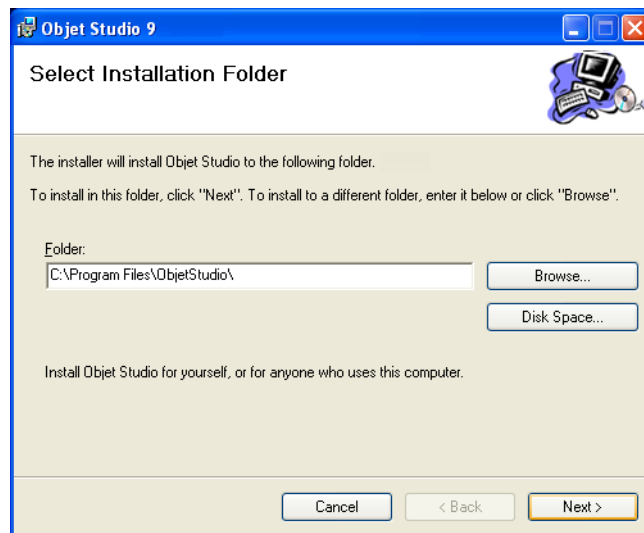


Figure 4-4: Object Studio installation-folder selection

9. In the *Confirm Installation* screen, click Next to begin installation.

10. In the *Select Printer Type* screen, select the Objet 3D printer used for producing models.

To continue, click Next.

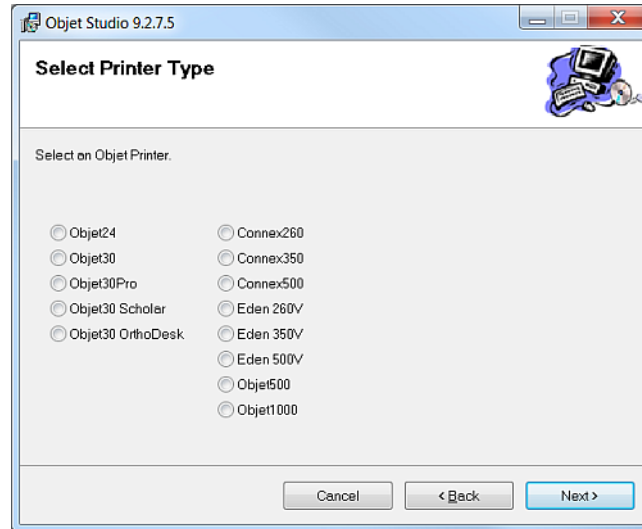


Figure 4-5: Printer selection

Installation begins and a progress bar appears, showing the progress of the installation process.

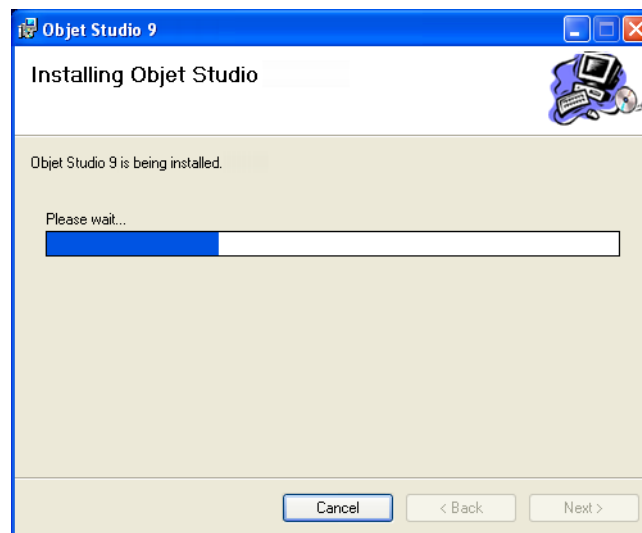


Figure 4-6: Installation progress bar

When the Objet program installation is complete, the final InstallShield Wizard screen appears.

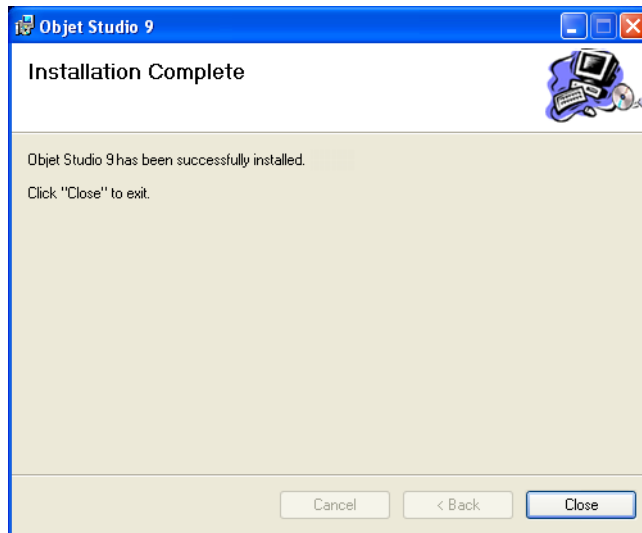


Figure 4-7: Final installation screen

11. Restart the computer to complete the software installation.

Note: Make sure to remove the CD from the disk drive before restarting the computer.

The installation process ends when the appropriate icon(s) appear on the computer desktop:

- Objet Studio
- Stop Job Manager (for servers and standalone stations)

How to Uninstall Objet Studio

If there is ever a need to uninstall the Objet Studio software, do **not** attempt to do so from the Windows Control Panel. (This does not completely remove all software components.) Instead—

- From the *Start* menu, select All Programs > Objet Studio > Uninstall Objet Studio.

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Launching Objet Studio

Windows® 7 Security Warning

After you install Objet Studio, a launch icon  appears on the Windows desktop. Open the application by double-clicking this icon, or by selecting Objet Studio from the **Start** menu.

Depending on the User Account Control settings in Windows® 7, you may see the following warning when opening Objet Studio.

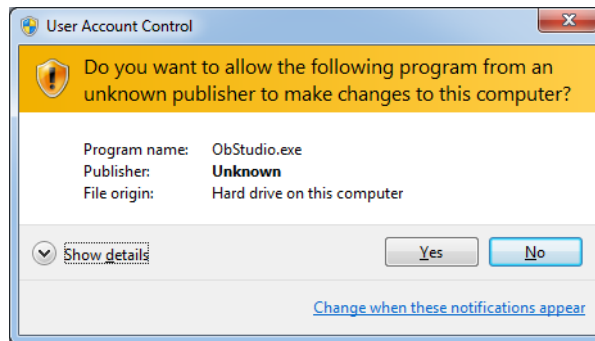


Figure 5-1: Security Warning

If you click **Yes**, Objet Studio opens. However, this warning message will appear each time you open the program, unless you change the User Account Control settings.

To prevent the warning message from appearing again:

1. Click the link at the bottom of the security warning dialog box (**Change when these notifications appear**).
2. In the User Account Control Settings screen, move the slider to "Never notify."

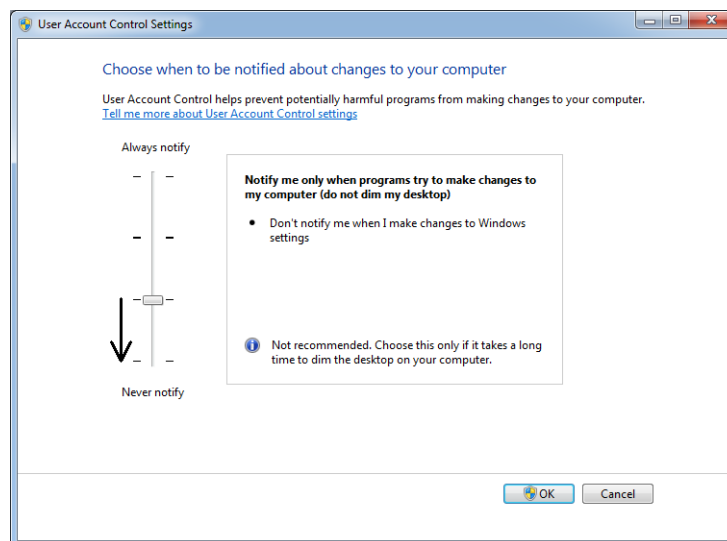


Figure 5-2: Changing the User Account Control settings

3. Click **OK**.

4. In the following dialog box, click **Yes**.

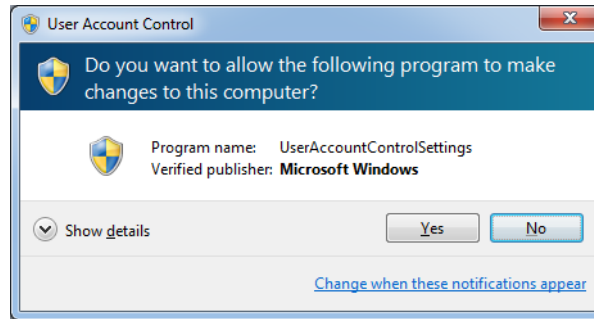


Figure 5-3: Confirming the change in the User Account Control settings

Objet Studio Interface

When Objet Studio opens, the *Tray Settings* screen appears, showing an empty build tray.

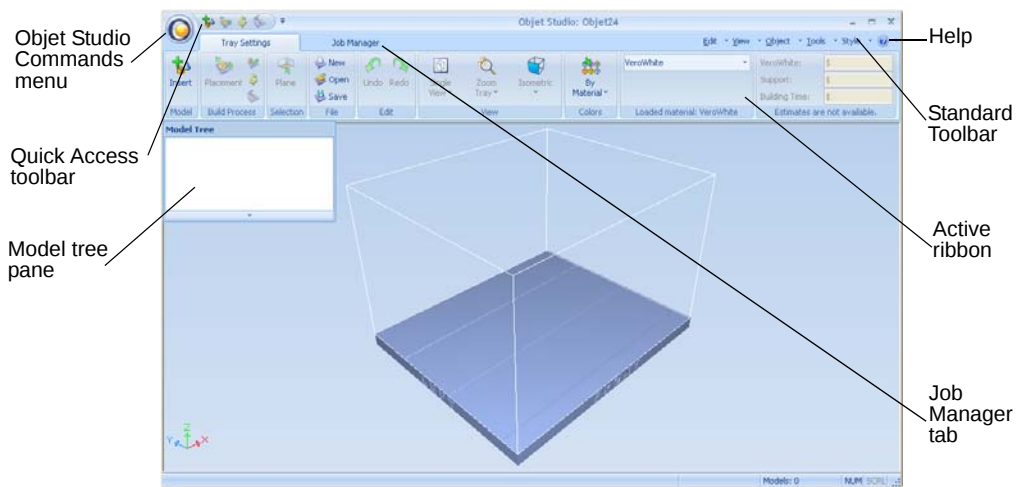


Figure 5-4: Objet Studio opening screen

The Objet Studio interface consists of two main screens:

- **Tray Settings**—for arranging models and preparing them for printing. This screen is described below.
- **Job Manager**—for monitoring and managing print jobs. This screen is described in “Monitoring and Managing Print Jobs” on page 57.

Each screen is controlled by menus and icons on its own ribbon. An additional ribbon, *Model Settings*, displays controls for configuring and manipulating selected models.

Objet Studio anticipates your workflow by displaying and enabling the options relevant to your current task. For example, when you first open Objet Studio, the *Model Settings* ribbon is disabled until you place a model on the build tray. Similarly, menu options available from the Standard Toolbar menus are enabled or disabled to match the current workflow.

The ribbon, colors used, and several other interface features can be customized. How to change the appearance of the interface is explained in “Customizing Objet Studio” on page 46.



Instructions for using the commands for preparing models for production and sending jobs to the printer, appear later in this chapter.



Figure 5-5: Tray Settings ribbon

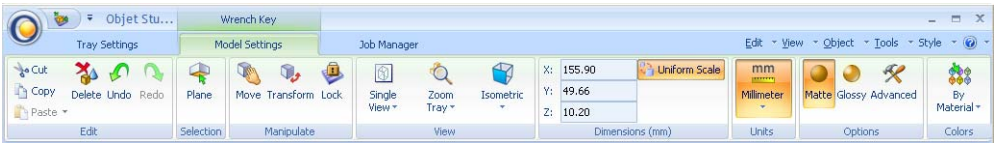
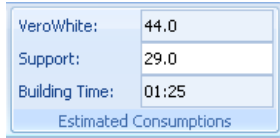
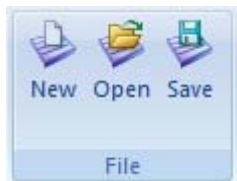
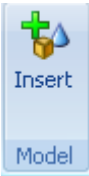
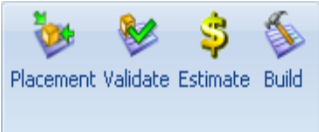
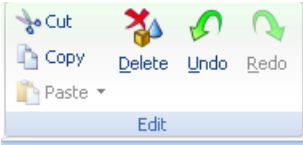
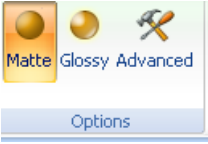


Figure 5-6: Model Settings ribbon

Ribbon Commands

The following table lists the *Tray Settings* and *Model Settings* ribbon command groups, and shows when they are enabled, and where they appear.

Group	Purpose	When enabled	Tray Settings Ribbon	Model Settings Ribbon
	Setting display colors.	Always.	☒	☒
	Selecting perspective and zoom level.	Models are on the build tray.	☒	☒
	Choose to select a plane.	Models are on the build tray.	☒	☒
	Change the perspective of the active pane.	Models are on the build tray.	☒	☒
	Assigning model material.	- Build tray is empty. - Models are not selected.	☒	
	Undoing or redoing actions.	After an action or object selection.	☒	☒
	Estimating the amount of printing materials required.	Build tray is not empty.	☒	
	Opening and saving files.	Models are not selected.	☒	

Group	Purpose	When enabled	Tray Settings Ribbon	Model Settings Ribbon
	Placing model files on the build tray.	Always.		
	Pre-build/build commands.	Models are on the build tray.		
	Setting model dimensions.	A model is selected.		
	Cutting, copying, pasting and deleting models.	A model is selected.		
	Moving, rotating and resizing models.	A model is selected.		
	Assigning model finish and setting support strength/“hollow.”	A model is selected.		
	Setting a model's unit of measure (millimeters or inches).	A model is selected.		



To quickly identify an icon, move the cursor over it to display a tooltip. The “Undo” and “Redo” tooltips change to reflect your last Objet Studio action.



After activating some of the ribbon commands (by clicking them), they remain active until you click another button or until you press the Escape key.

Objet Studio Commands Menu

Clicking the  icon in the upper-left corner opens the Objet Studio Commands menu. This menu displays basic application commands and options.

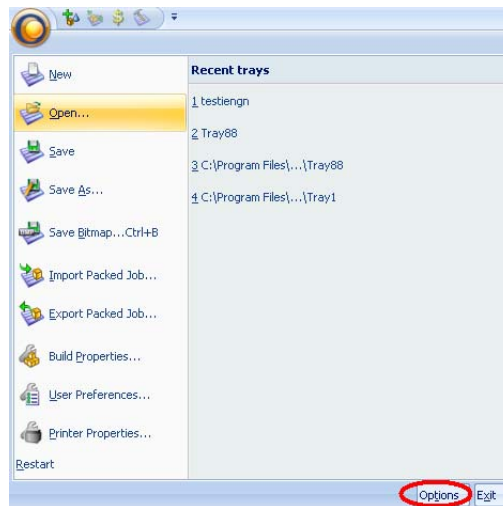


Figure 5-7: *Objet Studio Commands* menu

The *Options* button opens a dialog box for customizing Objet Studio.

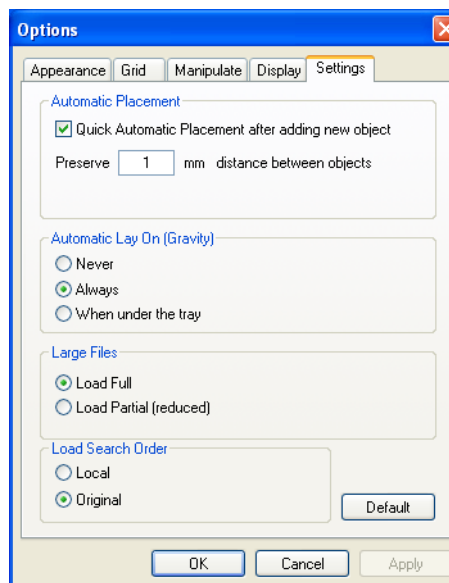


Figure 5-8: *Options* dialog box

Model Tree Pane

The Model Tree pane lists the objects placed on the build tray. By default, the pane “floats” — that is, you can move it to another position on the screen and resize it. Alternatively, you can fix its position at the left of the application window, and even hide it.

Preparing Models for Production

Model preparation involves the following basic steps:

1. Place objects on the build tray.
2. If necessary, manipulate the object's orientation and position.
3. Select the material and model finish.

OBJDF Files: Overview

An *objdf* file describes both the geometry of a single object and the material, and finish required to print it. You can use this file format to save a group of separate objects on the build tray as one unit, together with their relative positions and material.

Further explanations of files, and their features, appear throughout this chapter.

Model Files

To produce models, you open one or more model files in Objet Studio and position objects on the build tray. You can place objects on the build tray in two ways:

- by inserting individual *stl* or *slc* files.
- by pasting objects that you copied to the Windows clipboard.

Placing Objects on the Build Tray

To place an object on the build tray using *stl*, *slc* or files:

1. Open the *Insert* dialog box—
 - From the *Object* menu, select **Insert**.
 or—
 - On the *Tray Settings* ribbon, click  **Insert**.
 or—
 - Right-click on the build tray, and select **Insert** from the context menu.

The *Insert* dialog box appears.

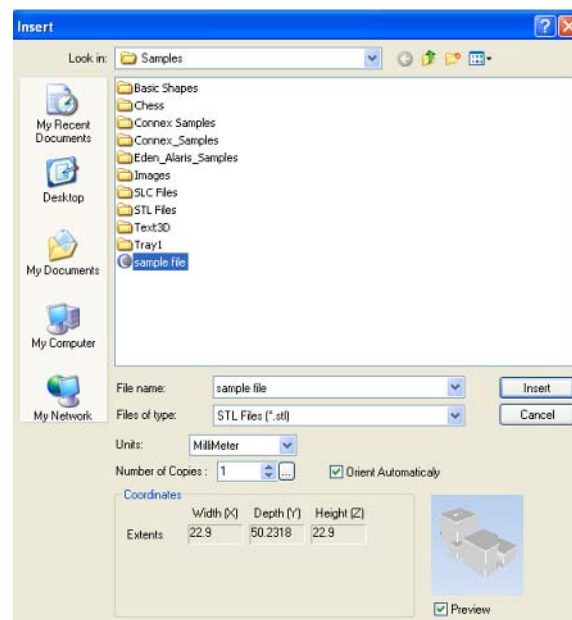


Figure 5-9: *Insert* dialog box

2. In the *Look in* field, display the appropriate folder.

3. In the *Files of type* field, select the file types to display (*stl, slc, objdf*).
4. Select the desired file, and make sure that it appears in the *File name* field.

If the *Preview* check box is selected, the object is displayed in the dialog box, as shown in figure 5-9.

The *Model Settings* ribbon is displayed when objects are placed on the build tray.

5. Select any of the following options, as required:
 - **Units**—*Millimeters* or *inches* for the object's units of measure.

The 3D file contains the object's proportions, but not its units of measure. Therefore, make sure to correctly select either **millimeters** or **inches** when inserting an object. Otherwise, the size of the object on the build tray will be either much too large or much too small. To change the measurement units of objects already placed on the tray, see "Measurement Units" on page 24.
 - **Number of copies**—How many copies of this object to place on the build tray.
 - **Orient Automatically**—Automatically orient objects on the build tray for efficient model building.

Note: The Extents values displayed in the *Coordinates* section of the Insert dialog box, represent the maximum dimensions of the object on each axis. These dimensions correspond to the virtual "bounding box" surrounding the object see figure 5-35 on page 30).

6. Click **Insert**.

Objet Studio places the object on the build tray, and in the model tree.

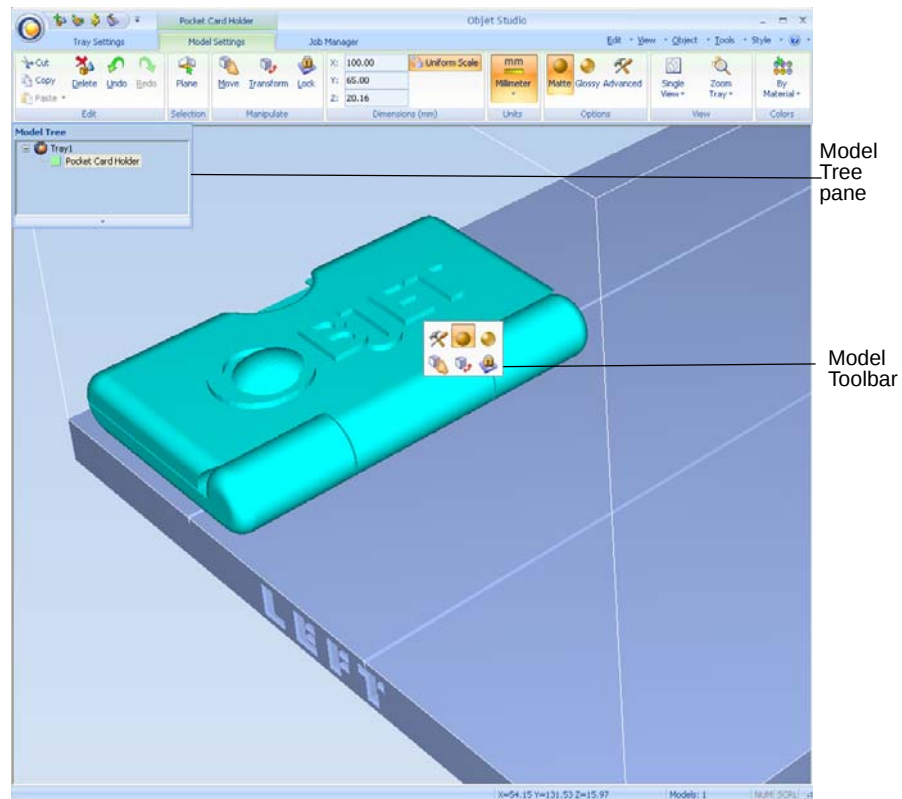


Figure 5-10: Default screen layout

The *Model Settings* ribbon is displayed when objects are placed on the build tray.

If the object is over a certain size, the *Loading Placed Elements* dialog box may appear.

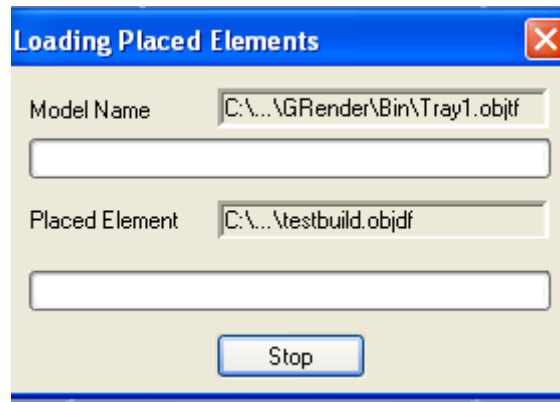


Figure 5-11: *Loading Placed Elements* dialog box



You can speed up the opening of large files by changing the *Large Files* settings—see “Loading Large Files” on page 34).

Opening files Before placing files on the build tray, Objet Studio must extract the component *stl* files together with information about their relative position and model materials. To do this, Objet Studio creates a folder with the same name as the file, in the same location.

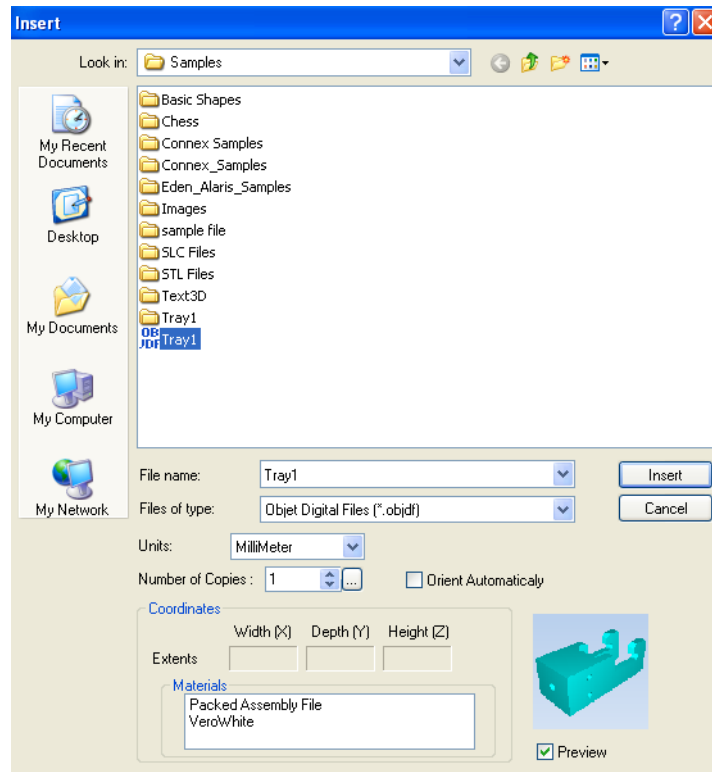


Figure 5-12: *Insert* dialog box (file)

Opening Objet Tray Files

You can open trays that were saved as *objtf* files. This is useful, for example, if you saved a tray after preparing it for printing, and now you want to make changes before printing it.

To place an object saved as an Objet Tray File (*objtf*) file on the build tray:

1. From the *File* group, click  **Open**.

OR —

From the *Objet Studio Commands*, select **Open**.

The *Open* dialog box is displayed.

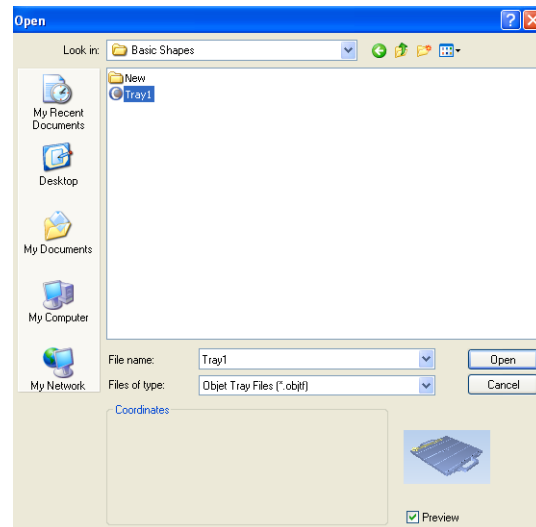


Figure 5-13: Objet Tray File *Open* dialog box

2. Select the desired file, and make sure that it appears in the *File name* field.

If the *Preview* check box is selected, the object is displayed.

3. Click **Open**.

Objet Studio opens the tray file.



The *objtf* file is actually a file containing instructions for printing—which *stl* files to print and their position on the build tray. Because the *objtf* file references the *stl* files used, they must remain in the same file location as when the *objtf* file was saved.

STL file loading preference If there are identically named *stl* files in more than one location, you need to ensure that the correct component *stl* files are linked to the *objtf* file. For example, if there are identically named *stl* files on one drive and on a flash drive (this can occur if you copy the original files to a working folder), you can set the default location from which files are loaded.

To set the Load Order:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Options**.
or—
In the Objet Studio Commands Menu, click **Options**.
2. In the *Options* dialog box, display the *Settings* tab.

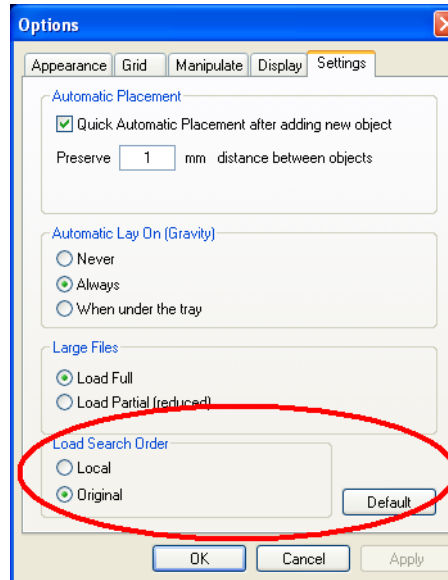


Figure 5-14: *Options* dialog box, *Settings* tab

3. Under *Load Search Order*, select an option:
 - **Local**—to load files from the location where they were last saved.
 - **Original**—to load files in their original location.
4. Click **OK**.

Quick-Access
Model
Commands

You can access common commands for working with objects on the build tray with the convenient Model Toolbar and context menus.

Model Toolbar

Select an object in the tray to display the Model Toolbar that contains icons to perform common tasks.



Figure 5-15: Model Toolbar

The table below describes the Model Toolbar icons.

Icon	Description
	Applies a matte finish to the model.
	Applies a glossy finish to the model.
	Opens the <i>Advanced Properties</i> dialog box for setting the Grid Style and the Hollow option.
	Enables dragging an object (see page 5-25).
	Opens the <i>Transform</i> dialog box for changing the object's position and scale.
	Toggles the Lock Model Orientation setting.

Right-click model
menu

If you right-click on an object, a pop-up context menu is displayed from which you can also select the model finish, change its position and scale, and set the *Grid Style* and *Hollow* options.



You can also create a Quick Access toolbar with your most commonly used icons grouped together. See “Creating a Quick Access Toolbar” on page 46.

Copying and Pasting Objects

If you need to duplicate objects on the build tray, you can insert the same object from its file more than once. An easier way, however, is to copy and paste the object. You can copy objects from the build tray or the model tree. The objects copied remain in the Windows clipboard until you paste them onto the build tray.

You can also copy objects from one tray and paste them onto another, in the same way as you copy text from one document and paste it into another one. However, Objet Studio allows only one tray to be open at a time. For each build tray you need to work with (at the same time), you must open a separate Objet Studio window, by running the application again (from the Windows *Start* menu).



Having multiple Objet Studio windows open can be convenient when you need to manipulate or configure objects before inserting them in your production build tray. Copying and pasting also allows you to use objects already configured on previously-used build trays for newer projects.

You perform the *Copy* and *Paste* commands as in other Windows applications:

- from the right-click context menu.
- by using keyboard shortcuts (Ctrl+C and Ctrl+V, respectively).

The *Paste Special* command (from the object's right-click context menu) enables you to place duplicate objects even more efficiently:

- You can specify the number of duplicates to place on the build tray at once.
- You can set the distance, on each axis, between the duplicate objects.
- You can manipulate mirror images of the original object, and flip them on selected axes.

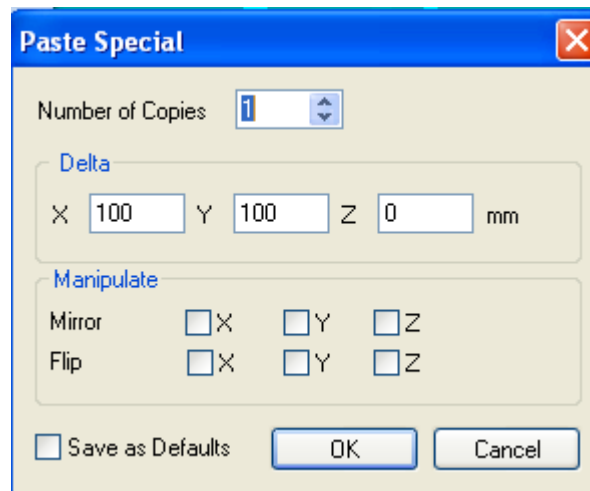


Figure 5-16: *Paste Special* dialog box

Selecting Objects

To manipulate an object on the build tray or assign characteristics to it (building style, for example), you must first select the object. You select an object by clicking it, either on the tray or in the model tree. Its image on the build tray changes color (to light blue, by default) and its name is highlighted in the model tree. You can select multiple objects by drawing a box around them with the mouse cursor, or by pressing the **Ctrl** or **Shift** keys while clicking additional objects.

Alternatively, select or de-select objects using the following *Edit* menu commands:

- **Select All**
- **Invert Selection**
- **Undo Select object**

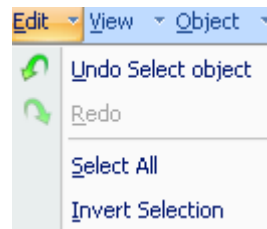


Figure 5-17: *Edit* menu

Surface Finish

Models can be printed with a matte or glossy surface finish. To create a matte finish, the printer surrounds models with a thin layer of support material.

To set the model finish:

1. Select the model.
2. Select **Matte** 🟡 or **Glossy** 🟡 in one of the following places:
 - *Model Settings* ribbon, *Options* group
 - Model Toolbar
 - right-click context menu (when selecting the model)

You can configure Objet Studio to distinguish between objects' surface finish on the build tray by color. To configure how Objet Studio displays objects, see "Setting Object Colors" on page 33.

Positioning Objects on the Build Tray

To produce models efficiently and with the required finish, it is important to carefully position objects on the build tray. Objet Studio supports the automatic positioning of objects. However, you should check to make sure that the objects are orientated logically for your needs, according to the considerations explained in “Model Orientation” on page 5-20.

Two things that affect the positioning of objects on the build tray are *orientation* and *placement*. You can let Objet Studio determine the optimum orientation and position, or you can control them.

Automatic Orientation

By default, Objet Studio automatically orients objects, when placed on the build tray, for the shortest printing time. (You can later change the orientation manually.) However, you can cancel automatic orientation when placing an object on the build tray.

To place an object on the build tray without automatic orientation:

- In the *Insert* dialog box, make sure *Orient Automatically* is **not** selected.

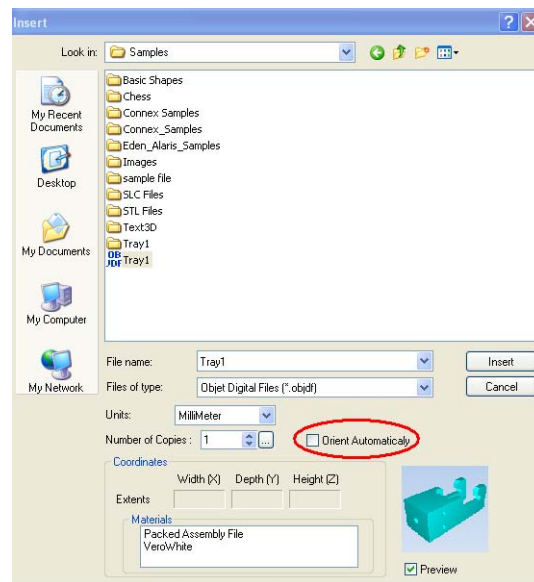


Figure 5-18: *Orient Automatically* option disabled



You can change the default setting, so that automatic orientation is *not* applied unless you select the *Orient Automatically* check box each time you place an object on the build tray. To do this, see “Default Settings” on page 52.

Automatic Placement

After placing several objects on the build tray, you can let Objet Studio arrange them on the tray for printing. This ensures that the objects are positioned properly, and that they will be printed in the shortest time and with a minimum of material.

To automatically arrange objects on the build tray:

- On the *Tray Settings* ribbon, click  **Placement**.
- or —

From the *Tools* menu, select **Automatic Placement**.

The effects of automatic positioning are shown in the figures below.

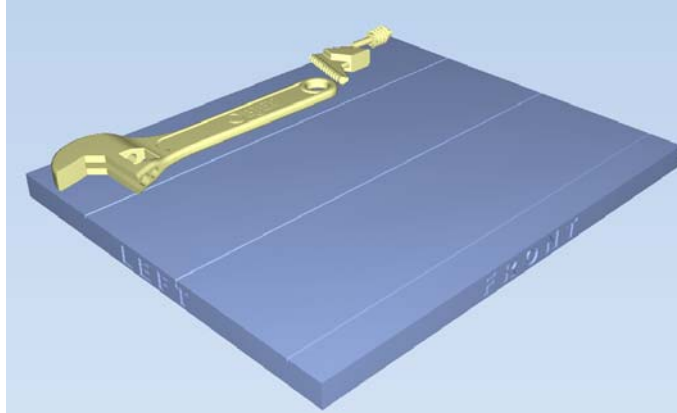


Figure 5-19: Tray before objects are properly arranged

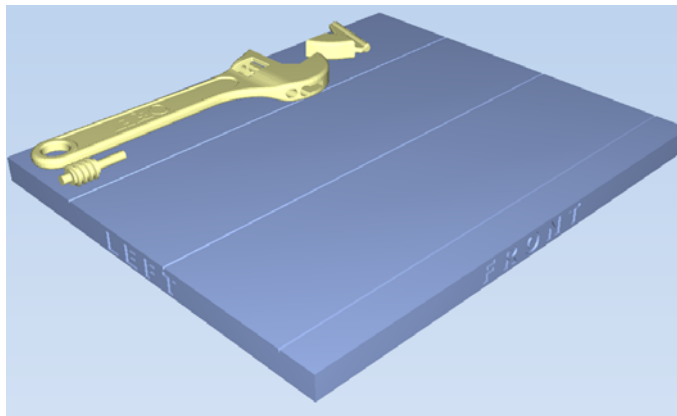


Figure 5-20: Tray arrangement when applying automatic placement



- For best results arrange the tray with *Automatic Placement*, on the *Tray Settings* ribbon, even if you inserted the objects with the *Orient Automatically* option.
- The physical characteristics of each type of model material you use can affect the positioning of objects on the build tray. Therefore, select the material **before** running *Automatic Placement*.

Manual Positioning

You can change the position of objects on the build tray—even if they were inserted with the *Orient Automatically* option. Considerations for positioning objects are presented in “Model Orientation,” below. Tools for changing the position of objects are presented in “Manipulating Objects on the Build Tray” on page 5-21.

Model Orientation

The orientation of models on the build tray affects how quickly and efficiently they will be produced by the 3D printer, where and how much support material is used, and whether or not model parts will have a glossy finish. Therefore, you should consider a variety of factors when deciding how to place models on the tray, using the following positioning rules.

X-Y-Z Rule

This rule considers a model's outer dimensions.

- Since the print heads move back and forth along the X-axis, the printing time along this axis is relatively short, compared to printing time along the Y-axis and Z-axis. From this point of view, it is advisable to place the object's *largest* dimension along the X-axis.
- Any surfaces that come into contact with support materials become matte.
- Since models are built up, on the Z-axis, in 30-micron layers, it is very time-consuming to print a tall object. From this point of view, it is advisable to place the object's *smallest* dimension along the Z-axis.
- Since the print heads measure about 2 inches (5 centimeters) on the Y-axis, models measuring less than this (on the Y-axis) are printed in one pass. From this point of view, it is advisable to place the object's *intermediate* dimension along the Y-axis.

Tall-Left Rule

This rule considers models where, after being orientated on the build tray according to other considerations, one side is taller than the other.

- Since the print heads move along the X-axis from left to right, taller sections on the right require the print heads to scan unnecessarily from the left until reaching them. If, on the other hand, the taller sections are positioned on the left of the tray, the print heads only have to scan the model until printing these sections—once the lower parts have been completed. Therefore, you should position the taller side of the model, when possible, *on the left*.



The following rules are based on the fact that support material is not required on the top of the printed model.

Recess-Up Rule

This rule considers models containing surface recesses.

- Recesses in the surface (like hollows, drill holes, etc.) should, when possible, be positioned *face-up*.

Fine-Surface Rule

This rule considers models that have one side on which there are fine details (like the keypad side of a telephone).

- The side of the model containing fine details should, when possible, be positioned *face-up*. This results in a smooth finish.

Avoid Support-Material Rule

This rule considers models that have large holes or hollows, open on at least one side (like a pipe or a container).

- It may be advantageous to print a model *standing up*, so support material does not fill the hollow, even though printing the model lying down would be much faster.

Manipulating Objects on the Build Tray

Positioning Objects on the Z-Axis

When you use the automatic positioning option to arrange objects on the build tray (see “Automatic Orientation” on page 5-18), the objects are positioned directly on the tray. If you do not insert objects with automatic positioning, they often appear either above or below the tray.



In practice, the Objet system prints all models on the build tray on a one-millimeter bed of support material. The importance of positioning objects directly on the build tray with Objet Studio is to correctly display the objects on the screen.

To position objects directly on the tray:

1. Select the object.
2. From the *Object* menu, select **Lay On**.

To ensure that objects are always positioned directly on the tray:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Options**, and display the *Settings* tab.

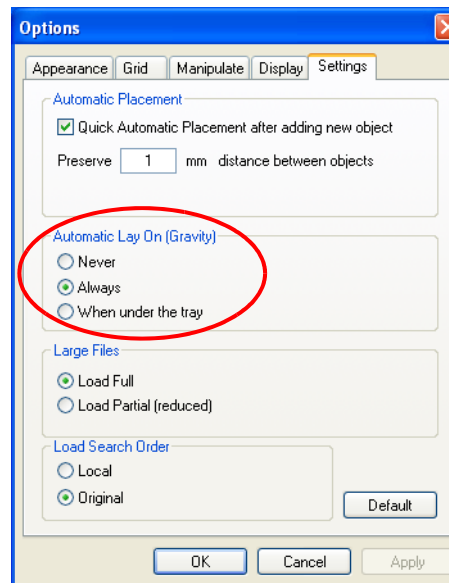


Figure 5-21: Options dialog box, Settings tab

2. In the *Automatic Lay On (Gravity)* section, select **Always**.

Other Z-axis options (in the *Automatic Lay On* section):

- **When under the tray**—The display of objects that are below the build tray is automatically changed so that the object is at tray level.
- **Never**—The display of objects that are above or below the build tray is not changed.

Valid Object Placement

You can ensure that models do not overlap when you position them on the build tray, and that they do not extend beyond the tray.

To ensure valid object placement:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Constraints Settings**.

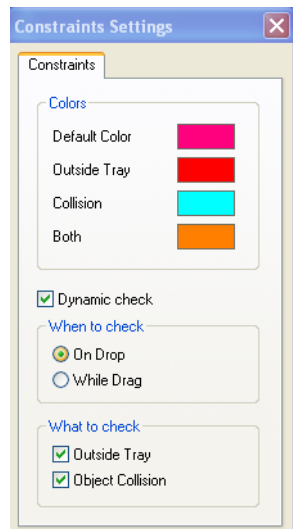


Figure 5-22: *Constraints Settings* dialog box

2. Select **Dynamic check** to identify:
 - invalid object placement while placing objects—*On Drop* selected.
 - invalid object placement after moving objects—*While Drag* selected.
 - objects placed beyond the tray's boundaries—*Outside Tray* selected.
 - objects that overlap—*Object Collision* selected.



Even if you do not use *Dynamic Check* when placing objects on the build tray, Objet Studio automatically checks if there is a problem with the positioning of objects on the tray before sending it to the printer. You can also manually check for problems after positioning objects (see “Tray Validation” on page 37).

Note: Remember that Objet Studio calculates the space occupied by an object including the “bounding box” surrounding it (see figure 5-35 on page 30).

Using a Grid to Position Objects

Displaying a grid on the image of the build tray can be useful when positioning objects. To use the grid features, select the following menu options.

Menu Option	Result
Tools > Grid	Displays a grid on the build tray.
Tools > Snap to grid	When moving the object, it aligns with the nearest grid line.
Tools > Options > Grid	Enables you to change the grid origin (X- and Y-axis meeting point) and appearance.

You can review and configure grid settings—and apply them—from the *Options* dialog box.

To view and change grid settings:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Options**, and display the *Grid* tab.
The current grid settings are displayed.

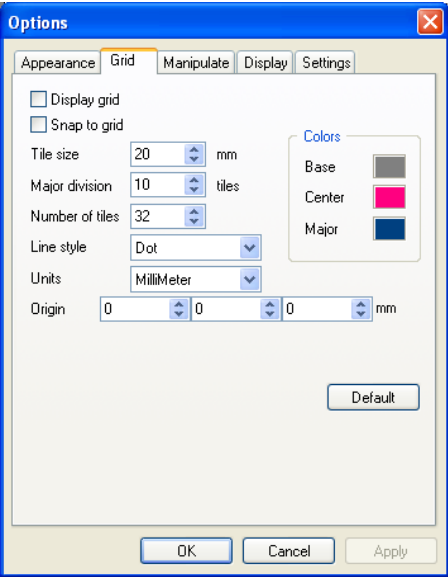


Figure 5-23: *Options* dialog box, *Grid* tab

2. As required, change the settings, and select or clear the check boxes.
3. Click **Apply** or **OK**.

Measurement Units

3D files contain an object's proportions, but not its units of measure. Therefore, make sure to correctly select either millimeters or inches when inserting an object. Otherwise, the size of the object on the build tray will be either much too large or much too small.

To set the measurement units when inserting an object:

- In the *Insert* dialog box, *Units* field, select **Millimeter** or **Inch**:

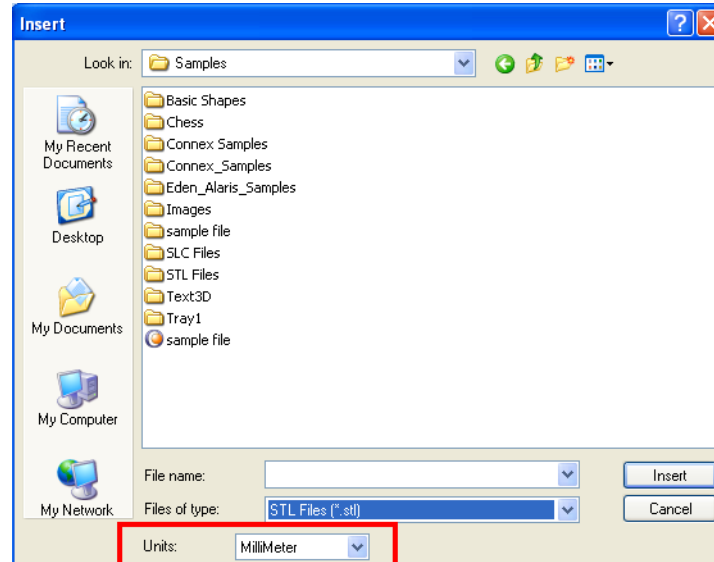


Figure 5-24: Units field in the *Insert* dialog box

To change measurement units for a selected object from the *Model Settings* ribbon:

1. Open the *Units* flyout toolbar.



Figure 5-25: Units flyout toolbar

2. Select the measurement units desired.

To change measurement units for a selected object from the Standard Toolbar:

1. From the *Object* menu, select **Change Units**.

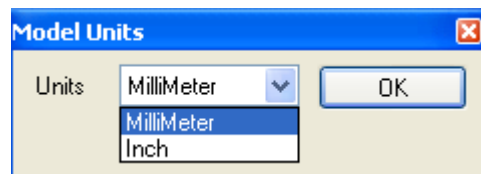


Figure 5-26: *Model Units* dialog box

2. In the *Model Units* dialog box, change the setting and click **OK**.

Setting Model Dimensions

You can change an object's dimensions by changing its size on the X-, Y-, and Z-axes, from the *Dimensions* group on the *Model Settings* ribbon.



Figure 5-27: *Dimensions* on the *Model Settings* ribbon

- If *Uniform Scale* is enabled, changing the object's dimension on one axis affects the other dimensions, proportionately.
- After changing a measurement, press Enter or click in another field in the *Dimensions* group.

Note: You can change the height of the objects on the build tray only if this is allowed by the Objet Studio settings (see "Positioning Objects on the Z-Axis" on page 5-21).

Repositioning Objects

You can manually move and rotate an object on the build tray with the arrow keys, or by dragging it with the mouse.

To manually manipulate an object:

1. Select an object by clicking it on the build tray, or in the model tree pane.
2. Click  on the Model Toolbar, or on the *Model Settings* ribbon.

A frame appears around the object, and the cursor changes to indicate that the object can be moved.

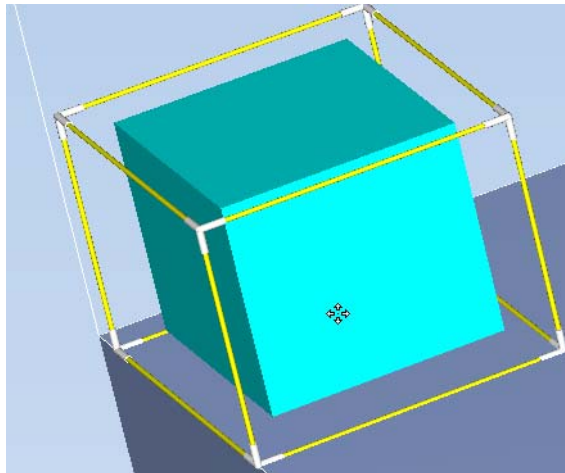


Figure 5-28: Manually moving an object

3. If you click on a corner of the frame, the cursor changes to indicate that the object can be rotated.

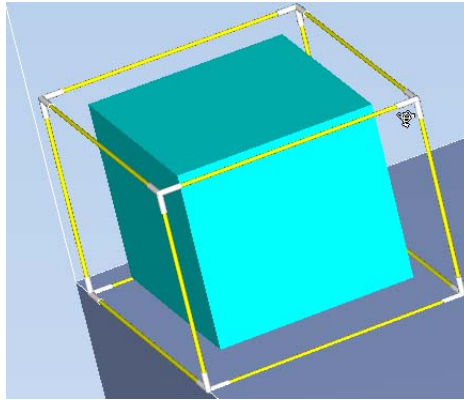


Figure 5-29: Manually rotating an object

4. Manipulate the object with the arrow keys or with the mouse.

Using the *Transform* Dialog Box

You can make precise changes to an object by changing the properties in the *Transform* dialog box.

To access the *Transform* dialog box (when an object is selected):

- Click  on the Model Toolbar or on the *Model Settings* ribbon.
- From the right-click context menu, select **Transform**.
- From the *Object* menu, select **Transform**.



Figure 5-30: *Transform* dialog box

To change an object with the *Transform* dialog box:

- Change any of the values, then click **Apply** to see how the object changes on the build tray.

Note: The changed values remain in the dialog box after clicking *Apply*. Therefore, you can make small changes to values in the dialog box to see how the object changes on screen each time you click *Apply*.

To reset all of the values in the dialog box:

- Click **Reset**.

Note: The object does not change. Any changes previously applied remain.

To undo **all** changes made with the *Transform* dialog box:

- Click **Cancel Actions**.



After closing the *Transform* dialog box, clicking *Undo* (on the *Model Settings* ribbon or from the *Edit* menu) cancels **all** changes made with the dialog box.

Changing an Object's Orientation

There are several methods for changing the orientation of objects on the build tray.

To rotate an object:

- Select the object and use the *Object* menu options (see also “Repositioning Objects” on page 5-25).

To re-align an object's plane:

1. On the *Tray Settings* or *Model Settings* ribbon, click  .

or—

From the *Tools* menu, select **Plane Alignment > Select Plane**.

2. Click on part of an object on the build tray.

The selected plane is displayed.

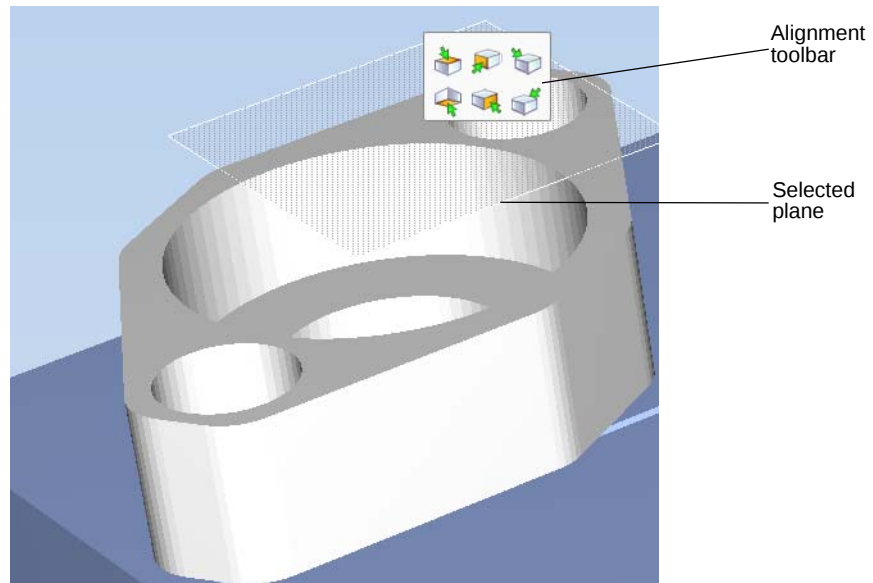


Figure 5-31: Aligning by plane

3. On the Alignment toolbar, click an appropriate icon to change the alignment.

or—

From the *Tools* menu, select **Plane Alignment**, and select an alignment option.

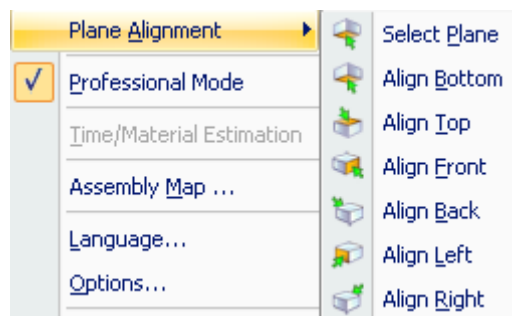


Figure 5-32: Tools menu, Plane Alignment options

To cancel plane selection after re-aligning objects on the build tray:

- On the *Tray Settings* or *Model Settings* ribbon, click  .
- or—**

From the *Tools* menu, select **Plane Alignment > Select Plane**.

To flip an object 180 degrees on any axis:

1. Select the object.
2. From the *Object* menu, select **Flip > Flip X / Flip Y / Flip Z**.

To make precise changes to the object's orientation on any axis:

1. Select the object.
2. Display the *Transform* dialog box (see figure 5-30 on page 26).
3. Change the **Rotate** parameters for each axis.

Freezing Model Orientation

If you manipulate an object on the build tray, you can freeze its orientation so that it does not change when you position it automatically (see “Automatic Placement” on page 5-19).

To freeze an object:

1. Select an object on the build tray.
2. On the *Model Settings* ribbon, in the *Manipulate* group, or on the Model Toolbar, click .

To unfreeze an object:

- Select the object and click  (to de-select it).

Display Options

Viewing Objects

From the *View* menu, you can change the way objects are displayed. The default method for displaying models on the build tray is as solid (“shaded”) objects.

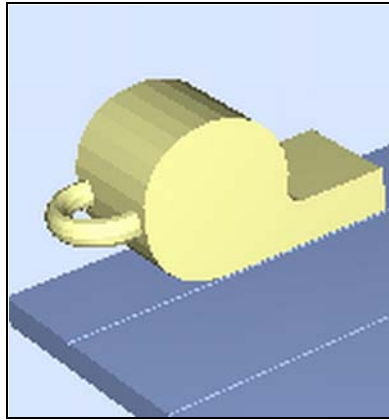


Figure 5-33: Tray and model displayed in *Shaded* view

The other display options are *WireFrame* and *Points*.

To display the build tray in *WireFrame* view:

- From the *View* menu, select **WireFrame**.

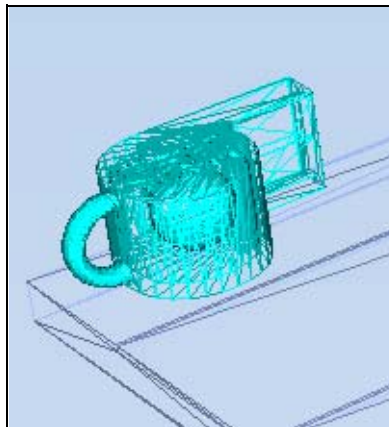


Figure 5-34: Tray and model displayed in *WireFrame* view

To revert to the *shaded* view:

- From the *View* menu, select **Shaded**.

To display objects as boxes, showing their maximum dimensions instead of their shape:

- From the *View* menu, select **Display Bounding Box**.

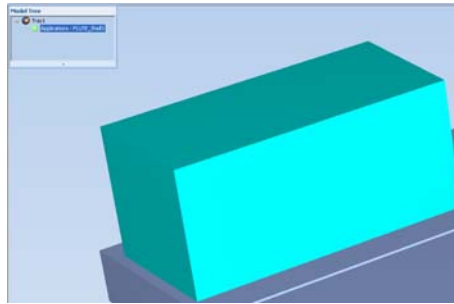


Figure 5-35: Model displayed with bounding box

To display the area around objects needed for support material (to produce a matte finish):

- From the *View* menu, select **Display Thickening Box**.

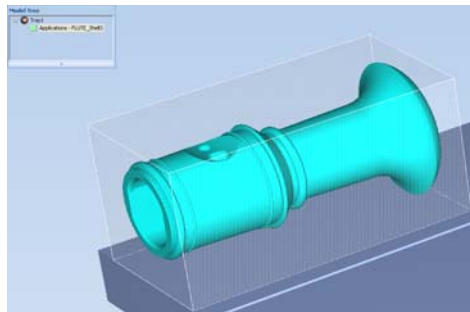


Figure 5-36: Model displayed with thickening box

To display the maximum build height:

- From the *View* menu, select **Display Tray 3D Box**.

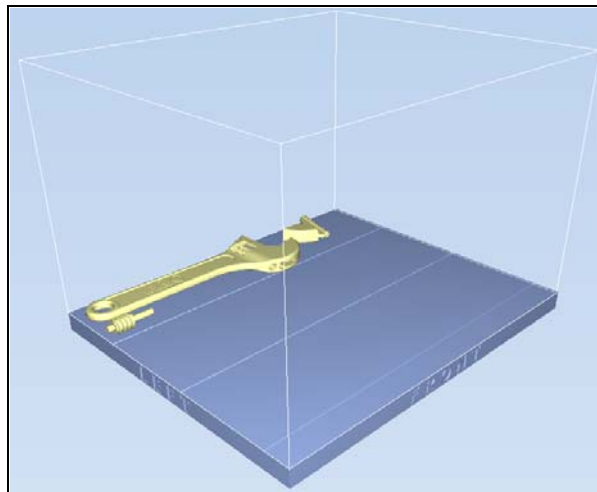


Figure 5-37: Tray 3D Box

To display objects without the build tray:

- From the *View* menu, clear (de-select) the *Display Tray* option.

Screen Layout Objet Studio automatically adjusts the default screen layout to display the optimum views of the build tray and the model tree. You can view models from different perspectives by changing the screen layout.

To change the screen layout:

- On the *View* flyout toolbar, select **Single View**, or **4 Views**.

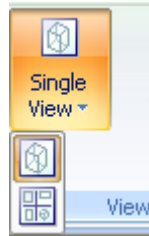


Figure 5-38: Screen layout icons

- ☐ **Single View**  is the default screen layout.
- ☐ **4 Views**  displays *perspective, top, front and right* views.

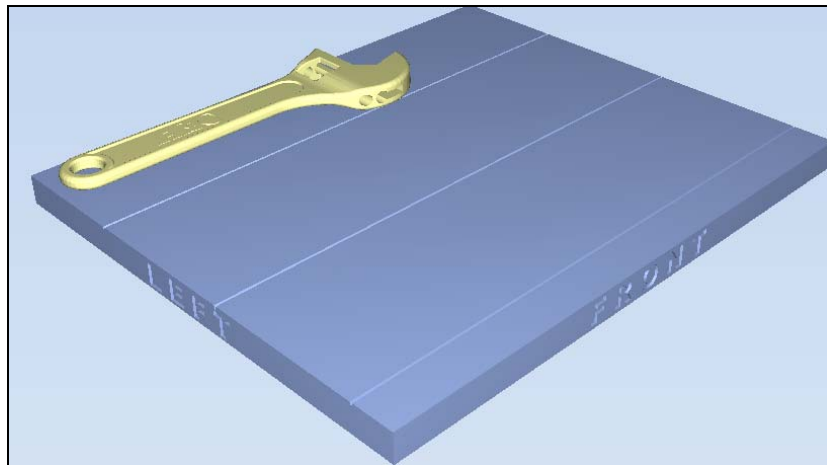


Figure 5-39: Single-view screen layout

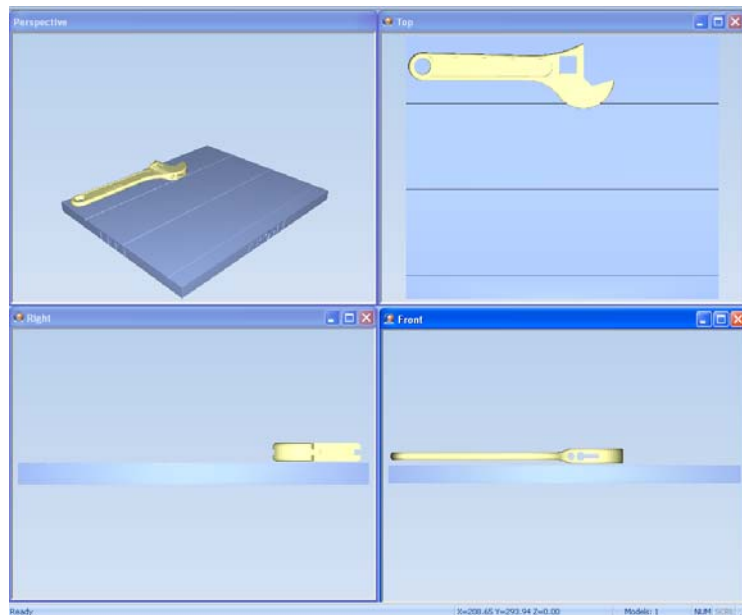


Figure 5-40: 4-view screen layout

Tray Perspective

The default perspective of the build tray is “isometric.” You can change the perspective of the active window with one of ten options.

To change the perspective of the build tray in the active window:

1. On the *Tray Settings* ribbon, open the *Perspective* flyout toolbar.



Figure 5-41: *Perspective* flyout toolbar

2. Click the icon that represents the desired perspective.

Tray Positioning

To view the tray and models from different directions, you can move the tray around the screen and change its display angle.

To move the tray in the Objet Studio screen:

- Press the mouse wheel while moving the mouse.

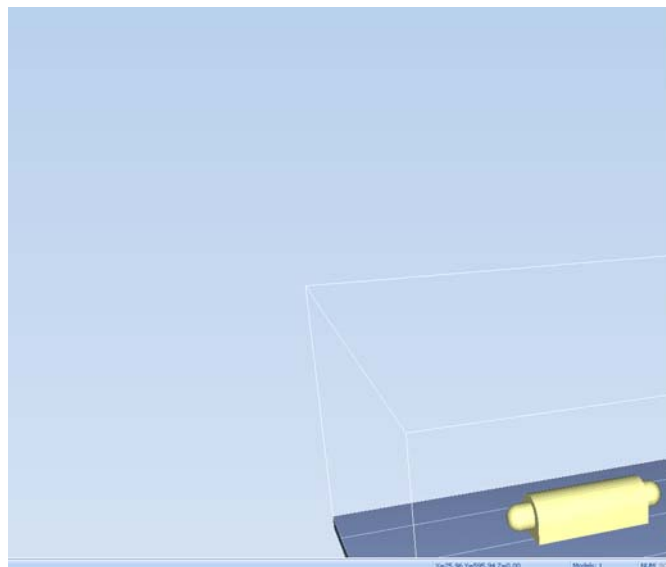


Figure 5-42: Tray after moving it in the Objet Studio display

To manually rotate the tray:

- Press Alt and press the mouse wheel while moving the mouse.

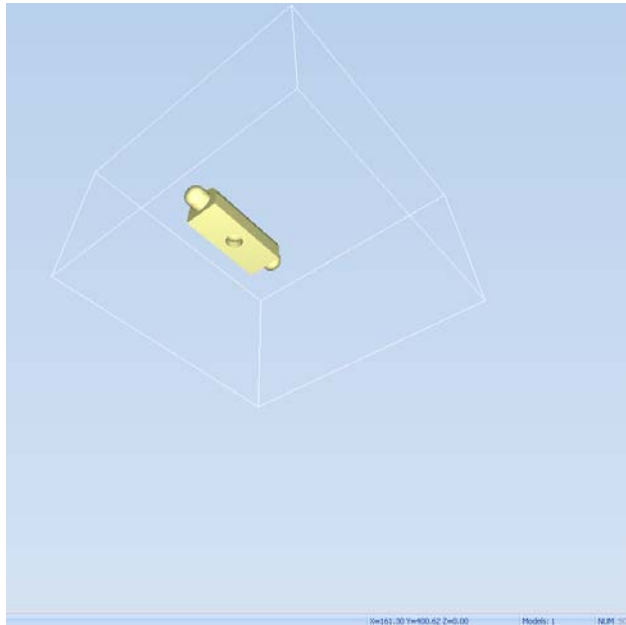


Figure 5-43: Tray after rotating it upside-down

Setting Object Colors

The color of objects on the build tray can indicate how they are printed. Objet Studio enables you to choose the color display so that you can easily see the material, and surface of objects.

To choose how colors are applied on the display:

- On the *Model Settings* ribbon, in the *Colors* group, select one of the options from the flyout toolbar.

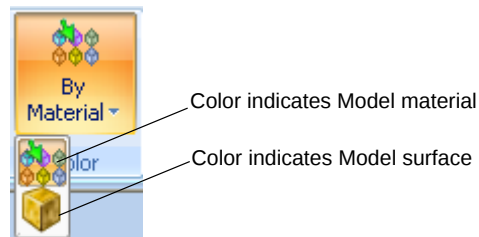


Figure 5-44: Colors display options



Before sending a build tray to the printer, or when you perform *tray validation*, Objet Studio checks if there is a problem with the *stl* files or the positioning of objects on the tray. If so, the affected objects are displayed with special colors (see “Tray Validation” on page 5-37).

Loading Large Files

Very large *stl* files can be slow to load and may be difficult to manipulate easily on the build tray. If this is the case, you can display just an image of the object on the build tray without loading the entire file. The *stl* file itself is not changed, and the complete file is sent to the printer.

To display an image of *stl* files when you place objects on the build tray:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Options**, and display the *Settings* tab.

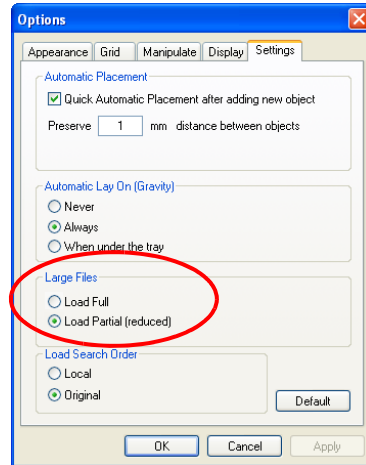


Figure 5-45: Options dialog box, Settings tab

2. In the *Large Files* section, select **Load Partial (reduced)**.

Large File Manipulation

If you need to work with a detailed model that is composed of a large number of polygons, you can speed up its display and manipulation in Objet Studio by reducing the number of polygons on the screen. Although this may reduce the resolution on the screen, it has no affect on the printed models.

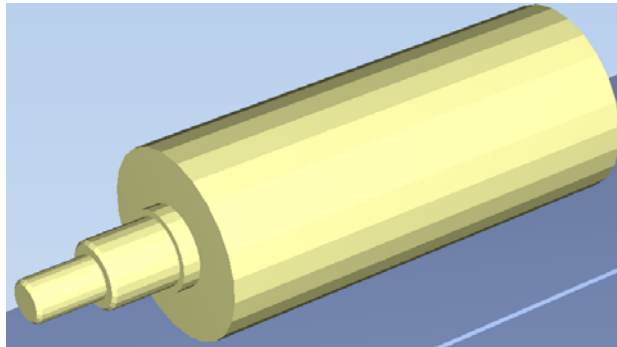


Figure 5-46: Object displayed without polygon reduction

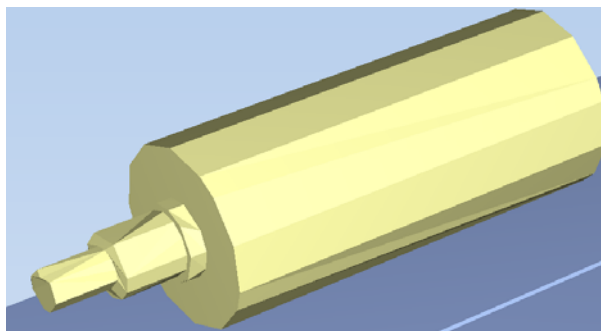


Figure 5-47: Object displayed with only five percent of its polygons showing

To use polygon reduction:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Options**.
or—
In the Objet Studio Commands Menu, click **Options**.
2. In the *Options* dialog box, display the *Display* tab.

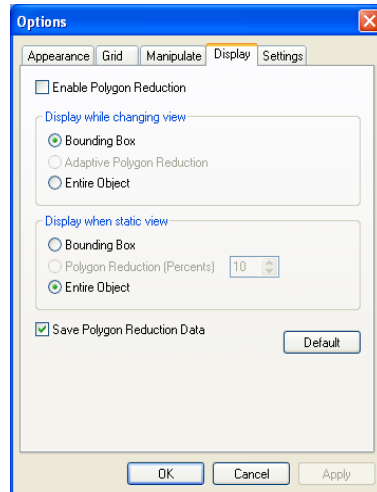


Figure 5-48: *Options* dialog box, *Display* tab

3. Select **Enable Polygon Reduction**.
4. Select **Polygon Reduction (Percent)**.
5. Enter the percentage of total polygons to display.
When you click **Apply**, the display changes.

Note: The setting affects the static display (when the object is not being moved).

6. Set display options when the object is being moved (*Display while changing view*):
 - *Bounding Box*—A box representing the object's maximum dimensions is displayed.
 - *Adaptive Polygon Reduction*—Varying degrees of polygon reduction are applied, as necessary.
 - *Entire Object*—No polygon reduction is applied.
7. To save these settings, so that they will be applied every time you place **this object** on the build tray, click **Save Polygon Reduction Data**.
8. Click **Apply** to see the results of the settings without closing the dialog box.



Selecting the *Entire Object* option cancels polygon reduction.

Object display options

The display format affects how quickly objects display. For example, if you select **Bounding Box**, objects display faster than they do when you select **Entire Object**. You can choose display formats for objects when they are stationary (*static view*) and for when you are dragging them (*changing view*).

To select the object display preference while changing view, and in static view:

1. Select to display objects:
 - With a *Bounding Box* (see figure 5-35 on page 30)
 - With *Adaptive Polygon Reduction* (*changing view only*)
 - With *Polygon Reduction* (*static view only*)
 - *Entire Object*
2. Click **OK** when done.

Zoom Options

While manipulating objects, you often need to view them at different zoom levels.

To change the zoom level:

- On the ribbon, open the *Zoom* flyout toolbar and select an option:

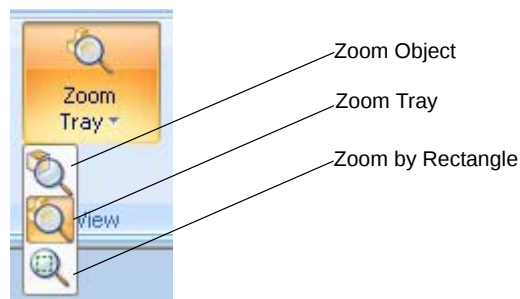


Figure 5-49: Zoom flyout toolbar

- ☐ *Zoom Object* focuses on the selected object.
- ☐ *Zoom Tray* displays the whole tray.
- ☐ *Zoom by Rectangle* allows you to display a section of the tray by selecting it with the mouse.

You can also zoom in and zoom out with the mouse wheel.



You can configure Objet Studio to automatically zoom in on the objects placed on the build tray. See “*Automatic Zoom*” on page 52.

Handling Completed Trays

After you have properly placed all objects on the build tray, you save the tray as an *objtf* file, which is sent to the 3D printer for production. But before saving the tray, you can check that there would be no problem producing it. You can also calculate how much material would be consumed during production and how much time this would take.

Tray Validation Before sending a job to the printer for production, you should check that the tray is “valid” and can be printed.

To validate that the tray can be printed:

- On the *Tray Settings* ribbon, in the *Build Process* group, click  **Validate**.
- or —

From the *Tools* menu, select **Placement Validation**.

If the tray is not valid, the color of the problematic models on the tray changes according to a pre-set code.

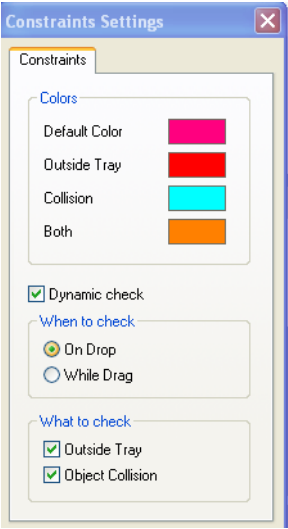


Figure 5-50: Color code

Note: The “Both” color also indicates a problematic *stl* file.

The validation status appears on the bar at the bottom of the screen.

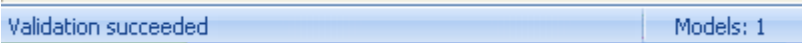


Figure 5-51: Validation details in status bar

Production Estimates

Objet Studio enables you to calculate the time and material resources needed for producing trays before sending them to the printer. The time it takes Objet Studio to perform this calculation depends on the number of objects on the tray and their complexity. Calculating the production estimate for a full tray could take up to 15 minutes, depending on your computer's specifications.

To calculate the time and materials needed for producing the current tray:

- On the *Tray Settings* ribbon, in the *Build Process* group, click .

While the estimate is being calculated, a progress bar is displayed—on the right side of the status bar (at the bottom of the screen).

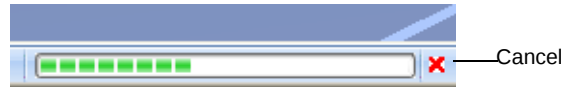


Figure 5-52: Estimate progress bar

When Objet Studio finishes calculating the production resources, the results are displayed in the *Estimated Consumptions* group on the *Tray Settings* ribbon.

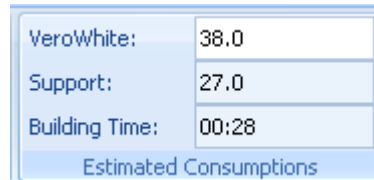


Figure 5-53: Production resource calculation

E-mailing Objet Digital Files

You can easily e-mail *objdf* files using Microsoft® Office Outlook®. Sending *objdf* files is recommended (instead of *stl* files) because the size of a file is typically reduced by more than half. An added benefit is that the *objdf* file contains the model-material information for the object.

To e-mail a file:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Email Objet Digital File**.
Outlook opens with the file attached and *Subject* details added to the e-mail form.
2. Enter the e-mail address and send the file.

Printing the Tray File

When a tray is ready to be printed, it is placed in the Jobs Queue. When the job reaches the head of the queue, Objet Studio pre-processes the tray file to create slices, and feeds them to the 3-D printer.

To send the tray to the print queue:

1. On the *Tray Settings* ribbon, *Build Process* group, click  **Build**.

If the build tray file has not been saved, the *Save As* dialog box opens for you to save it now.

Objet Studio checks if there is a problem with the positioning of objects on the tray. If so, the affected objects are displayed with special colors (see “Tray Validation” on page 37), and a warning message appears.

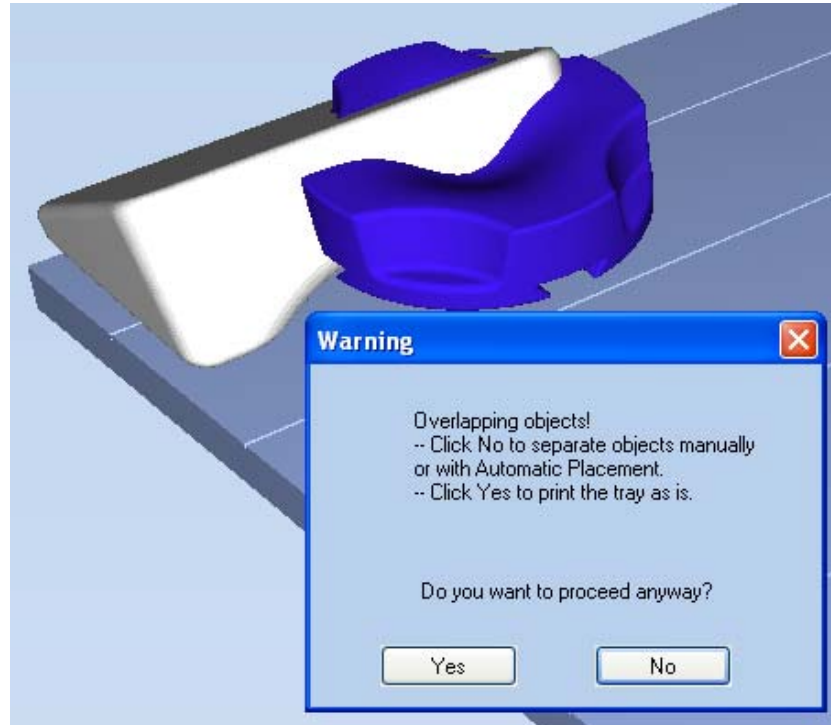


Figure 5-54: Tray validation warning message

- ☐ To cancel the *Build* command so you can correct the problem, click **No**.
- ☐ To print the models as they are positioned on the tray, click **Yes**.

The *Job Manager* screen opens, so you can monitor the progress of your trays—before, during, and after printing. See “Monitoring and Managing Print Jobs” on page 57.

Applying Additional Objet Studio Features

Dividing Objects

You can use the Split Object feature to produce objects larger than the tray area by dividing the model into separate parts. With this feature, you produce only a specific section of a model.

To split an object:

1. Select the object.
2. From the *Object* menu, select **Split**.
3. In the *Split Object* dialog box, enter the values to determine how Objet Studio will divide the object. You can divide an object along any of its axes, by entering either exact measurements or the number of parts.

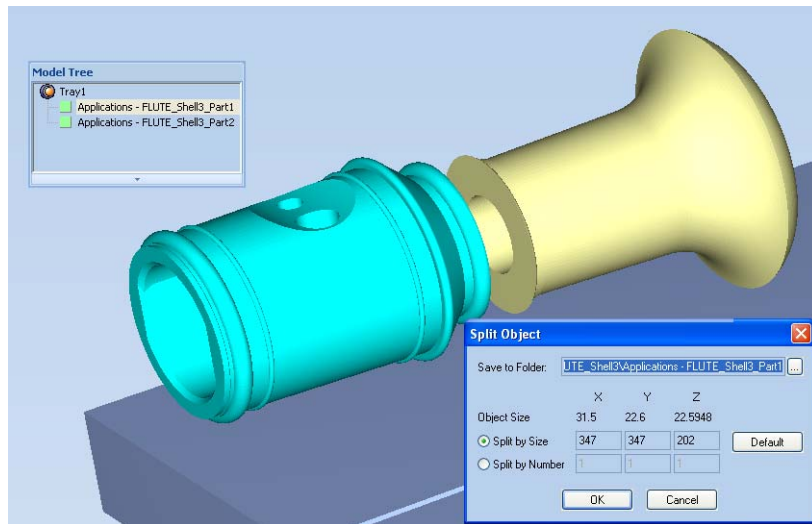


Figure 5-55: *Split Object* dialog box

4. In *Save to Folder*, enter the folder name.
5. Click **OK**.

The composite parts are saved as new *stl* files with “Part 1,” “Part 2,” etc., added to the original file name.

Note: Before printing the newly created *stl* files, it is recommended that you check them for defects in an STL-repair application, such as Magics™, by Materialise®.

Choosing the Support Strength

When producing models, support material fills some hollow and empty sections (see “Model Orientation” on page 5-20). Objet Studio allows you to adjust the strength of the structure formed with the support material. This adjustment is useful when producing either large/massive models or small/delicate models. For most purposes, the default setting provides adequate support strength.

To change the strength of the support structure used when printing a model:

1. Select a model on the tray.
2. On the *Model Settings* ribbon, in the *Options* group, click .
 - or—
 - On the Model Toolbar, click .
 - or—
 - From the right-click context menu, select **Advanced Properties**.

The *Advanced Properties* dialog box opens.

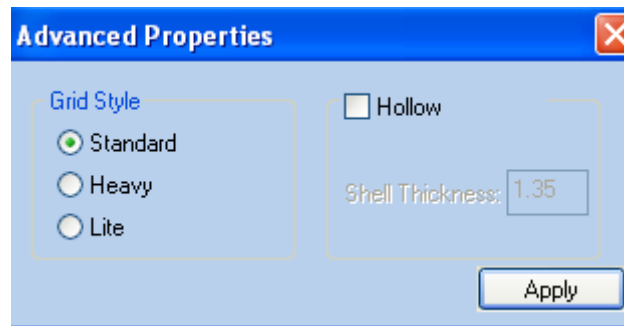


Figure 5-56: *Advanced Properties* dialog box

3. In the *Grid Style* section, choose the support strength suitable for the selected model. You can select a different support strength for each model on the tray.
 - **Standard**—for models needing average support (most models).
 - **Heavy**—for large models needing much support.
 - **Lite**—for delicate models needing little support. (This setting makes it easy to remove the support material.)
4. Click **Apply**.

“Hollow”— Filling Models with Support Material

Many objects placed on the tray from *stl* files are “solid.” This means that, when printed, the model will be completely filled with model material. Often, especially with large objects, this is unnecessary. Instead, the model can be filled with support material, which is less costly. It is also advisable to fill models with support material when preparing them for investment casting, since this material burns off more quickly during the process of making the cast.

Objet Studio enables you to print objects on the tray with an outer shell of model material and a center filled with support material. When using this feature, called “Hollow,” the thickness of the shell should be no less than 0.5 millimeters.

To use the Hollow feature:

1. Select a model on the tray.
or—
 - On the Model Toolbar, click .
- or—
 - From the right-click context menu, select **Advanced Properties**.

The *Advanced Properties* dialog box opens.

2. Select **Hollow**.

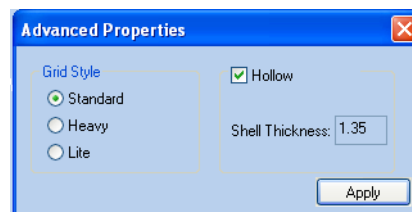


Figure 5-57: *Advanced Properties* dialog box

3. Set the shell thickness, in millimeters.
4. Click **Apply**.

Note: There is no change in the display of objects in Objet Studio when Hollow is selected.

To inspect, change or cancel the Hollow setting:

1. Select a model on the tray.
2. Access the *Advanced Properties* dialog box, as above.
3. If you change or cancel the Hollow setting, click **Apply**.

Displaying the Cross Section of Objects

The *Section* feature enables you to view the interior of an object by “slicing” it on any axis. You can then manipulate the object to inspect the interior from different angles. This may be important for deciding on the type of support necessary when producing the model (see “Choosing the Support Strength” on page 5-41). Displaying an object’s cross section only affects how the tray is displayed on the screen; it does not change the object itself.

To display a cross section of the tray:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Section**.

The *Section* dialog box opens.

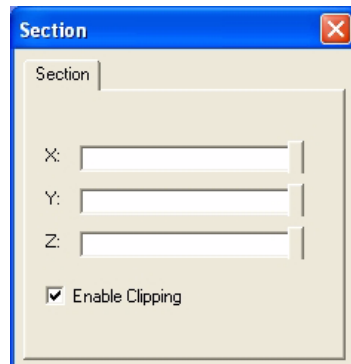


Figure 5-58: *Section* dialog box

2. Select **Enable Clipping**.
3. Use the slider controls for the X-, Y-, and Z-axes to cut the tray so that you see the cross section you want.

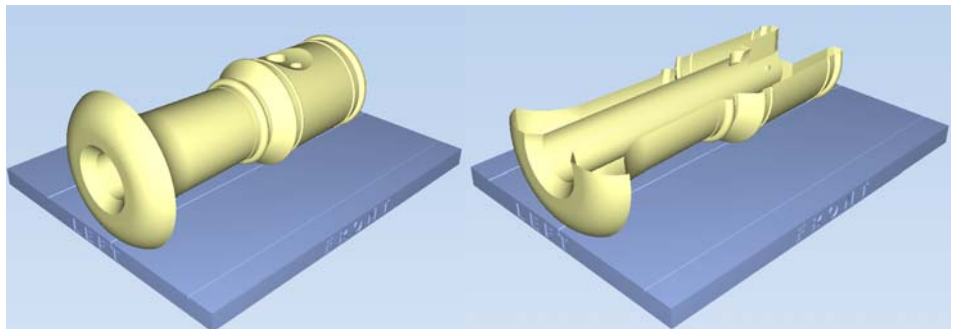


Figure 5-59: Whole view

Figure 5-60: Cross-section view, after using the Z-slider

Saving the Screen Display as an Image File

You can save the image displayed in the active viewing screen as a graphic file.

To save the screen display as an image:

1. Press **Ctrl+B**.

or —

From the Objet Studio Commands Menu menu, select **Save Bitmap**.

The *Save Bitmap* dialog box opens.

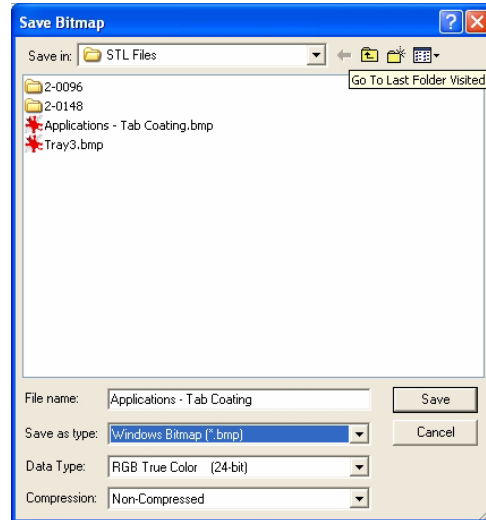


Figure 5-61: *Save Bitmap* dialog box

2. At the top of the dialog box, select the appropriate folder.
3. At the bottom of the dialog box, enter a file name.
4. Open the *Save as type* pull-down menu, and select the file format.
5. Click **Save**.

Exporting and Importing Objet Build Trays

When you save build trays in Objet Studio, they are saved as *objtf* files. These files contain instructions to Objet Studio and to Objet printers for displaying and producing the *stl* files used on the tray. To conveniently save all of the files that comprise the build tray, for storing the job, or for transferring it to another location, Objet Studio compresses them into one *objzf* file. To later use the *objzf* file, the file must first be expanded in Objet Studio and its component files saved.

Note: If you export an *objzf* file containing a *stl* file originally saved as read-only, you cannot open (import) this *objzf* file to the folder where the read-only *stl* file is saved.

To create an *objzf* file:

1. From the Objet Studio Commands Menu menu, select **Export Packed Job**.

The *Save As* dialog box opens.

2. Select the appropriate folder and change the file name (if necessary).
3. Click **Save**.

To open an *objzf* file:

➤ Double-click on the *objtf* file.

or—

1. From the Objet Studio Commands Menu menu, select **Import Packed Job**.
2. In the *Open* dialog box, display the appropriate folder and select the file.
3. In the *Browse for Folder* dialog box, display the folder in which you want Objet Studio to expand the compressed file, and click **OK**.

The *objtf* file and associated *stl* files are expanded and placed in the selected folder, and the tray is displayed in Objet Studio.

Note: You can also export a print job as an *objzf* file from the *Job Manager* screen—see “Exporting Jobs (objzf)” on page 69.

Customizing Objet Studio

You can customize Objet Studio to suit your particular working needs and preferences. Features that you can customize include:

- Creating a quick-access toolbar for frequently used commands.
- Changing the position of the Quick Access toolbar.
- Minimizing the ribbon.
- Changing the Objet Studio color theme.
- Configuring default settings for objects placed on the build tray.

Creating a Quick Access Toolbar

As you work with Objet Studio, you may use certain commands frequently. You can create a quick-access toolbar to make your work easier.

To create a quick-access toolbar:

1. Above the ribbon tabs, click .

The *Customize Quick Access Toolbar* menu opens.

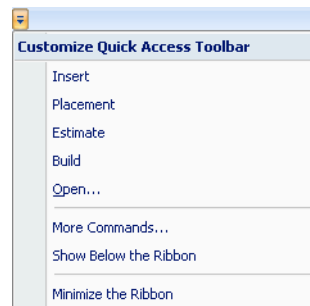


Figure 5-62: *Customize Quick Access Toolbar* menu

2. Select a command you want to add to the toolbar.

An icon for the selected command is added to the toolbar.

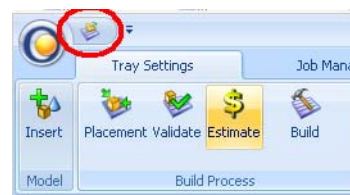


Figure 5-63: Quick Access toolbar

To add another command, repeat the above procedure.

3. To choose from a wider range of commands:

- From the *Customize Quick Access Toolbar* menu (see figure 5-62 on page 46), select **More Commands**.

or—

- Right-click on the *Objet Studio Commands* icon, or elsewhere on the ribbon, and select **Customize Quick Access Toolbar**.

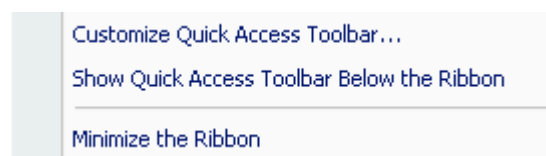


Figure 5-64: Right-click ribbon menu

The *Options* dialog box opens.

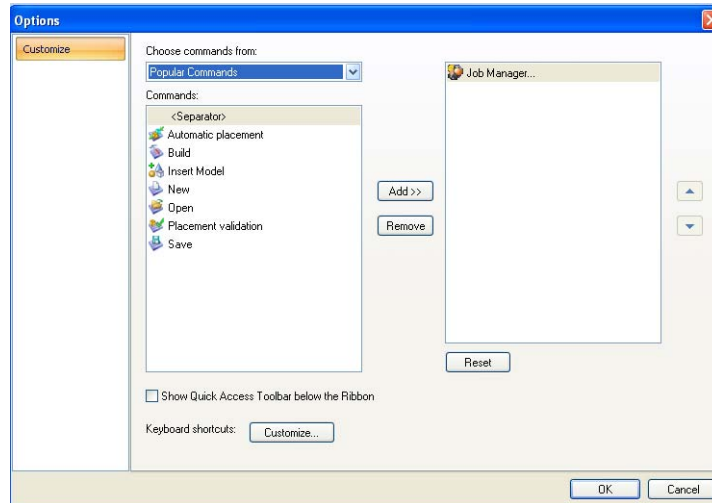


Figure 5-65: Quick Access Toolbar *Options* dialog box

4. Open the drop-down list and select either **Popular Commands** or **Commands not on the Ribbon**.
5. Select a command and click **Add**.
6. Click **OK**.

Hiding the Ribbon

To make more room for displaying the build tray, you can hide the Objet Studio ribbons.

To hide the ribbons:

1. Right-click anywhere on the ribbon or on the menu bar, or in the *Objet Studio Commands Menu* .
2. Select **Minimize the Ribbon**.

The ribbons disappear, but you can temporarily display the ribbon icons by clicking **Tray Settings** or **Job Manager** on the menu bar. When you next click outside of the ribbon, it disappears again.

To return the permanent ribbon display:

- Repeat the steps above to cancel *Minimize the Ribbon*.

Display Colors

You can customize some of the colors used for displaying Objet Studio screens and for displaying objects on the build tray.

To change the colors used in Objet Studio screens:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Define Colors**.
The *Define Colors* dialog box appears.
2. In the *Define Colors* dialog box, click the color patch you want to change:
 - *Tray Color*
 - *Background Colors*
 - *Selection Color*

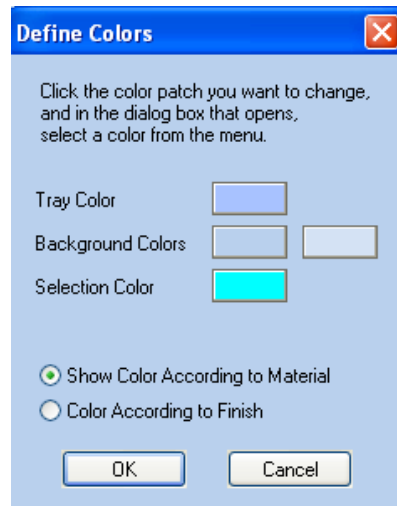


Figure 5-66: *Define Colors* dialog box

3. In the *Color* dialog box, select one of the *Basic colors*.
or—

Click **Define Custom Colors** to expand the dialog box and define a customized color.

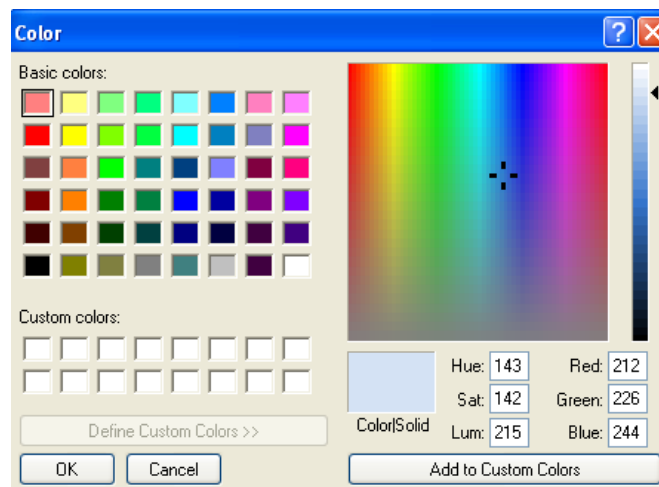


Figure 5-67: *Color* dialog box (expanded)

4. Click **OK** when done.
The patch color in the dialog box changes according to your selection.

Changing Color Themes Objet Studio offers a choice of four background color themes—blue, black, silver and aqua.

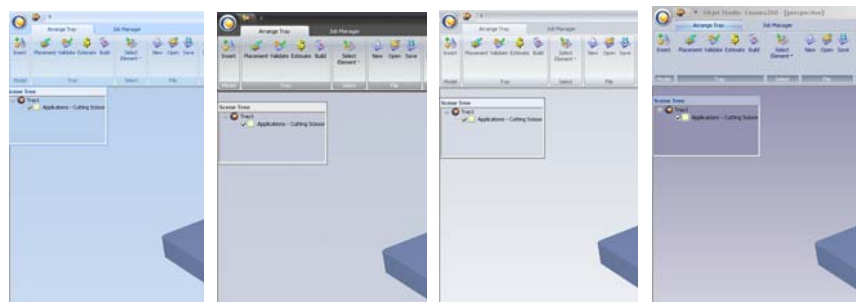


Figure 5-68: Background color themes

To change the color theme:

- From the *Style* menu, select one of the options.

Keyboard Shortcuts

You can define shortcut keys for frequently used commands.

To define shortcut keys:

1. Above the ribbon tabs, click .

The *Customize Quick Access Toolbar* menu opens.

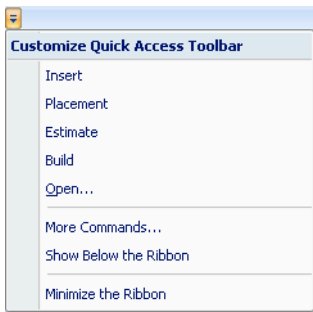


Figure 5-69: *Customize Quick Access Toolbar* menu

2. Select **More Commands**.

The *Options* dialog box opens (see figure 5-65 on page 47).

3. Click **Customize**.

The *Customize Keyboard* dialog box appears.

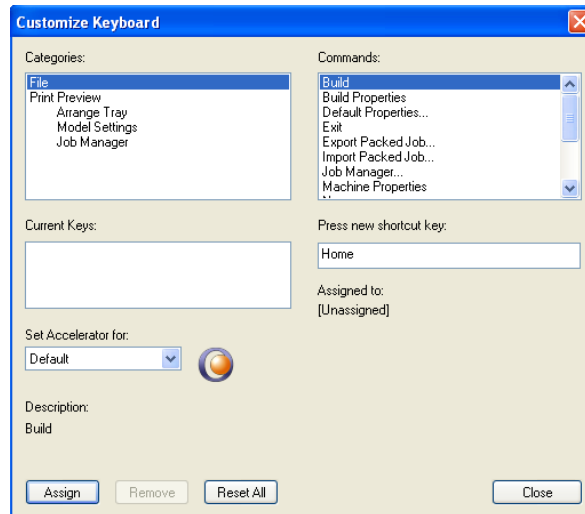


Figure 5-70: *Customize Keyboard* dialog box

4. Select command *Categories* to display all the commands in that category, for example, all the *Model Settings* commands.
Current shortcut keys are displayed.
5. Enter the shortcut key in the *Press new shortcut key* field, and click **Assign**.
6. If you want to redefine all shortcut keys, click **Reset All**.

Setting User Preferences

You can change several Objet Studio settings that affect objects placed on the build tray.

To change default settings:

- From the Objet Studio Commands Menu, select **User Preferences**.

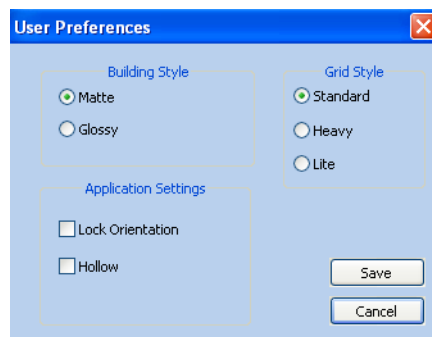


Figure 5-71: Setting work preferences

- Building Style—see “Surface Finish” on page 17.
- Grid Style—see “Using a Grid to Position Objects” on page 23.
- Application Settings—see “Choosing the Support Strength” on page 41, and “Freezing Model Orientation” on page 28.

Professional Mode Features

Some advanced features of Objet Studio are only accessible in *Professional Mode*.

To see the current Objet Studio setting:

- Open the *Tools* menu.

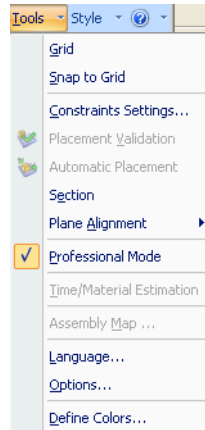


Figure 5-72: *Tools* menu, showing *Professional Mode* selected

If *Professional Mode* is selected, advanced features are displayed.

To change the *Professional Mode* setting:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Professional Mode**.

The following message is displayed, reminding you that the change will only take effect the *next time* you open Objet Studio—even though the check mark next to the *Professional Mode* option appears immediately.

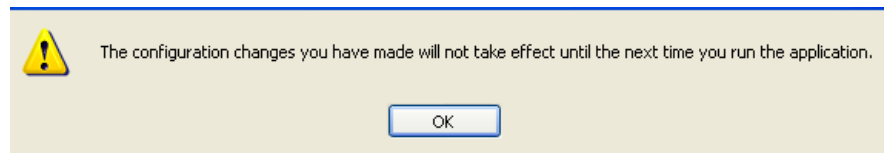


Figure 5-73: Configuration-change message

2. Close and re-open Objet Studio to use the Professional Mode features.

Default Settings

You can control the default settings of several Objet Studio features from the *Advanced* tab of the *Options* dialog box.

To display the Options dialog box

- From the *Tools* menu, select **Options**.

or —

In the Objet Studio Commands Menu, click **Options**.

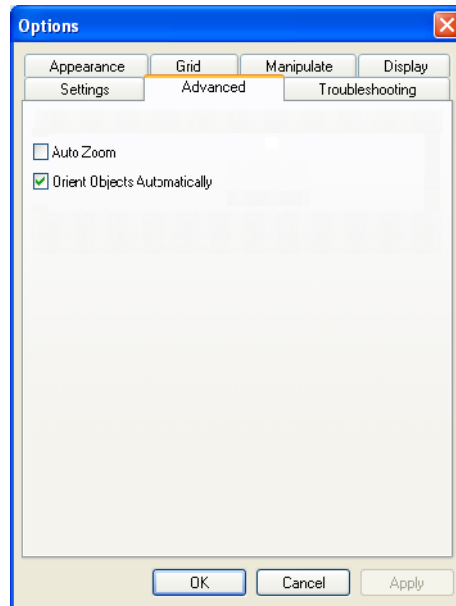


Figure 5-74: *Options* dialog box, *Advanced* tab

Automatic Orientation

By default, when Objet Studio places objects on the build tray, it orients them optimally, for the shortest printing time. If necessary, you can choose to cancel automatic orientation each time you place an object on the build tray (see “Automatic Orientation” on page 18). In any case, when objects are on the build tray, you can change their orientation manually, if necessary—see “Model Orientation” on page 20.)

To change the default setting so that *Automatic Orientation* is disabled:

- In the *Advanced* section of the *Options* dialog box, clear the check box.

Automatic Zoom

When *Auto Zoom* is selected in the *Advanced* section of the *Options* dialog box, the display zooms in, to display the objects placed on the build tray. This allows you to carefully inspect and manipulate the objects.

By default, this feature is **not** enabled. In any case, you can change the zoom level, as necessary (see “Zoom Options” on page 36).

Open GL Driver Configuration

The OpenGL driver displays 3D graphics on your screen. There is normally no reason to adjust its settings. If you suspect a problem with the way Objet Studio displays objects, you can use the OpenGL Driver Configuration tool to check and configure the driver settings.

To access the *OpenGL Driver Configuration* dialog box:

1. From the *Tools* menu, select **Options**.
or—
In the Objet Studio Commands Menu, click **Options**.
2. In the *Options* dialog box, display the *Troubleshooting* tab.

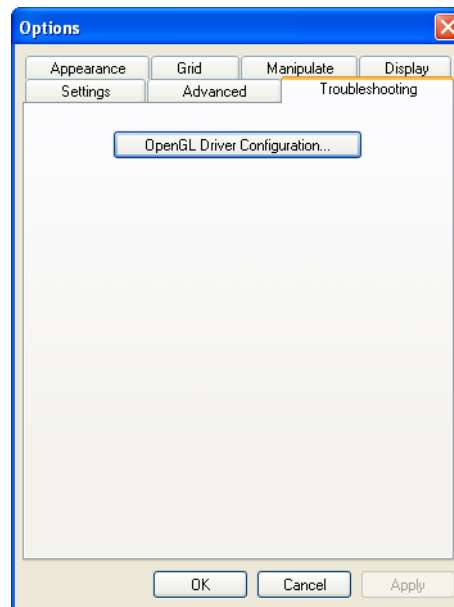


Figure 5-75: Access to GL-driver configuration



The Troubleshooting tab is only accessible when Professional Mode is active (see “Professional Mode Features” on page 51).

3. Click **OpenGL Driver Configuration**.

The dialog box that opens displays details of the pixel format ID (index) for the window and the memory.

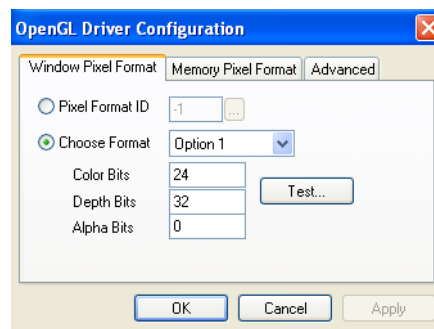


Figure 5-76: OpenGL Driver Configuration dialog box

If you want to display the values and change them, click . Alternately, you can select **Choose Format** and change the values in this dialog box.

To perform a test of the driver configuration and enter the suggested pixel format ID:

1. Select **Choose Format**.
2. Click **Test**.

Objet Studio returns the recommended pixel format ID.

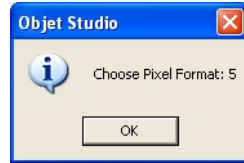


Figure 5-77: Recommended pixel format ID

3. Click **OK**.
4. In the OpenGL Driver Configuration dialog box (figure 5-76), select **Pixel Format ID** and enter this number.
5. Click **Apply**.
6. Display the other pixel format tab, and repeat this procedure.

Getting Additional Objet Studio Assistance

Objet Studio Help provides on-screen instructions and information, as you work.

To view Objet Studio Help:

- On the standard toolbar, click  and then click **Objet Studio Help**.

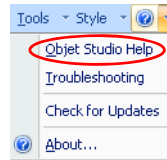


Figure 5-78: Help options

You can also view information on the following subjects:

- *Troubleshooting* opens a list of error messages and their explanations.
- *Check for Updates* checks if you are using the latest Objet Studio version.

Objet Studio Version, Material Module and Licensed Features

You can view details of the Objet Studio version, the material module installed, and the features available with your license.

To view details of your Objet Studio installation:

- On the standard toolbar, click  and then click **About....**

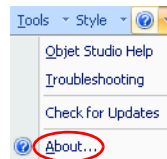


Figure 5-79: Displaying Objet Studio details

About Objet Studio
tab

The *About Objet Studio* tab shows the Objet Studio version number and basic information about your computer.

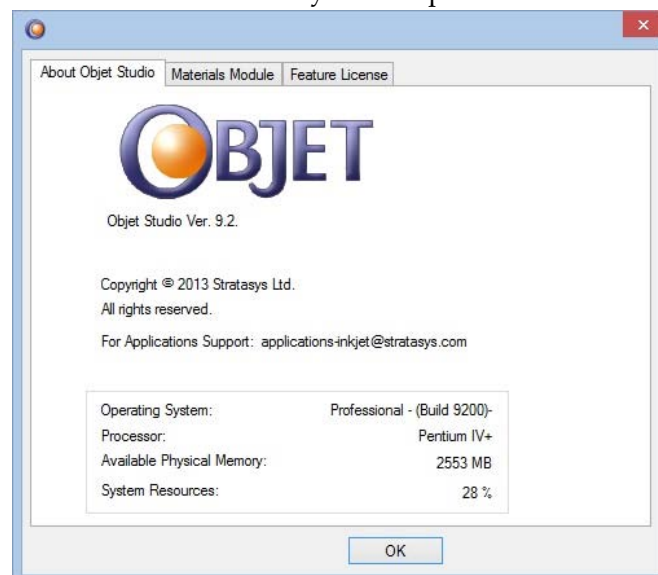


Figure 5-80: About Objet Studio tab

Materials Module
tab

The *Materials Module* tab shows details of the material module installed.

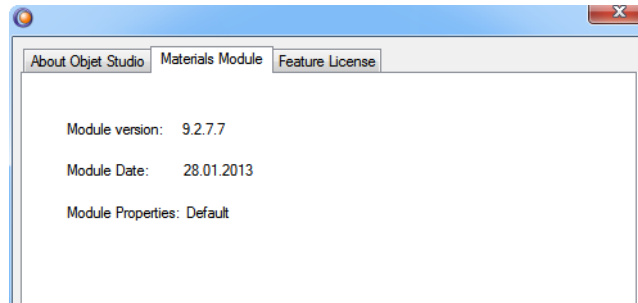


Figure 5-81: Materials Module tab

- *Module version*

If a Materials Module upgrade (patch) was installed, the new Materials Module version is displayed. If no patches were installed, the *Module version* is the same as the Objet Studio version.

- *Module date*

If a Materials Module upgrade (patch) was installed, the date of its creation is displayed. If no patches were installed, the *Module date* is the date of the Objet Studio version.

- *Module properties*

If a Materials Module upgrade (patch) was installed, its description is displayed. If no patches were installed, “Default” is displayed.

Feature License
tab

The *Feature License* tab shows the Objet Studio features available with your license.

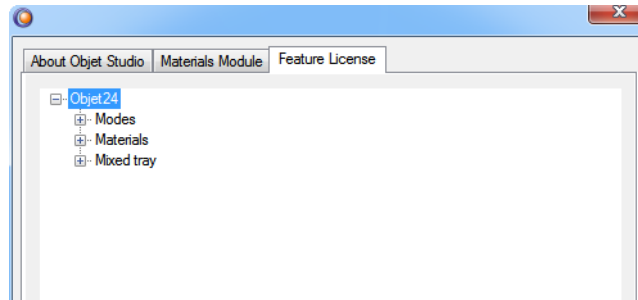


Figure 5-82: Feature License tab

Click  to expand the details for each feature.

- *Modes* shows the printing modes available.
- *Materials* shows model materials available.

Jobs Queue On the server, the *Jobs Queue* lists the last 15 jobs sent from client computers. On client workstations, the *Jobs Queue* lists jobs sent from that computer to the printer server.

Information for each of the queued jobs is displayed, including the job status.

Status	Meaning
Waiting	Printing of this job has not started.
Building	Printing of this job is in progress.
Stopped	Printing of this job was interrupted. Printing can later be continued (<i>Resume</i>) or begun again (<i>Restart</i>).
Error	Errors occurred during the printing of this job, and it was placed in the Jobs Queue again.
Editing	This job is now being edited in Objet Studio.
Spooling	The job file is being spooled in the printer.
Preprocessing	The 3D printer is readying itself for printing: the cover locks, print heads warm up and are put in starting position, UV lamp is turned on, and the build tray level is adjusted.
On Schedule	The job is scheduled to be printed at a specified time.

In addition, the following information is displayed:

- *Owner*—the computer that sent the job.
- *Build Time*—the estimated building time for the job.
- *Model Consumption*—the amount of model material required to complete the job, and the amount actually used till now.
- *Support Consumption*—the amount of support material required to complete the job, and the amount actually used till now.

Printing Progress The *Time* panel shows printing times and the number of slices sent to the printer.

History The *History* panel shows information for the last 50 jobs and their final status. You can drag a job from *History* to *Jobs Queue* to print the tray again.

Available Resources The *Available Resources* panel contains graphic indicators that show the amount of available printing material remaining.

Material Consumption

- *Actual*—the amount of material used till now
- *Required*—the amount of material still needed to finish the job

Tray Preview The *Tray Preview* panel displays the build tray view of the job selected in the *Job Queue* or the *History* list.

On a server, you can open an enlarged preview window by clicking on the *Tray Preview* display (see “Extended Tray Preview” on page 67).

Waste If you move the mouse over the *Waste* display, the amount of waste in the container is displayed.

Setting the Printer Connection When an Objet 3D printer is installed, the server computer is connected to that printer. Normally, there should be no reason to change this connection. Occasionally, however, you may need to reset the connection, to connect the server to another printer, or to use Objet Studio in off-line mode (without a printer connection).

To set (or change) the printer connection:

1. On the *Job Manager* ribbon, in the *3D Printer* group, click .
2. In the *Set Printer* dialog box, click **Connect**.

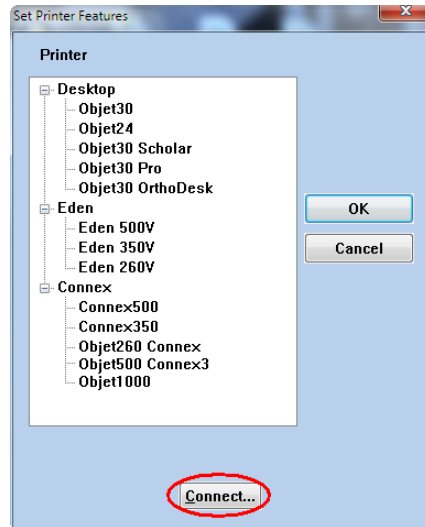


Figure 5-84: Connecting to a printer (A)

3. Enter the computer name or its IP address, or click **Browse** to find and select it.



Figure 5-85: Connecting to a printer (B)

4. Click **OK**.

When the connection is established, Objet Studio is configured to prepare print jobs for that printer.



Objet Studio is connected to the printer if you can see the material levels in the Job Manager screen (see figure 5-83 on page 58).

Off-line Mode

You can use Objet Studio to prepare trays for printing in off-line mode, on a remote computer or when the printer connection is not available. You also use off-line mode to prepare trays for printing with other printers. In this case, if Objet Studio is currently connected to a printer, you must change to off-line mode by removing this connection.

To disconnect Objet Studio from the printer:

1. On the *Job Manager* ribbon, in the *3D Printer* group, click .
2. In the *Set Printer* dialog box, click **Connect** (see figure 5-84).

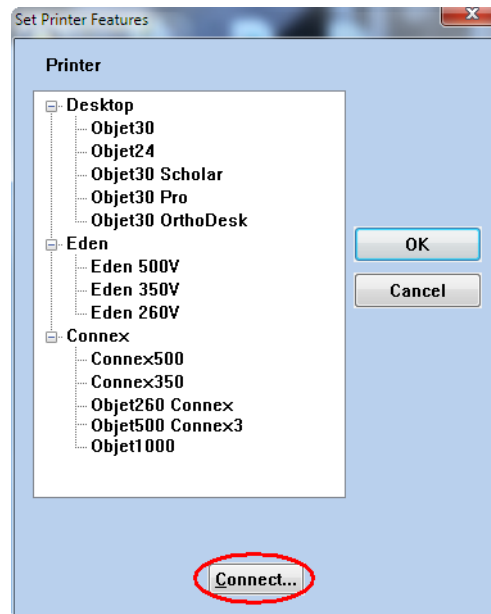


Figure 5-86: Disconnecting Objet Studio from a printer (A)

3. In the *Printer Connection* dialog box, delete the computer name/IP address.



Figure 5-87: Disconnecting Objet Studio from a printer (B)

4. Click **OK**.
"Unknown" appears in the printer-name field.
5. Click **OK**.

6. In the pop-up message, confirm that you want to work in off-line mode by clicking **No**.

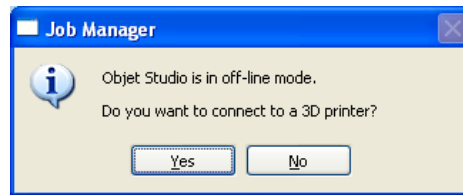


Figure 5-88: Off-line message

When Objet Studio is in off-line mode, you can configure it for preparing print jobs for different printers.

To change the Objet Studio off-line configuration:

1. In the *Set Printer* dialog box, select a printer type.

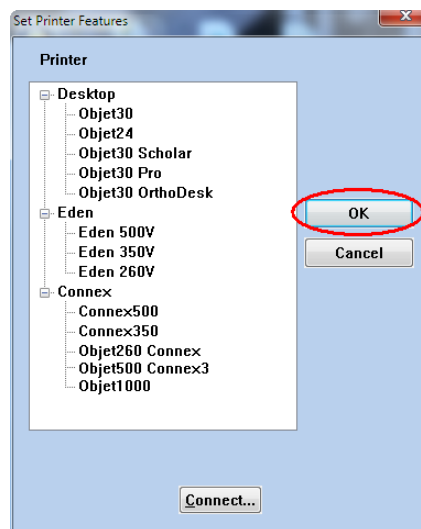


Figure 5-89: Off-line printer selection

2. Click **OK** (*not* "Connect").

Setting the Remote Printer Connection (Client Mode)

When you open Objet Studio for the first time in a client installation, you are prompted to connect to an Objet server computer that sends jobs to a 3D printer. To do this, the server computer must be operating and connected to the local network.

To set (or change) the connection to the server-computer:

1. On the *Job Manager* ribbon, in the *3D Printer* group, click .
2. Enter the name of the server computer or its IP address, or click **Browse** to find and select it.
3. Click **OK**.

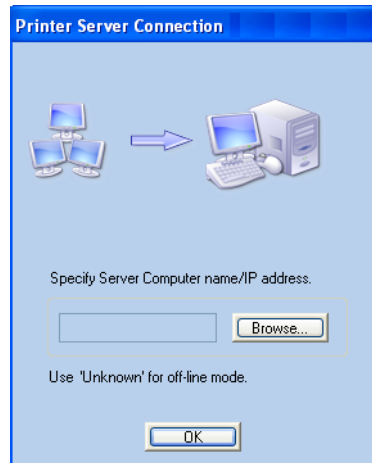


Figure 5-90: *Printer Server Connection* dialog box

Job Manager Commands

The Job Manager ribbon has three icon groups:

- 3D Printer
- Queue
- Job



Figure 5-91: *Job Manager* ribbon commands

Icons are enabled or disabled according to their relevancy. For example, you cannot stop printing a job that is not being printed, so the *Stop* command is disabled.

The following operations are available on the *Job Manager* ribbon:

Group	Icon	Purpose
3D Printer		Client: Sets the server connection. See “Setting the Remote Printer Connection (Client Mode)” on page 62. Server: Sets the printer connection. See “Setting the Printer Connection” on page 59.
		Configures options for printer alerts. See “Configuring User Alerts” on page 65.
Queue		Server: Moves a job to the head of the Jobs Queue. Client: Disabled. See “Jobs Queue” on page 58.
		Server: Moves a job to a higher position in the <i>Jobs Queue</i> . Client: Disabled. See “Jobs Queue” on page 58.
		Server: Moves a job to the bottom of the <i>Jobs Queue</i> . Client: Disabled. See “Jobs Queue” on page 58.
		Server: Moves a job to a lower position in the <i>Jobs Queue</i> . Client: Disabled. See “Jobs Queue” on page 58.
Job		Server: - For a job in the <i>Jobs Queue</i>—Prints it again (from the beginning). - For a job in the <i>History</i> list—Moves it to the <i>Jobs Queue</i> for printing. Client: Disabled. See “Restarting Jobs” on page 68.
		Server: Stops a job in progress. Client: Disabled.
		Server: Continues printing the current job from the point where printing stopped. Client: Disabled. See “Resuming Jobs” on page 68.
		Removes the selected job from the queue.
		Refreshes the image of the selected job in the <i>Tray Preview</i> display.
		Opens the <i>Tray Settings</i> screen and displays the tray. For deleted jobs, this enables you to make changes before printing.

In addition to using ribbon command icons, you can use commands on context (pop-up) toolbars and from the *Job* menu on the standard toolbar.

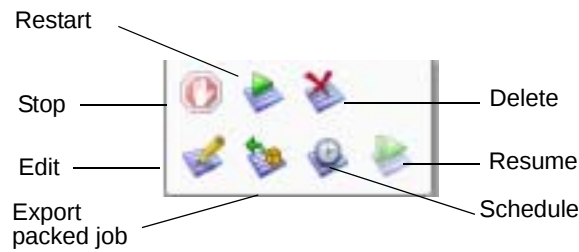


Figure 5-92: Icons on pop-up toolbar (server)



Figure 5-93: Icons on pop-up toolbar (client workstation)

Note: Most icons and menu commands are only enabled when a job is selected.



When you position the cursor over an item, a tooltip displays the name of the command.

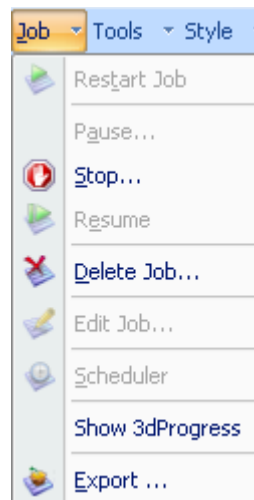


Figure 5-94: *Job* menu options (server)

Configuring User Alerts

Objet Studio can alert you (and others) to the status of jobs sent to the server for printing. This is especially useful during long printing jobs, when the operator is away from the printer. The following events can be reported:

- The level of model or support material is low.
- The job was interrupted.
- The job was completed successfully.

To send e-mail and SMS alerts, make sure that e-mail software supporting MAPI is installed on the server computer. To send SMS alerts, the cellular phone service must support the transmission of e-mail messages by SMS. Only the subject line of the e-mail message is transmitted by SMS.

To configure Objet Studio to send notifications and alerts:

1. On the *Job Manager* ribbon, in the *3D Printer* group, click  .

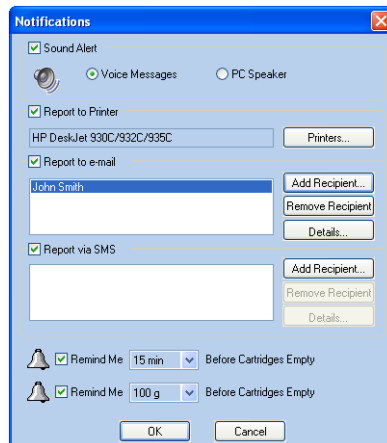


Figure 5-95: *Notifications* dialog box (server)

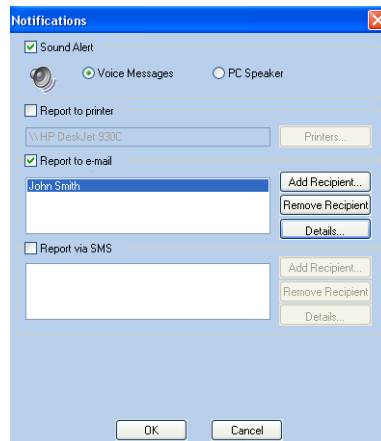


Figure 5-96: *Notifications* dialog box (client workstation)

2. Set the desired reporting options.

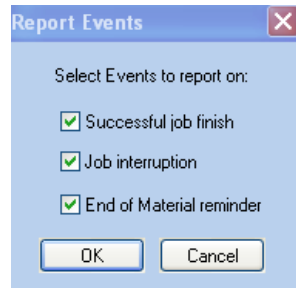
3. Click **Details**.

Figure 5-97: Event selection for alerts

4. In the *Reports Events* dialog box, select the alert events and click **OK**.5. In the *Notifications* dialog box, click **OK**.

Printing the Tray

If there is a job in the Jobs Queue, it is sent automatically to the Objet printer—as long as it is on, there is a connection to the printer, and the printer is on line. Chapter 6 describes starting and operating the printer.

Additional Server Features

Objet Studio on the printer server includes the following additional features:

- Extended Tray Preview
- Editing Jobs
- Restarting Jobs
- Resuming Jobs
- Scheduling Jobs
- Exporting Jobs (objzf)
- Modifying the Job Manager Screen

These features are described on the following pages.

Extended Tray Preview

In this window, you can view the tray from different angles and magnifications without leaving the *Job Manager* screen. In addition to displaying the selected job in the *Tray Preview* pane, you can open an enlarged build tray window.

To display the build tray window:

1. Select a job in the *Jobs Queue* or the *History* list.
2. Click the *Tray Preview* pane.

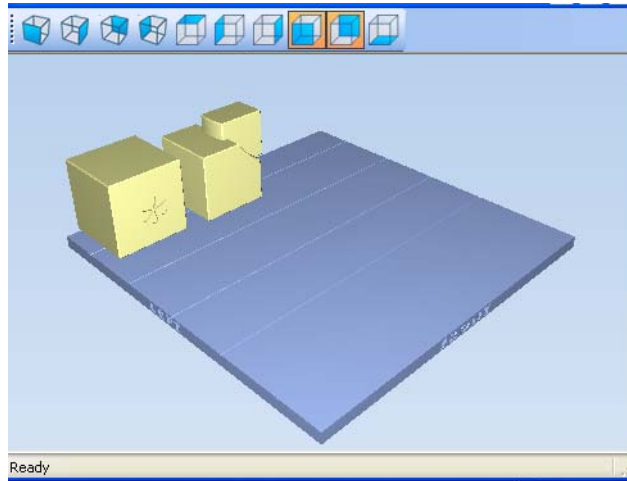


Figure 5-98: Job Preview

- To change the tray magnification, turn the mouse wheel.
- To view the tray from a different perspective, click the relevant icon.
- To resize the window, drag its edge or corners.

If there are several objects on the build tray, you can exclude one or more from being printed, without actually deleting the object from the tray file.

To prevent the printing of an object on the build tray:

1. Double-click on the object you do **not** want to print.
2. Display the *Build* tab.
3. Select **Exclude from Build**.

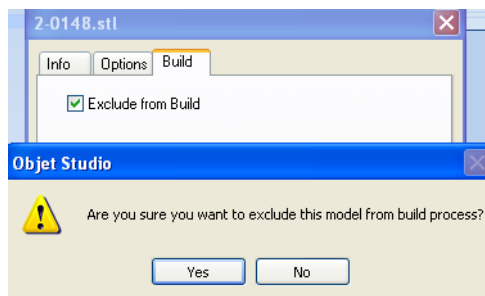


Figure 5-99: Excluding a model from the build

4. Click **Yes** to confirm.

On server computers, you can use Tray Preview to dynamically display objects as they are printed, layer by layer. This enables you to visually monitor printing progress on the computer screen.

To display printing progress in the Tray Preview pane:

- From the *Job* menu, select **Show 3dProgress**.



This option uses additional system resources.

Editing Jobs

You can open jobs in the *Jobs Queue* for editing.

To edit a job:

1. Select the job.
2. Click the *Edit* icon .

The *Tray Settings* screen opens, displaying the build tray. The status of the job in the *Job Manager* screen changes to “Editing.”

3. Edit the job.
4. On the *Tray Settings* ribbon, click .

The status of the job in the *Job Manager* screen changes back to “Waiting.”

Restarting Jobs

You can restart jobs from the *Jobs Queue* and the *History* list.

To restart a job:

1. Select the job.
2. Click the *Restart* icon .

The job status changes to “Waiting” (in the *Jobs Queue*).

Resuming Jobs

If the printing process is stopped or interrupted, you may be able to continue printing the job from the point where printing stopped.

To resume a job:

1. Select the job.
2. Click the *Resume* icon .

Scheduling Jobs

You can schedule jobs to be printed at a future time. For example, you can configure Objet Studio to start long printing jobs in the late evening and early morning hours.

To schedule a job:

1. Select a job in the *Jobs Queue*, and click  on the pop-up toolbar.
2. In the *Scheduler* dialog box, set the Start Date and Start Time for the job.
Click on the *Start Date* arrow to open a calendar.

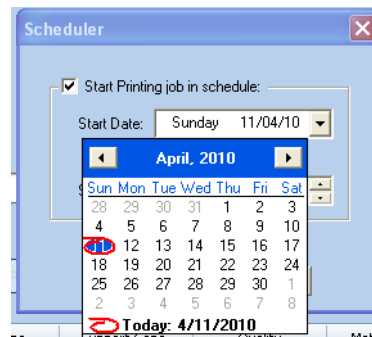


Figure 5-100: Scheduler with calendar displayed

3. Click **OK**.

Exporting Jobs (*objzf*)

You can save print jobs as compressed files.



For an explanation of *objzf* files, see “Exporting and Importing Objet Build Trays” on page 45.

To export a print job:

1. Select a job.
2. On the pop-up toolbar, click .
3. In the *Save As* dialog box, select a folder.
4. Click **Save**.

Modifying the Job Manager Screen

You can change the size of the sections of the *Job Manager* screen, by dragging the panel edges. This applies to:

- the *Jobs Queue* panel
- the *Time* panel
- the *History* panel

Similarly, you can change the way the screen area is divided between the main section (*Jobs Queue/Time/History*) and the panels on the right side of the screen.

You can collapse (hide) the right panels (*Available Resources/Material Consumption/Tray View*) by clicking the top of the panel.

- Click again to display the panel.

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Figure 6-1: The Objet24 3D Printer

Starting the Objet24 Printer



CAUTION!

- Do not attempt to operate the Objet printer before being trained by a Stratasys customer-support representative.
- Observe all safety warnings and follow the safety guidelines described in chapter 2.

1. Turn on the main power switch, located at the back of the printer.



Figure 6-2: Main power switch and cable

The main power switch turns on the Objet printer, which includes the built-in computer.

2. After the computer boots, log in to Windows and launch the printer-control application:
 - On the computer desktop, double-click the Objet printer icon.
 - or—
 - From the *Start* menu, select **Objet** > [Objet24 printer].



A HASP plug containing a valid product activation key is required on the printer computer. This is installed at the factory or during printer upgrade. If the application does not open and a HASP message appears, contact your dealer or Stratasys Customer Support.

The Objet printer interface screen opens (see figure 6-3). All monitoring and controlling of the printer is done from this interface.

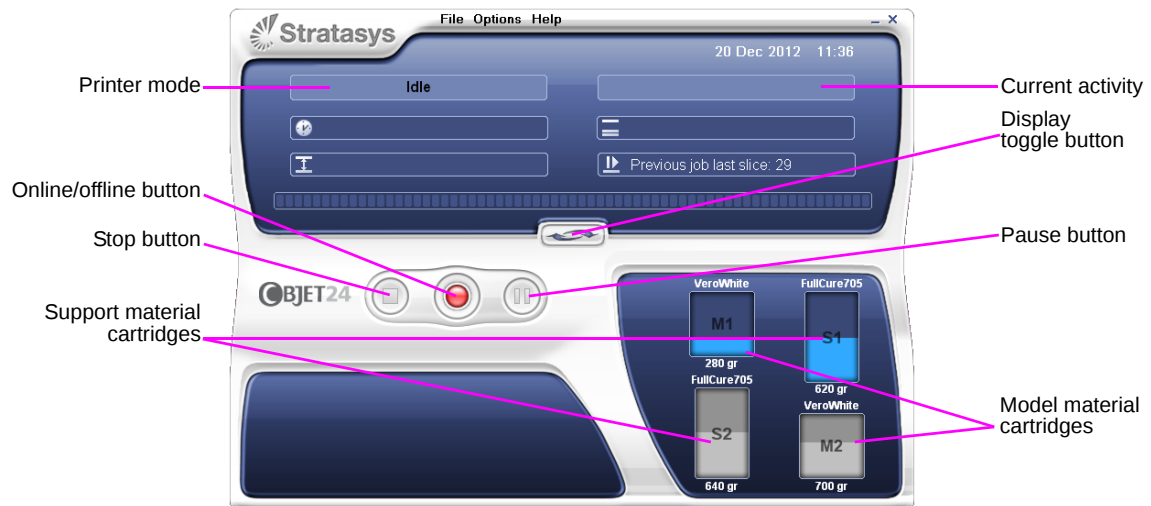


Figure 6-3: Objet24 interface



Objet installations use one monitor for displaying both the computer running Objet Studio and the computer installed inside the printer. Make sure that the KVM (keyboard-video-mouse) switch is in the correct position so that the printer interface is displayed.

Loading Model and Support Cartridges

Objet24 printers use two cartridges of model material and two cartridges of support material, each weighing one kilogram when full. A graphical representation of the cartridges loaded and their current weight appears in the printer interface (see figure 6-3).

Note: The printer-control interface displays the type and weight of the material cartridges loaded only if the printing-materials drawer is closed.



The printer uses RFID technology to automatically identify cartridges of printing material. For this purpose, an RFID module is part of the printer hardware. Tampering with this module will render the printer inoperable and may void Stratasys warranties and service contracts.

To load model and support cartridges:

1. On the front of the printer (see figure 6-1), push the printing-materials drawer to release it and pull it open.
2. If you are replacing a cartridge, remove the old one by pulling it straight up.
3. Load model and support cartridges into their respective compartments (see figure 6-4).

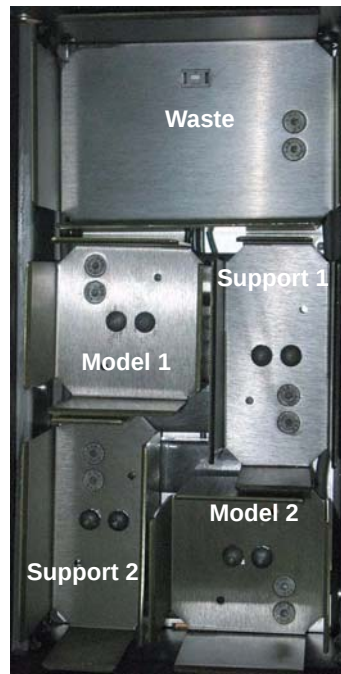


Figure 6-4: Printing-materials drawer

You should feel some resistance, as a needle pierces the cartridge.

4. Close the printing-materials drawer.
5. Check the printer interface to make sure that the new cartridge is detected and that its weight is displayed (see figure 6-3).

Tips about replacing cartridges:

- You can replace material cartridges either before or during printing. If you do so while printing, make sure to load the new cartridge and close the cartridge drawer within three minutes. This ensures that the print job is not interrupted. (When the drawer is open, the cartridges are not displayed in the printer interface.)
- If printing stops for an extended time before you replace a material cartridge, the printer may go into *Standby* or *Idle* mode. If this happens, see “Resuming Production After Printing has Stopped” on page 10.
- You can replace partially used cartridges to avoid the need for replacing them during printing. However, repeated removal and installation of a cartridge may cause the material in it to leak. Therefore, it is recommended that you limit the re-installation of used cartridges.
- You can load partially used cartridges, as long as they contain more than 100 grams of material.

Producing Models

The Objet24 printer produces models by printing tray files prepared in the Objet Studio application and sent to the printer from there. For information about preparing model files for printing, see “Using Objet Studio” or Objet Studio Help.

The Objet24 printer is capable of printing models with the following maximum dimensions:

- *With glossy finish—*
X-axis: 234.00 mm (9.21 inches)
Y-axis: 192.00 mm (7.55 inches)
Z-axis: 148.60 mm (5.85 inches)
- *With matte finish—*
X-axis: 233.00 mm (9.17 inches)
Y-axis: 191.00 mm (7.52 inches)
Z-axis: 148.30 mm (5.83 inches)



Before beginning to produce models, it is recommended that you check the current printing quality of the print heads by performing a pattern test (see “Pattern Test” on page 21).

To prepare the printer for producing models:

1. Make sure that the build tray in the printer is empty and clean. If not, remove cured material with the scraper, and clean the tray thoroughly with cleaning fluid.



CAUTION: Use protective gloves when cleaning the build tray, and be careful of the sharp edges of the scraper blade.

2. Make sure that there is sufficient model and support material loaded, as indicated in the printer interface (see figure 6-3). You may want to replace the cartridges of model and support material currently loaded in the printer to avoid the need for replacing them during printing.

For installing material cartridges and replacing empty ones, see “Loading Model and Support Cartridges” on page 6-4.

3. At the bottom of the printer interface, click the red button to switch the printer to *online* mode.

The color of the button changes from red to green (see figure 6-7). If there is a job in the Job Manager queue, it is sent to the printer.

In the printer interface, the printer mode changes from *Idle* to *Pre-print*, as the printer's components prepare themselves for production:

- The print block is heated.
- If more than 48 hours have passed since the last print job, the printing materials in the print heads are flushed and replaced, to ensure quality printing. (This step adds 7 to 14 minutes to the *Pre-print* cycle, and it is displayed in the printer interface.)



Figure 6-5: Relnitiating process during the Pre-Print cycle

- The UV lamp is powered and it warms up.

When printing begins, Objet Studio sends seven slices to the printer. This is the standard buffer between Objet Studio and the printer. As each slice is printed, another slice is sent to the printer.

Depending on the size of the model(s) to be produced, printing can take between several hours to several days. As long as there is enough model and support material in the supply cartridges, printing proceeds automatically until the job is finished.



During printing, the server computer must remain on and it must communicate with the Objet printer. Do not log-off Windows until printing is finished.

The Objet printer uses one model-material cartridge and one support-material cartridge to produce models. When four cartridges are loaded in the printer, two of them are reserve, or standby, cartridges. By default, the printer first uses the cartridges with the least material in them.

➤ The active cartridges are *blue* in the printer interface.

When the weight of a cartridge drops below 100 grams, the remaining material displayed in the printer interface is *red*. The printer then alternates the pumping of material between the heavier and the almost-empty cartridge. This is indicated in the printer interface by an hour-glass icon. (See figure 6-8 on page 9.)

When a cartridge is completely empty, a trash icon is displayed.



Figure 6-6: Empty cartridge indicator

You can monitor printer status indicators by switching the printer interface display. To do this, click the display toggle button in the printer interface screen.

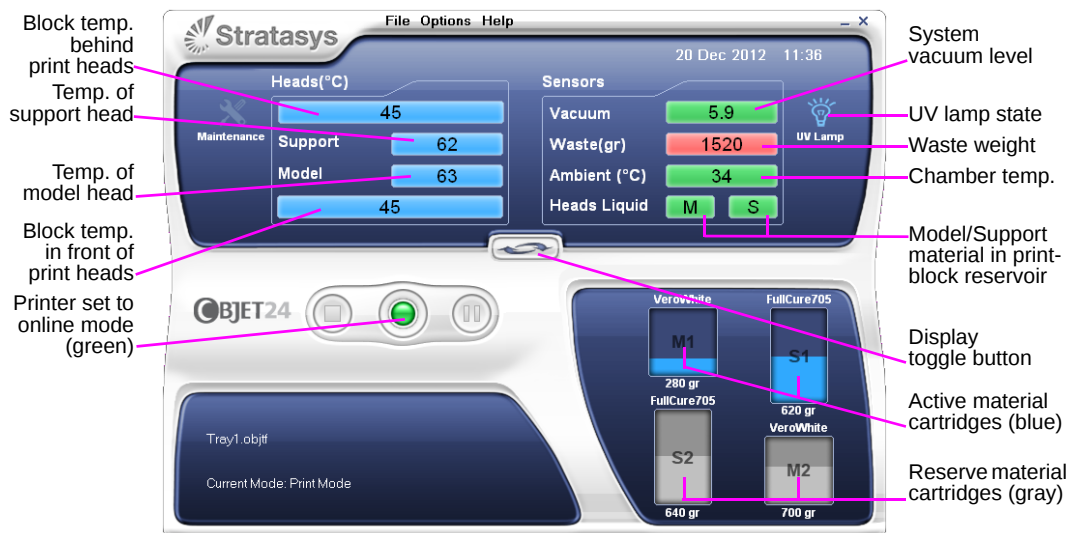


Figure 6-7: Printer indicators

Printer Interface Color Key

The background colors in the printer indicator fields tell you at a glance whether or not the value or item is suitable or ready for printing.

- **Green**—suitable/ready for printing

For example, in figure 6-7:

- ☐ **Ambient**—The ambient temperature of the printing chamber is within the acceptable range.
- ☐ **Heads Liquid**—The level of model and support material in the print-block reservoir is OK.
- ☐ **Vacuum**—The vacuum level in the system is within the acceptable range.

- **Red**—not suitable for printing (or indicates a warning)

For example, in figure 6-7:

- ☐ **Waste**—The weight of the waste container is 1520 grams, more than allowed when beginning a print job. (See “Replacing the Waste Container” on page 6-40.)

- **Blue**—not ready

For example, in figure 6-7:

- ☐ **UV lamp**—The UV lamp is not on.
- ☐ **Heads (°C)**—The heads have not reached the temperature required for printing models (in printing mode).

The color of the material cartridges displayed in the printer interface indicates which cartridges are active for the current (or next) print job.

- **Blue**—active cartridges
- **Gray**—reserve cartridges

Printing Indicators

The printer interface screen changes when you send a print job from Objet Studio to the printer, and the printer is *on line* (see figure 6-8):

- The mode changes from *Pre-print* to *Printing*.
- The specific activity being performed is shown in the “current activity” field.
- Current job-printing information is displayed.
- The printing progress bar is displayed.
- The *Stop* and *Pause* buttons are enabled.

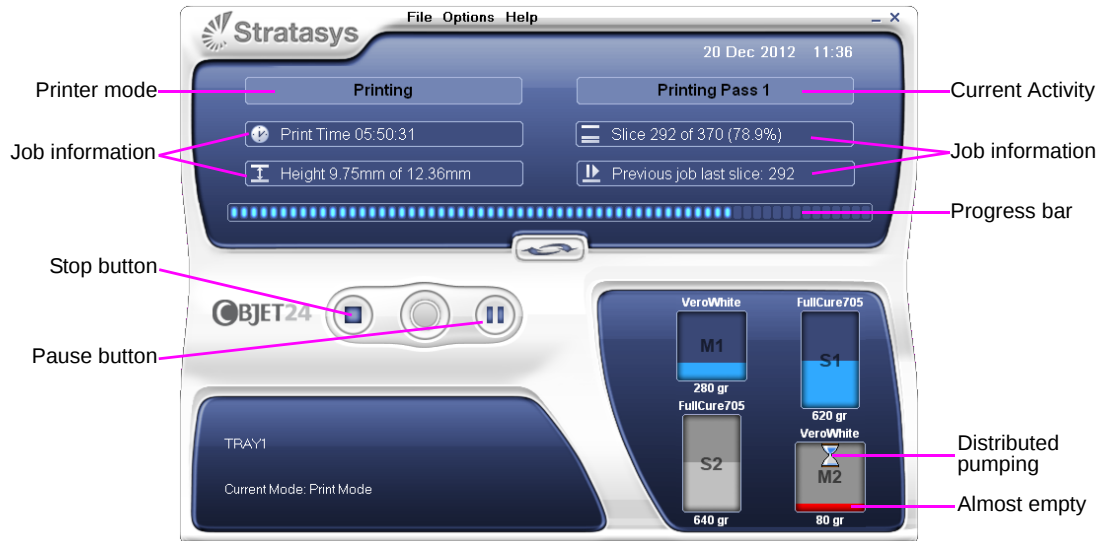


Figure 6-8: Printer interface during printing

Resuming Production After Printing has Stopped

If the printing process is interrupted, Objet Studio stops sending slices to the printer. This can happen, for example, if the printing material runs out in the middle of a print job, and you don't replace the empty cartridge immediately. After the printer changes to *Standby* or *Idle* mode, you need to resume printing from the *Job Manager* screen of Objet Studio.



After printing stops, the printer goes into *Standby* mode, when heating of print heads is reduced. About 20 minutes later, the printer goes into *Idle* mode, when heating of print heads is stopped.

To continue printing the model:

1. If the printer is in offline mode, switch it to online mode by clicking the red button at the bottom of the printer interface (see figure 6-3 on page 3).
The button changes from red to green (see figure 6-7 on page 8).
2. If you don't know why printing has stopped, make sure that the connection between the printer and the server computer is active.
3. In the *Job Manager* screen of Objet Studio, click the *Resume* icon .
4. In the *Continue from Slice* dialog box that appears, confirm the slice number, after checking the printer interface.

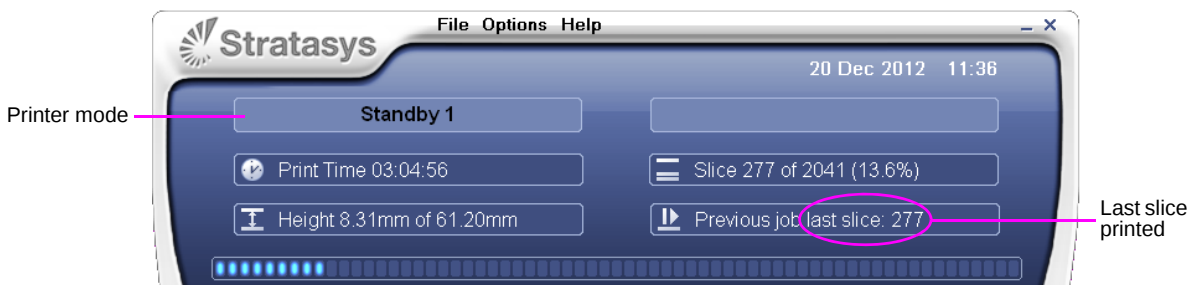


Figure 6-9: Printer interface after interrupted printing

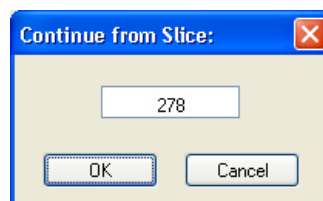


Figure 6-10: *Continue from Slice* confirmation in Objet Studio (*Job Manager* screen)

5. If, for any reason, the correct number does not appear in the dialog box, enter the number and click **OK**.

You cannot continue printing the model if:

- The number of the last slice printed does not appear in the printer interface, even if the server computer displays the *Continue from Slice* confirmation dialog box.
- There was a relatively long interruption in printing, even if the “last slice” and “continue from slice” indicators are correct. The part of the model already printed may deform or shrink, and there might be a visible difference between it and the newly printed part. The effects of a printing stoppage on a model depend on the model size and structure, model material used, ambient temperature and the length of the stoppage.

If you cannot continue printing:

1. Cancel the print job in the *Job Manager* screen.
2. Remove the partially printed model from the build tray.
3. Restart the job from the *Job Manager* screen (in Objet Studio).



You can stop and later resume printing from either the printer interface or from the *Job Manager* screen of Objet Studio, since both applications are updated when you use these commands. However, after clicking the *Pause* button in the printer interface, you can only resume printing from the printer interface.

Keeping the Printer in Idle Mode

Between printing jobs, the Objet24 printer can be kept on for up to one week. If the printer will not be used for more than a week, use the Shutdown Wizard to automatically perform the procedures that must be done before turning off the printer (see “Shutting Down the Printer,” below).

When the printer stops producing models, the printer software automatically reduces the temperature of the print heads as follows:

Time after printing	Mode	Change in heating of print heads
first 15 minutes	<i>Standby 1</i>	none
next 5 minutes	<i>Standby 2</i>	heating reduced (to room temp.)
after 20 minutes	<i>Idle</i>	heating stopped

Note: The printer mode is indicated in the green field on the left of the interface (see figures 6-3, 6-7 and 6-8 on pages 3, 8 and 9).

If, after printing a job, you know that the printer will not be used for 20 minutes or more, you can immediately turn off the heating of the print heads by putting the printer into *Idle* mode.

To put the printer into *Idle* mode:

- From the *File* menu (in the printer interface) click **Exit**.

Note: The printer remains in *Idle* mode until you open the Objet printer application and begin printing again.



When the printer is in *Idle* mode, do **not** turn it off. It can remain in this mode—with the cover closed—for up to a week. For longer periods, shut down the printer by running the Shutdown Wizard (see below).

Shutting Down the Printer

You only need to shut down the Objet printer if it will not be used for a week or more. Otherwise, the printer can remain on, in *Idle* mode.



The Shutdown process flushes printing materials from printer components. To avoid flushing out valuable material, make sure to print models at least once a week. Many printer operators use this opportunity to print customer samples or test models.

To properly shut down, the printer needs to perform several processes. **Do not attempt to shut down the printer by simply closing the computer interface (the printer-control application), and never disconnect power to the printer before completing the Shutdown Wizard.**

- **Shutdown for Less Than One Week**

Before shutting down the printer or the printer computer for less than one week, run the **Shutdown Wizard**. This wizard clears the print heads of printing materials before shutdown.

- **Shutdown for One Week or More**

Before shutting down the printer or the printer computer for one week or more, first run the **Material Flush/Fill Wizard**. This wizard replaces printing materials in the print block with cleaning fluid. Then, run the **Shutdown Wizard** to complete the shutdown process.

Note: After preparing the printer with the Material Flush/Fill Wizard, you must run it again before printing models, this time to replace the cleaning fluid in the print block with printing materials.)

Shutdown Wizard

To run the Shutdown Wizard:

1. Select **Shutdown Wizard** from the *Options* menu, or press **F8**.



Figure 6-11: Shutdown Wizard, opening dialog box

2. In the opening wizard screen, click **Next**.

Note: *Run wizard manually* is selected by default. It is recommended that you do not change this selection, to have more control over the shutdown process. If you select *Run wizard unattended*, the shutdown process may take longer, and the wizard will automatically shut down the printer computer.

3. In the next screen, indicate whether or not the tray is empty and click **Next**.

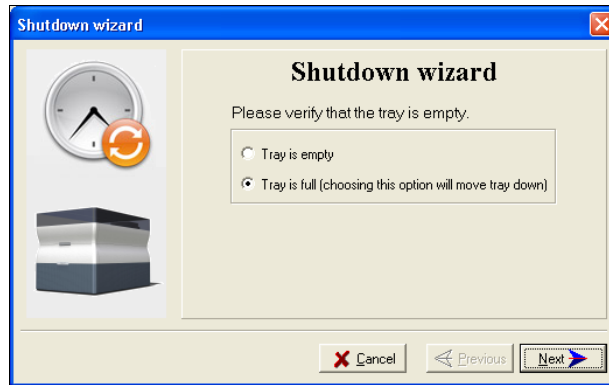


Figure 6-12: Tray status screen

The shutdown procedure begins.

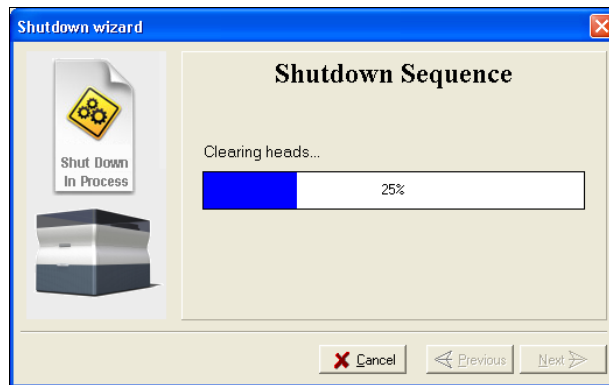


Figure 6-13: Shutdown progress screen

The shutdown procedure may take up to 10 minutes while the following tasks are performed:

- a. The print block returns to its starting point on all axes.
- b. The print heads are heated.
- c. The print heads are cleared of any remaining material.

After these tasks are completed, the final wizard dialog box appears, in which you choose whether or not to shut down the computer in the Objet printer at this time.



Figure 6-14: Computer Shutdown confirmation dialog box

Material Flush/Fill Wizard

4. When completely shutting down the Objet printer and turning the power off, select **Yes** and click **Next**.
5. After the printer computer shuts down, turn off the main power switch at the back of the printer (see figure 6-2 on page 2).

You use this wizard to prepare the printer for a shutdown of more than one week, and to restore the printer to working condition.

- To prepare the printer for an extended shutdown, the wizard drains printing materials from the print heads, then flushes the system with cleaning fluid. This process takes about 60 minutes.

For this procedure, you need to load four (4) cleaning-fluid cartridges in the cartridge drawer.

- To restore the printer to working condition, the wizard fills the system with printing materials. This process takes about 30 minutes.

For this procedure, you need to load two (2) cartridges of model material and two (2) cartridges of support material.

To run the Material Flush/Fill Wizard:

1. Start **Material Flush/Fill Wizard** from the *Options* menu.
2. In the opening screen, click **Next**.

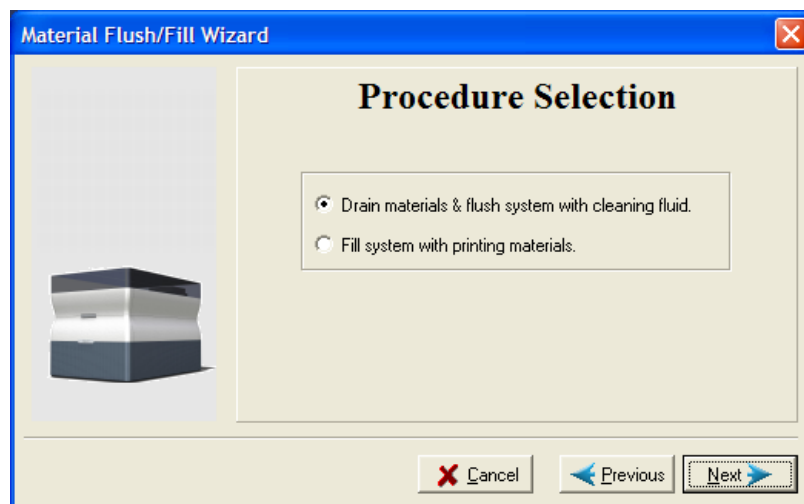


Figure 6-15: Wizard procedure selection

3. Select the required procedure, and click **Next**.

Note: Before continuing, make sure the required cartridges of material are available for the procedure selected.

4. Load the required cartridges, close the cartridge drawer, and confirm this in the wizard screen.

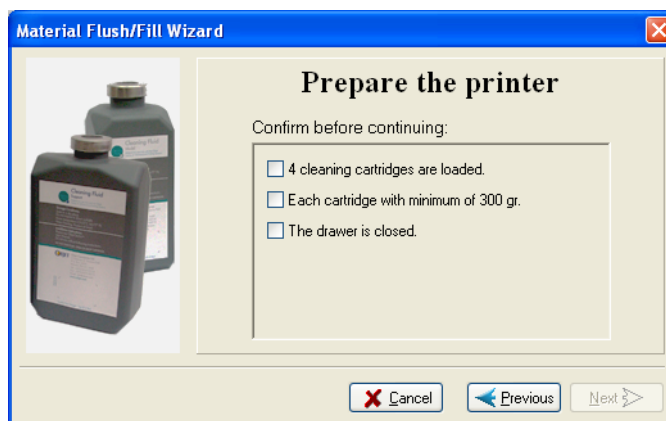


Figure 6-16: Cartridge confirmation screen—before shutdown

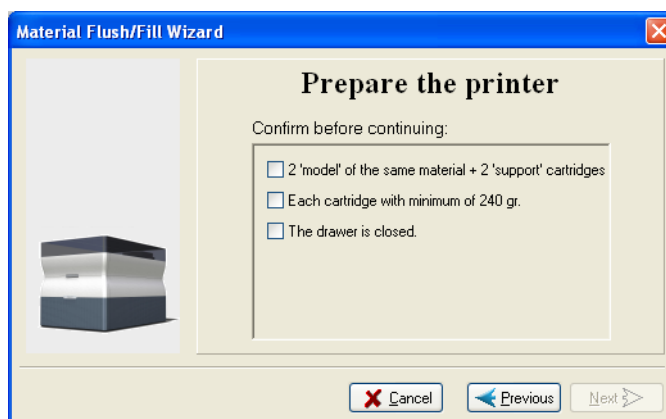


Figure 6-17: Cartridge confirmation screen—before printing

5. In the next wizard screen, confirm that the printer cover is closed, and click **Next**.

The wizard runs the material-flushing cycles.

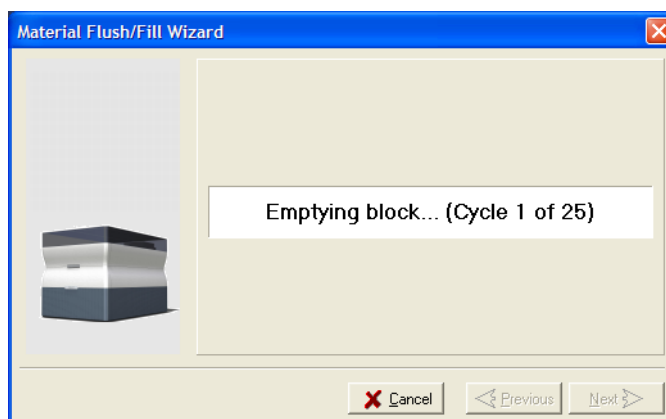


Figure 6-18: Flushing cycles in progress

6. If cleaning-fluid cartridges are loaded in the printer, the wizard prompts you to remove them. Confirm this in the wizard screen, and click **Next**.

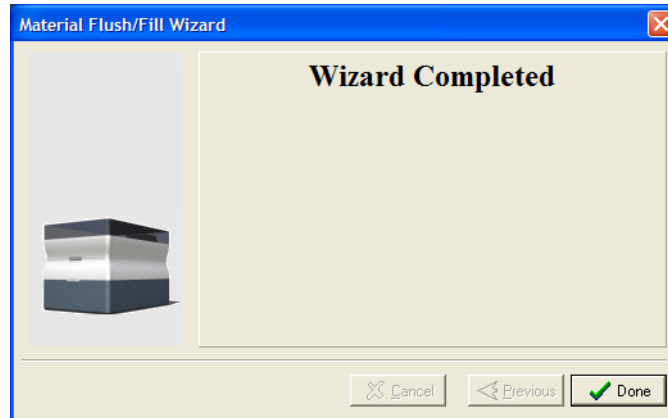


Figure 6-19: Final wizard screen

Note: After preparing the printer for an extended shutdown period with this wizard, run the Shutdown Wizard to complete the shutdown process.

Maintaining the Printer

The performance of routine maintenance tasks is essential for getting satisfactory results from Objet 3-D printers. Perform the tasks at specified intervals for optimum performance.

Routine Maintenance Schedule

Frequency	Task	For More Information
After every print job	Clean the print heads and the roller surface. Clean the build tray and the surrounding area.	See “Cleaning the Print Heads” on page 6-19.
Weekly	Perform the Pattern test.	See “Pattern Test” on page 6-21.
Weekly	Clean and inspect the wiper.	See “Cleaning and Replacing the Wiper” on page 6-22.
Weekly — <i>when printing with MED610</i>	Calibrate the UV intensity.	See the instructions in the UV-meter kit.
Weekly	Restart the printer computer and the server computer.	
Monthly, and after replacing print heads	Check the alignment of the print heads.	See “Aligning the Print Heads” on page 6-28.
Every 500 hours of printing, or once every six months	Calibrate the load cells.	See “Calibrating the Load Cells” on page 6-32.
Every 1000 hours of printing, or once a year	Preventive maintenance visit by authorized service engineer.	Contact your Stratasys support center.
Once a year	Inspect the activated-carbon odor filter, and replace if necessary.	See “Replacing the Odor Filter” on page 6-34.

Cleaning the Print Heads

Periodic inspection and cleaning of the orifice plates on the bottom of the print block ensures that the print nozzles are not clogged. A wizard guides you through the procedure, and adjusts components of the printer to enable you to perform it. To maintain your Objet24 printer in optimum condition, clean the print heads after every print job, when you remove the model from the build tray. This procedure takes about 20 minutes.

To clean the print heads:

1. Prepare—
 - isopropanol (IPA— isopropyl alcohol) or ethanol (ethyl alcohol)
 - disposable cleaning gloves
 - the supplied cleaning cloth or equivalent
 - a mirror
2. Start the Heads Cleaning Wizard from the *Options* menu of the printer interface (see figure 6-27 on page 23).
3. Follow the instructions on the wizard screens, and select the check boxes to confirm that:
 - you have checked that the tray is empty.
 - you have closed the cover.



Figure 6-20: Head cleaning procedure—wizard screen

4. Click **Next**.
The printer prepares for you to clean the print heads.
5. When the following screen appears, open the cover.



Figure 6-21: Head cleaning wizard—steps 5–10



WARNING: The print head orifice plates (bottom surface) may be hot. Do not touch them with your bare hands, and proceed with caution.

6. Place the mirror on the build tray.
7. Put on the gloves.
8. Soak the cleaning cloth with the cleaning fluid.
9. Clean the orifice plates, with a back-and-forth motion (see figure 6-22). Use the mirror to make sure that you have removed all of the residue material.

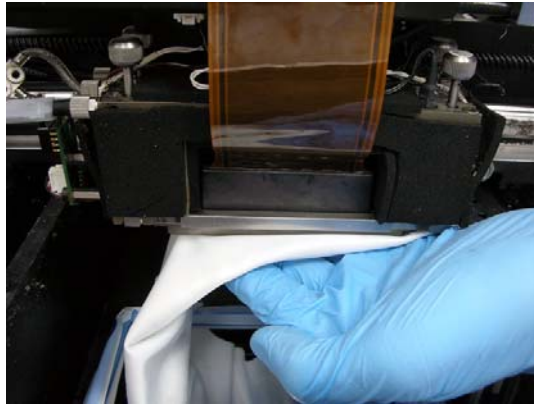


Figure 6-22: Cleaning the heads



Use this opportunity to clean the entire roller surface, by rotating the roller, and clean the UV lamp.

10. When you have finished cleaning, select the confirmation check box in the wizard screen (see figure 6-21) and click **Next**.
11. Remove the cleaning materials from the printer and close the cover.
12. Select the confirmation check boxes in the wizard screen and click **Next**.

The head-purge cycle begins. When this is complete, the final wizard screen appears.



Figure 6-23: Head-cleaning wizard—final screen

13. Click **Done** to close the wizard.

Pattern Test

The pattern test is the basic verification of the printer's ability to produce quality models, since it demonstrates the condition of the nozzles in the print heads. Make sure, therefore, that you perform this test weekly, and whenever you suspect a printing problem.

To perform the pattern test:

1. Make sure that the build tray is empty.
2. Prepare a sheet of pink paper, approximately 21×14 centimeters in size (8.5×5.5 inches)—half of the standard A-4 or Letter size.
3. In the printer, tape the pink paper to the center of the build tray.
4. Press **F3**, or open the *Options* menu and select **Pattern Test**.

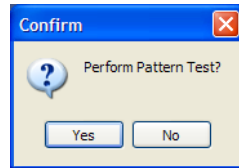


Figure 6-24: Pattern Test confirmation

5. If the build tray is *not* clear, click **No** in the following dialog box. This lowers the build tray, so that models on the tray are not damaged.

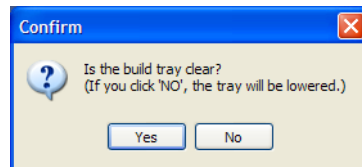


Figure 6-25: Build tray (Z) level adjustment

The printer prints a series of lines on the test paper (see next figure).

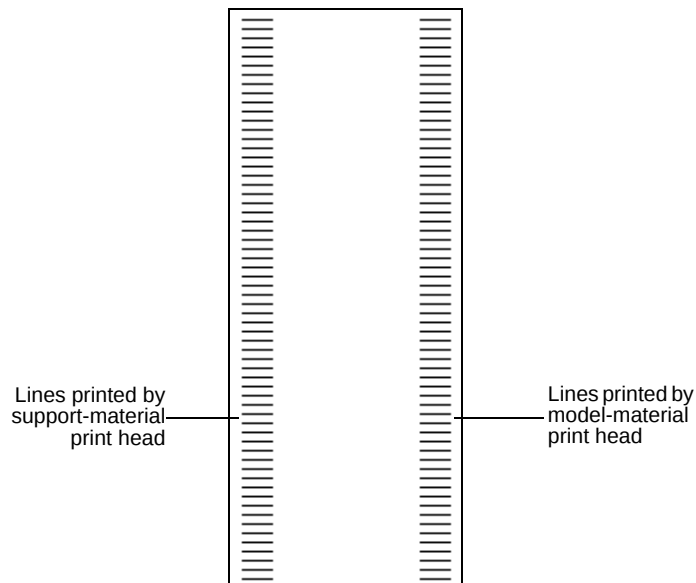


Figure 6-26: Sample Pattern Test

6. Carefully inspect the test paper to see if there are missing lines.

Too many missing lines, especially if they are in the same area, indicates that the quality of printing when producing models will be poor. If this is the case, see “Improving Print Quality,” below.

Note: Acceptable model quality is subjective, and depends on the type and scale (size) of the models produced. As a rule, however, if two consecutive lines are missing, or if there are more than 10 lines missing in either column, the model quality is usually unacceptable.

Improving Print Quality

If you suspect that print quality is poor, perform the pattern test (see “Pattern Test”). If the results are poor, use the following procedure to improve print quality.

If the results of the last pattern test are poor:

1. From the *Options* menu, select **Purge Sequence**, or press **F4**.
2. In the confirmation dialog box, click **Yes**.

The print heads are purged of model and support material, and the wiper removes excess material from them.

3. Repeat the purge sequence.
4. Perform the pattern test.

If the results of the pattern test are still poor:

1. Manually clean the print heads (see “Cleaning the Print Heads” on page 6-19).
2. Perform the purge sequence.
3. Perform the pattern test.

If the results of the pattern test are still poor:

1. Carefully clean the print heads again, making sure there is no residue left on them.
2. Perform the purge sequence.
3. Perform the pattern test.

If the results of the pattern test are still poor:

- Consult with your Stratasys service provider about replacing faulty print heads.

Cleaning and Replacing the Wiper

A rubber wiper removes excess material from the print heads after the purge sequence. This is done automatically before each print job, and performed manually during maintenance tasks. You should clean the wiper and surrounding area at least once a week. If the wiper is damaged or worn, replace it.

To inspect and clean the wiper:

1. Prepare—
 - isopropanol (IPA— isopropyl alcohol) or ethanol (ethyl alcohol)
 - disposable cleaning gloves
 - the supplied cleaning cloth or equivalent
 - a spare wiper
 - an M2.5 Allen key

2. Start the Wiper Cleaning Wizard from the *Options* menu of the printer interface (see figure 6-27 on page 23).



Figure 6-27: Starting the Wiper Cleaning Wizard

3. Close the printer cover, and click **Next** in the wizard screen.
4. Make sure that the build tray is empty, and close the printer cover. Confirm this in the wizard screen.

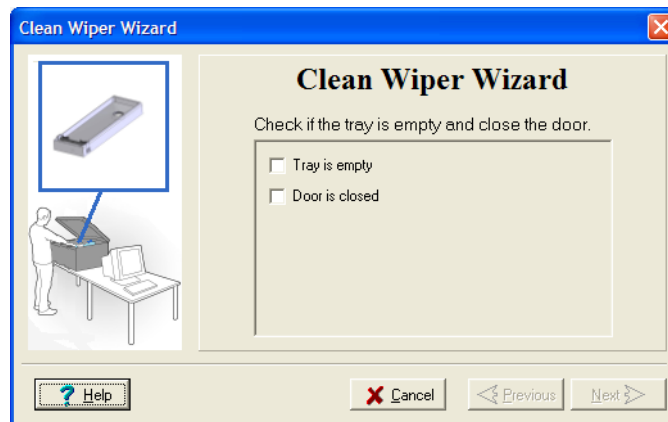


Figure 6-28: Wiper Cleaning procedure—step 4

5. Click **Next**.

6. When the following screen appears, open the cover.

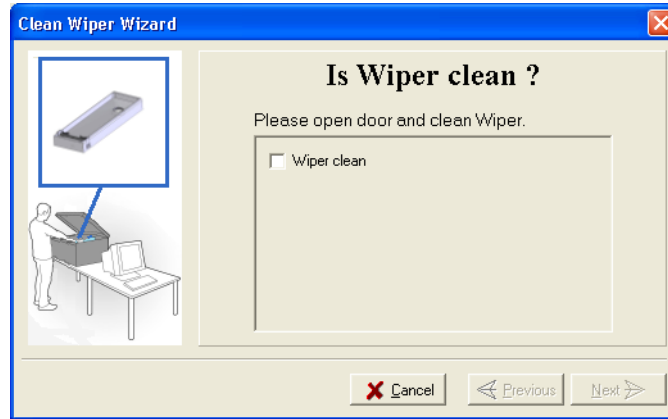


Figure 6-29: Wiper Cleaning Wizard during steps 7–10

7. Put on the cleaning gloves.
8. Using a generous amount of cleaning fluid and the cleaning cloth, remove any material remaining on the wiper and the surrounding area.
9. Inspect the wiper.
If the wiper is scratched, torn or worn, or if you cannot clean it completely, replace it.
 - a. With the M3 Allen key, loosen (but do not remove) the screw securing the wiper.



Figure 6-30: Wiper and excess-material drain

- b. Grasp the wiper unit and remove it.
 - c. Insert the new wiper, making sure that it is level, and tighten the securing screw.
10. In the wizard screen (see figure 6-29), confirm that the wiper blade is clean, and click **Next**.
11. Make sure that you have removed all tools and cleaning materials from the printer, and close the cover.

12. Confirm that the tray is clear and that the cover is close, and click **Next**.



Figure 6-31: Wiper Cleaning procedure—final confirmation screen

13. Click **Done** to close the wizard.

Cleaning and Replacing the Roller Waste Collector

Normally, you do not have to inspect and clean the roller waste collector. This is done by a customer-support engineer during regular maintenance visits. Occasionally, however, a blockage or damaged scraper may cause material leakage on the build tray. If this happens, remove the roller waste collector to inspect it.

To remove the roller waste collector:

1. Start the Heads Cleaning Wizard from the *Options* menu of the printer interface (see figure 6-27 on page 23).

This wizard prepares the printer for removing the roller waste collector.

2. When the following screen appears, confirm that the tray is empty and that the printer cover is closed, then click **Next**.



Figure 6-32: Wizard confirmation screen

The print block moves to the center of build tray, and the tray lowers.

3. When the following screen appears, open the cover.



Figure 6-33: Wizard screen that appears when you can begin the procedure



WARNING: The print head orifice plates (bottom surface) may be hot. Do not touch them with your bare hands, and proceed with caution.

4. Loosen the two side screws securing the UV lamp assembly, and remove the assembly.



Figure 6-34: UV-lamp-assembly securing screws

5. Move the print block all the way to the front of the printer, exposing the roller-waste-collector locking pin.

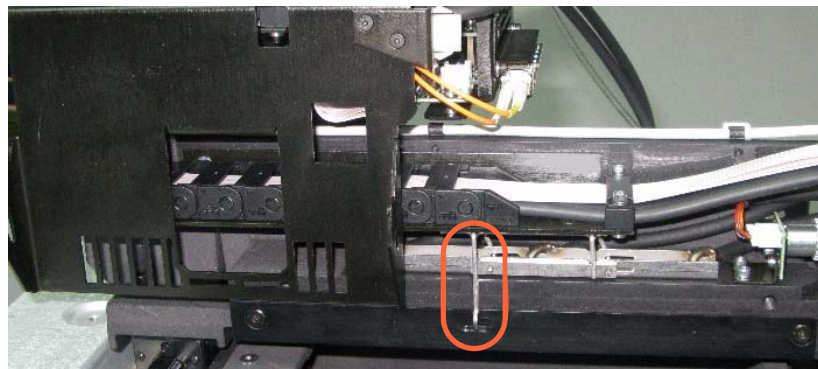


Figure 6-35: Roller-waste-collector locking pin

6. Pull the bottom of the locking pin, and turn it counter-clockwise, to raise the drain-tube bracket from the roller waste collector.

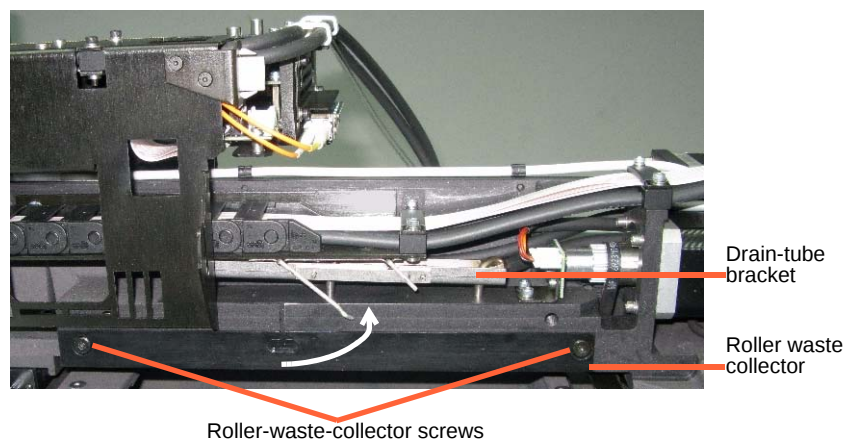


Figure 6-36: Raising the drain-tube bracket

7. Support the roller waste collector with your hand under it, and use a 3 mm Allen key to loosen the screws.

8. Pull out the roller waste collector, taking care not to touch or damage the scraper.



Figure 6-37: Roller waste collector

9. Inspect the roller waste collector.
 - If the scraper is damaged, replace the entire roller-waste-collector unit.
Save the used unit. At the next maintenance visit, the customer-support engineer will replace the scraper, for future use.
 - If the scraper is not damaged, carefully remove any waste from the waste channel, taking care not to touch the scraper.

To install the roller waste collector:

1. Carefully insert the roller-waste-collector unit.
2. Secure the unit evenly, by alternately tightening the screws.
3. Turn the locking pin clockwise, to lower the drain-tube bracket onto the roller waste collector, and secure the pin in its socket (see figure 6-34 on page 27).
4. Move the print block back to the middle of the printer.
5. Replace the UV lamp assembly and secure it.
6. In the wizard screen, click **Cancel** to return the build tray to its former position.

Aligning the Print Heads

You should check the alignment of the print heads—

- once a month
- if model quality is not acceptable even after cleaning the orifice plate on the bottom of the print block (see “Cleaning the Print Heads” on page 6-19)

The head-alignment procedure takes about 20 minutes.

To check the alignment of the print heads:

1. Prepare—
 - a transparency sheet, at least 10.5 × 13 centimeters in size (4.5 × 5.5 inches)—about one-quarter of the standard A-4 or Letter size
 - any type of sticky tape, to fasten the transparency sheet to the build tray
2. Start the Head Alignment Wizard from the *Options* menu (see figure 6-27 on page 23).
3. Click **Next** to begin, and close the cover.

4. In the wizard screen, select the check box to confirm that the cover is closed, and click **Next**.

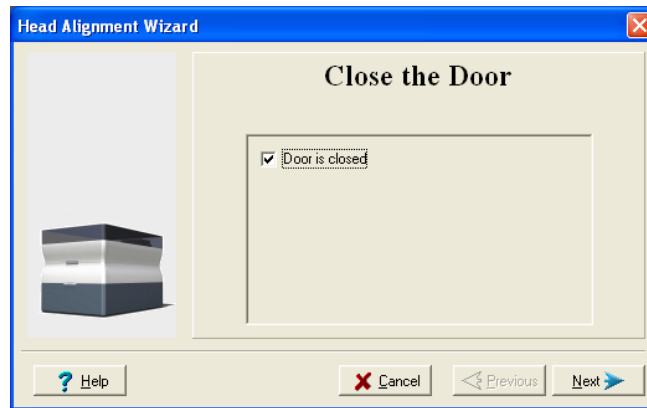


Figure 6-38: *Door is closed* confirmation screen

5. When instructed to do so, place the transparency on the build tray—near the left and rear edges of the tray, as shown in the following figure.

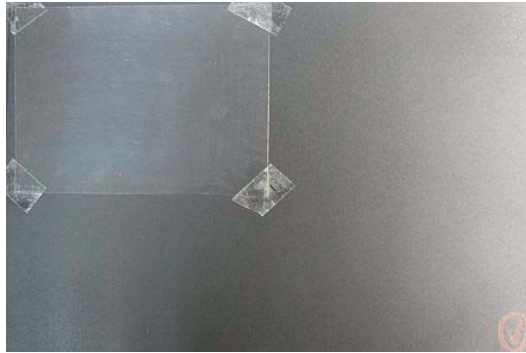


Figure 6-39: Positioning the transparency on the build tray

6. Make sure that the transparency sheet is lying flat, and tape it to the tray.
7. In the wizard screen, select the check box to confirm that the transparency sheet is on the build tray, and click **Next**.
The printer prints the head alignment test on the transparency.
8. When the following screen appears, remove the transparency.



Figure 6-40: Head Alignment Wizard—steps 8–10

The transparency sheet is printed with sets of vertical lines in two rows, each showing the results from a different print head.

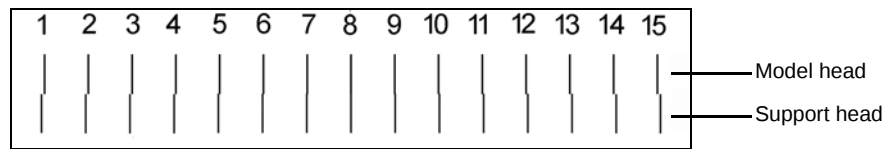


Figure 6-41: Sample head-alignment test

- The top row was printed by the head used for applying model material when producing models.
 - The bottom row was printed by the head used for applying support material.
9. Use a magnifying glass or loupe to inspect the transparency.
Optimum head alignment is shown when the two #8 lines, in the upper and lower rows, are aligned, as in figure 6-40. In the example shown, no change to the head alignment is necessary. If other lines in the set are aligned, you need to change the alignment—in the next wizard screen.
 10. In the wizard screen shown in figure 6-39, select the *Transparency removed* check box, and click **Next**.

The first in a series of alignment screens appears.

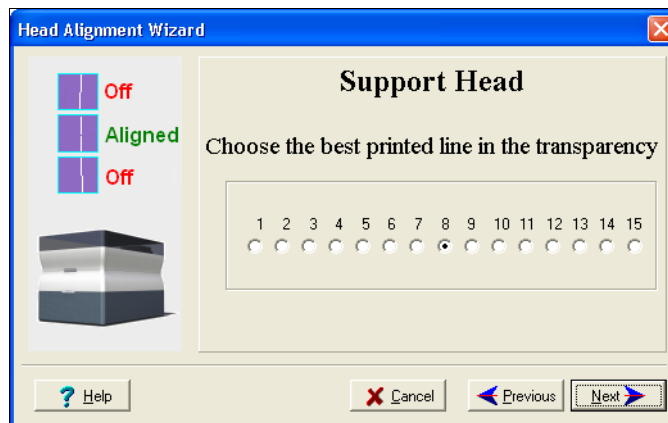


Figure 6-42: Head alignment screen

11. In the head-alignment screen, select the number that indicates which lines align in the upper and lower rows.
Note: Because the alignment of the middle lines is optimum, the number “8” is selected, by default, in the wizard screen. This does not change the head alignment. If you select other numbers, the wizard adjusts the head alignment, accordingly.

12. Click **Next**.

The following screen is displayed.

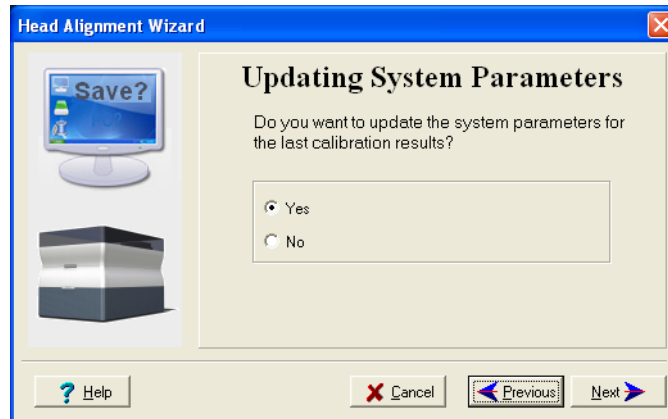


Figure 6-43: Update confirmation screen

13. Continue as follows:

- To make the alignment changes in the printer, make sure that *Yes* is selected, and click **Next**.
- To recheck the alignment test results before making the alignment changes in the printer, click **Previous**.
- If you do not want to make alignment changes in the printer at this time, select *No* and click **Next**.

14. In the final wizard screen, choose to either repeat the head alignment procedure or close the wizard.

- If the most closely aligned vertical lines for a print head were at either extreme, choose *Yes* to run the Head Alignment Wizard again, then click **Next**.

The transparency test will show if the heads are now properly aligned, and—if not—the wizard will allow you to “fine tune” the alignment.

- If the vertical lines for the print heads were not aligned at either extreme, choose *No* to close the wizard, then click **Next**.



Figure 6-44: Final Head Alignment Wizard screen

Calibrating the Load Cells

Load cells are sensors that measure the weight of the printing cartridges and the waste container in the printer. It is important that you periodically check that the weight measurements are accurate, both for convenience and to prevent unnecessary waste of printing materials. It is recommended that you calibrate the load cells once a month, with the Load Cell Calibration Wizard.

To calibrate load cells:

1. Start the Load Cell Calibration Wizard from the *Options* menu (see figure 6-27 on page 23).
2. Select one or more load cells that you want to calibrate, and click **Next**.

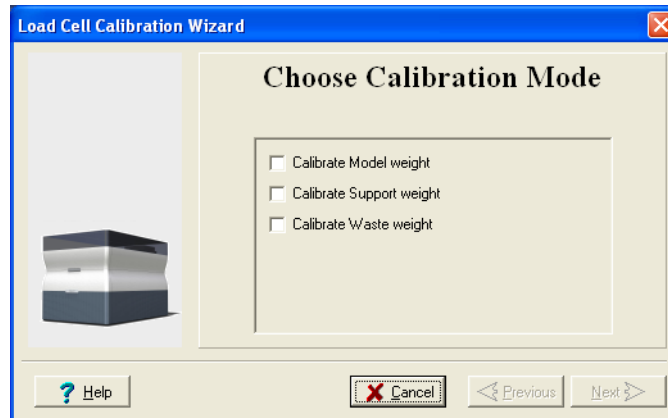


Figure 6-45: Load cell selection

Note: It is recommended that you routinely calibrate all of the load cells, after 500 hours of printing or once every six months.

3. Remove the cartridge or container, as instructed by the wizard, confirm this in the wizard screen, and click **Next**.

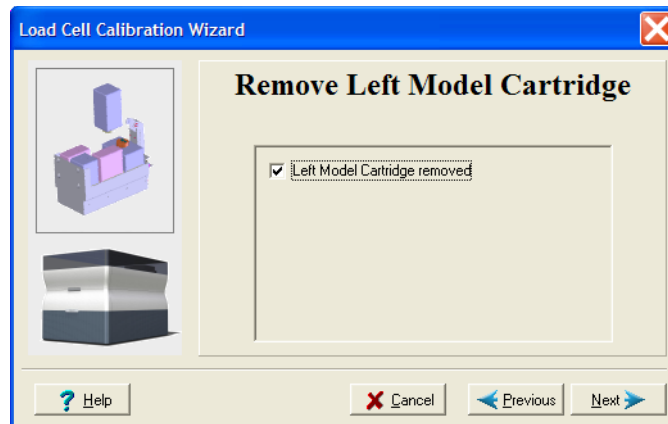


Figure 6-46: Confirmation of cartridge removal

4. In the next wizard screen, observe the numbers and wait until the level is relatively stable—two units above or below the average level shown.

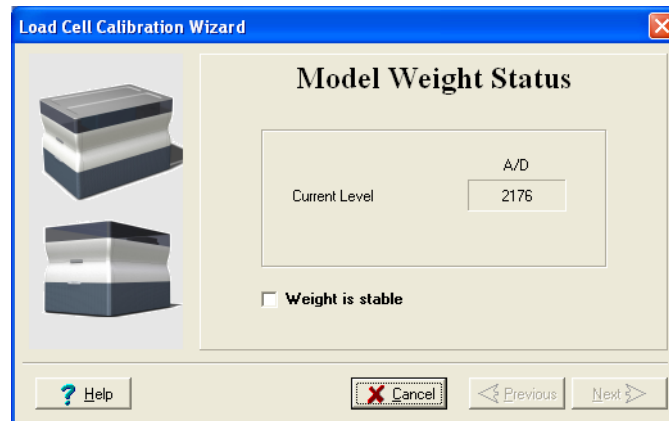


Figure 6-47: Level stabilization

5. Select the *Weight is stable* check box, and click **Next**.
If you need to calibrate more than one load cell, the next calibration screen appears. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until all of the load cells are calibrated.
6. Click **Done** in the final wizard screen.

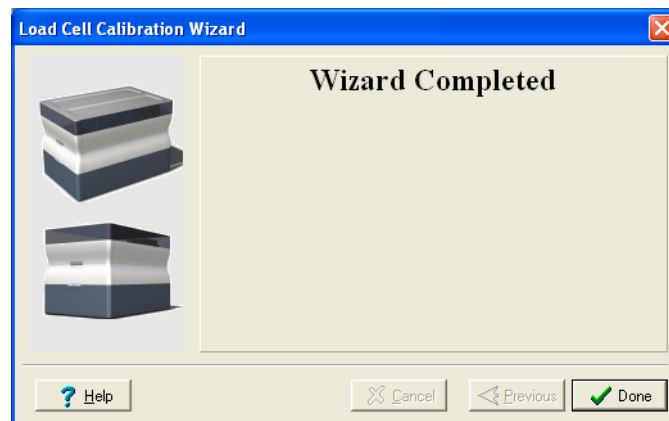


Figure 6-48: Final wizard screen



If you removed the waste container, make sure to replace it with its metal cover, and make sure that the drain tube is not bent. Operating the printer without the waste-container cover results in an inaccurate measurement of the waste weight, which will cause waste to overflow into the printer.

Replacing the Odor Filter

If the printer exhaust is not connected to an external ventilation system, a built-in activated-carbon filter removes odors from printing materials. This filter should be replaced regularly (about once a year, as necessary) to keep your working environment pleasant. This is normally done during the yearly preventive-maintenance service visit.

To replace the odor filter:

1. Locate the filter drawer at the rear of the printer and pull it open.



Figure 6-49: Rear of the Objet24 printer

2. Remove the used filter. (You can push it out from underneath the drawer.)



Figure 6-50: Odor filter in drawer

3. Insert a new filter and close the drawer.

Replacing the UV Lamp

The UV lamp used for curing models has a long, but limited, working life. The Stratasys service engineer tests its effectiveness during regular maintenance checks, and replaces it, if necessary. If, for any reason, you need to replace the UV lamp, follow these instructions:

1. Start the UV Lamp Replacement Wizard from the *Options* menu (see figure 6-27 on page 23).



WARNING: Before continuing, make sure that the safety interlock in the printer cover is not defeated, and that the lamp is not hot.

The *online/offline* button at the bottom of the printer interface should be red..



Figure 6-51: Offline mode indicator (red)

2. Make sure that the build tray is empty, and confirm this in the wizard screen. Then, close the printer cover and click **Next**.

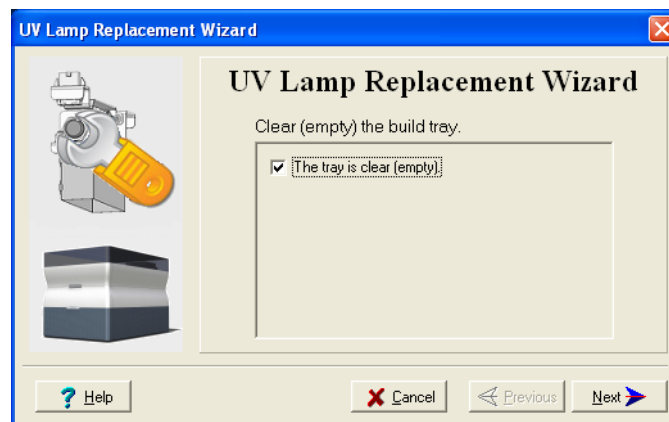


Figure 6-52: "Empty tray" confirmation screen

The axes move to the "home" position.

3. Disconnect the UV lamp cable and the fan cable.

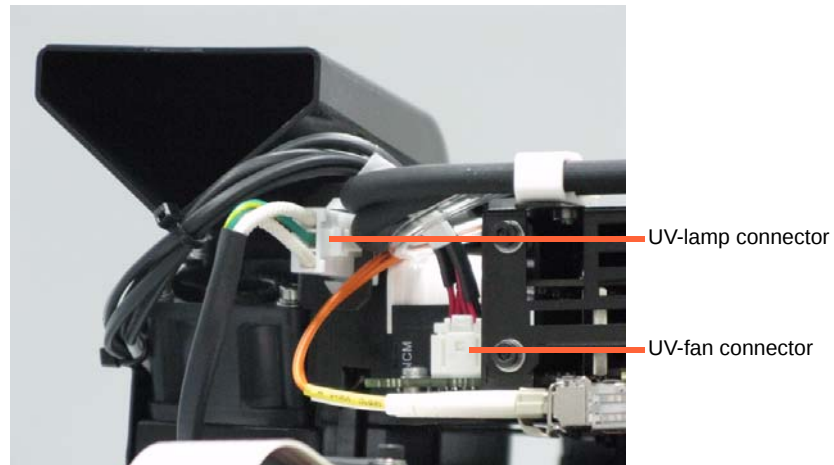


Figure 6-53: Disconnecting the UV lamp assembly

4. Loosen the two side screws securing the UV lamp assembly to the printer.



Figure 6-54: UV-lamp-assembly

5. Remove the assembly, and place it on a flat surface.
6. Loosen the screws securing the UV lamp cover and remove the cover.

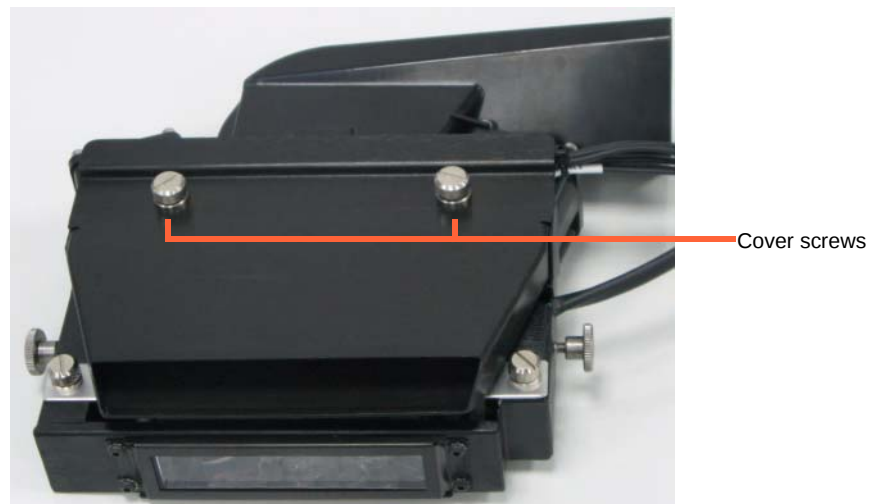


Figure 6-55: UV-lamp-cover screws

7. Loosen the two screws securing the UV reflector.

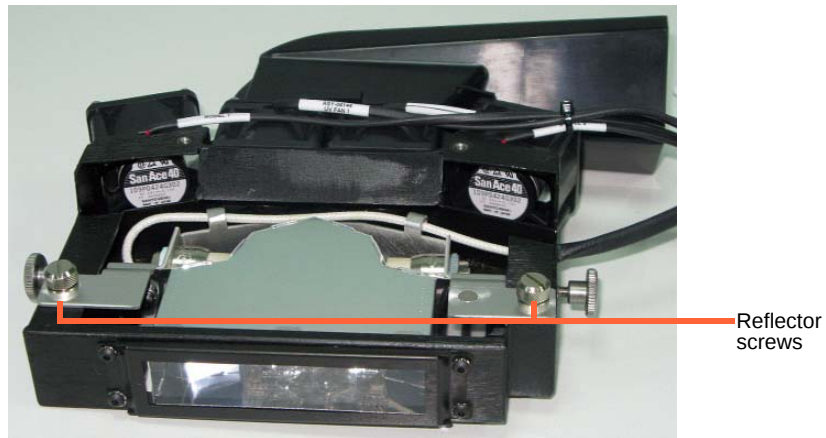


Figure 6-56: UV-reflector screws

8. Remove the UV reflector by raising it slightly, then pulling it out of the housing at an angle, from the bottom.



Figure 6-57: Removing the UV reflector from the UV assembly

9. Discard the old reflector and lamp.



Dispose of the used UV lamp in accordance with environmental and safety requirements.

10. Insert the new UV lamp/reflector unit into the housing.

11. Make sure that the UV-lamp cable is in place, inside the housing, and then tighten the securing screws.

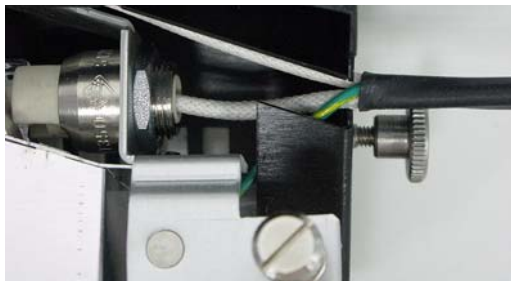


Figure 6-58: Cable position when installing the UV lamp

12. Replace the lamp cover, and tighten the securing screws.
13. Replace the UV lamp assembly in the printer, making sure that the cable fits into the slot together with the side securing screw.



Figure 6-59: UV-lamp cable after replacing the assembly

14. Tighten the two side securing screws.
15. In the wizard screen, confirm that you have replaced the lamp and that the black strip is attached to the reflector; then click **Next**.



Figure 6-60: UV-installation confirmation screen

The wizard operates the lamp to test if it is installed correctly. If the lamp does not light, the wizard prompts you to check the power connections and to re-install the lamp.



Figure 6-61: Final wizard screen

Replacing the Waste Container

The waste container contains partially cured polymeric material produced during normal operation and maintenance of the printer. For safety and environmental reasons, this material is kept in a special leak-proof, disposable container.

The container has a capacity of 1.8 kilograms of waste material—usually enough for several weeks of printer use. The printer software displays a warning message when there is 1.5 kilograms of material in the container, and stops the printing when the net weight reaches 1.8 kilograms. Above 1.5 kilograms, the software does not allow you to start a print job (or a printing activity) until you replace the waste container. You can monitor the weight of the waste container in the *Maintenance* screen of the printer interface.

To monitor the waste weight (and other indicators) in the printer:

- In the main printer interface screen, click the display toggle to view the printer indicators.



Figure 6-62: Printer interface, showing waste weight (red background indicates operator alert)

The waste container consists of a sealed bag inside a cardboard box. You typically dispose of the entire waste container—including the box. Therefore, you must assemble a new box and insert a new waste bag before you can install it in the printer.



Replacement boxes, waste bags, and sealing caps are supplied in the Objet printer start-up kit and in the preventive-maintenance kit.

To prepare a new waste container:

1. Assemble the cardboard box, making sure to punch out the perforated sections.
2. Fold a new waste bag—so it fits in the box—and insert the bag's screw-connector into the hole in the top of the box.

Note: Do not close the box until you connect the waste drain tube from the printer (see below).

To replace the waste container:

1. Open the materials drawer.
2. Remove the fireproof cover from the waste container.



Figure 6-63: Removing the waste-container cover

3. Unscrew the cap securing the waste drain tube.
4. Carefully lift out the waste container to remove it from the printer.
5. Close the full container with a sealing cap.
6. Place the new waste container in the materials drawer, and attach the drain tube to it.

While attaching the cap with the waste drain tube, hold the waste bag stationary.

7. Close the new waste-container box.



Figure 6-64: Waste container with drain tube attached

- Place the fireproof cover over the waste container, making sure that the drain tube is free and not bent.



Figure 6-65: Fireproof cover installed over the waste container

Note: Operating the printer without the waste-container cover results in an inaccurate measurement of the waste weight, which will cause waste to overflow into the printer.

- Close the materials drawer.



Dispose of the full waste container in accordance with environmental and safety requirements.

Cleaning the Exterior Panels

The painted exterior plastic panels of Objet 3D printers have a durable finish, offering excellent chemical resistance to common cleaning materials. However, it is recommended that you use only a mild soap solution for routine cleaning.

Backing-Up and Restoring Printer Settings

Printer modes and configuration settings are stored in files on the printer computer. You can back up these files, and restore them, if necessary, using desktop icons.



Figure 6-76: *Backup* and *restore* desktop icons

ReInitiate Wizard

One of the wizards listed in the *Options* menu is *ReInitiate*. You normally do **not** have to run this wizard. The process that this wizard controls runs automatically, when needed, as part of the *Pre-print* mode (before printing begins). Run this wizard only if a Stratasys Customer Support engineer instructs you to do so.

Handling Printed Models

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Removing Models After Printing

After printing models, you should allow them to cool as much as possible before handling them. If additional models do not have to be produced on the printer, it is best to let the printed models cool in the printer, with the cover closed, as long as possible.

If the printer must be used to produce additional models as soon as possible:

1. Let the printed models cool on the build tray for at least 10 minutes.
2. Very carefully, remove the models from the tray with a scraper or spatula (supplied in the tool kit), taking care not to pry or bend the model.



WARNING: Wear protective gloves when handling printed models before they are washed.

3. Place the models on a flat surface, and cover them with a cardboard box or paper hood.

This allows the models to cool slowly and evenly.

4. Let the models cool for several hours.

Removing the Support Material

After printed models have cooled, the support material must be removed. This can be done by different methods, depending on the size of the model, how delicate it is, the amount and location of the support material, and other factors. Use the following methods as a guide, and adapt them (or a combination of them) for finishing the models you are handling.

Removing Excess Support Material by Hand

While wearing protective gloves, break away excess support material on the outside of the model. For delicate models, use a toothpick, pin or small brush after dipping the model in water.

Removing Support Material with Water Pressure

For most models, the most efficient way to remove support material is by using a high-pressure water jet. One suitable system is the Objet WaterJet cleaning unit, shown in figure 7-1 on page 3.

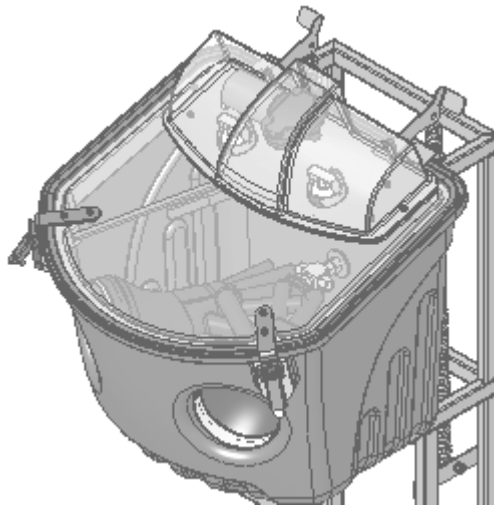


Figure 7-1: Objet WaterJet Cleaning Unit

To clean a model using this device, you place it in the chamber, and you manipulate it and the jet using the built-in, waterproof sleeves. A pump turns ordinary tap water into a high-pressure jet, and a wiper keeps the window clear.



Use caution when cleaning delicate models with high-pressure water systems.

Removing Support Material with Caustic Soda

Soak models in a 2-percent solution of caustic soda (sodium hydroxide) to remove support material from difficult-to-reach areas and to give the model a smooth, clean finish. The amount of time you soak the model in the solution depends on how delicate it is and how much support material needs to be removed, but it is typically between half-an-hour and several hours. In any case, you should remove as much support material as possible before the caustic soda treatment, and rinse the model thoroughly (with a water jet) afterwards.



WARNING: Caustic soda may cause chemical burns, scarring and blindness. Mixing it with water generates heat that could ignite other materials. Take adequate safety precautions; always use nitrile gloves when handling caustic soda and models soaked in it.

Storing Models

Models are cured as they are printed, making them safe and stable for a long time. However, proper storage conditions are necessary to prevent deforming.

- Keep printed models at room temperature and in a low-humidity environment.
- Do not expose models to direct sunlight and other heat sources.