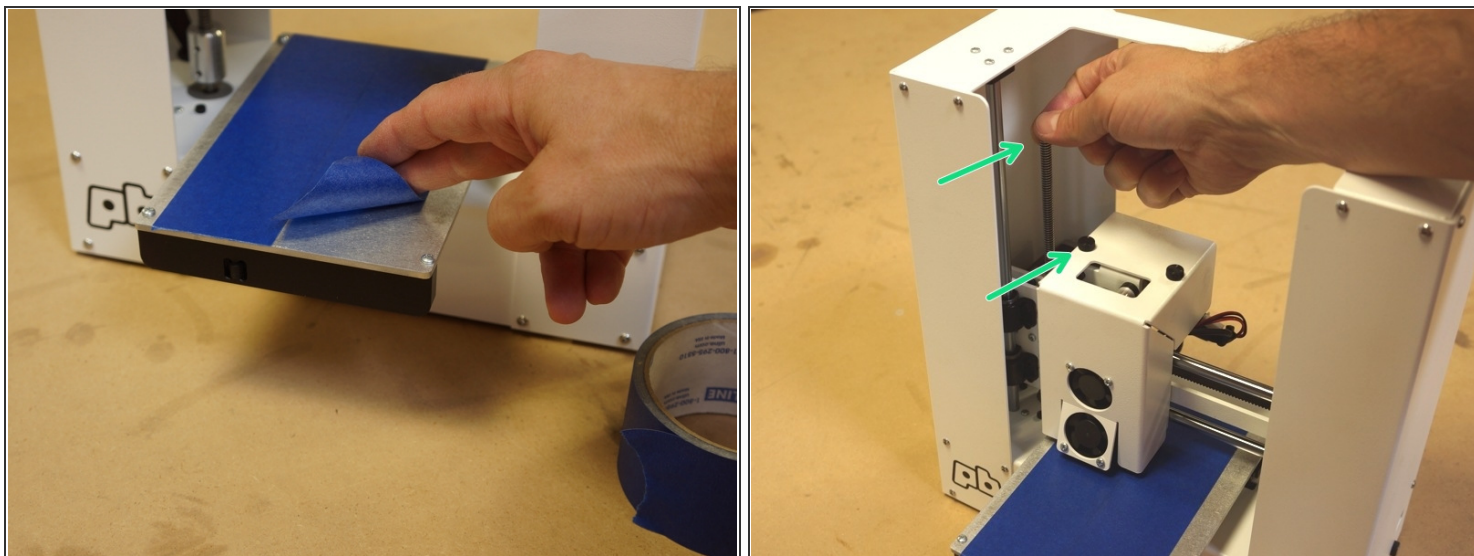# 3. Create Your First Print with Your Printrbot Play
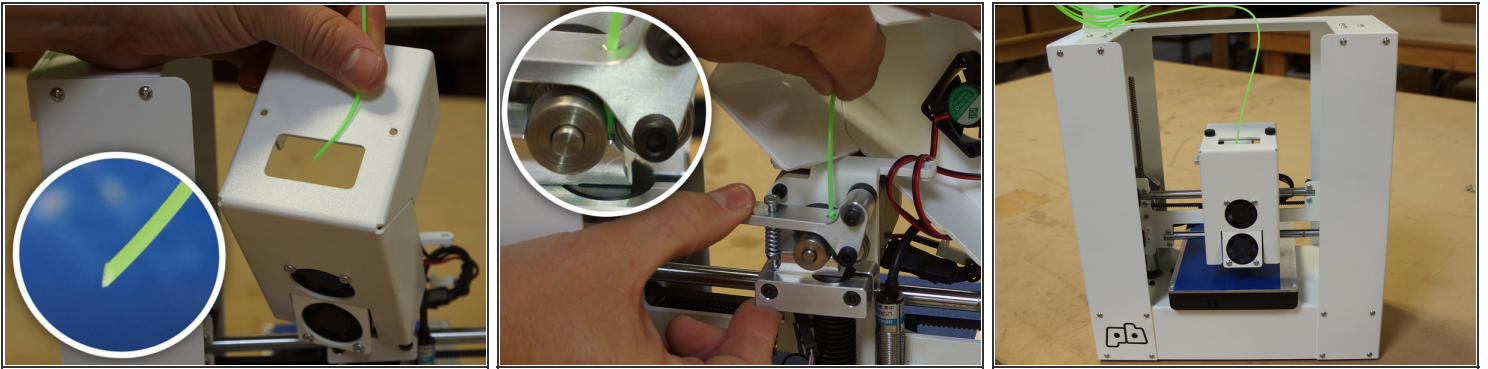
Written By: Printrbot Support

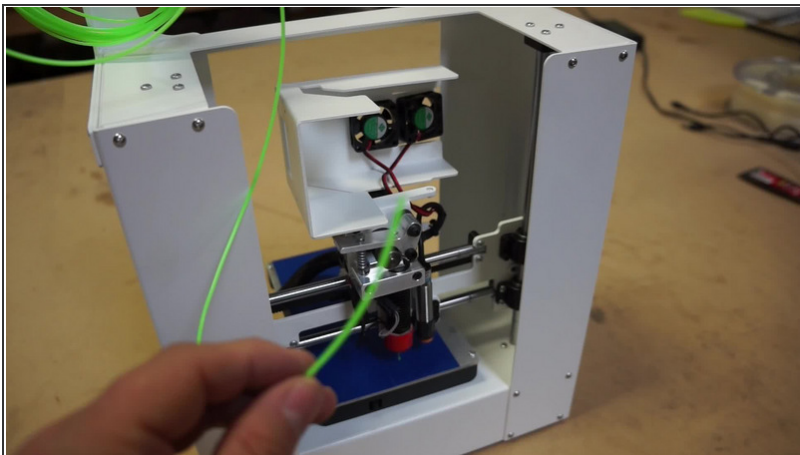## Step 1 — Step 1 Your First Print

- First put some basic painters tape down on the bed to improve adhesion for the first layer of your print.

  (i) *TIP: Most common types of painters tape will work, but if you would like to use what we use at PBHQ, [click here](#).*

- Turn the threaded rod (Z axis) counter clockwise until the hot end tip touches the print bed.

- Connect the power supply to a wall outlet and plug it into the barrel connector of your Printrbot Play

- Connect the USB cable to your computer and plug it into the microUSB port on your Play.

- Remove the shroud from the extruder by unscrewing the thumb screws.

Step 2 — Insert Filament

- Use micro-cutters or pliers to clip the filament at an angle.

- Direct the filament through the top of the fan shroud (unattached).

- Compress the extruder arm and feed the filament into the extruder.
  - ...through the filament hole of the extruder arm.
  - ...between the drive gear and 624 bearing.
  - ...into the filament hole of the extruder base, and into the hot end.

- Push the filament down into the hot end until it stops.

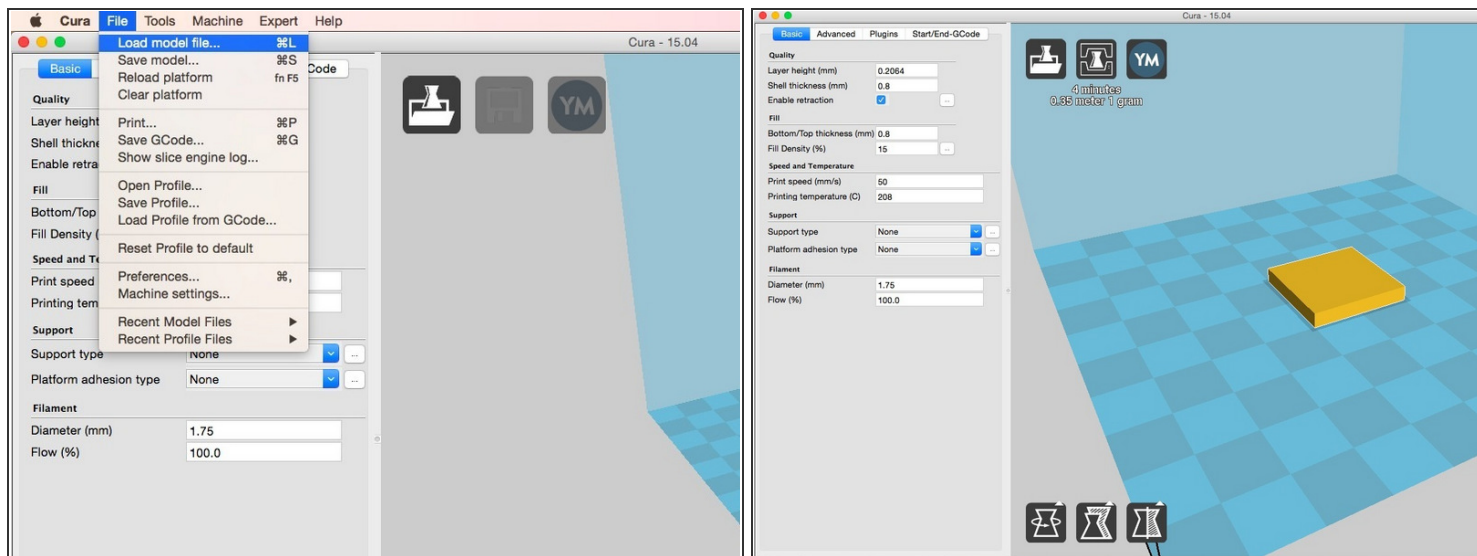- Re-attach the shroud to the extruder with the thumb screws.

Step 3 — VIDEO EXAMPLE OF LOADING FILAMENT

- As you become more comfortable with loading filament into your extruder, it will not be necessary to remove the fan shroud every time. This is the recommended technique for beginners. Experienced users can simply load the filament while the fan shroud is attached.
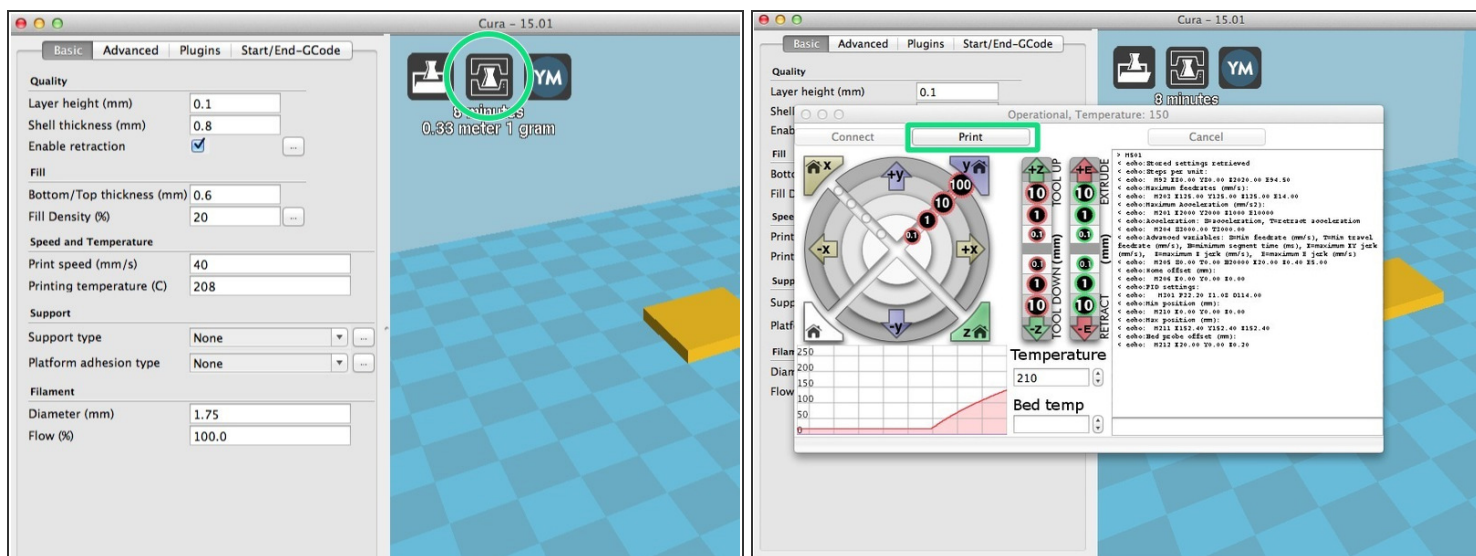
- ⓘ *TIP: If you find that you are having trouble guiding the filament down into the hot end, it can be helpful to de-compress the extruder arm and allow the drive gear to direct the filament while you push it down manually.*

Step 4 — Load Model

- Open Cura, and load the 3mm Box STL file by selecting "File", "Load Model File", and then opening the 3mm Box file from your hard drive.

- The 3mm Box model will appear on the "platform" in Cura.

- Click "Open".

  (i) *TIP: If the Ultimaker Robot model is still on your platform, simply click on the model and press "delete". Once the model has been removed, you can load the 3mm box.*
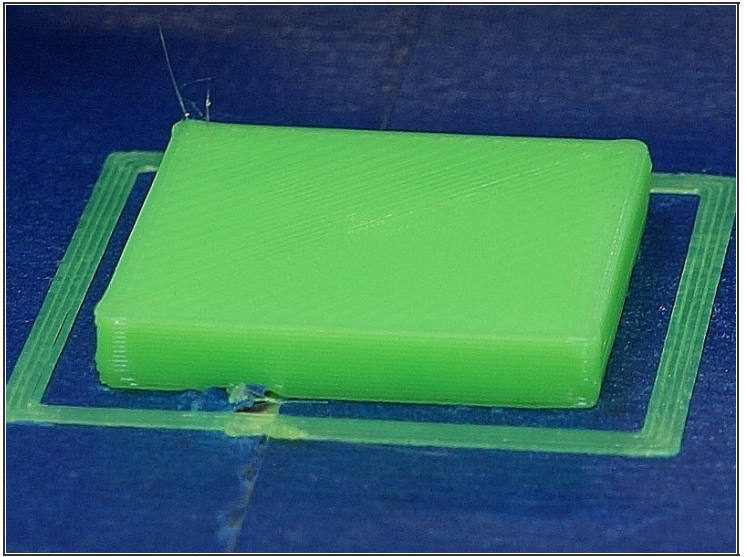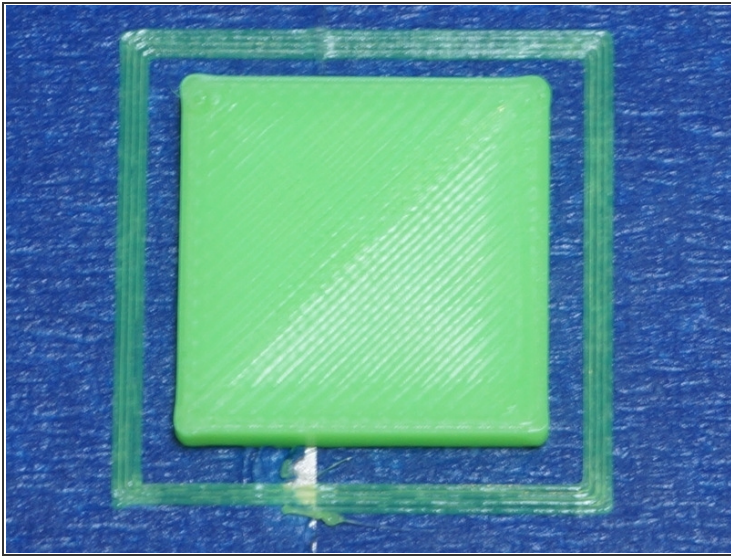
Step 5 — Print

- To open the Pronterface UI (user interface), Click the "Print with USB" icon in the upper left hand corner of the screen.

- The Pronterface UI will appear and give the status of your connection "Connecting ...detecting baudrate ...Operational, Temperature __"

  (i) *TIP: Not seeing the Pronterface UI window? Be sure that you have selected "Pronterface UI" in File/Preferences. Click here for more info.*

  (i) *TIP: Not seeing the "Print with USB" icon? Windows users be sure that you have installed drivers for your Printrbot. See STEP 1 of the guide on "Getting Started with Cura on your Printrbot" - click here.*

- Click **Print**. You will see the temperature begin to rise on the graph. Once the hot end has reached temp (~5min), the print will begin.

⚠ **DO NOT TOUCH THE HOT END - EXTREMELY HOT**

⚠ **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BOT RUNNING UNATTENDED.** Stay near by and monitor the machine while it is printing.

Step 6 — Success!

- **NEXT STEPS:**

- **Youmagine**- Free printable files available for download.

- **Simplify 3D Print Quality Troubleshooting Guide**

- **Pinshape Blog's "Sicer Settings - Best Practices"**

- **No Luck?** Don't be discouraged. 3D printing is hard. See the links below for troubleshooting help.

  - **Probe Calibration Guide** - If you could tell the print head was too high or too low above the bed, you may need to do some further calibration.

  - **support.printrbot.com** - The official Printrbot Help Center

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