

| Component | Quantity | Cost Per Unit | Total Cost | Source Options | Product Number/Notes |
|---|----------|---------------|------------|---|---|
| BigTreeTech Octopus Board + Drivers | 1 | \$72.76 | \$72.76 | Amazon Aliexpress | We are migrating from RUMBA to Octopus (Standard or Pro) due to improved availability and functionality. Please follow the relevant instructions for your board. Updated acrylic backboards and firmware are available on GitHub. |
| RUMBA+ Board | 1 | \$49 | \$49 | RobotDigg | See note above. |
| TMC2208 Stepper Motor Drivers | 6 | \$3.67 | \$21.99 | Amazon Amazon | Need 6 drivers, but good to have a couple extra in case. Either TMC2208 or 2209 will work. |
| 100mm Linear Stepper Motors | 4 | \$36.44 | \$145.76 | Aliexpress Alibaba Amazon Amazon | Select T6*1 (1 mm pitch), Stroke 100 mm The suppliers frequently change listings for stepper motors. We will try our best to keep these links updated. |
| 50mm Linear Stepper Motors | 2 | \$36.44 | \$72.88 | Aliexpress Alibaba Amazon | Select T6*1 (1 mm pitch), Stroke 50mm |
| JST-XH Connector Kit with 2.54mm Female Pin Header with Crimping Tool | 1 | \$27.99 | \$27.99 | Amazon | Use 4-pin housing to connect to motors. |
| Power Supply | 1 | \$9.99 | \$9.99 | Amazon | ASIN: B0D2CBVVLN Includes power jack adapter |
| Wires | 2 | \$0.06 | \$0.12 | Amazon | Use the male-male pin style to help connect the power jack adapter to the board. |
| 12mm M3 Screws | 70 | \$0.06 | \$4.20 | Amazon McMaster | ASIN: B07CNFTK99 McMaster: 91292A114 McMaster may be higher quality and cheaper not including shipping. |
| 45mm M3 Screws | 8 | \$0.18 | \$1.44 | Amazon McMaster | ASIN: B089KRYJ9Q McMaster: 91292A025 2/6/25: Changed from 55 mm with new Z-axes holder. |
| M3 Nuts | 50 | \$0.07 | \$3.75 | Amazon McMaster | ASIN: B06XPFLNBS |
| M3 Heat-Set Inserts | 50 | \$0.06 | \$3.00 | Amazon McMaster | ASIN: B0CXXS3LHD Includes soldering iron heat-set tip. |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|------|--|--|
| | | | | | 3D-printed parts are designed for a heat set insert outer diameter of 5-5.5mm. |
| 1/4" 12 x 12 Acrylic | 2 | \$10 | \$20 | Amazon McMaster | ASIN: B08NWZF91H |
| PLA Filament | <0.4kg | \$15/kg | \$6 | Amazon | ASIN: B07PGY2JP1 |
| Syringes | as needed | | | Amazon VWR | Syringe adapters are designed for BD syringes. If using other brands, the dimensions of the barrel and plunger adapters may need to be modified. |
| Syringe dispensing tips | as needed | | | McMaster | |

Bill of Materials. Total printer cost is approximately \$350, not including shipping and tax. Please note, costs may change and cheaper alternatives may be available.

Supporting Methods: Printess Manual

Website: <https://www.printess.org>

Printess Technologies Website for Purchasing Kits: <https://printesstechnologies.com/>

Instructional Video for DIY Assembly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmEkr5MQ0lw>

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Safety: We remind readers that (1) the Printess is not a toy and contains moving mechanical parts and electronic components, (2) its operation should be closely supervised by someone familiar with standard machine shop precautions, including removing loose jewelry and clothing, and tying hair back, and (3) the motors should be current limited using the driver trim-pots at a level that is just sufficient for printer operation.

To build the Printess, you will first need to 3D print and laser cut all the components and assemble the printer, including wiring the RUMBA control board (See “Assembly Instructions”). You will then need to upload the Marlin firmware to the RUMBA board (See “Install VSCode and Upload Firmware”). Subsequently, you will install the Pronterface GUI (See “Install Pronterface”) and set up Python to calculate extrusion distances for your G-code scripts (See “Install Python” and “Using Python Script to Calculate Extruder Distances”). If you are unfamiliar with G-code, the “Crucial G-code Commands and Examples” section may be helpful. We have additionally provided 3D model slicing tutorial, troubleshooting, and additional component assembly sections.

Assembly Instructions

All CAD files, firmware, and scripts are available open-source on Zenodo at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13173619>. The latest versions of these files and the construction and operation manual can be found on Github at: <https://github.com/weiss-jonathan/Printess-Low-Cost-3D-Printer>. If you run into path length issues when unzipping the repository folder using your native OS unzipper, you can use a 3rd party unzipper, such as 7-Zip, which should bypass the issue.

Required hardware and tools for from-scratch assembly:

1. FDM 3D printer
2. Laser Cutter
3. Soldering iron (ideally with heat-set insert tip)
4. Screwdriver set (hex and flat-head)

Required hardware for Printess kit assembly:

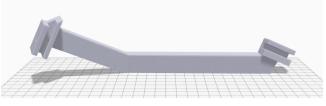
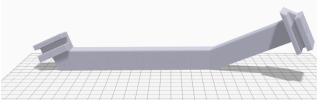
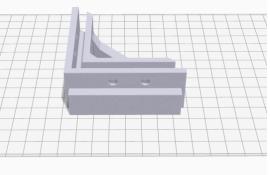
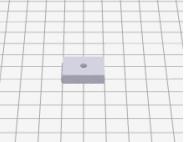
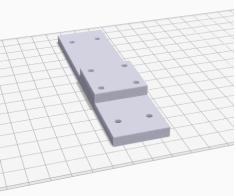
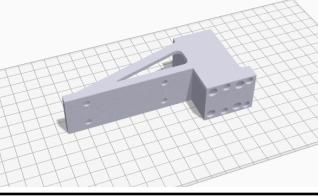
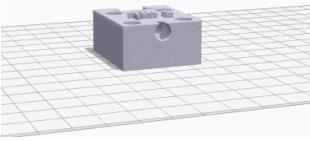
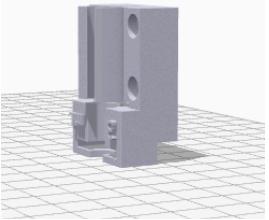
1. Screwdriver set (hex and flat-head)

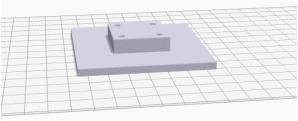
Tools for optional components:

1. Mixing nozzle: rotary tool or saw
2. Multinozzle printhead: SLA printer
3. Syringe cooler: vacuum chamber

Note: If you purchased a Printess kit, certain sections may not be applicable as the high-level fabrication has been completed for you. You may skip to [General Assembly](#).

For those building from scratch, begin by 3D printing the following CAD files and laser cutting the SVG files for the back and base. The required and optional files are provided in both .stl and .step format within their respective folders. We have had success printing the CAD files on the Mark 2 3D printer (MarkForged, Watertown, MA) using black onyx and carbon fiber materials. Subsequent printer iterations have been successfully printed on a Prusa printer in PLA. For the base and back, $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick 12" by 12" black acrylic sheets were laser cut on a Glowforge machine, but can be cut on any laser cutter accommodating acrylic material.

| Part name | Suggested Printing Orientation / Notes | File type | Quantity | Filename (.stl, .step, and .pdf, .eps, or .dxf files provided) |
|------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|--|
| <u>Required components</u> | | | | |
| Right Brace |  | CAD | 1 | Right Brace.stl Right Brace.step |
| Left Brace |  | CAD | 1 | Left Brace.stl Left Brace.step |
| Triangle Brace |  | CAD | 2 | Right Triangle Brace.stl Right Triangle Brace.step Left Triangle Brace.stl Left Triangle Brace.step |
| Base Feet |  | CAD | 2 | Base Feet.stl Base Feet.step |
| X and Y axis connector |  | CAD | 1 | XY Axes Connector.stl XY Axes Connector.step |
| Z axis-to-extruder connector |  | CAD | 2 | Z-Axes Holder.stl Z-Axes Holder.step |
| Syringe Plunger Holder: 1mL |  | CAD | 2 | 1mL Plunger Holder.stl 1mL Plunger Holder.step |
| Syringe Barrel Holder: 1mL |  | CAD | 2 | 1mL Barrel Holder.stl 1mL Barrel Holder.step |

| Platform attachment: flat |  | CAD | 1 | Stage.stl Stage.step |
|---|---|-----------|----------|--|
| Base | Same for both control boards. | PDF | 1 | Acrylic Bottom.pdf Acrylic Bottom.dwg Acrylic Bottom.dxf |
| Back | Please select the correct version for your control board. | PDF | 1 | BigTreeTech Octopus Board Acrylic Back.pdf BigTreeTech Octopus Board Acrylic Back.dxf RUMBA Acrylic Back.pdf RUMBA Acrylic Back.dwg RUMBA Acrylic Back.dxf |
| <u>Optional components</u> | Notes | File type | Quantity | Filename (.stl, .step, and .pdf, .eps, or .dxf files provided) |
| Z axis-to-extruder connector for 100 mm motor | Useful for syringes with >50 mm plunger travel (ie. 10, 30 mL syringes) | CAD | optional | Z-Axes Holder 100mm.stl Z-Axes Holder 100mm.step |
| Syringe plunger holder: 3mL | | CAD | optional | 3mL plunger holder.stl 3mL plunger holder.step |
| Syringe barrel holder: 3mL | | CAD | optional | 3mL Barrel Holder.stl 3mL Barrel Holder.step |
| Syringe plunger holder: 5mL | | CAD | optional | 5mL plunger holder.stl 5mL plunger holder.step |
| Syringe barrel holder: 5mL | | CAD | optional | 5mL Barrel Holder.stl 5mL Barrel Holder.step |
| Syringe plunger holder: 10mL | | CAD | optional | 10mL Plunger Holder.stl 10mL Plunger Holder.step |
| Syringe barrel holder: 10mL | | CAD | optional | 10mL Syringe Barrel Holder.stl 10mL Syringe Barrel Holder.step |
| Syringe barrel holder: 30mL | | CAD | optional | 30mL Syringe Barrel Holder.stl 30mL Syringe Barrel Holder.step |
| Syringe plunger holder: 30mL | | CAD | optional | 30mL Plunger Holder.stl 30mL Plunger Holder.step |
| Syringe plunger holder adapter: 10mL, 30mL | Required for 10mL and 30mL plunger holders. Secure with heat-insert and screw. | CAD | optional | 10mL 30mL Syringe Plunger Holder Adapter.stl 10mL 30mL Syringe Plunger Holder Adapter.step |
| Syringe barrel holder adapter: 10mL, 30mL | Required for 10mL and 30mL barrel holders. Secure with heat-insert and screw. | CAD | optional | 10mL 30mL Syringe Barrel Holder Adapter.stl 10mL 30mL Syringe Barrel Holder Adapter.step |
| Platform attachment: 90mm petri dish | Contains slots for square nuts and set set screws to secure petri dish in place. | CAD | optional | 90mm Petri Dish Holder.stl 90mm Petri Dish Holder.step |
| Platform attachment: 35mm petri dish | Contains slots for square nuts and set set screws to secure petri dish in place. | CAD | optional | 35mm Petri Dish Holder.stl 35mm Petri Dish Holder.step |
| Platform attachment: cube holder | | CAD | optional | Cubic container holder.stl Cubic container holder.step |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----|----------|---|
| Platform attachment: 6 well-plate | | CAD | optional | 6 well plate holder.stl 6 well plate holder.step |
| Mixing Nozzle | | CAD | optional | Mixing Nozzle Body.step Mixing Nozzle Body.stl Impeller.step Impeller.stl Motor Spacer.step Motor Spacer.stl 3mL Connected Barrel Holder for Mixing Nozzle.step 3mL Connected Barrel Holder for Mixing Nozzle.stl |
| 8-Multinozzle | | CAD | optional | 8x1 Bimaterial Multinozzle Printhead.stl 8x1 Bimaterial Multinozzle Printhead.step 1mL Multinozzle Barrel Holder.stl 1mL Multinozzle Barrel Holder.step 3mL Multinozzle Barrel Holder.stl 3mL Multinozzle Barrel Holder.step |
| 32-Multinozzle | | CAD | optional | 8x4 Bimaterial Multinozzle Printhead.stl 8x4 Bimaterial Multinozzle Printhead.step |
| Tip tilt platform | | CAD | optional | Tip-Tilt Platform.stl Tip-Tilt Platform.step |
| Syringe cooling sleeve | | CAD | optional | Cooling Sleeve for 1mL BD syringe.stl Cooling Sleeve - Cooling Sleeve Disc For Vacuum.stl Cooling Plate Vertical - 3D Printed.stl Cooling Sleeve for 1mL BD syringe.step Cooling Sleeve - Cooling Sleeve Disc For Vacuum.step Cooling Plate Vertical - 3D Printed.step |
| Cooling bed | | CAD | optional | Laser Cut from 3mm Acrylic - Cooling Plate Padding.PDF Laser Cut from 6mm Acrylic - Cooling Plate Main Body and Crossbeam.PDF |
| Motor safety stopper | | CAD | optional | Motor Safety Stopper.stl Motor Safety Stopper.step |
| Acrylic Hole Calibration Grid | | PDF | optional | Acrylic Hole Calibration.pdf Acrylic Hole Calibration.dxf |

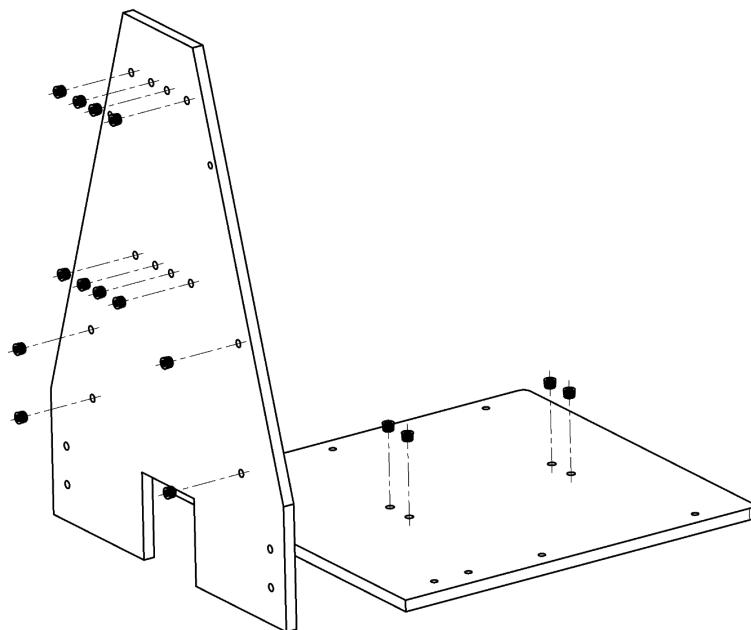
Description of 3D printed components:

- Supports: The right, left, and triangle supports offer stability to the printer and help minimize vibrations during printing.
- Axes connectors: These parts allow for the connection between linear stepper motors.
- Platform attachments: A variety of compatible build platforms are available including petri dish, cube holder, and 6 well-plate.
- Syringe plunger and barrel holders: A variety of syringe mounting designs are available that can accommodate 1 mL, 3 mL, 5 mL, 10 mL, and 30 mL BD plastic syringes, with the 10 mL and 30 mL holders requiring separate, included adapters.

After printing the components and removing supports, heat-set the M3 inserts into the designated areas of the components as pictured below. **Please insert from the designated directions since the through-holes are tapered and asymmetrical.** Heat-setting requires a soldering iron with a heat-set insert tip (the suggested Amazon product comes with one) set at a working temperature of ~600°F for PLA or ~800°F for acrylic. **Ensure you heat-set the inserts as straight as possible, and press until the insert is flush with the surface.** If you accidentally insert at a slight angle such that the screws can't enter perpendicularly, you may use the soldering iron to readjust. An additional tutorial on heat setting can be found [here](#).

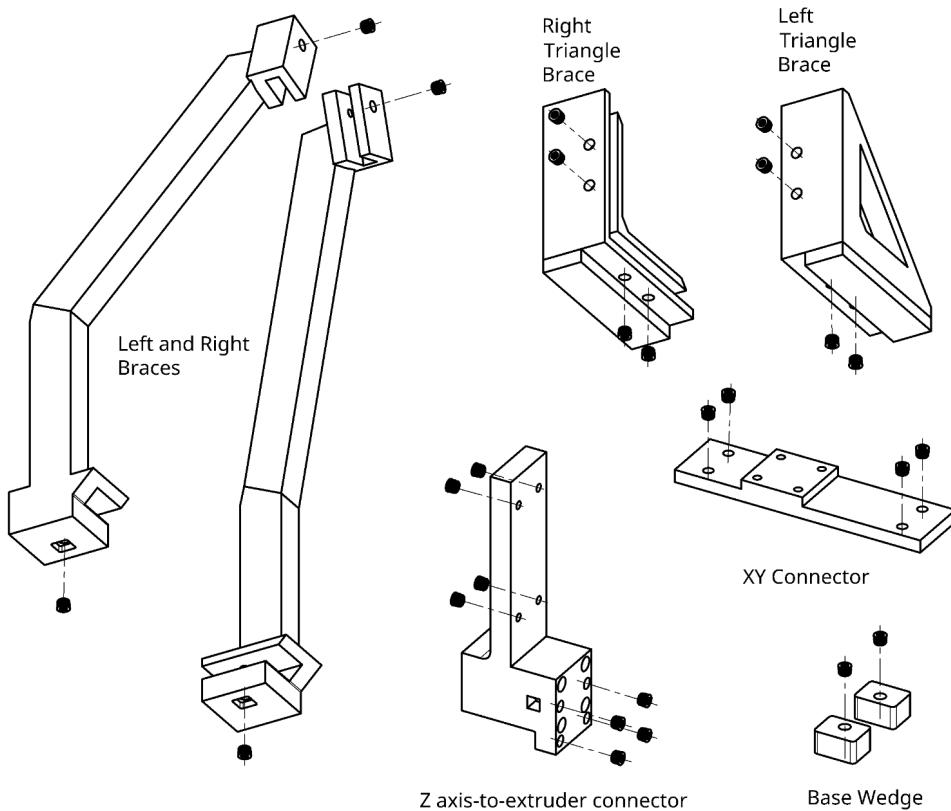
Heat-Set Inserts

Back and Bottom Acrylic

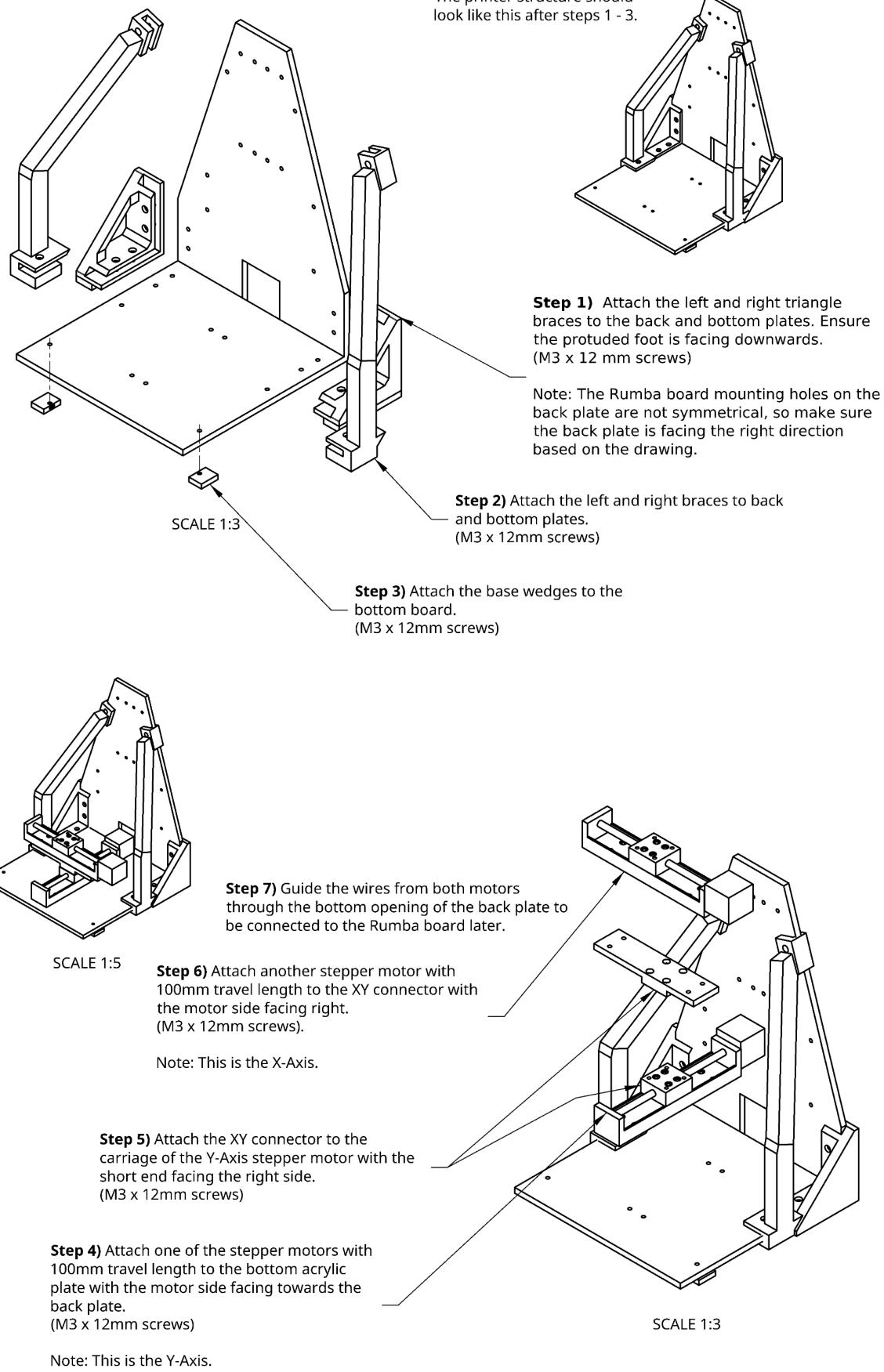


Note: With variability between inserts, acrylics, and laser cutters, ideal hole size for heat-setting may vary. The included PDFs are designed to be suitable for our suggested products, but we have included an acrylic hole calibration grid if you would like to optimize/verify hole size before cutting the back and bottom boards. To ensure a smooth surface when mounting the stepper motors to the acrylic sheets, we suggest mounting opposite of the side that the inserts were heat-set on. On the backboard, prioritize doing this for the motors as the control board does not need to be perfectly flat.

3D-Printed Components

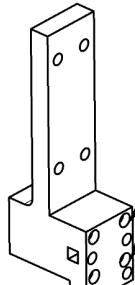


General Assembly



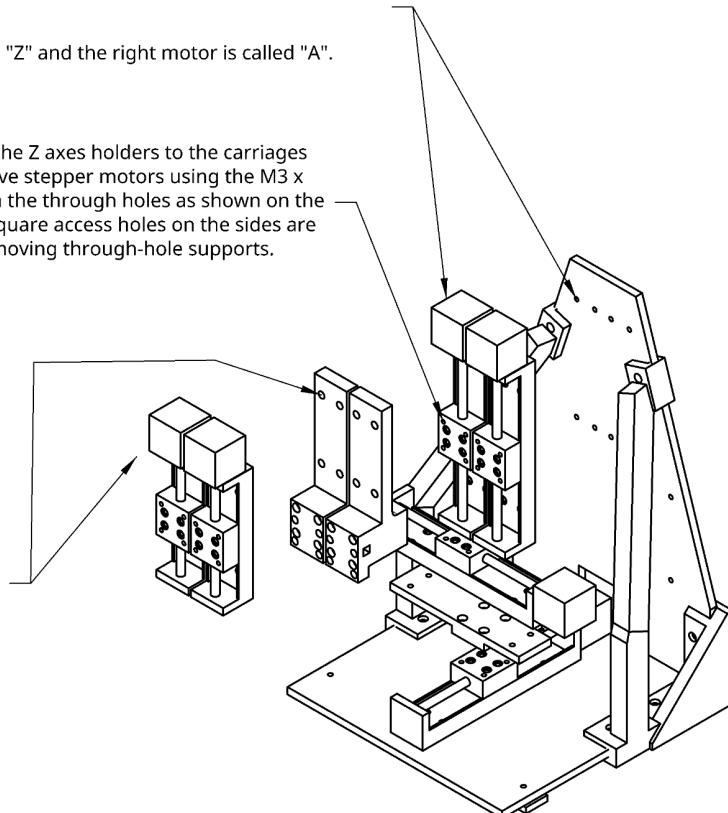
Step 8) Attach one 100mm travel length stepper motor to the left side of the back plate. Repeat for the right side.
(M3 x 12mm screws)

GCode Note: The left stepper motor is called "Z" and the right motor is called "A".



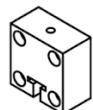
SCALE 1:2

Step 9) Attach the Z axes holders to the carriages of their respective stepper motors using the M3 x 45mm screws in the through holes as shown on the left. The small square access holes on the sides are for aiding in removing through-hole supports.



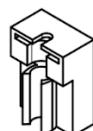
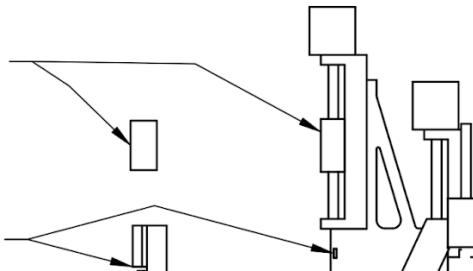
Step 10) Attach the two 50mm travel stepper motors to the axes holders using M3 x 12mm screws.

GCode Note: The left stopper motor is the extruder axis called "B" and the right is the extruder axis called "C".



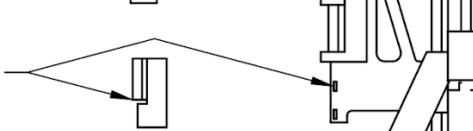
Step 11) Attach one of the plunger holders to the stage of the B-axis. Repeat for the C-axis.

Use (M3 x 12mm screws) for the attachments.



Step 12) Attach one barrel holder to the Z-axis connector. Repeat for the A-axis holder.

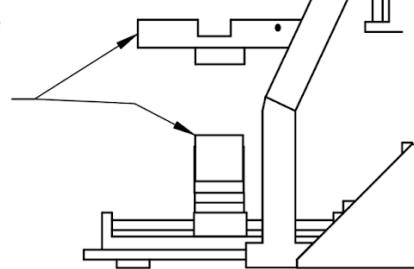
Use (M3 x 12mm screws) for the attachments.



Step 13) Attach the print platform to the stage of the X-axis step motor.

Use (M3 x 12mm screws) for the attachments.

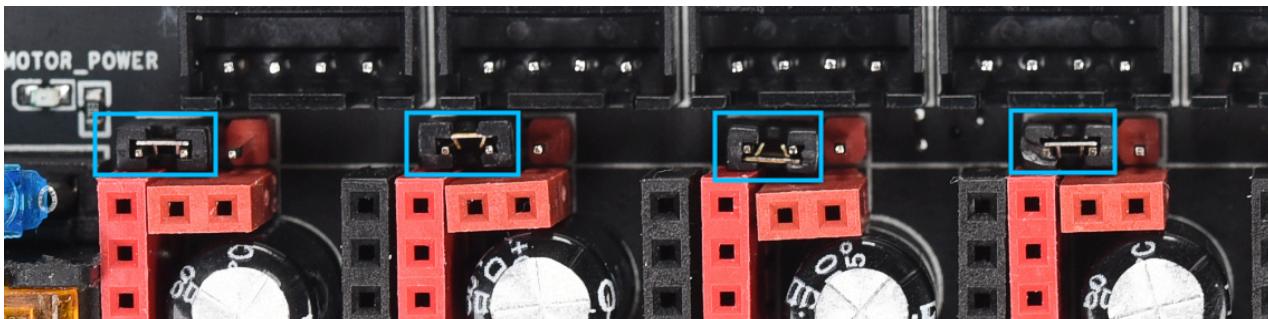
Note: The print platform can vary in shape and size.



If using a **RUMBA** board, please skip to the next page for installation in steps 14-17. If using an **Octopus** board, first ensure [UART configuration](#) by placing driver jumpers in the positions indicated below. Most Octopus boards will come with 4 jumpers inserted out of the box, in which case you will need to remove all except the 2nd from the left by pulling them out (pliers may help):



If using an **Octopus Pro** board, ensure that the power jumpers under each motor port are positioned to "Motor Power" (left 2 pins) instead of "Main Power" (right 2 pins). See image below for proper orientation, from <https://github.com/bigtreeTech/BIGTREETECH-OCTOPUS-Pro>:



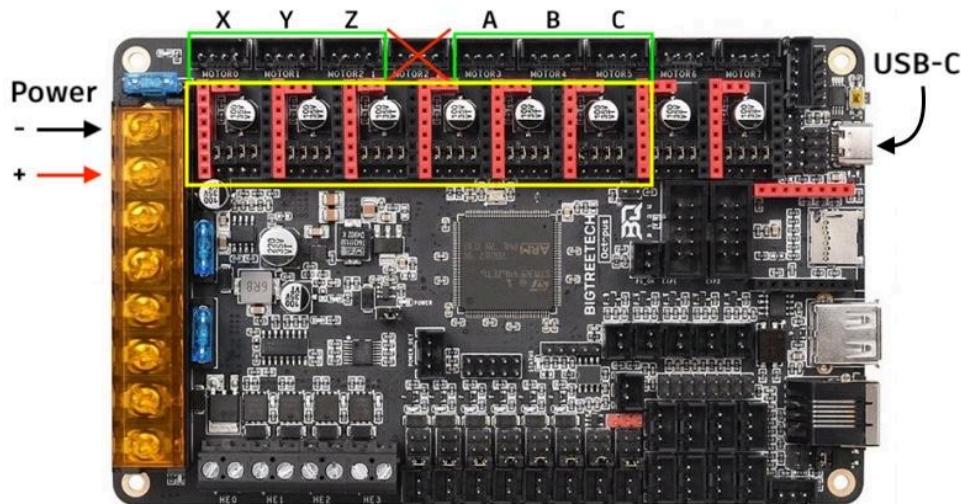
Wiring to Motor Power

Improper orientation:



Wiring to Main Power

Next, refer to the below diagram to plug in your power supply (left), laptop via USB-C (right), drivers (yellow), and stepper motors (green). Refer to the diagram in Step 18 for driver orientation. Make sure to skip the “Motor2_2” stepper motor port. When powering on your board, first connect the power supply directly to the board **before** connecting USB-C to the laptop. Connecting to USB-C before powering the board through the external power supply may result in board initialization errors, which can be resolved by simply disconnecting USB-C power and then reconnecting after a few seconds.



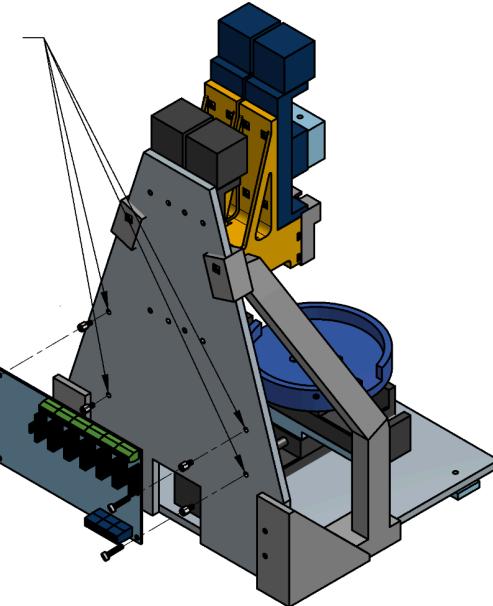
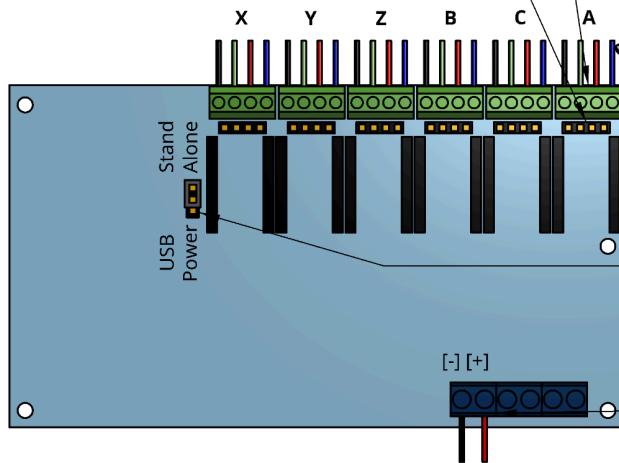
Lastly, mount the board to the back of the Printess using M3 x 12 mm screws and nuts. You will now need to crimp JST-XH connectors onto your stepper motor wires and insert them into the 4-pin JST-XH housings before inserting into the control board. Wire color order from left to right: Black, Green, Red, Blue. Here is an excellent video [tutorial](#) on how to crimp JST-XH connectors.

Step 14) Attach the Rumba board to the back of the Printess using M3 x 12 mm screws. If you have washers or standoffs, you may use them as spacers between the Rumba board and backboard.

Note: Some of the Rumba boards have differently-spaced screw holes, so only 2-3 of the holes may align for mounting, which is okay.

Step 15) Attach the wires leading from each of the stepper motors to the Rumba board. The order of the wire connections should be, from left to right: Black, Green, Red, Blue. See diagram for the order of each motor.

Note: If you crimped the motor wires to Dupont pin connectors, then simply plug into the terminals here.



Note: Make sure the jumper cap is placed towards "Standalone" and not "USB Power" to protect your laptop circuitry.

Step 16) Attach two 24 - 20 AWG wires to the Rumba board: a black wire to negative terminal and a red to positive. Connect the other ends to a power jack adaptor: black to negative, red to positive. Do not connect to a power supply yet.

Note: Use Dupont connectors instead of JST-XH for the **RUMBA** board.

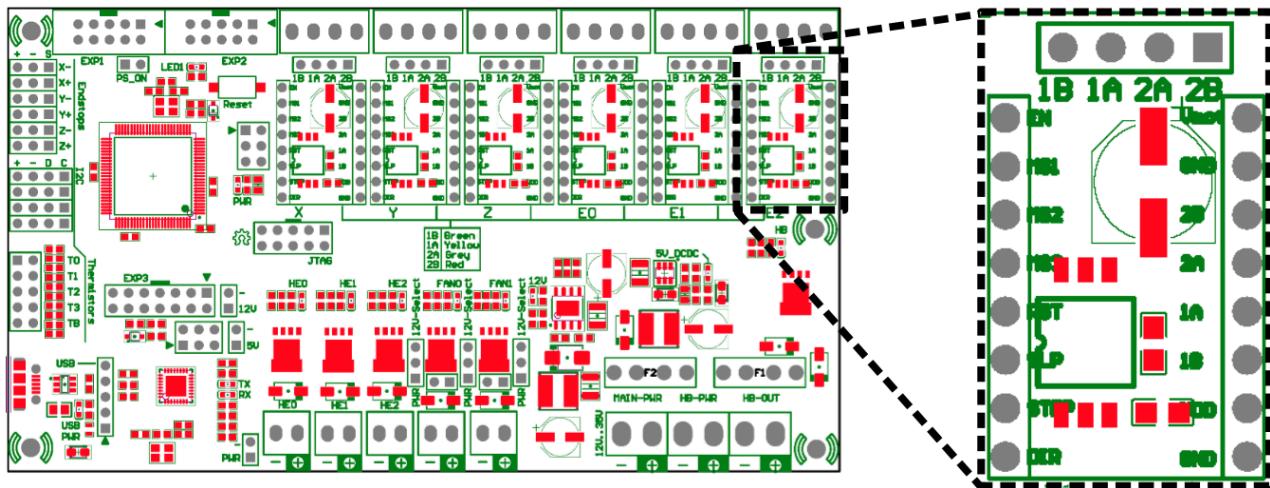
| Component | Cost | Source of materials | Product/Model number | Notes |
|---|---------|------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Dupont Connector Kit | \$8.99 | Amazon | ASIN: B07BDJ63CP | Use 4-pin housing to connect to motors. |
| Dupont Connector Kit with Crimping Tool | \$21.99 | Amazon | ASIN: B0B11RLGDZ | Use 4-pin housing to connect to motors. |
| JST-XH Connector Kit with 2.54mm Female Pin Header with Crimping Tool | \$27.99 | Amazon | ASIN: B0BNHDQRYC | Use 4-pin housing to connect to motors. |

JST-XH crimping video tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1ErLvXIOTs>

Step 17) On the **RUMBA** board, make sure the Power Select Pin is set to Standalone power. This step is not needed for the **Octopus** boards.

Step 18) Insert the stepper motor drivers into the board and ensure they are in the correct orientation by aligning the pins on your driver to the control board diagram below (i.e. "EN" in the top left corner, GND in the bottom right corner). Orientation is the same for both the RUMBA and

Octopus boards. Inserting upside down will cause a short-circuit and irreversibly damage your board.



Step 19) Connect the power supply to the power adapter you attached to the RUMBA or Octopus boards and plug into the wall.

Step 20) Check that the stepper motor driver is correctly tuned. Using a multimeter, place the negative probe on the negative power terminal on the control board and the positive probe on the potentiometer of each stepper driver, one at a time. Aim for 0.5V. If you need to adjust the potentiometer or remove the drivers, first **disconnect the power to the board** to avoid accidental short circuits.

After completing building the printer, you will need to connect a computer to the control board via USB cable. You can then proceed to 1) uploading the Marlin firmware, 2) installing the Pronterface GUI, and 3) setting up the python script if needed to calculate extrusion distances for your G-code.

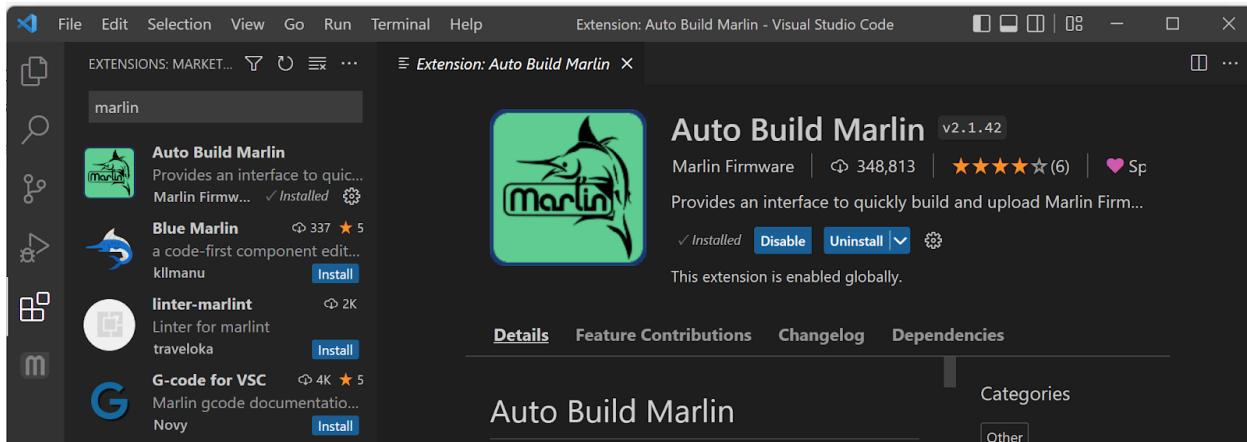
Over time, if you notice your stepper motors becoming squeaky or need to clean them of debris, you can lubricate the lead screw. We suggest WD-40 Specialist Dry Lube:

| Component | Cost | Source of materials | Product number | Notes |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------------|----------------|---|
| WD-40 Specialist Dry Lube | \$8.49 | Amazon | 300059 | Apply directly to the lead screw with the 'smart straw' in a well-ventilated area. Press the canister very lightly to avoid over-spraying. Move carriages around after application to distribute lubrication. |

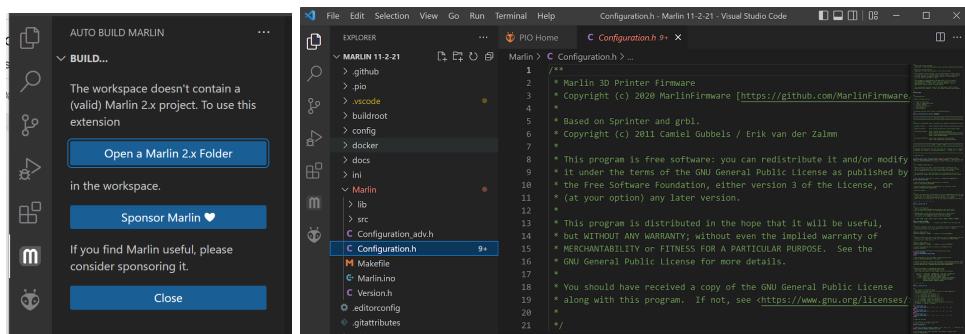
Installing [VSCode](#) and Uploading Firmware

If you purchased a Printess kit, the firmware has already been installed for you on the Octopus board, and you may skip to [Installing Pronterface](#)

Install Auto Build Marlin plugin:

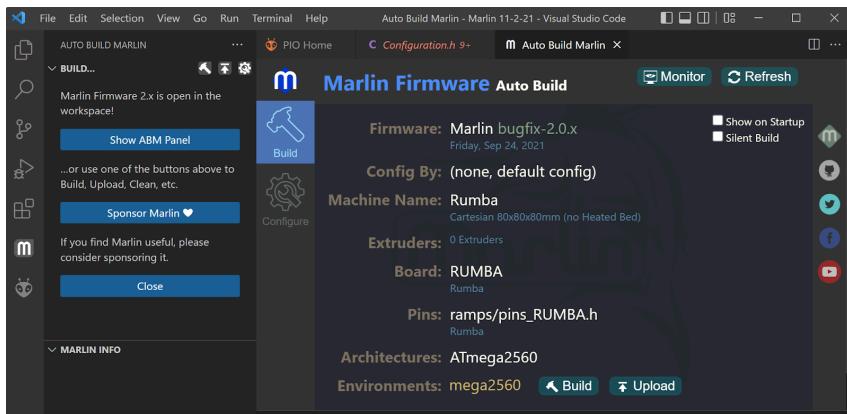


Select and open the Marlin folder:



Notes: There is a parent folder named Marlin and another folder inside also called Marlin. Select the parent folder. If you run into build errors in the next step, ensure that this parent Marlin folder is not buried within too many other folders (i.e. place it directly on your Desktop or in your Downloads directory). Also, do not rename any files. Marlin sometimes runs into build issues when file paths are too long, which can be due to long file names or large nests of directories.

Show ABM Panel, and click Build:



Note: If you see multiple lines with Build options, just select the top one.

For the **Octopus** board, after building, you will need to copy the built “firmware.bin” file (in directory: .../Marlin/.pio/build/...) onto a microSD card (ensure it is FAT32 formatted) and insert it in the board before powering it. The microSD may be removed safely from the board after flashing. See flash instructions at the time-stamped video [here](#).

For the **RUMBA** board, you may simply upload the built firmware from the ABM Panel by clicking “Upload” next to the “Build” button. Do not have the printer connected via Pronterface while uploading firmware.

Installing Pronterface

Precompiled version to download the app:
<https://github.com/kliment/Printron/releases>

Download the appropriate file for your operating system as shown below:



Assets 5

| printrun-2.0.1_macos-11_x64_py3.10.zip | 38.6 MB | May 24, 2023 | |
|--|---------|--------------|--|
| printrun-2.0.1_macos-12_x64_py3.10.zip | 38.6 MB | May 24, 2023 | |
| printrun-2.0.1_windows_x64_py3.10.zip | 34.9 MB | May 24, 2023 | |
| Source code (zip) | | May 24, 2023 | |
| Source code (tar.gz) | | May 24, 2023 | |

22 people reacted

X64 is 64 bit (try this one first)

X86 is 32 bit

Pronterface Guidelines

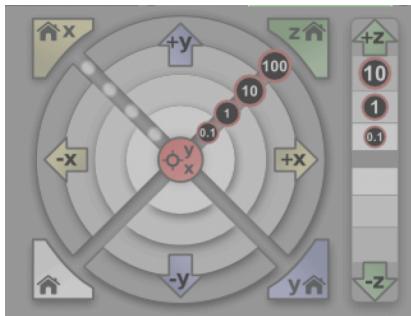
- Connect your printer to your computer, click “Port” to refresh the available inputs, then click the drop down next to it and select the port your printer is connected to.
 - Ensure VSCode is closed if you just used it to upload the firmware.
- Ensure the baudrate is “@115200”
 - If you see errors that include “line number” or “checksum,” reduce the baudrate
- Change XY motor rate to 300. It is default to 3000. This is too fast for the motors and they will stall:



- In general, use the console in the bottom right to send lines of GCode to the printer:



- You may use the GUI controller to manually move the X, Y, and Z axes for quick adjustments, but **BEWARE** using these buttons will automatically reset your positioning system to G90 (see [GCode](#) below) even if you set it to G91 in the console. During experiments, we strongly suggest not using the GUI controller at all. You can move axes by sending commands such as “G1 X10” to the console. If you use the GUI, get into the habit of calling G91 before any motion commands in the console.



- To upload .txt GCode programs to run, click “Load file” at the top center. “SD, Print, Pause, Off” don’t do anything, so do not click those.
 - When uploading GCode text files to Pronterface, use .txt plain text, NOT rich text format (RTF). If usingTextEdit on mac, go to preferences and select “Plain Text,” then make a new document.
- If you need to emergency stop the printer in the middle of a program, you have to either click “Disconnect” FOLLOWED BY “Connect” or unplug the printer from the outlet. Note that every time you reconnect the printer, you need to reset calibrations (See G92 in GCode section below). This is not very convenient, sorry!

Optional:

Making Macros in Pronterface:

<https://github.com/kliment/Printron/blob/master/README.md#using-macros-and-custom-buttons>

Installing Python

To check current python version in terminal (mac) or command prompt (windows), type the below command:

```
python --version
```

A screenshot of a Mac OS X terminal window titled "jonathanweiss - bash - 80x24". The window shows the command "python --version" being run and the output "Python 3.7.4" displayed.

If you do not have Python 3 and need to download python, do so here:

<https://www.python.org/downloads/>

If you use Windows, make sure python is added to your environmental variables. The complete path of python.exe can be added by:

1. Right-clicking This PC and going to Properties.
2. Clicking on the Advanced system settings in the menu on the left.
3. Clicking on the Environment Variables button on the bottom right.
4. In the System variables section, selecting the Path variable and clicking on Edit. The next screen will show all the directories that are currently a part of the PATH variable.
5. Clicking on New and entering Python's install directory.
 - a. C:\Users\...\Python

After downloading python 3, if your python --version still says you have Python 2, you can force python 3 to run by calling "python3" instead of "python". For more permanent solution, check out the forums below:

Windows:

<https://medium.com/@ryanmiller/c/install-python-3-in-locally-in-appdata-alongside-python-2-in-windows-10-fe4287708429>

Mac:

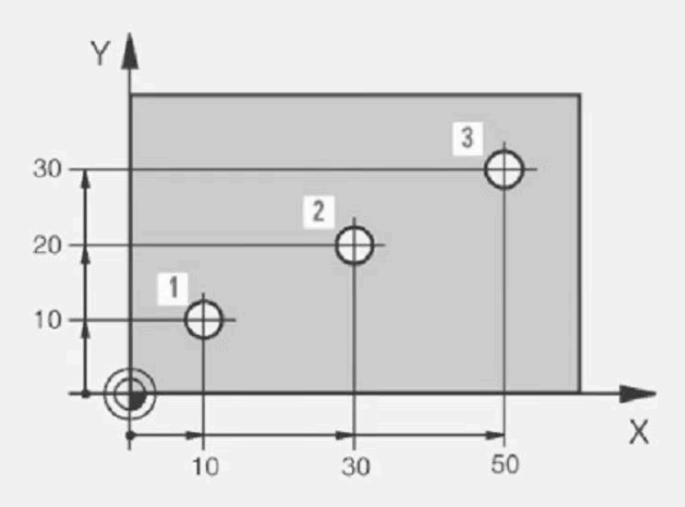
<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/43354382/how-to-switch-python-versions-in-terminal>

It is easy to run python scripts using your terminal. We will need to run a python script to calculate extrusion distances. More on this [later](#).

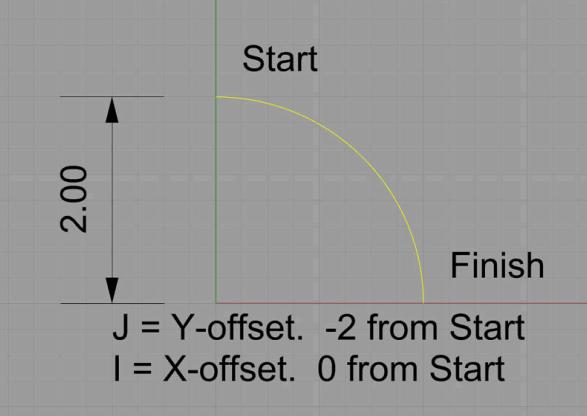
Crucial GCode Commands and Examples

Familiarize yourself with all of the axes first. Stage Axes: X, Y; Vertical Axes: Z, A; Extrusion Axes: B, C. Practice moving each axis to learn which axes correspond to which motors and their polarity: for the vertical axes, positive motion is upwards, while for the extrusion axes, positive motion is downward.

Refer to <https://reprap.org/wiki/G-code> and <https://marlinfw.org/meta/gcode/> for more information, commands, examples, etc. Below is a summary of key commands.

| Command | Description |
|---------|--|
| G90 | <p>Set system to <i>Absolute Positioning</i>. When using absolute positioning, all coordinates you provide will be read in the coordinate system you define. Thus, you need to first define your coordinate system, usually by designating an origin (0, 0, 0). See G92 below. Run on its own line.</p> |
| G91 | <p>Set system to <i>Incremental Positioning</i>. All distances will be relative to the current location. Run on its own line.</p> |
| G92 | <p>Recalibrate current position. Use mainly to set current position to origin.</p> <p>G90, G91, G92 Example (refer to diagram below). Our goal is to move our location from the origin in the bottom left to points 1, 2, and then 3:</p>  <p>G90; Set system to absolute positioning G92 X0 Y0; Set current positions in (X, Y) to (0, 0)</p> <p>G1 X10 Y10 F200; Move to the coordinates (10, 10) in (X, Y). This is point 1. G1 X30 Y20 F200; Move to the coordinates (30, 20) in (X, Y). This is point 2.</p> <p>G91; Set system to incremental positioning G1 X20 Y10 F200; Move 20 in X and 10 in Y</p> |

| | |
|--------|--|
| | <p>With respect to our defined coordinate system above, we are now at (50,30) in (X, Y). This is point 3. Switching to relative to arrive at point 3 was for the sake of example and unnecessary. It is up to you which coordinate system you want to use. You may find one more logical than the other depending on your application.</p> <p>Note: You need to recalibrate your position (G92) after reconnecting to the printer every time. In between running scripts, the printer will remember its absolute location so long as you do not disconnect.</p> <p>Another Example GCode to make a 5x5mm square:</p> <pre>G91; Relative G1 X5 Y0 F300 G1 X0 Y5 F300 G1 X-5 Y0 F300 G1 X0 Y-5 F300</pre> <p>G90; Absolute G92 X0 Y0; Define current location as (0,0) G1 X5 Y0 F300 G1 X5 Y5 F300 G1 X0 Y5 F300 G1 X0 Y0 F300</p> |
| G1 | <p>Move in a straight line.</p> <p>Example (refer to diagram below):</p> <p>Start position</p> <p>End position (specified by G01 X3.0 Y1.0)</p> |
| | <p>G90; Absolute Positioning G92 X0 Y0</p> <p>G1 X3 Y1 F300</p> <p>Note: G1 and G01 are the same. Use G1.</p> |
| G2, G3 | <p>Clockwise (G2) and counterclockwise (G3) arcs / circles.</p> <p>Example (refer to diagram below):</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| |  <p>G91; Incremental Positioning G2 X2 Y-2 I0 J-2</p> <p>X and Y indicate the point where circle should end (omitting will default to full circle) I and J indicate the midpoint <i>relative</i> to the starting point. (I and J are always read in relative even when you are in absolute positioning).</p> <p>Note: If you specify a point (X, Y) that is not on the circle, then the nearest point on the circle will be selected. Please use ncviewer for practicing these commands to understand how they work.</p> |
| F | <p>Define speed of motor for X, Y, Z, and A movements (units in mm/min).</p> <p>Use F300 as starting speed. Higher speeds may stall the motors.</p> <p>Include an F command on the first motion line you give to the printer after connecting to Pronterface. The printer will remember this speed until you explicitly change it or disconnect, but it does not hurt to include it on every relevant line as we have done in the examples thus far.</p> <p>Note: This does NOT influence the speed of the extruders. Pronterface will automatically adjust the speed of the B and C axes to move the distance you specify by the time the X, Y, Z, A translations finish.</p> |
| ; | Anything that comes inline after ";" is a comment and ignored by the computer. |

Optional Commands

| Command | Description |
|---------|--|
| G0 | Jog (movement with no extrusion). You do not need this command for our printer as extrusion is controlled explicitly by the extrusion axes. Just omit B or C if you want to move with no extrusion. |
| G4 | Dwell. Wait a certain amount of time before running the next line. Example: G1 X5 G4 P2000 G1 X5 Moves 5mm in X, waits 2 seconds (units after "P" are in milliseconds; Can also use "S" for seconds), then moves 5mm again in X. |
| G60 | Save current Position |
| G61 | Return to saved position Example: G60 G61 XY F300 G60 will save all coordinates of the current position, and this code just moves us to the saved X and Y coordinates: https://marlinfw.org/docs/gcode/G061.html |
| M114 | Get current position in absolute coordinates. |
| M106 | Activate fan pins. Use this to activate the mixing nozzle motor, which is connected to the fan pins. Example: M106 P0 S40 ;Activate M106 P0 S0 ;Deactivate P is the Pin #, and S is the duty cycle fraction out of 255. S0 to deactivate. |
| M2 | End code. In general, include this at the end of every Gcode script, but it happens to be unnecessary for Pronterface. |

We have provided an example G-code file in the repository in the "Python Extrusion Distance Script" folder under the filename "Demo_G-code.txt" that you may use to gain familiarity with the printer.

GCode Visualizer

- <https://ncviewer.com/>
- Copy your Gcode into this program to visualize the paths it will make.
- May not recognize axes names beyond X, Y, and Z, so you might have to edit your code if using other axes that your printer has.

Useful Terminal Commands for Unix Shell (Mac)

- pwd: print working directory
 - This lets you see what folder you are in.
- ls: list all the contents in your current directory
 - On windows, use dir instead of ls
- cd: change directory (to select a file or enter a new folder within your current folder)
 - i.e. “cd Desktop” to go to Desktop if you are currently in your user folder.
- Type “python pythonScript.py” without quotations to run a python script. Replace pythonScript.py with the name of your python file.
 - Make sure your python script is in the same directory as any files that it needs.
- **Tip:** If you hit tab after typing a few characters, the full item name will automatically populate.

Using Python Script to Calculate Extruder Distances

Extrusion Distance Calculations

We developed a python script (most up-to-date version [here](#)) to calculate the necessary extrusion distance for each line of Gcode. This program is available for use and modification on Github (https://github.com/weiss-jonathan/Printess-Low-Cost-3D-Printer/blob/main/Python%20Extrusion%20Distance%20Script/gcode_translator_08_10_23.py). The program inputs a .txt file of G-code and outputs the file with calculated extrusion distances. It can be run using the terminal or an IDE such as Pycharm. It may be necessary to include a small initial extrusion move to pressurize and syringe prior to printing and a final small reverse extrusion to depressurize after printing. The extrusion calculations rely on the fact that the cylindrical geometric volume that is pushed down in the syringe barrel is equal to that extruded from the nozzle, allowing us to calculate the height, which is the extrusion distance. Extrusion distance can be defined as the distance in millimeters that the stepper motor connected to the syringe plunger moves. Extrusion distance is calculated as follows:

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>E = extrusion distance</p> <p>k = extrusion coefficient, a user determined scaling factor</p> <p>b_d = syringe barrel diameter</p> <p>n_d = nozzle diameter</p> <p>l = length of path (i.e., G1 X5, l=5)</p> | <p><i>Volume pushed = volume extruded</i></p> $E * \pi * \left(\frac{b_d}{2}\right)^2 = k * l * \pi * \left(\frac{n_d}{2}\right)^2$ $E = \frac{k * l * \left(\frac{n_d}{2}\right)^2}{\left(\frac{b_d}{2}\right)^2}$ $E = \frac{k * l * n_d^2}{b_d^2}$ |
|--|---|

The extrusion coefficient value, “k,” may be changed throughout the code by writing an overriding line (K = new coefficient #, k = #, KK = # or kk = #).

In a simpler explanation, the purpose of this program is that we need to calculate the distance that the extruder axis has to push the plunger in order to extrude a filament of desired volume and diameter. Imagine moving the plunger a certain distance downward while X moves by 5mm, and imagine moving the plunger the same distance while X moves by 10mm. In the latter case, the same amount of material is extruded across a farther distance, so by conservation of mass, the filament will be thinner. We have provided a Python script that will calculate what the extruder coordinate (B and C axes) has to be given the X, Y, Z, and/or A coordinates to extrude a filament of desired thickness.

1. Begin by creating a .txt file and name it “gcode.txt”. This name needs to be exact. On a Mac, you can use the application TextEdit. Paste this code at the top and alter the positioning system and syringe parameters based on your subsequent GCode:

```
G91
Z_syringe_diameter = 4.6
A_syringe_diameter = 4.6
Z_nozzle_diameter = 0.2
A_nozzle_diameter = 0.2
extrusion_coefficient = 1
[Add your GCode here]
```

Example:

```

G90
Z_syringe_diameter = 4.6
A_syringe_diameter = 4.6
Z_nozzle_diameter = 0.2
A_nozzle_diameter = 0.2
extrusion_coefficient = 3

G1 X24.0 Y0.0 F300.0
G1 Z2 ; NO E
G1 X0 Y-4 F300 ; NO E
G1 Z0

```

Important Notes:

- Make sure there is no empty line at the top of the .txt file. The first line must be G90 or G91, depending on whether you are using an absolute or relative coordinate system.
- If you have inline comments, make sure there is a space between before the ";".
 - ie G1 X5 Y5 ;comment
- If you are troubleshooting and running this script several times, make sure you close the gcode_modified.txt file in between runs to avoid confusion between versions.
- When the **extrusion coefficient** is set to 1, the extruded filament will have the same diameter as your nozzle. Setting it 2 will double the volume. 3 will triple, etc. It is a simple scaling factor for the extrusion axes.

| BD Syringe Size | Inner Diameter (mm) |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 mL | 4.9 |
| 3 mL | 8.6 |
| 5 mL | 12.0 |
| 10 mL | 14.4 |

2. Run gcode_translator using your [terminal](#) (see above section for useful commands) or an IDE such as Pycharm
 - a. If your .txt file is named something other than “gcode.txt” (it is easier to just rename your .txt file), you can go into the python script and alter line 5 with the file name:

- ```
file = open("gcode.txt", "r")
```
- Run the code, ensuring that your .txt file and the python script are in the same directory.
- The translator will output the file with the extrusion distances calculated as a new file called “gcode\_modified.txt”
- Double check that your code looks good, and now upload this modified file to Pronterface

- i. We recommend an initial extrusion to pressurize the syringe prior to printing and a final retraction to depressurize after printing.

For example, right before the coded path in your gcode, include the line:

G1 B0.2 F400

and right after finishing, include the line:

G1 B-0.2 F400

Alter the distance as needed.

## Using CURA to Slice 3D Models to GCode

Go to the [Ultimaker Cura Slicer](#) download page.

Download and install the software version corresponding to the user's operating system. Note: For Mac users, there are two versions available: x64 and ARM64. "x64" is meant for Intel based chips and "ARM64" is for newer macs using the apple silicon chips. The .dmg file is a disk image and the .pkg is an installation package. Choose either one.

Setting Up Printer Configuration Manually:

1. If the program is a new installation, the application may prompt the user to set up a new printer. But if it does not or gets closed by accident, the user can go to Preferences → Printers (left hand menu) → Add New (button top right).
2. Next select "Non Ultimaker printer."
3. After that, open the drop-down menu "Add a non-networked printer," scroll down to the "Custom" category, and select the "Custom FFF printer". The user can change the name of the machine here or do it later.
4. The next screen should be the machine setting page. On this page, the user can enter the size of the build platform as a rectangular 100 mm x 100 mm x 100 mm.
  - a. The origin at center checkbox should be checked and all heated options unchecked since the Printess does not have any heating accessories.
  - b. Under G-code flavor select "Marlin"
  - c. The current setting of the print head is min X: -100, max X: 100, min Y: -100, max Y: 100, and the number of extruders is 1 or 2.
  - d. For now, the "Apply Extruder offsets..." should be unchecked.
5. Delete everything in the Start G-code and End G-Code section. These sections are where the users would write their own start and end g-code to be applied to Cura's g-code output.
6. Under each extruder tab
  - a. Enter the desired nozzle diameter into the "Nozzle size" field.
  - b. Enter the inner diameter of the syringe into the "Compatible material diameter"
  - c. Apply any offset in the "Nozzle offset (X/Y)" fields. Extruder 1 has a 0 offset. If using a separate syringe for secondary material, Extruder 2's offset from Extruder 1 needs to be manually measured and entered.
  - d. Enter 0 for the remaining settings

Exporting Printer Configurations:

1. Go to Help → Show Configuration Folder
2. Save the entire folder or folder contents into a separate folder

Importing Printer Configurations:

1. Go to Help → Show Configuration Folder
2. Copy the entire folder into the existing Cura configuration folder.

Adjusting the Print Settings:

1. There are three tabs in the middle: PREPARE, PREVIEW, MONITOR. The user should only be concerned with the PREPARE and PREVIEW.
2. Under PREPARE, there is a button that prompts the user to open a file and 3 drop down menus. The leftmost drop down menu selects the desired Printer configuration. The middle menu is for activating the desired extruder and material. The last menu is the Print Settings.
3. Under Print Settings, select the “show custom” setting button. This gives the user a plethora of customizations for changing the behavior of the g-code output.
4. When hovering over any of the categories, a slider icon  appears on the right, which opens the “setting visibility” menu. Here, the user can access options like line width, extruder retraction distance, and speed. Go through all the options and select the ones you would like to change. It is good to play around with these settings to see what they do to optimize your print. Some useful ones include Wall, Top/Bottom, Infill, and every Print Speed option.
5. In the Print Settings drop down menu, go to the speed category and change all the speeds to 5 mm/s. Under the Travel category, change the retraction speed to 2 mm/s. This limits the g-code output to a feed rate of F300. Under Cooling, uncheck the Enable Print Cooling box.
6. There is another critical parameter under Materials called “Flow” that scales the flow rate of extrusion. Activate and alter this value to over- or under-extrude during the print.
7. When finished, click the blue floppy disk save icon on top. This prompts the user of the changes made and allows saving under a new name or overwriting an existing customized setting.
8. To export and import custom Printer Setting profiles, go to Preferences → Configure Cura and in the left-hand side menu select Profiles. Here the user can click the Import button on the top right to import a profile. To export a profile, select the custom profile and under the hamburger button , and select export.
9. You can now click Slice in the bottom right corner to generate a .gcode or .txt file.

#### Post-Slicing Guidelines:

1. After you configure your settings and slice your part to a .gcode or .txt file, you may notice additional M commands at the beginning and end of the script. These commands are not relevant on Printess and can be safely deleted. They may sometimes throw errors when you try to run the script in Pronterface, in which case they must be deleted.
2. By default, the extruder axis is named “E.” If you are using a firmware that defines the extruders as either “B” or “C”, then you need to replace the E’s accordingly. The find and replace function may be helpful.
3. Scan through your file to ensure the feed rates (F commands) are within a range that will not stall the motors. If you find values that are very high, you likely need to revisit the additional speed settings in Cura, ensure they are all at or below 5 mm/s, and reslice.

## Troubleshooting

### I get errors when trying to run the python script

- Try to get rid of all the inline comments from your file before running it (lines that start with a ; should be ok).
- Make sure you have properly named your .txt file.
- If you have G2 or G3 motion, make sure this is in terms of I and J and not R.
- If you suspect there is a Python version issue, try reinstalling python 3. You can also run python scripts by calling “python3” instead of “python”.
  - Example: `% python3 gcode_translator_1_27_21.py`

### I get errors when uploading .txt files to Pronterface, or the program is not running once uploaded.

- Disconnect and reconnect
- Make sure your file is either a .txt or .gcode. (.rtf files DO NOT work.)

### The material coming out of my syringe does not stick to the substrate (glass slide, petri dish, etc.)

- Most likely your syringe is too high off the substrate. Before starting your program, make sure the syringe is ~0.2mm above the surface. You can manually move the syringe down so that it just barely touches the surface, and then move up by ~0.2mm. You may need to adjust this value depending on how much material you are extruding (i.e. higher height for higher extrusion coefficients).

### When printing materials on agar gel, the material seems to melt.

- Pluronic will quickly absorb water from the gel and pool, so it will be difficult to make solid structures. Pluronic can be more useful as a medium through which to deliver other molecules of interest to your bacteria. Avoid embedding bacteria in pluronic as it is a detergent and will harm bacteria with prolonged exposure (edge contact is OK). If you must use pluronic and need it to maintain its structure, try using a very high percentage (45%+). This may slow the water absorption process.
- Alginat exhibits a similar behavior but can be avoided by crosslinking with higher concentrations of calcium (try this first) and/or alginate. It is better to embed bacteria in alginate as it doesn't actively harm bacteria.

### My extrusion doesn't start at the very beginning of the print, and it leaks after the print is finished or during segments where I don't want extrusion.

- You need to include a pressurization command (i.e. G1 B0.2) whenever starting an extrusion to start the flow of the material out the syringe. You also need to include a depressurization command (i.e. G1 B-0.2) after you are done extruding to stop leaking from happening. You will need to adjust how much to pressurize or depressurize via trial-and-error. B+-0.2 is a good place to begin.

### My syringe runs into the ground or my axes are generally not moving how I want them to when I start a program.

- Double check that your GCode is correct.

- 99% of the time this happens, you are either in absolute positioning (G90) and forgot to zero using G92 before starting or **you used the GUI to manually position the axes, which resets the positioning system to G90**, and forgot to switch it back. 1% of the time this happens, it is because your motor wiring came loose.

#### **When I try to move a motor, it makes a sound but doesn't actually move.**

- You are probably trying to run the motor too quickly, and it stalls due to surpassing its maximal acceleration. Make sure you include an F command at the end of your motion line. With default settings, we recommend not moving faster than F300. However, if you need to move faster, you can do so at the expense of reduced acceleration with the M204 command, which temporarily adjusts acceleration (i.e. M204 P500 R500 T500 to reduce acceleration to 500 mm/s/s).
  - i.e. G1 X10 Y10 F300
- If the bearing is not lubricated well, the table can get stuck. Try running the motor while pushing with your hand to get the table unstuck. If this works, go back to the original spot to see whether the motor gets stuck again. If it appears that that one spot needs lubrication, then add a little of lubricant (SHC-100) to the spot on the bearing where the table was stuck. Use gloves and rub the lubricant around the affected spot with your hand, then discard glove in trash. Run motor back and forth over the spot to further distribute the lubricant.
- If the issue persists, the driver board may not be supplying the motor with enough current to drive the stepper motor and you may need to adjust the potentiometer on the Marlin board connected to that axes.

#### **My board keeps crashing with the rapid yellow flashing light.**

- Unplug and replug in the printer. If this keeps happening, check the power supply. If it is rated 36V, that's probably the issue since the RUMBA board is technically only rated up to 35V. Swap with a 12 or 24V 4A power supply.

#### **Other Issues?**

- Try reproducing the issue with a different laptop. Some laptops give unexpected issues.
- Try switching USB cables.

## Alternative Components Assembly

### Alternative Base Upgrades

In the table below we provide some suggestions of optional upgrades for the base Printess. Please note that other printer components may require alterations to accommodate these upgrades.

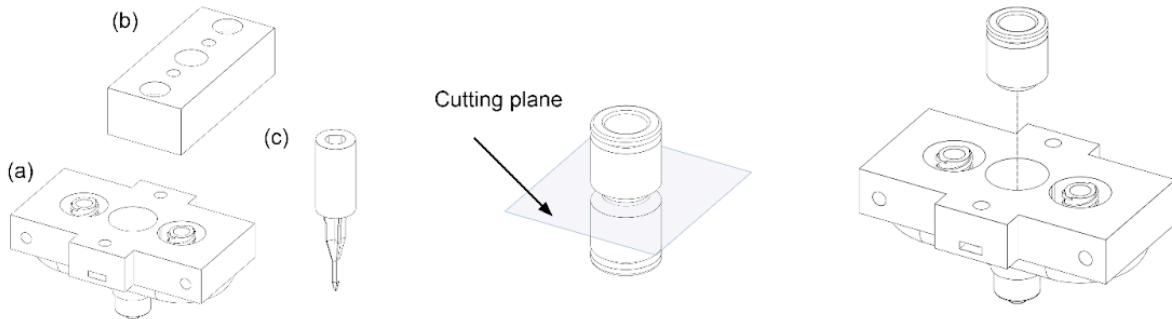
| Component                                        | Replaced Original Component            | Source of materials            | Suggested product model number    | Cost           | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Anti-backlash lead nut                           | Attachment for existing stepper motors | <a href="#">Thomson Linear</a> | XCF6X1                            | \$45.2         | Increased precision. Requires adapter to current motors.                                                                                                                             |
| NEMA 11 external ball screw linear stepper motor | Nema 11 stepper motor                  | <a href="#">StepperOnline</a>  | 11E18S1004BA<br>M5-150RS          | \$106.49       | Increased precision. We have included assembly instructions below and a 3D-printable file named "ball-nut-adapter" compatible with this motor in "Optional Files" of the repository. |
| 2mm Pitch Motor                                  | Nema 11 stepper motors                 | <a href="#">Amazon</a>         | ASIN: B0D2KXYNRY                  | \$64           | Increased speed                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Longer motors for X and Y axes                   | Nema 11 stepper motors                 | <a href="#">Amazon</a>         | ASIN: B08D3S5T1Z                  | \$65           | Increased print area                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Larger Acrylic Sheets                            | Acrylic Sheets                         | <a href="#">McMaster</a>       | Variable                          | Variable       | Increased print area                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Higher torque motors                             | Nema 11 stepper motors                 | <a href="#">Amazon</a>         | ASIN: B08DKB5G6F                  | \$73 for 100mm | Improved extrusion of viscous inks                                                                                                                                                   |
| 8 axis control board                             | RUMBA+ board                           | <a href="#">Amazon</a>         | B094Y77FQN<br>BIGTREETECH Octopus | \$54           | Increased number of axes                                                                                                                                                             |
| 10 axis control board                            | RUMBA+ board                           | <a href="#">Amazon</a>         | BIGTREETECH BTT Octopus Max EZ    | \$90           | Increased number of axes                                                                                                                                                             |
| End-stops                                        | Attachment for existing stepper motors | <a href="#">Amazon</a>         | ASIN: B07PCN6T6F                  | \$10.69        | Enable homing. Requires additional adapters and modification of Marlin firmware.                                                                                                     |

## Mixing Nozzle

Additional required components for Mixing Nozzle

| Component                    | Quantity | Cost per unit | Total cost | Source of materials      | Product/Model number | Notes                                       |
|------------------------------|----------|---------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 127 RPM Mini Econ Gear Motor | 1        | \$12.99       | \$12.99    | ServoCity                | 638394               | Can substitute for other motors if desired. |
| Push-to-connect tube fitting | 1        | \$3.32        | \$3.32     | <a href="#">McMaster</a> | 5111K472             | To be cut in half.                          |
| 20 mm long M3x0.5 mm screw   | 2        | \$0.08        | \$0.16     | McMaster                 | 91292A123            | Longer screws are also okay.                |
| 8 mm long M3x0.5 mm screw    | 2        | \$0.0545      | \$0.109    | McMaster                 | 91292A112            |                                             |
| M3x0.5 square nuts           | 2        | \$0.14        | \$0.28     | McMaster                 | 97258A101            |                                             |
| Epoxy                        | 1        | \$32.04       | \$32.04    | McMaster                 | 7370A38              | Can use alternative adhesive if desired.    |

## Mixing Nozzle Assembly



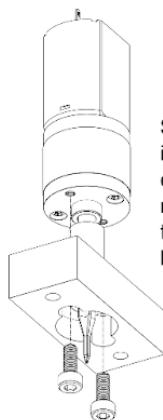
**Step 1)** 3D print the main printhead (a), impeller (b), and motor spacer (c) on a Formlabs 3B+ printer using the BioMed Black resin

**Step 2)** Cut the push-to-connect tube fitting (McMaster part # 51115K546) at the middle (see cutting plane) and sand the connector until flat

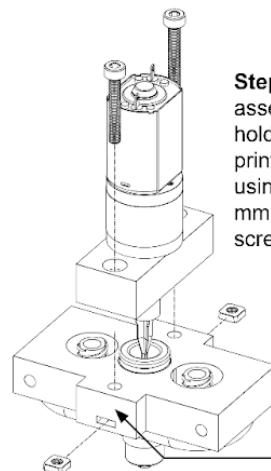
**Step 3)** Adhere the cut push-to-connect fitting into the center slot of the 3D printed main printhead using epoxy. Allow it to cure following the epoxy manual



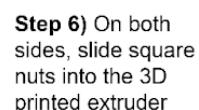
**Step 4)** Press fit the printed impeller onto the D bore shaft of the motor (ServoCity SKU # 638394)



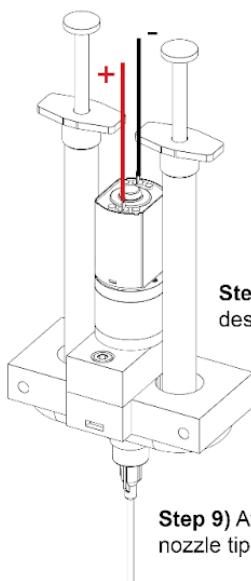
**Step 5)** Screw motor/impeller assembly onto the 3D printed motor spacer using two M3x0.5mm 8mm long screws



**Step 7)** Screw the assembled motor holder onto the 3D printed extruder using two M3x0.5mm 20 mm long screws

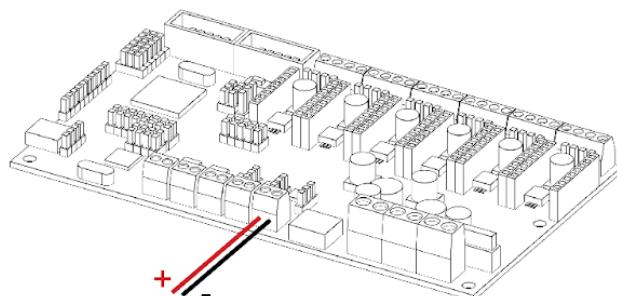


**Step 6)** On both sides, slide square nuts into the 3D printed extruder



**Step 8)** Attach desired syringes

**Step 9)** Attach desired nozzle tip



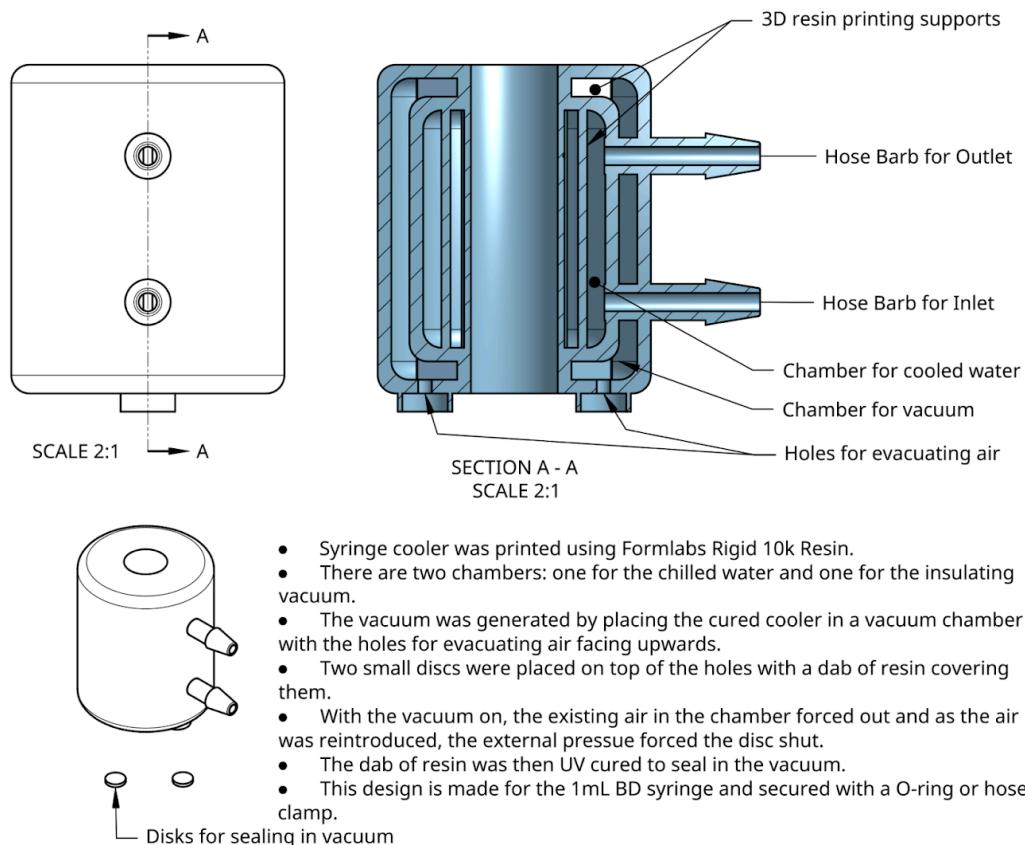
**Step 10)** Connect the DC motor to the fan 0 pin on the Rumba board. Speed can be modulated using the Marlin fan command M106 P0 S[speed], where speed is the duty cycle, which is out of 256 (i.e. S256 would be 100%), and M107 [off].

## Syringe Cooler Assembly

Additional required components for the syringe cooler:

| Component        | Quantity | Cost per unit | Total cost | Source of materials    | Product/Model number |
|------------------|----------|---------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Peristaltic Pump | 1        | \$28.88       | \$28.88    | <a href="#">Amazon</a> | B098RWZ4SV           |

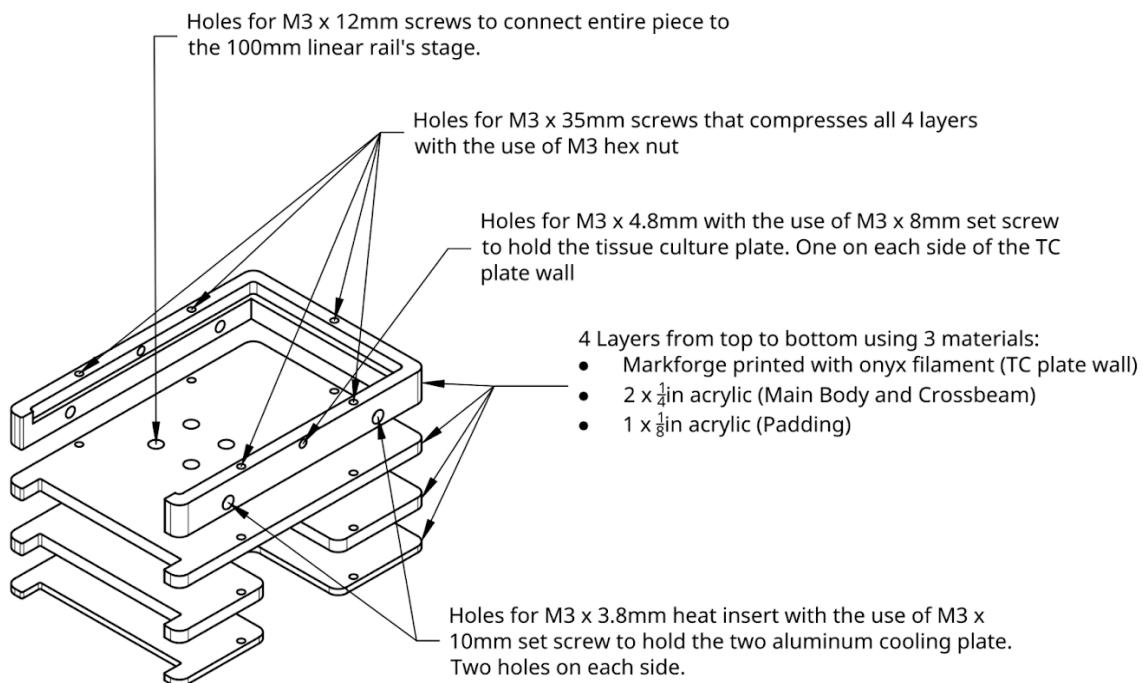
Note: This cooling sleeve and disks are printed using a stereolithography printer.



## Tissue Culture Cooling Plate Assembly

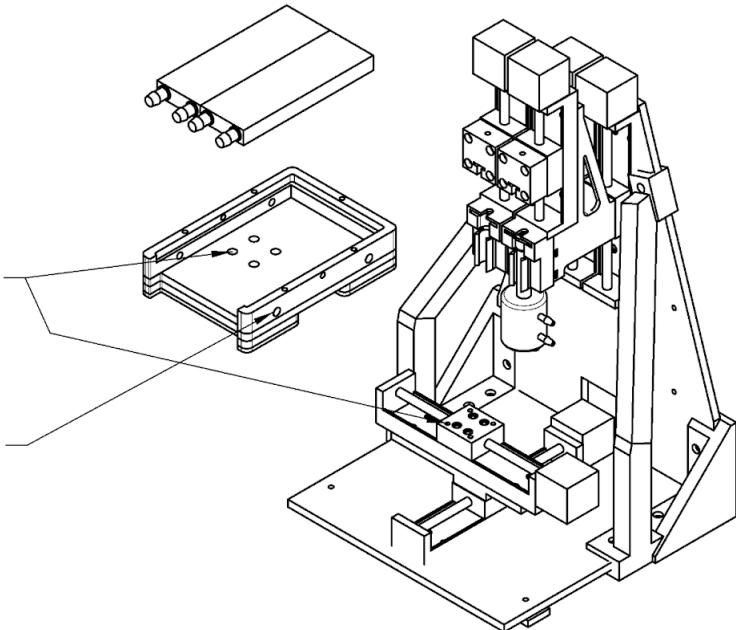
Additional required components for cooling plate:

| Component                                 | Quantity | Cost per unit | Total cost | Source of materials      | Product/Model number |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|---------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Aluminum Water Cooling Block              | 1        | \$9.50        | \$9.50     | <a href="#">Amazon</a>   | 757233296242         |
| Peristaltic Pump (comes with 3 mm tubing) | 1        | \$28.88       | \$28.88    | <a href="#">Amazon</a>   | B098RWZ4SV           |
| 7 mm ID Tubing                            | 1        | \$9.99        | \$9.99     | <a href="#">Amazon</a>   | B08Z38ST3V           |
| Barbed Reducer                            | 2        | \$1.40        | \$2.80     | <a href="#">McMaster</a> | 5463K628             |



This cooling apparatus pumps chilled DI water from a plastic or glass jar that has two 1/8" inch trough bulkhead barbs attached and the pump is any peristaltic pump that can handle 4mm tubing with 3mm ID. The chilled water first goes through the syringe cooler, then to the aluminum blocks of the plate cooler and returns the DI water to the reservoir.

**Step 1)** Attach the print platform to the carriage of the x-axis of the printessa using the M3 x 12mm screw



**Step 2)** Place cooling blocks on the print platform and secure using the 4 set screws on the side. The screws are metallic silver.

## Cooling Setup

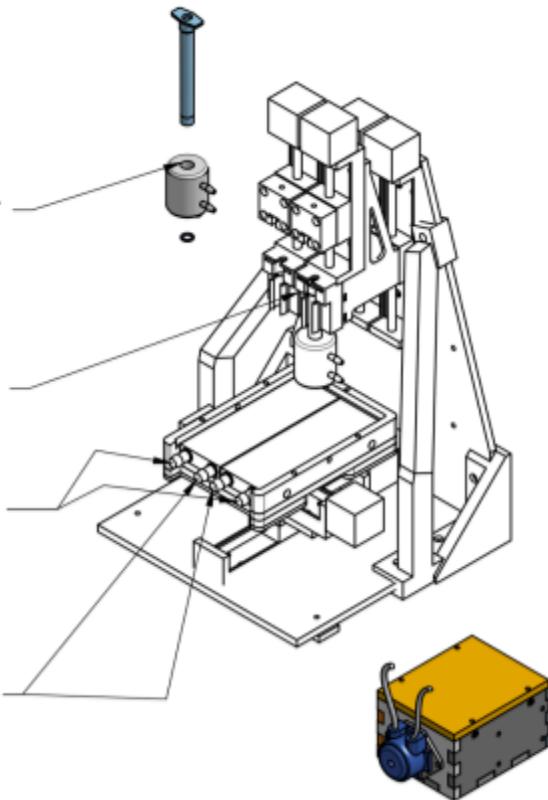
**Step 3)** Slip the BD 1mL syringe into cooling sleeve and place an 8mm O-ring or 8mm hose clamp on the luer lock side of syringe to hold up the cooling sleeve.

**Optional:** Add a "tiny" bit of thermal grease on the syringe to improve contact to the cooling sleeve

**Step 4)** Insert the syringe into the barrel holder and plunger the plunger holder.

**Step 5)** Connect the outer barb of one cooling block to the outer barb of the second block using one of the 7mm ID x 145mm tubes.

**Step 6)** Attach one 7mm ID x 145mm tube to one of the inner barbs. Attach the last 7mm ID x 145mm tube to the last remaining barb. Attach 8mm to 4mm reducer to the open ends of both tubes. One tube is going to go to be the inlet and the other is outlet for this set of cooling blocks.

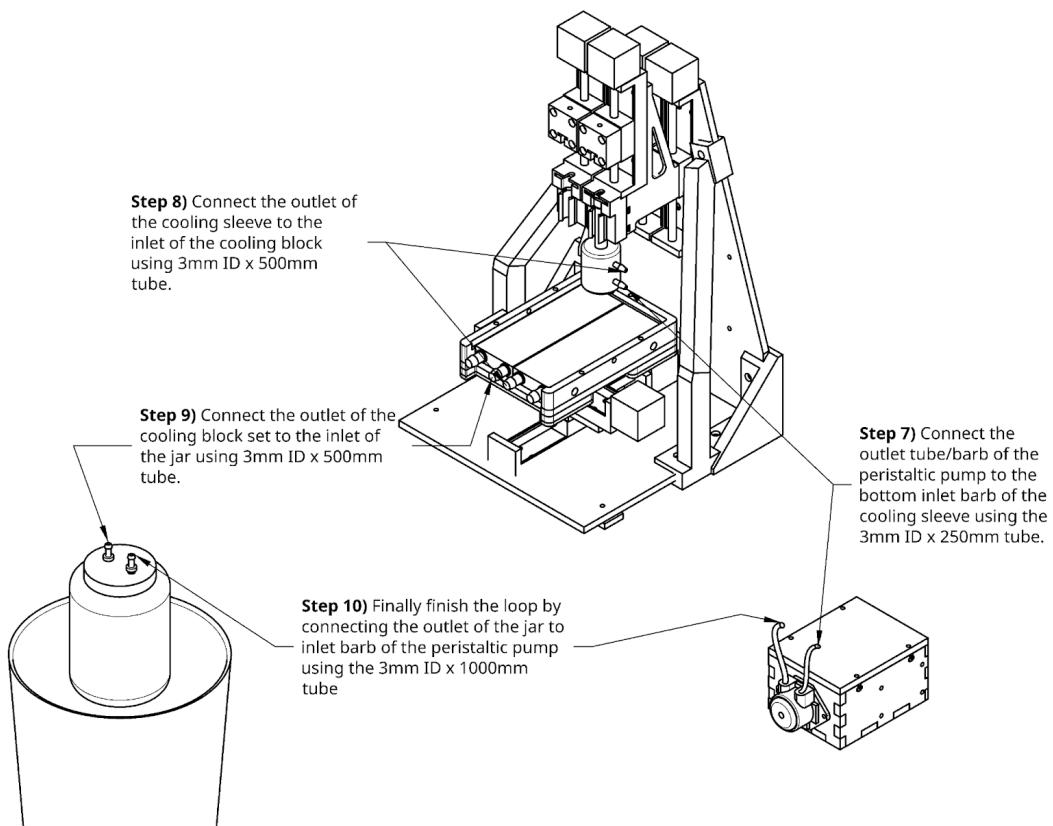


**Step 8)** Connect the outlet of the cooling sleeve to the inlet of the cooling block using 3mm ID x 500mm tube.

**Step 9)** Connect the outlet of the cooling block set to the inlet of the jar using 3mm ID x 500mm tube.

**Step 7)** Connect the outlet tube/barb of the peristaltic pump to the bottom inlet barb of the cooling sleeve using the 3mm ID x 250mm tube.

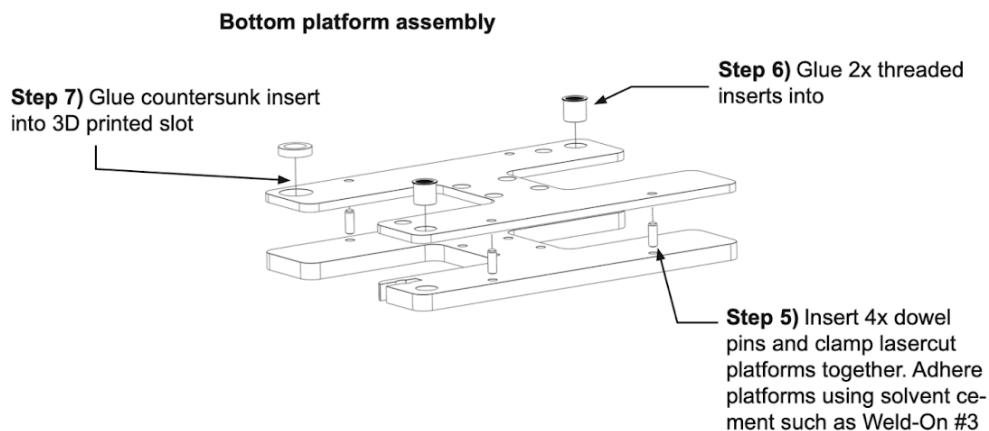
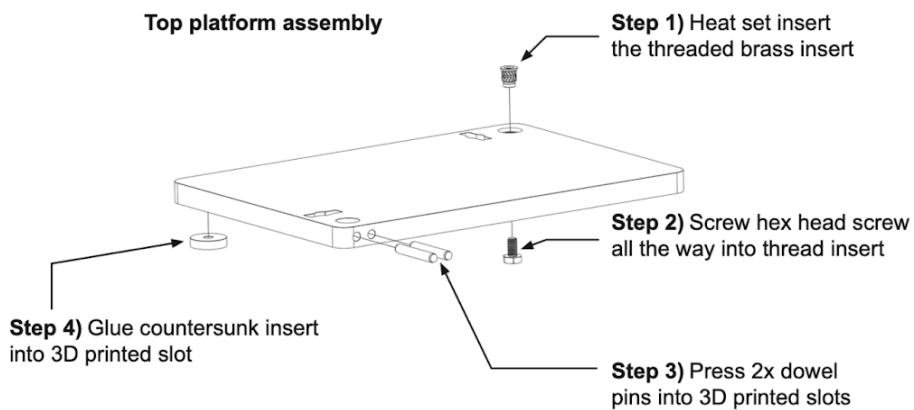
**Step 10)** Finally finish the loop by connecting the outlet of the jar to inlet barb of the peristaltic pump using the 3mm ID x 1000mm tube

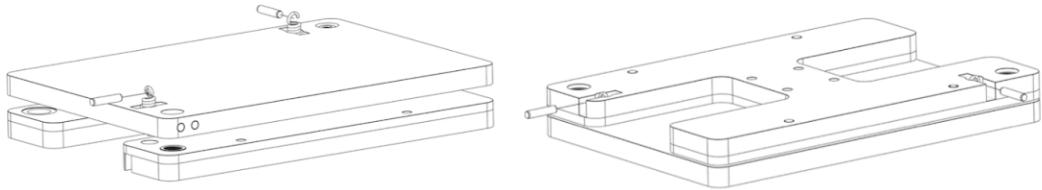


## Tip-Tilt Bed Leveling Platform Assembly

Additional required components for tip-tilt platform:

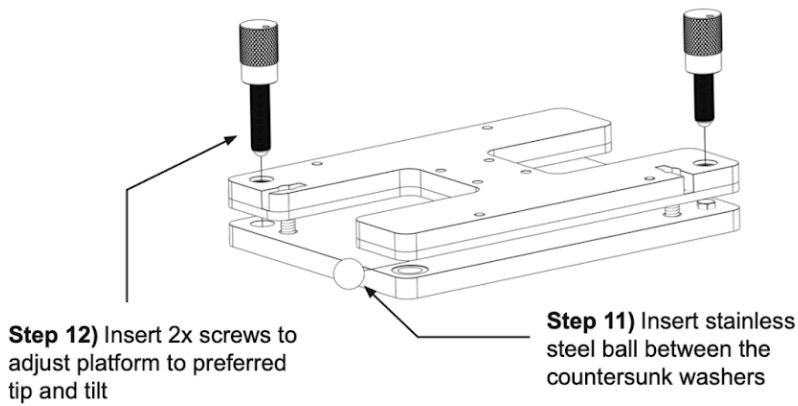
| Component                       | Quantity | Cost per unit | Total cost | Source of materials | Product/Model number |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------------|------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Countersunk washer              | 2        | \$3.72        | \$7.44     | McMaster            | 92538A461            |
| 10 mm stainless steel ball      | 1        | \$1.44        | \$1.44     | McMaster            | 1598K32              |
| Extension spring                | 2        | \$3.29        | \$6.59     | McMaster            | 9433K196             |
| 2.5x12mm dowel pin              | 4        | \$0.20        | \$0.81     | McMaster            | 91585A293            |
| 3x20mm dowel pin                | 2        | \$0.35        | \$0.70     | McMaster            | 91585A390            |
| M3x0.5mm heat set insert        | 2        | \$0.28        | \$0.57     | McMaster            | 97171A310            |
| 1/4"-80 fine-thread insert      | 2        | \$9           | \$18       | McMaster            | 98625A950            |
| 1/4"-80 fine-thread thumb screw | 2        | \$8.92        | \$17.84    | McMaster            | 97424A560            |
| Epoxy                           | 1        | \$24.91       | \$24.91    | McMaster            | 7467A21              |





**Step 8)** Insert 2x springs through holes and lock in place by inserting dowel pins through the springs loop ends

**Step 9)** Repeat step 8 on the opposite side, and make sure that the spring is properly attached on both sides



**Step 12)** Insert 2x screws to adjust platform to preferred tip and tilt

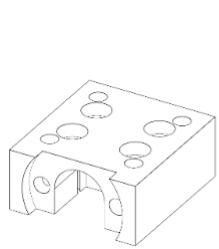
**Step 11)** Insert stainless steel ball between the countersunk washers

## Ball-Screw Carriage for Reduced Backlash

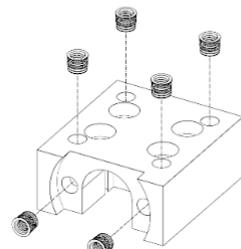
Additional required components for ball-screw carriage

| Component                                        | Quantity<br>(per<br>motor) | Cost per unit | Total<br>cost | Source<br>of<br>materials                          | Product/<br>Model number |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| NEMA 11 external ball screw linear stepper motor | 1                          | \$106.49      | \$106.49      | <a href="#">StepperOnline</a>                      | 11E18S1004BA M5-150RS    |
| Heat set inserts                                 | 6                          | \$0.44        | \$2.64        | <a href="#">McMaster</a><br><a href="#">Amazon</a> | 97163A149<br>B0CXXS3LHD  |
| 6 mm M3 round head screws                        | 2                          | \$0.06        | \$0.12        | <a href="#">McMaster</a>                           | 92095A179                |
| 6 mm rod                                         | 1                          | \$5           | \$5           | <a href="#">Amazon</a>                             | 887499220399             |

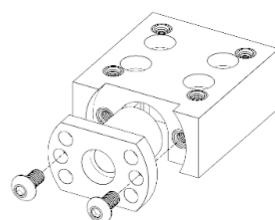
Note: The 6 mm rod is to aid transferring the ball nut from the NEMA 11 external ball screw linear stepper motor without the balls falling out. You may also 3D-print a 6 mm diameter cylindrical rod as a cheaper and faster alternative. Transfer the nut from the screw directly onto this rod and then directly back to the screw when needed.



**Step 1)** 3D print ball screw carriage

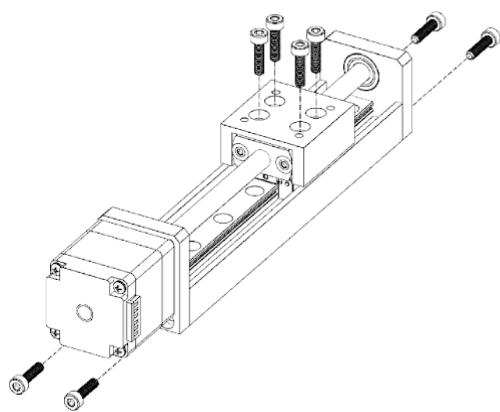


**Step 2)** Heat set insert the threaded stainless steel inserts

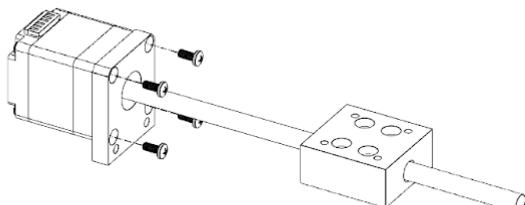


**Step 3)** Attach ball nut to ball 3D printed carriage

**NB!** When removing the ball nut from the ball screws, screw the ball nut onto a 6 mm OD rod to prevent balls from falling out



**Step 4)** Unscrew motor attachment plate, ball bearing attachment plate, and lead screw carriage



**Step 5)** Unscrew motor and remove the lead screw to release the motor attachment block

## Major Deprecated Part Notes

Major updates to parts will be detailed here. Old parts will be preserved in the Github repository inside deprecated folders.

| Part                           | Details                                                                                                                                           | Date Changed     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Z-Axes Holder                  | Reduced length by 1 cm to reduce the torque on the backboard. <b>55 mm M3 screws were changed to 45 mm.</b>                                       | 2/6/25           |
| Acrylic Bottom and Back Boards | Changed hole diameters to be compatible with suggested McMaster or Amazon heat-set inserts. Increased width by 1.5 inches to increase print area. | 2/6/25           |
| RUMBA Board                    | Replaced RUMBA Board with BigTreeTech Octopus Board.                                                                                              | In Progress, TBD |