

FAQs for 123D Design Desktop

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General Questions

Which file types are supported in Design Desktop?

You can open .OBJ, SAT, .SMB, .STP, .STEP, .STL, 123dx file formats in 123D Design Desktop.

You can import the .SVG files as sketches or extruded solids. And you can save a file as 123dx and .STL. Export files as .STL, .STEP (only for windows), .SAT, .X3D, VRML, SVG and DWG.

To which applications can you send the file directly from Design Desktop application?

A file in Design Desktop can be sent to Meshmixer and 123DMake. Access the options 'Send to 123D Make', 'Send to Meshmixer' from the 'Send to' option.

How can I delete files in 'My projects'?

The files in the 'My projects' are saved on 123dapp.com. If you want to delete a file, you should log on to www.123dapp.com. Select 'Models' option from the menu to view your models. On each model you will get an 'options' icon. You will find delete by clicking on the options icon.

Where can I find shortcut keys for the tools?

Most of the tools have shortcuts. You can find them either in the tooltips that appear when you hover on the tool in the Toolbar or in a document named 'Shortcut Keys' located in the help menu in the right top corner menu.

Can I add my own fonts to the list?

The text tool dialog now shows all the fonts that are present in your system. So if you install new fonts into your computer, those will be seen in the dropdown list in the fonts dialog box.

What steps are needed to make my creation printable?

Printing from DD is very easy now. There are multiple ways in which you can print your model.

Click on the '3D Print>Desktop 3D printer' in the main menu or the attribute manager below. You need Meshmixer for this. If you already have Meshmixer then the selected object directly goes to Meshmixer printing panel. There you can modify the model as required and

- Directly send the model to a printer if your machine is connected to Replicator 2, 2x or Type A machine.
- Select a print service provider (Sculpteo, Shapeways or i.materialise) and order your models from within the app.
- Export the file as stl and send it to printer application.

What are the system requirements to run Design Desktop?

For PC:

- Windows 7 (32-bit or 64-bit)
- Intel® Pentium® 4 or AMD Athlon® 64 or later with 2 GHz or faster processor; or compatible
- 2+ GB RAM (1.5 GB minimum)
- 1.5+ GB free disk space (for installation)
- Direct3D® 9 or 10 graphics support with 64+ MB

For Mac:

- Apple® Mac OS® X, version 10.7 or later with 64-bit Intel processor
- Apple® Mac® Pro 4.1 or later; MacBook® Pro 5.1 or later (MacBook Pro 6.1 or later recommended); iMac® 8.1 or later (iMac 11.1 or later recommended)
- 3 GB of RAM (4 GB recommended)
- 2.5 GB free disk space for download and installation (3 GB recommended)
- 1280×800 display with true color (1600×1200 with true color recommended)

- All Mac OS X supported operating system languages

Tools Related Questions

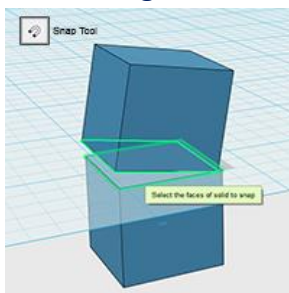
How can I duplicate objects?

1. Select object. Copy (Ctrl+C) and paste it (Ctrl+V). Once you paste it you get manipulators with which you can hold and move the copied object. Drag the manipulators to move the object around.
2. You can paste the same object multiple times without copying it again, till you copy some another object.

How to select multiple objects in the scene?

1. Click and drag from top left to bottom right of the application to select all the objects together. You can click and drag from right top to left bottom as well to achieve the same result.
2. You can also multi select objects using CTRL + Left click.

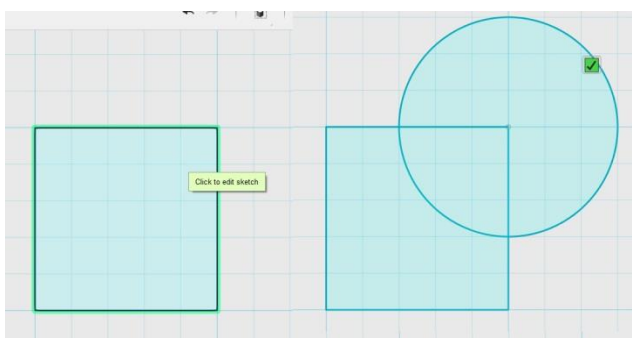
How to align a tilted object parallel to the grid?



Imagine you have a titled box on your grid and you want to keep it parallel on the grid. Using a manipulator won't be a good idea here as you don't know the exact angle of the tilt. So here is what we can do.

Drag the second box from the Main Toolbar and place it on the grid. Now press the 'Spacebar' while keeping this box selected. The second box immediately gets flipped to the other side of the grid. Choose the 'Snap Tool' from the Main toolbar. Select the tilted bottom face of the first box. Then select the top face of the second box. As soon as you select the two faces, they get snapped to each other thus placing the first box exactly parallel on the grid.

How to add new sketch elements into an existing sketch?

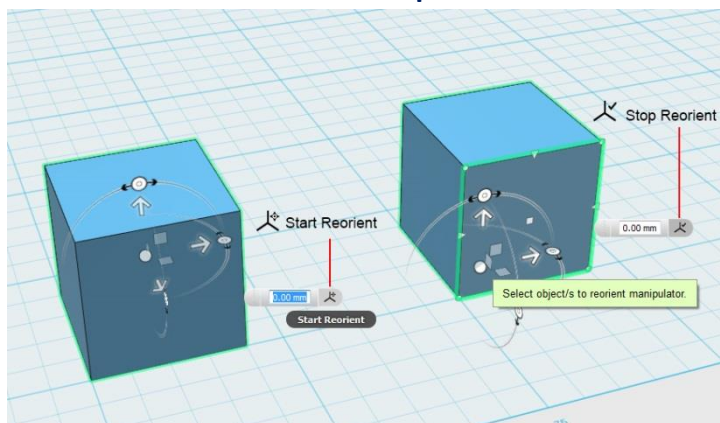


Check the example above. Draw a square sketch. Now take a circle and before drawing it on the grid, take your cursor on the square sketch. The sketch gets highlighted and tooltip says 'Click to edit'. Now click on the square and then click anywhere to draw a circle. Click 'Exit Sketch' button to exit the sketch mode. Now these 2 sketches are a part of one sketch. In this way you can add a new sketch element to an existing sketch.

How do I exit any tool?

You can exit any tool by pressing escape key. If you want to retain the changes made by the tool hit enter key. That way you will exit the tool, thus keeping the changes behind.

How to reorient the triad manipulator?



Start with an object. Click on Move/Rotate command in the Transform menu. You will see the triad manipulator on the object. In the glyph you will get an icon that says 'Start Reorient'. Click on that to start reorientation. Hold the round icon that is in the center of the triad. And place it where ever you want on the object. As soon as the triad starts moving on the faces will show points where it can be snapped. Place it wherever required and click on 'Stop Reorient icon'.

How does 'Grouping While Snapping ON/OFF' feature work?

When 'Grouping While snapping ON/OFF' is on, then when you snap objects together, then the snapped objects are grouped.

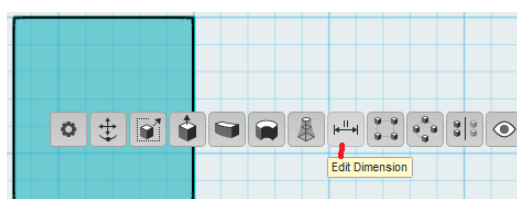
How can I hide Grid?

In Design Desktop, there is a command 'Grid visibility ON/OFF' in App menu. You can use it to show/hide grid.

How to import svgs from inkscape/illustrator and use them in design?

In Design Desktop, there is a command 'Import SVG...' in App menu. You can use it to import SVG file.

How to change the dimensions of sketches?

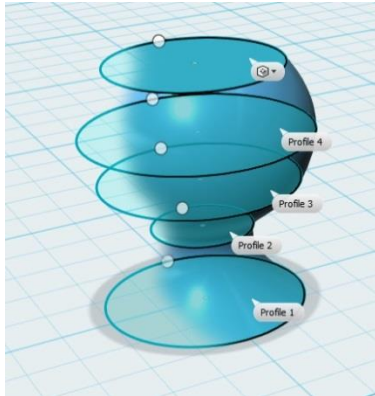


Select the sketch. You will be able to see the contextual toolbar. Find 'Edit Dimensions' options from that toolbar.

How can I turn material on and off?

You can turn material on and off by clicking command 'Materials only/Outlines only' in the left navigation toolbar.

How to add multiple sections while loft creation?



Draw multiple sketches in a sequence. Launch Loft command. Select the topmost sketch. Now select the one next to it. Press Ctrl and then select the sketches in the same order as you want your loft to create from top to bottom or bottom to top.

What's the difference between feature 'Ungroup' and 'Ungroup All'?

'Ungroup All' ungroups all the groups and subgroups in a particular group, whereas 'Ungroup' just ungroups a single group and does not affect any subgroups within that group.