G2 Board

You can use the G2 board with legacy Printrbot (or other) printers. In most cases, you won't have to write code or load new firmware to do this, but it will probably require some configuration to get the board running smoothly. This guide documents the settings you may want to change if you are using the G2 board with a printer other than the Simple Pro.

This guide is also useful if you'd like to skip the cloud features of the Printrbot Simple Pro and print directly via USB or with OctoPrint.

G2 Board vs. Legacy Printerboards

Before we get into the details, there are two important differences between this new board (we'll use the term "G2" on this page) and the older boards that shipped with other Printrbot printers ("Printrboard" on this page):

Marlin vs g2core

First, the G2 board uses the g2core flavor of gcode instead of Marlin.

The g2core code was originally developed to control CNC machines. The G2 board running g2core works great in a CNC machine or a 3D printer.

Marlin code (that runs on older Printrboards) was developed specifically for 3D printing. The flavor of gcode it uses adds many mcodes that are specific to printing. Sometimes, these mcodes support new features that are specific to 3D printers (like controlling the temperature of the hotend). In other cases, the Marlin mcodes are shortcuts for actions that are usually handled on CNC machines with other gcode (like adjusting the z offset for the hotend).

The g2core software supports a special Marlin Compatibility mode. This is turned on by default on G2 boards used in printers. The goal of this mode is to support gcode files sliced for Marlin boards. The g2core team does not intend for this mode to support **all** mcodes listed on the RepRap wiki.

In most cases, you can reproduce the functionality of unsupported Marlin codes by using gcodes or g2core configuration commands.

Local Persistence

Second, settings you send to the G2 board **cannot be saved across resets**. Every time you start the G2 board, it loads the same default configuration settings.

The default settings can be changed by compiling the board software with different default values set, but we're not going to talk about how to do this. You can find detailed instructions for building the firmware here.

The easiest way to make sure the board always runs with the right settings is to include the configuration settings you want to use in the "Start Gcode" section of your slicer. This will load the settings every time you start a print. This page covers what settings you may want to set, and how to configure Cura to use start gcode.

Marlin vs g2core Example: Changing the build size of your printer.

If you upgrade the x-axis on a simple metal printer, you need to change the settings on the control board before it will take advantage of the extra space.

To do this on a Printrboard, you send the following commands:

M211 X250 M500

This tells the software that the x-axis size is now 250mm, and then saves this value to the board permanently.

The G2 board does not support these two commands. If you try to send them to your board, it will return an error.

Instead, we use a g2core command to set maximum travel distance on the x-axis, like this:

\$xtm:254

This sets the length of the x-axis to 254mm.

If you want to read back the value, you type in "\$xtm" at the terminal. On a default board,

xtm is 215mm. Even if you change this value with the \$xtm command, it will return to the default value when the board is reset.

g2core Command Syntax

In this document, we show commands that start with a "\$" symbol. The first example we gave was the \$xtm command.

If you send \$xtm to the board, it will respond with the current value for this setting.

This isn't the only way you can send the xtm command: You can also send it like this:

```
M100.1 ({xtm:254})
```

or this:

```
{xtm:254}
```

These commands are all the same, but the syntax you use can affect the order in which the g2core software acts on them.

Details on this are here on the g2core wiki. To (over) simplify, though: when entering commands interactively through a terminal, use the \$ syntax. If you want config commands to be executed in the order they appear in the gcode file, wrap them in a M100.1 command.

If you are using these commands in the start gcode section of Cura, you'll need to wrap your M100 commands in **two** curly braces, since Cura removes the first set of braces when it reads in the file:

```
M100.1 ({{xtm:254}}) ;use two sets of curly braces within Cura.
```

You can put comments in-line with your commands by following a command with a semicolon or parenthesis.:

```
M114 ;this is comment text
```

```
;this is a comment on its own line
M114 (this is also comment text)
(you can also comment on a new line)
```

Additional documentation on command syntax is here on the g2core wiki.

Configuring your Software

Cura

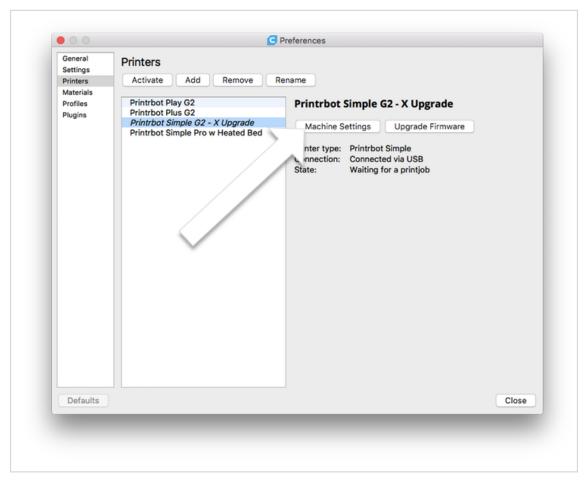
These instructions were written and tested with the latest version of Cura at the time, Cura 3.2.1.

Cura 3.x is a great slicer for the Simple Pro and g2 boards. In order to create gcode files that are optimized for your printer, you will need to set up custom start gcode. We explain how to do this below.

It is possible to print directly from Cura to your printer via USB. This does work with G2 enabled printers (and the Simple Pro), but we (and the Cura developers) don't recommend printing directly via USB from your computer; it is not as reliable as other methods.

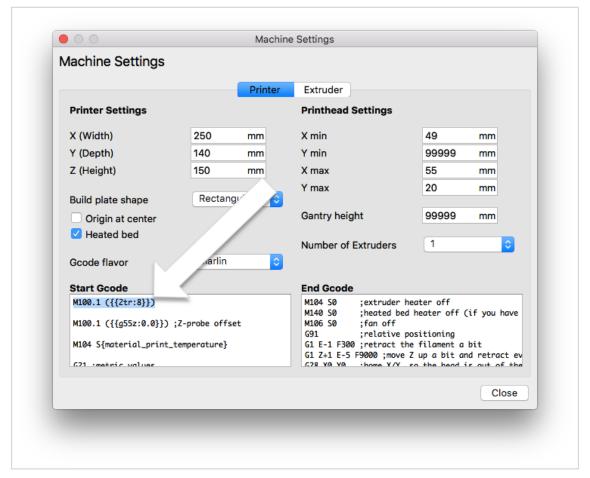
Setting Start Gcode

In the preferences menu, select Printers, select your printer, and open



Machine Settings

In the machine settings window, there is a "Start Gcode" field.



Erase what is in that section, and put your Start Gcode in this window.

Cura supports substitution tokens. When Cura reads a token in your gcode, the software replaces it with a value from your slicer settings.

Useful substitution tokens for Cura include:

```
{material_print_temperature} - Hotend Temperature
{material_bed_temperature} - Bed Temperature
```

Because of the way that substitutions work in Cura, setting the heated bed temperature to zero does not disable the heated bed, it instead hangs the printer indefinitely while the g2core board waits for the temperature to drop to zero. To 'disable' your heated bed without removing the heated bed commands from your startup gcode, set the bed temperature to slightly above room temperature.

Other Issues

Since Cura uses the same curly brace syntax as g2core, if you are sending commands wrapped in curly braces through Cura, remember to use two sets of curly braces. This means, instead of sending:

```
M100.1 ({xtm:254})
```

You will need to use:

```
M100.1 ({{xtm:254}})
```

the Cura software will take out the first set of curly braces when it processes the gcode.

There is a known issue with Cura where the homing buttons on the printer controls (under the "Monitor" tab) do not work. The jog controls work fine.

Octoprint

Octoprint works well with the g2core in Marlin compatibility mode "out of the box" with one exception (see the note about disabling log position in the other issues section).

Direct Connection From Cura

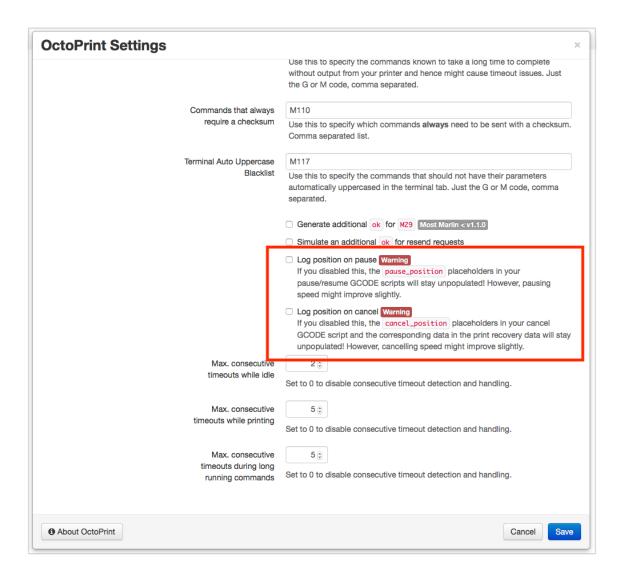
Connecting directly to OctoPrint from Cura works well. This guide will not cover configuring this on your system, but you can find instructions here.

Just like with direct USB connection to Cura, the jog controls and printing works fine, but the homing buttons on the controls do not work with the g2core software at this time.

Other Issues

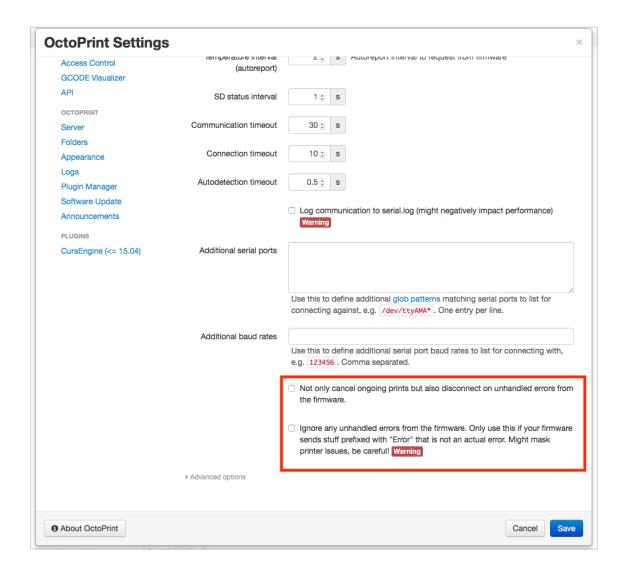
Under OctoPrint Settings:Serial Connection there is an advanced settings tab (look closely at the bottom of the page, it is easy to miss).

Disable "Log position on pause" and "Log position on cancel" features. When these features are enabled, when you pause or stop a print OctoPrint sends the M400 command, which is not supported by the G2 board, which will cause the g2core software to return an error.



By default, OctoPrint disconnects from the printer if an error code is sent by the board. This shouldn't happen that often if you have made the change to the pause/cancel settings are changed as described above.

If you are having trouble with prints being ruined when an unsupported code is sent, consider unchecking these settings. As the warning says, this might cause you to miss a serious error.



Common Configuration Options

In this section, find examples of setting changes for common adjustments, and popular Printrbot upgrades.

Z-Probe Offset

To adjust for z-probe offset, use these commands:

```
G55 Z-0.5 ;set up coordinates that include z-offset of -0.5mm G55 ;apply coordinates with z-offset value
```

4-Start Lead Screw

To enable the 4-Start Z Upgrade, adjust the travel per revolution of the z-axis. Assuming your z-axis is mapped to motor 2 (the default), use:

```
$2tr:8 ;adjust z-axis for 8mm lead screw
```

If you also installed the super Z upgrade, increase your z-axis size to 240mm:

```
$ztm:240 ;set the z-axis height to 240mm
```

Gear Head Extruder

In order to set up the gear head extruder, adjust your extruder radius, feed rate and jerk:

```
$ara:4.28394 ;adjust radius for gear head extruder
$afr:16050 ;adjust feed rate for gear head extruder
$ajm:162000 ;adjust jerk for gear head extruder
```

Simple Metal Heated Bed

Enable the heated bed:

```
$he3e:t
```

Don't forget to insert commands into your start gcode to warm up the bed. In Cura, use:

```
M190 S{material_bed_temperature}
```

If you are using this bed, also increase the x-axis size.

```
$xtm:254 ;increase the x-axis to 254mm
```

Example Start Gcode Sections

General Start Concepts

We use the Startup Gcode to do the following:

- Adjust any settings that aren't correct by default for your printer
- Home the printer
- Level the z axis (including tramming)
- Adjust z-offset
- Warm up the Heated Bed (if used) and the Hotend
- Prime the hotend by extruding a little filament

The first step, adjusting settings, is not necessary if the configuration options are correct out-of-the box (or if you have recompiled the firmware with settings to match your printer), but it doesn't hurt to re-send these values.

Stock Simple Metal

Below, find start gcode you can use with a 'stock' Simple Metal and Cura.

Remember to replace the Z-offset value with the correct value for your printer before using this code.

```
(==Configuration Settings==)
G21 ;use mm as unit of measurement
M100.1 ({{2tr:40.64}}) ;set the z-axis travel/rotation to 40.64mm
M100.1 (\{\{xtm:152\}\}); set the x-axis size to 152mm
M100.1 ({{ytm:152}}) ;set the y-axis size to 152mm
M100.1 (\{\{ztm:152\}\}); set the z-axis size to 152mm
M100.1 (\{\{xjm:6000\}\}); set the x-axis max jerk to 6000mm/min^3
M100.1 (\{\{xjh:6000\}\}); set the x-axis high-speed jerk to 6000mm/min^3
M100.1 (\{\{yjm:6000\}\}); set the y-axis max jerk to 6000mm/min^3
M100.1 (\{\{yjh:6000\}\}) ;set the y-axis high-speed jerk to 6000mm/min^3
M100.1 ({{ysv:1000}}) ;slow y-axis homing velocity so it doesn't slam
(==Home Printer==)
G92.1 X0 Y0 Z0 A0 B0 ; reset origin offsets on all axes -clean slate
G28.2 X0 Y0 Z0; home the x, y and z axes.
(==Level Bed==)
;probe first point
G0 X0 Y145 Z6 F6000; travel to X=0, Y=145mm, Z=6mm
```

```
G38.2 Z-10 F200 ;slowly travel down until the z-probe activates
G0 Z5 ;travel back up to Z=5mm
;probe second point
G0 X140 Y65 ;travel to X=140mm Y=65mm
G38.2 Z-10 F200 ;slowly travel down until the z-probe activates
G0 Z5 ;travel back up to Z=5mm
;probe third point
G0 X=0 Y=10 ; travel to X=0mm, Y=10mm
G38.2 Z-10 F200 ;slowly travel down until the z-probe activates
G0 Z5 ;travel back up to Z=5mm
M100 ({{tram:1}}) ;set the bed height based on the probe values from the three
previous G38.2 commands
(==Z Offset==)
GO Z5 ; make sure we are at a decent Z height
G92 Z0.1 ;set Z-axis offset to 0.1. **REPLACE THIS WITH YOUR OFFSET VALUE**
(==Heat==)
M109 S{material_print_temperature} ;start heating hotend, wait until
temperature reached
(==Prime==)
G92 A0 ; reset extruder origin
G0 X10 Y10 Z0.3 ;travel to X=10mm, Y=10mm, Z=0.3mm
G1 X110 A6 F1200 ;extrude 6mm of filament while moving to X=110mm
G0 Y0.4 ;travel to Y=0.4
G1 X10 A12 ;extrude 6mm more filament while moving back to X=10mm
G0 Z1 ; raise to Z=1mm
G92 A0 ; reset extruder origin
(==Print Gcode Starts Below==)
```

Upgraded Simple Metal

Below, find start gcode you can use with a Simple Metal that has been upgraded with Super-Z with 4-start screw, Heated Bed, Gear Extruder. This start gcode has double {{ curly braces }} for use with Cura.

Don't set your heated bed temperature below room temperature in Cura (using a value of "0" doesn't work here). If you do this, the printer will wait forever for the bed temperature to reach 0 degrees Celsius.

Remember to replace the Z-offset value with the correct value for your printer before using this code.

```
(==Configuration Settings==)
G21 ;use mm as unit of measurement
M100.1 ({{he3e:t}}) ;enable heated bed
M100.1 (\{\{xtm:254\}\}); set the x-axis size to 254mm
M100.1 ({{ytm:152}}) ;set the y-axis size to 152mm
M100.1 (\{\{ztm:240\}\}); set the z-axis size to 240mm
M100.1 ({{2tr:8}}) ;set the z-axis travel per rotation to 8mm (4-start)
M100.1 ({{ara:4.28394}}) ;set radius for gearhead extruder
M100.1 ({{afr:16050}}) ;set feedrate for gearhead extruder
M100.1 ({{ajm:162000}}) ; max jerk for gearhead extruder
M100.1 (\{\{xjm:6000\}\}); set the x-axis max jerk to 6000mm/min^3
M100.1 (\{\{xjh:6000\}\}) ;set the x-axis high-speed jerk to 6000mm/min^3
M100.1 (\{\{yjm:6000\}\}); set the y-axis max jerk to 6000mm/min^3
M100.1 ({{yjh:6000}}) ;set the y-axis high-speed jerk to 6000mm/min^3
M100.1 ({{ysv:1000}}) ;slow y-axis homing velocity so it doesn't slam
(==Home Printer==)
G92.1 X0 Y0 Z0 A0 B0 ; reset origin offsets on all axes -clean slate
G28.2 \times 0 \times 0 \times 0; home the x, y and z axes.
(==Level Bed==)
;probe first point
G0 X0 Y145 Z6 F6000 ;travel to X=0, Y=145mm, Z=6mm
G38.2 Z-10 F200 ;slowly travel down until the z-probe activates
G0 Z5 ;travel back up to Z=5mm
;probe second point
G0 X200 Y65 ;travel to X=200mm Y=65mm
G38.2 Z-10 F200 ;slowly travel down until the z-probe activates
G0 Z5 ;travel back up to Z=5mm
;probe third point
G0 X0 Y10 ;travel to X=0mm, Y=10mm
G38.2 Z-10 F200 ;slowly travel down until the z-probe activates
G0 Z5 ;travel back up to Z=5mm
M100 ({{tram:1}}) ;set the bed height based on the probe values from the three
previous G38.2 commands
(==Z Offset==)
G0 Z5 ;make sure we are at a decent Z height
```

```
G92 Z-4.0 ;set Z-axis offset
(==Heat==)
M190 S{material_bed_temperature} ;start heating bed, wait until temperature hit
;** WARNING if you set bed temperature of zero in Cura, this command will hang
your printer
M109 S{material_print_temperature} ;start heating hotend, wait until
temperature hit
(==Prime==)
G92 A0 ; reset extruder origin
G0 X10 Y10 Z0.3 ;travel to X=10mm, Y=10mm, Z=0.3mm
G1 X220 A12 F1200 ;extrude 12mm of filament while moving to X=220mm, increase
speed to 1200
G0 Y0.4 ;travel to Y=0.4
G1 X110 A18 ;extrude 6mm more filament while moving back to X=110mm
G0 Z1 ; raise to Z=1mm
G92 A0 ; reset extruder origin
(==Print Gcode Starts Below==)
```

Simple Pro

Below, find start gcode you can use with the Simple Pro and Cura.

If you do not have a heated bed, remove the \$he3e:t config command and the M190 command in the "Heat" section. Also, if you have a heated bed, don't set your heated bed temperature below room temperature in Cura (using a value of "0" doesn't work here)

Remember to replace the Z-offset value with the correct value for your printer before using this code.

```
(==Configuration Settings==)
G21 ;set metric mode - use mm as units
M100.1 ({{he3e:t}}) ;enable heated bed
M100.1 ({{ysv:1000}}) ;slow y-axis homing velocity so it doesn't slam
;skipping all other configuration. The stock settings should be correct
(==Home Printer==)
M100.1 ({{_leds:3}}) ;turn LED on, blue color
G92.1 X0 Y0 Z0 A0 B0 ;reset origin offsets on all axes -clean slate
```

```
G28.2 \times 0 \times 0 \times 0; home the x, y and z axes.
(==Level Bed==)
M100.1 ({{_leds:5}}) ;turn LED on, yellow color
;probe first point
G0 X0 Y145 Z6 F6000 ;travel to X=0, Y=145mm, Z=6mm
G38.2 Z-10 F200 ;slowly travel down until the z-probe activates
G0 Z5 ;travel back up to Z=5mm
;probe second point
G0 X210 Y65 ;travel to X=210mm Y=65mm
G38.2 Z-10 F200 ;slowly travel down until the z-probe activates
G0 Z5 ;travel back up to Z=5mm
;probe third point
G0 X=0 Y=10 ;travel to X=0mm, Y=10mm
G38.2 Z-10 F200 ;slowly travel down until the z-probe activates
G0 Z5 ;travel back up to Z=5mm
M100.1 ({{tram:1}}) ;set the bed height based on the probe values from the
three previous G38.2 commands
(==Z Offset==)
GO Z5 ; make sure we are at a decent Z height
G92 Z-0.1 ;set Z-axis offset ;** REPLACE THIS WITH YOUR OFFSET **
(==Heat==)
M100.1 ({{_leds:2}}); turn LED on, red color
M190 S{material_bed_temperature} ;start heating bed, wait until temperature hit
;** WARNING if you set bed temperature of zero in Cura, this command will hang
your printer
M109 S{material_print_temperature} ;start heating hotend, wait until
temperature hit
(==Prime==)
M100.1 ({{_leds:1}}) ;turn LED on, white color
G92 A0 ; reset extruder origin
G0 X10 Y10 Z0.3 ;travel to X=10mm, Y=10mm, Z=0.3mm
G1 X200 A12 F1200 ;extrude 12mm of filament while moving to X=200mm
G0 Y0.4 ;travel to Y=0.4
G1 X110 A18 ;extrude 6mm more filament while moving back to X=110mm
G0 Z1 ; raise to Z=1mm
G92 A0 ; reset extruder origin
(==Print Gcode Starts Below==)
```

g2Core Command Reference

The section below shows commands that may be helpful while adjusting your G2 board. If you'd like to look deeper into this, start here on the g2core wiki.

Heated Bed

To enable the heated bed on your printer, send this command:

```
$he3e:t
```

After the heated bed is enabled, set the bed temperature as usual with the M140 or Commands.

For more details on configuring a heated bed, look here on the g2core wiki.

Build Volume

Adjust the maximum size of your build volume by sending the these commands. As described below sending the command without a value will return the currently configured value.

```
$xtm:250 ;set the x-axis to 250mm
$ytm:300 ;set the y-axis to 300mm
$ztm:200 ;set the z-axis to 200mm
$xtm ;return the x-axis size
$ytm ;return the y-axis size
$ztm ;return the z-axis size
```

There is also a minimum axis configuration value that can be set with the \$xtn \$ytn and \$ztn commands. These values default to 0 and normally, should not need to be adjusted.

The axis values are *soft limits* - settings that the g2core software respects. (Hard Limits are hit when an endstop switch triggers). If you want the g2core software to stick to these soft limits, you will also need to send the command \$sl=1. More details on soft limits can be found here

For more details on configuring build volume in general, look here on the g2core wiki.

Motor Polarity

If a motor is running backwards from what you expect, instead of changing the wires you can switch the polarity in software. Setting polarity to 0 will rotate the motor clockwise (when wired correctly) and 1 will rotate the motor counterclockwise.

```
$1po ;show the polarity of motor 1
$2po:0 ;set the polarity of motor 2 to clockwise
$4po:1 ;set the polarity of motor 1 to counterclockwise.
```

See the section on "Motor Axis" for default motor number to axis mappings.

For more details on polarity, look here on the g2core wiki.

Motor Axis

By default with the Simple Printers, the motors are mapped like this:

```
Motor 1: x-axis
Motor 2: z-axis
Motor 3: y-axis
Motor 4: extruder
```

You can change this setting in software if your motors are wired differently. Here's the code we'd use if we wanted to re-map our motors to the default settings:

```
$1ma:0 ;map motor 1 to the x-axis (value 0)
$2ma:2 ;map motor 2 to the z-axis (value 2)
$3ma:1 ;map motor 3 to the y-axis (value 1)
$4ma:3 ;map motor 4 to the extruder (value 3)
$1ma ;return the axis value mapped to motor 1
```

For more details on motor mapping, look here on the g2core wiki.

Motor Power

The amount of current used to drive the stepper motors is controlled via the Power Level setting. Choose a value between 0 (off) and 1.0 (full power). This represents the percent of maximum current you are sending.

Be very careful when adjusting this value above the default setting (which for most printers, is 0.4). Providing too much current to a motor will reduce performance, add noise, and heat up the motor unnecessarily.

```
$1pl:0.3 ;set the power level for motor 1 to 30% of maximum.
$4pl:0.5 ;set the power level for motor 4 to 50% of maximum.
$2pl:0 ;turn motor 2 off (set power level to zero)
$1pl ;return the power level for motor 1
```

For more detail about setting motor current, check here on the g2core wiki.

Travel per Revolution

Use the travel per revolution setting to specify how much a given axis moves when the motor makes a full revolution. The value is provided in whatever units your printer is configured to use (it should be mm)

This setting is useful to calibrate your extruder and z-axis motors. You set travel per revolution based on the motor number.

```
G21 ;make sure we are using mm as units of measurement $2tr:8 ;set motor 2 (the z-axis) to 8mm per revolution $2tr ;show mm/revolution on the motor 2 (the z-axis)
```

For more details on travel per revolution, look here on the g2core wiki.

Feed Rate

Feed rate limits the maximum speed the axis will move during a feed operation.

If the gcode you load into a file specifies a feed rate that is higher than this maximum value, the g2core software will limit it to the value provided here.

The value is measurement units/minute.

```
G21 ;make sure we are using mm as units

$xfr:1000 ;set x-axis max feed rate (speed while printing) to 1000 mm/min

$afr:16050 ;set extruder (the "a" axis) max feed rate to 16050mm/min

$afr ;return the extruder (the "a" axis) max feed rate
```

Detailed documentation for feed rate can be found here on the g2core wiki.

Rotational Radius

Linear axes (X, Y, Z) focus on linear motion, and the linkage between the motor and linear movement is described by the Travel per Revolution configuration setting.

Rotational axes (A, B and C), that are usually used for extruders, require a radius value. This is used by the g2core software to calculate how far the axis will travel in one revolution of the motor.

```
G21 ;make sure we are using mm as units

$ara:4.28394 ;use a radius value of 4.28394 for the extruder

$ara ;return the radius value for the extruder
```

Detailed documentation for rotational radius can be found here on the g2core wiki.

Jerk Motion

Set the maximum [jerk](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerk_(physics)) for an axis. (Fancy

control over jerk is one of the reasons why we like the g2core platform).

Jerk is described in terms of *millions* of units of measurement per minute cubed.

```
G21 ;make sure we are using mm as units $ajm:162000 ;set maximum jerk for the extruder (a-axis) to 162 billion mm/minute^3 $ajm ;return jerk value for extruder (a-axis)
```

Detailed documentation for jerk can be found here on the g2core wiki.

LED Control

You can change the color of the LED on the Simple Pro with a special command to the g2core software.

```
$_leds:0 ;turn LED off

$_leds:1 ;turn LED on, white

$_leds_2 ;turn LED on, red

$_leds_3 ;turn LED on, green

$_leds_4 ;turn LED on, blue

$_leds_5 ;turn LED on, orange

$_leds_6 ;turn LED on, yellow
```

This feature isn't documented on the g2core wiki, but you can find the source code for the LED control here.

Fan Control

TKTK part cooling fan control.

You can indirectly control the settings on the hotend fan with the following settings:

```
$he1fp:1.0 ;set hotend fan max power to 1
```

```
$he1m:0.5 ;set hotend fan min power to .5
$he1fl:40 ;turn hotend fan on low at 40 deg C
$he1fh:80 ;turn hotend fan on high at 80 deg C

$he1fp ;return hotend fan max power value
$he1fh ;return hotend fan high power threshold
```

The fan power is a value between 0.0 and 1.0 that represents percent of total power. Many fans don't work well at power settings less than 0.4. (40%).

Hotend Control

The hotend temperature can be set via Marlin mcodes. You can also use g2core commands to control the hotend:

```
$he1e:1 ;enable hotend (1 enabled, 0 disabled)
$he1at ;return true if the hotend has reached the set temp
$he1st:80 ;set the hotend temperature to 80 degrees C
$he1t ;return the current hotend temperature
```

More detailed hotend configuration settings can be found here on the g2core wiki.

Other Commands

You can get at useful status report from the printer by typing \$sr into an interactive terminal. This will update you with the current printer position, hotend temperature, and other details.

If the motors are currently powered and you want to move the printer manually, use the command \$md to turn off motors.

If for some reason you want the printer to stop in the middle of a job, you can use the feedhold command by sending the ! command to the printer. To resume printing, use the \sim key.

For more details, type shelp into the interactive prompt.