

# ProBuilder 2.0 Documentation

*Last Updated 7-8-2013, build r1010*

**NOTE:** I periodically email updates, early builds, news, etc to all registered users. To get the most from ProBuilder, please register your purchase by sending your invoice # to ["contact@sixbysevenstudio.com"](mailto:contact@sixbysevenstudio.com).

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## [1] Helpful Links and Info

- [Email](#): Email us your thoughts, suggestions, comments, etc- always listening!
  - [Website](#): The central hub for ProBuilder, and all things related.
  - Live Chat: Hurray! You can now get help in real-time via our website. Just click the "Chat With Us" box in the lower right. I try to be available from about 10am to 10pm CST.
  - [Facebook](#), [Google+](#), and [Twitter](#): The best way to stay knowledgeable on updates, contests, new features, events, etc, and we dish out extra info via Twitter as well.
  - [SixBySeven Forum](#): Ever-expanding and resource-rich, with a very helpful and active community. Whatever you need take a look for it here, and if you can't find it, start a thread to ask! Especially if you have an error, bug, or issue that needs fixing, it's best to post it on the forums.
  - [Official Unity Forums thread](#): This is a great place to leave testimonials, share your experiences with ProBuilder 2.0, showcase your art, and just say "Hi!" to the Unity community. Please do, since it really helps spread the word on ProBuilder 2.0!
  - **NEW** [Beta Testing Group](#): available to all registered users!
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## [2] Overview of ProBuilder 2.0

**ProBuilder 1.x vs ProBuilder 2.0:** *ProBuilder 2.0 is a complete, from scratch, rebuild and overhaul of ProBuilder 1.x. The entire tool has a vastly improved interface and workflow, much more efficient final builds, and a whole new feature set, far beyond ProBuilder 1.x.*

ProBuilder is a custom editor extension for the Unity 3D game engine, one that brings some very exciting and powerful new features to the engine. With ProBuilder, you can finally build, edit, and texture custom geometry with an extremely fluid, intuitive, and fast workflow. You can even manipulate UV direction, tiling, offset, rotation, and more.

Using ProBuilder, you can also quickly setup very efficient collision and occlusion, and trigger volumes for events, switches, and zones.

At it's core, building your game environment in ProBuilder is simply fast, intuitive, and fun! There is no more "go between", importing and loading times, or tedious trial and error. It's level design, at the speed of your mind.

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## [3] Installing and Upgrading

**NOTE:** This process has changed as of ProBuilder 2.1.3 (r833)

Import the Unity Package, then from the top menu choose "Window > ProBuilder > Install or Update". The install screen will appear, with 2 options:

- Run Upgrade/Install: This will upgrade or install ProBuilder 2.0
- Cancel: This will exit without making any changes.

**WARNING:** The upgrade process is NOT reversible, and if an error occurs, you will almost certainly lose **all** your work. **Make a backup of your entire project!**

*We are 100% dedicated to making your 1.0 and Beta scenes upgrade properly to 2.0. If you encounter an error, please contact us at: "[contact@sixbysevenstudio.com](mailto:contact@sixbysevenstudio.com)"*

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## [4] Introduction to World Building with ProBuilder (*planned*)

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## [5] Interface Overview

### ***[5-a] Opening the ProBuilder GUI Panel***

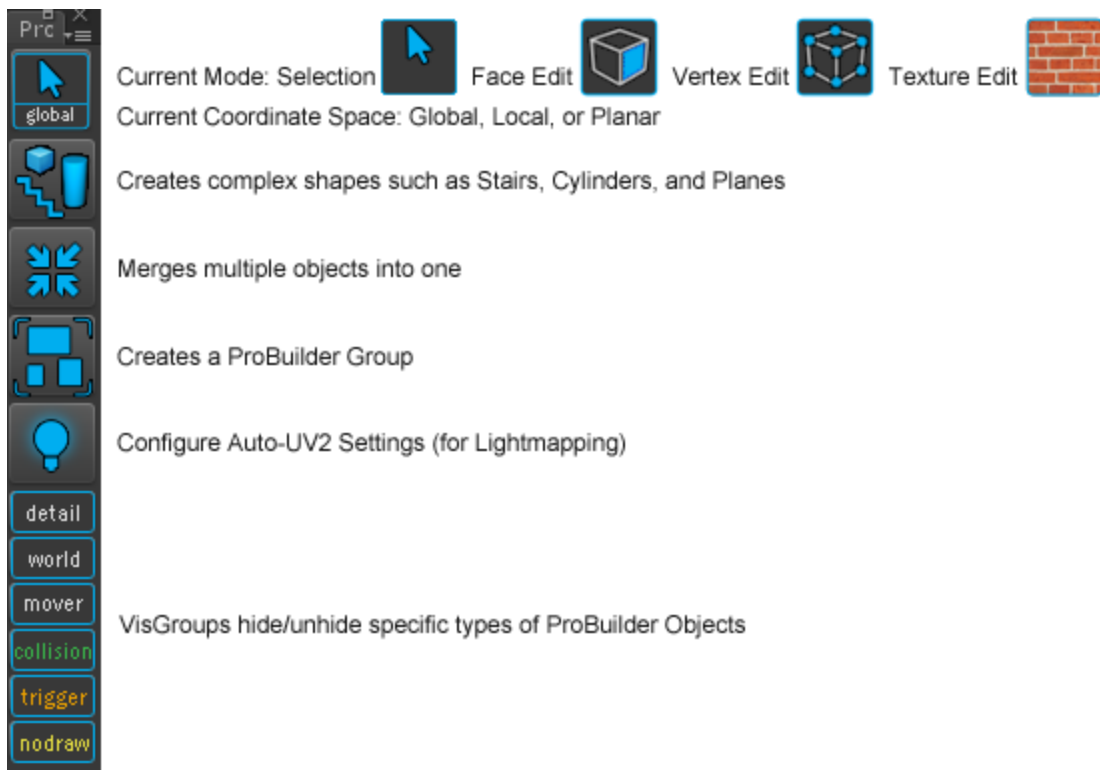
In order to begin creating with ProBuilder, you'll need the ProBuilder GUI Panel open. This is done by selecting, from the top menu bar in Unity:

*Window > ProBuilder > ProBuilder Window*

This will open the ProBuilder GUI Panel, which you can leave floating, or dock in the GUI.

### ***[5-b] Using the ProBuilder 2.0 GUI Panel***

The ProBuilder 2.0 interface is built to use up very little space on your screen, but still have all the functionality you will need for 98% of construction:



**Editing Mode:** When working with ProBuilder, you are always in one of three modes: Object Editing, Geometry Editing, or Texture Editing.



Object Editing is the default, standard mode- this is essentially “nothing special” mode- you can select, move, rotate, delete, etc, just like you normally would. To exit any other mode, and return to Object Editing mode, simply press the “Escape” key on your keyboard.

Geometry Editing mode allows you to edit the actual geometry of any ProBuilder object, either by Face or Vertex. Hit the “G” key on your keyboard to enter Geometry Editing mode. You will instantly enter either Face Geometry Editing, or Vertex Geometry Editing, depending on which you have set as default in the ProBuilder Editor Preferences.



Face Geometry Editing allows you to select and manipulate the faces of ProBuilder Objects. Once in this mode, simply left-click to select a face, (use the standard shift-left-click to select multiple), and manipulate them with the standard unity movement handles. To toggle into Vertex Geometry Editing, hit the “H” key on your keyboard.






Vertex Geometry Editing gives you even finer control, right down to the individual vertices. Since showing all the vertices in a complex scene could very likely crash Unity, you must select any ProBuilder Objects whose vertices you intend to edit. Their vertices will immediately show up as blue dots, and can then be selected (their color will change to green) and manipulated. You can drag-select vertices, and use the “Shift” key to add to the selection, just like any other item in Unity. ProTip- click on a face to instantly select all of it’s connected vertices! To toggle into Face Geometry Editing, hit the “H” key on your keyboard.



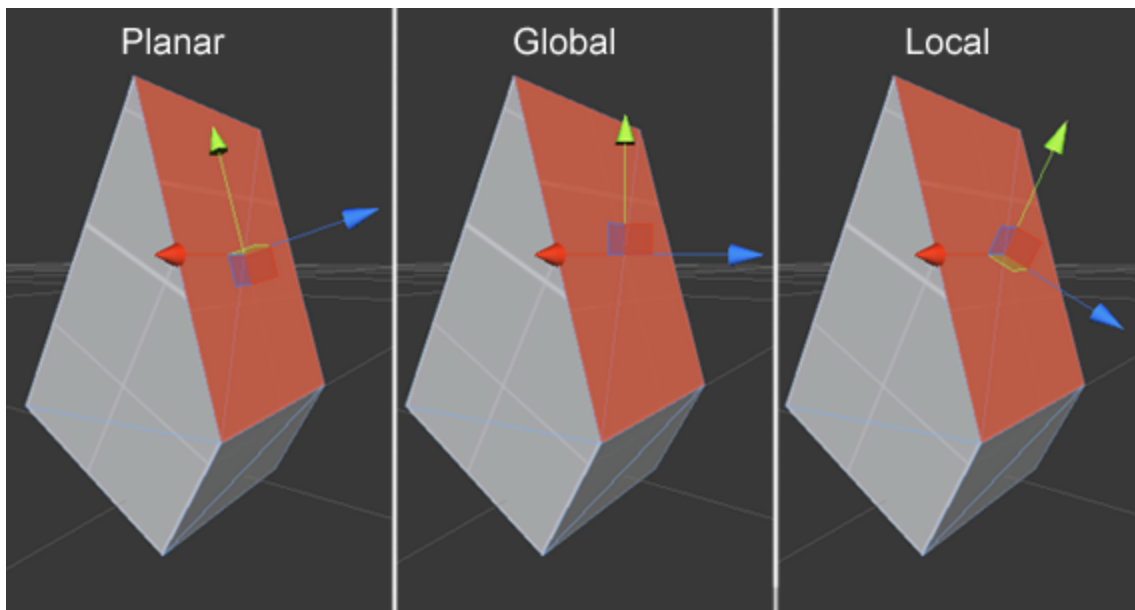
Texture Editing mode opens the Texture and UV Tools panel, giving you access to the powerful uv and texturing toolset of ProBuilder. Just like Face Geometry Editing, left-click to select a single face, and use the standard shift-left-click to select additional faces. Then use the Texture and UV Tools panel to apply textures, set UV tiling, rotation, and offset, and more. Hit the “J” key on your keyboard to enter Texture Editing mode.

See the “Geometry Editing” and “Texture and UV Editing” sections for more details.

**Coordinate Space:** This setting controls the direction of the handles when editing faces or vertices.

- a.  Planar: movement relative the selected face
- b.  Global: Movement in the “Global” XYZ directions
- c.  Local: Movement relative to the object’s transform orientation

Not making sense? This can be a confusing subject the first time you encounter it. Stick with “Global”, and give each of the others a try from time to time- they will make better sense with practice, than I could ever explain. You will soon find these are incredibly handy for complex construction. *Hit the “P” key on your keyboard to swap between Coordinate Space modes.*





**Create New Shape:** Click this button to open the “Create New Shape” panel, which allows you to instantly construct user-configurable special Shapes.

To create a shape, select a type (Cube, Stairs, Plane, etc) from the drop down list. The Create New Shape panel will change it’s contents to match the selected type, displaying different options for each (as outlined below). **New in 2.1.4** is the ability to live preview geometry. To enable this, simply toggle the “Preview Object” checkbox. You may move, rotate, and scale this preview object while adjusting settings.

- a. Cube
  - i. Dimensions - X, Y, Z - Use these to create an exactly sized Cube
- b. Stairs
  - i. Steps: Total number of steps in the stairway
  - ii. Width: How wide each step should be
  - iii. Height: Total height of the stairway
  - iv. Depth: Total depth of the stairway
  - v. Platforms Only: Whether to only generate the forward-facing polygons
  - vi. Extend Sides to Floor: Whether to extend all side-facing geometry to the ground (lowest point of the stairway)
  - vii. Generate Back: Whether to generate the back-facing polygons
- c. Prism
  - i. Dimensions - X, Y, Z - Use these to create an exactly sized Prism
- d. Cylinder
  - i. Radius: Radius of the cylinder (center to outer edge)
  - ii. Axis Divisions: How many sides, or “smoothing”, to generate
  - iii. Height: Total height of the cylinder
  - iv. Height Cuts: How many cuts, or “loops”, to create in the cylinder
- e. Plane
  - i. Normal Axis: Starting orientation of the plane
  - ii. Width: Total width of the plane
  - iii. Height: Total height of the plane
  - iv. Cuts Width: How many cuts to make “horizontally”
  - v. Cuts Height: How many cuts to make “vertically”
- f. Custom:
  - i. Here, you can type or paste in the exact vertex position data of an object. If you know what this is, you know what to do with it. If you don’t- stop playing with it, you’ll go blind!



**Merge Objects:** Click this button to merge all selected ProBuilder objects into one single ProBuilder Object, with the option to save or delete the originals. If you choose to save the originals, they will simply be deactivated in the scene- their names will appear greyed-out in the hierarchy list.

Merging objects is a great way to make your game run more efficiently, since it combines meshes and therefore lowers draw calls- very important for mobile games! However, be aware that if there are multiple materials on the resulting object, each material will still incur a separate draw call- this is just the way Unity works.



**Create AutoCollapse Group:** Click this button to create a new AutoCollapse Group (ACG) from all selected ProBuilder objects. The objects will be parented to an empty game object in the hierarchy. Only upon scene start, will the objects will be merged down to one single mesh. **NOTE: this feature has been removed temporarily, but will be back soon!**

*Creating ACGs, much like Merging, is a very effective way to maximize your game's performance. ACGs have the advantage of staying separate objects in the editor, but auto-merging in the game. However, at the time of writing this, they can sometimes result in slightly more draw calls than Merging in the editor, since lightmapping does not always keep all objects in the ACG on the same sheet. This will be fixed in an upcoming release!*



**Create ProBuilder Group:** This button will parent all selected ProBuilder objects to a new, empty game object. The result is a "group" that can be moved or rotated as one single object, a handy technique to use as your scenes grow more and more complex.



**Fine Tune Lightmap Generation Settings:** Select a ProBuilder object and click this button to open up the UV2 generation parameters for this object. Default values are preset for all objects, and should generally be appropriate. However, if you are seeing artifacting or strange effects on your lightmaps for an object, you may try adjusting these parameters.



**VisGroups:** ProBuilder 2.0 identifies 5 unique Entity Types for ProBuilder objects: Detail, World, Mover, Collision, and Trigger, plus a special sixth

category, “NoDraw”. Click any of the six VisGroup buttons to toggle their respective Entity Type’s visibility on and off- this is an incredibly handy visual aid, in both simple and complex scenes. See the “VisGroups and Entity Types” section for more information, you’ll be using these quite a bit!

### [5-c] Keyboard Shortcuts

ProBuilder 2.0 is almost entirely keyboard-driven, which keeps the GUI clean, and workflow very fast. **Every single keyboard shortcut, and many other settings, can be customized!** Just open Editor > Preferences > ProBuilder. Below is a “cheat sheet” image for printing:

*\*If you’ve used the Hammer level editor (Source), these Entity Types are basically the Detail, World, Trigger, etc “brush” types. You’ll be right at home!*

*ProBuilder 2.0 Keyboard Shortcuts  
r719, 3-19-13*

Ctrl+K	New Cube
Ctrl+Shift+K	New Shape
G	Enter Geometry Edit Mode
H	Toggle Face or Vertex Manipulation
P	Toggle through coordinate space modes (Global, Local, Planar)
T	Enter Texture/UV Mode
N	Set selected face(s) as NoDraw
Escape	Exit Texture or Geometry Mode
M	Set selected objects as Mover Entity Type*
B	Set selected objects as Detail Entity Type*
O	Set selected objects as Occluder Entity Type*
T	Set selected objects as Trigger Entity Type*
C	Set selected objects as Collision Entity Type*
Ctrl+Shift+LeftClick	In Texture mode, “quickpaint” your selected material onto a face



## [6] Building and Editing Geometry (Modeling)

In the previous section, we went over the technical details of how to construct and edit geometry with ProBuilder. Before you jump right in though, you should definitely watch the ProBuilder “Intro to Modeling” tutorial- it’s fairly quick but extremely informative. Here, we’ll go over some basic tips, tricks, and advice for modeling with ProBuilder 2.0:

**Use ProGrids!** If you are not using ProGrids, at least the free version, you are seriously handicapping yourself. With ProBuilder, you will most often be constructing hard-surface models, with many parts that need to align exactly, match sizes, and so forth. ProGrids will save you hours of time and sanity, and your resulting creation will look and function better as well.

**Stay “On The Grid”.** Now that you are using ProGrids, stay on that grid! Making sure all your vertices are on an exact grid point will make your ProBuilder objects much, much simpler to align, edit, and modify.

**Start Big.** The first version you build won’t always be wrong, but it won’t ever be right, either. So, start with with large, simple, boxy construction- I typically start at a grid level of 50cm, sometimes 25 if I’m feeling extra confident in the design. If you are building a level or world, test out the flow, fit, and scale. Even do some lighting and atmosphere tests, really get a feel for what you are constructing. Then pair it down to smaller and smaller grid levels, adding more detail with each level, just like LODs.

**Stick to 45 Degree Angles.** If you need to make an angle, always try to keep it at 45 degrees

**Textures Come Last.** Greybox that level completely, before you even think about adding real textures! Use the included dev materials (grey, orange, red, blue) to differentiate your level/world/item as needed, but save the real texturing for the very last. Only once the geometry is 95% finished and final, should you begin adding real textures, else you risk wasting many hours of work when that geometry you painted has to change...

**Use NoDraw.** NoDraw might seem a little strange at first, but use the shortcuts provided plus the “Auto NoDraw” action, and you will be a pro in no time. The performance savings will be huge, and your lightmaps will take MUCH less time to bake! See the NoDraw section for more details.

**Assign “World” Geometry.** Only ProBuilder objects that are given the “World” entity type will occlude other objects. This isn’t the default type, so you have to assign it manually. See the VisGroups section for more details.

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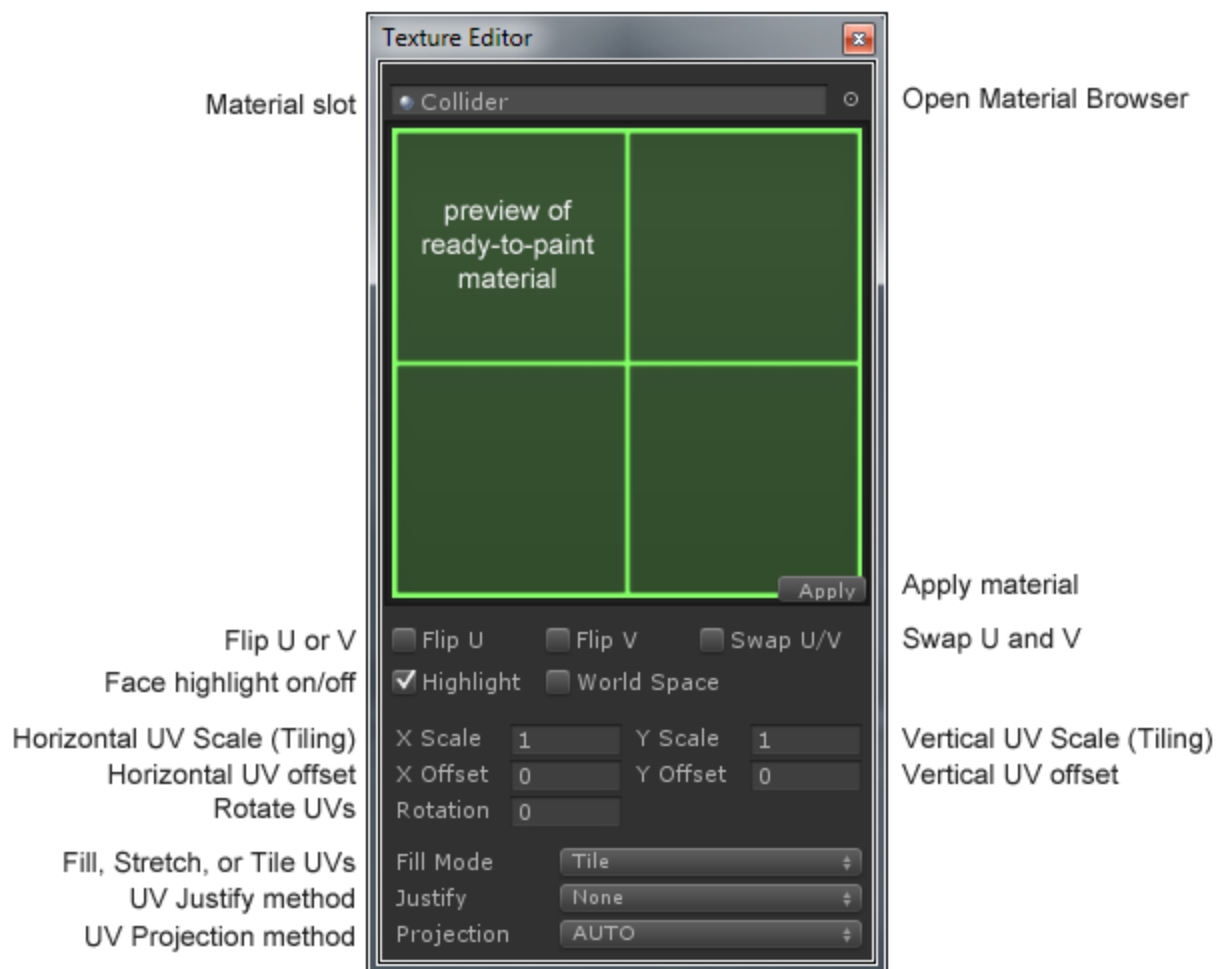
## [7] Textures and UVs

### [7-a] The Texture and UV Tool Panel

ProBuilder's Texture and UV Tool panel is one of its most powerful and useful features. It is automatically opened when you enter Texture Edit mode, by hitting "J" on your keyboard.

**Firstly**, it facilitates extremely fast, simple, "painting" of materials onto your ProBuilder objects, and even allows painting a different material on each and every face, should you need to.

**Secondly**, It allows you to change how a material is displayed on individual faces of your ProBuilder objects, without editing the material itself. This means you can create infinite variations, with still just a single draw call.



**Material Slot:** Drag 'n drop the material you intend to use, into this slot...

**Open Material Browser:** ...or, click the small circle-with-a-dot to open the standard Unity Material Browser, and choose your material there.

**Preview of Ready-To-Paint Material:** This area shows a flat preview of your selected material. It will size itself according to the panel size.

**Apply Material:** Applies the material to all selected faces.

**Flip U or V:** Use these toggles to flip, or “mirror” the selected face’s UV coordinates.

**Swap U and V:** Use this toggle to completely swap the selected face’s UV coordinates.

**Face Highlight on/off:** When on, all selected faces will be highlighted. You can change the color and opacity of this highlight in the Editor Preferences panel, see the “Customization” section for more details.

**Horizontal/Vertical Scale:** This number controls scale, or “tiling”, of the selected face’s UVs.

**Horizontal/Vertical Offset:** This number controls offset, or “position”, of the selected face’s UVs. You can use the Movement handles to move your texture around very intuitively and easily!

**Rotation:** This number controls the rotation, in degrees, of the selected face’s UVs.

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### ***[7-b] Applying Materials (“Texturing”)***

First, a note on definition and methodology: somewhere along the way in game engine development, the difference between “Texture” and “Material” became a source of much confusion and misinterpretation. In the case of ProBuilder, just know this- nothing special at all is happening with materials or textures. You apply materials to your ProBuilder objects just like any other object, and those materials will act/display just the same, as well.

That aside, there are several ways to apply materials in ProBuilder. All of the following methods assume you are already in Texture Edit mode, and have a material set in the Material Slot of the Texture and UV Tools panel:

**Apply To Entire Object(s):** To apply one material to an entire object, or several objects, first select the full object(s) by either drag-selecting a box, or selecting via the Hierarchy. Click the “Apply Material” button to instantly paint all faces of the selected object(s) with the chosen material.

**Apply to Selected Face(s):** Select one or more faces, then click the “Apply Material” button to instantly paint all selected faces with the chosen material.

**Quick Paint:** This one is very handy! While holding ctrl and shift on the keyboard, any face you left-click on will be instantly be painted with the chosen material.

### ***[7-c] Editing UVs***

Being able to edit the individual UVs of each face on a ProBuilder Object, allows for virtually infinite variation and re-use of textures. This is great for both performance and making your scene look great!

For example, use the **Flip and Swap UV** toggles to quickly make three different faces look different, despite using the same material. These are also handy if your texture needs to have a specific direction (arrows, grids, text, etc).

Use **Offset** to move textures around, displaying only certain parts of the texture per-face, or in an exact location. You can even use the movement handles for quick, intuitive control of placement.

**Scale**, or “tiling”, is extremely handy for controlling the perceived size of an item, fitting textures to geometry, and lessening obviously tiling patterns.

The **Fill Mode** options allow you control over the basic method of UV mapping that is applied to the selected face(s):

- a. **Tile:** Default behavior, this simply tiles the the UVs uniformly. Useful in 95% of cases, ie wooden floors, plaster walls, ground, etc
- b. **Normalize:** This will fill the face completely, without any tiling, but keep the UVs square, so no stretching or squashing occurs. This generally means the texture will be cropped on one of it’s sides.
- c. **Stretch:** The same as Normalize, however this mode will stretch or squash the UVs so that the entire texture is shown on the face.

**UV Justify** can anchor the texture to any of the 4 sides of a face, or to the center. Very useful in situations where you need the texture placement to stay put while you edit geometry.

**Projection** gives you advanced control over exactly how the texture is “projected” onto the surface. 99% of the time you will want to just leave this on Auto, however the option is available just for those special, niche situations where nothing else will work, and such control is needed.

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## [8] VisGroups and Entity Types

All ProBuilder objects have an Entity Type, or simply “type”. These are basically categories, like “Melee, Ranged, Explosive, etc”- they set certain properties in the object, and how it acts in your game.

VisGroups are simply a very handy side effect of these Entity Types. Since all ProBuilder objects have a type, and you generally don’t need to see all types at once, you can use the VisGroups panel to toggle the visibility on or off for each “group” of types. This becomes extremely useful as your scenes become more and more detailed/complex.

**Mover** is the same as a **Detail** object, except it is non-static, for use as moving platforms, doors, elevators, etc. It can be occluded, but *will not occlude other objects*. This is set as default, since too many occluders will actually hurt performance much more than too few. Set any ProBuilder object(s) to “Mover” type by selecting them, and hitting the “M” key on your keyboard.

**Detail** is the standard, default ProBuilder Object type. A mesh with a texture and a collider, nothing more. It can be occluded, but *will not occlude other objects*. This is set as default, since too many occluders will actually hurt performance much more than too few. Set any ProBuilder object(s) to “Detail” type by selecting them, and hitting the “D” key on your keyboard.

**World** type objects are same as Detail, except they *do occlude other objects*. If you have large, simple objects, ones that you know will block larger portions of your level from view, they should probably be set as “World” type. Set any ProBuilder object(s) to “World” type by selecting them, and hitting the “O” key on your keyboard.

**Collision** objects are invisible in-game, but still have full collision. These are very handy for smoothing stairways into ramps, adding player clip to round out sharp corners, force fields, and many other semi-advanced uses. They will show in the editor as bright-green and semi transparent. Naturally, they do not occlude or block light. However, you should always disable them via VisGroups panel before lightmapping, or their color will affect nearby areas. Set any ProBuilder object(s) to “Collision” type by selecting them, and hitting the “C” key on your keyboard.

**Triggers** are a special type of ProBuilder object, designed specifically to aid in the creation of Zones, Volumes, and (of course) Triggers. They are invisible in game, but have a collision component set to “trigger”. This makes them great for things like triggering elevators, doors, or cutscenes (as the player enters or exits the Trigger zone), designating “Kill Zones” or FX Volumes, and so forth. Set any ProBuilder object(s) to “Trigger” type by selecting them, and hitting the “T” key on your keyboard.

**NoDraw** is actually not an Entity Type, but does have a VisGroup dedicated to it. “NoDraw” refers to any ProBuilder Object’s face that has the NoDraw material applied to it. Toggling on/off the NoDraw VisGroup will show/hide all faces (not the entire object) that have NoDraw applied. You should be using NoDraw a lot, so be sure to read the “Optimization” section below for details on it’s use and methods!

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## [9] Optimization

ProBuilder 2.0 is very efficient on it’s own- in fact it is 6x more efficient than ProBuilder 1.x without any work on your part, due to using a single mesh per object now. On top of that, we have expanded the already existing optimization methods, and added a few new ones- all of which are simple to implement, and will seriously aid your project.

**NoDraw** will be your primary method of optimization. Any face that will never be seen in-game, should always be set as “NoDraw”. These faces will be deleted at runtime, which makes a substantial dent in the number of vertices being rendered. Most importantly, NoDraw faces are not lightmapped, which saves you quite a bit of texture space, and saves you time when baking lightmaps. Do not underestimate this- if done properly, NoDraw faces will be around 40-60% of your scene!

Setting a face as NoDraw is quick and simple- simply apply the “NoDraw” material to it. However, you **must** do this via the Texture and UV Tools panel, not by simply drag-and-dropping the material onto the object.

While in Texture Edit mode, you can also select any number of faces, and hit “N” on the keyboard to apply the NoDraw material, without changing your chosen material.

Lastly, there is also the “Auto NoDraw” action available from the top Unity menu, under “Window > ProBuilder > Actions > Auto NoDraw”. This will automatically apply NoDraw to all faces that appear to be completely occluded, and is a quick way to get all those annoying small/inner/hidden faces. However, be aware that this action is somewhat experimental still. ProTip- when starting out, build your entire scene in NoDraw, then only apply “real” materials to those faces you are certain you will see.

**Occlusion** is your second best method of optimization. Wherever you have large, simple ProBuilder objects, assign them the “World” Entity Type. This will let them take advantage of Unity’s Occlusion system, by becoming Occluders.

However, Occlusion’s benefits are very much situational. Too much Occlusion can be worse than too little- the game needs to calculate what can and can’t be seen, and if you have a very complex Occlusion setup, it can easily crush your framerate. On the other hand, if you have a room with lots of high-poly objects inside, even a complex Occluder might be worthwhile. Further, if you use purely static Occlusion data, then you can use quite a few more Occluders without hurting performance, and vice versa if using a more dynamic Occlusion method.

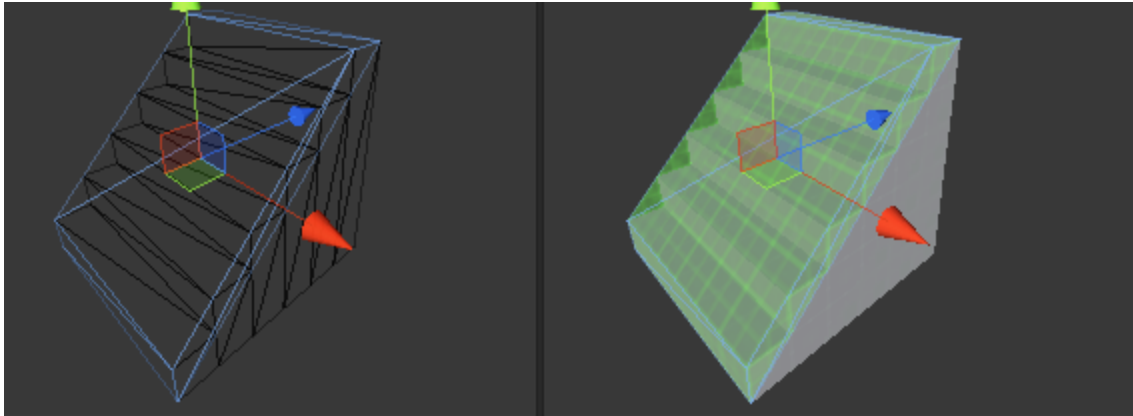
Occlusion can be tricky at first, but will yield serious performance benefits, so don’t overlook it. Experiment with this one, and read up on Unity’s Occlusion system for the best results.

**Merging** allows you to collapse multiple ProBuilder objects into one single object, while still being able to edit it like any other ProBuilder object. This is mainly useful for reducing draw calls. See “Merging” in the “Interface Overview” section for details on using this function.

**AutoCollapse Groups** work the same as Merging, but don’t actually merge down to a single object until entering the game. This is useful when you don’t want to completely merge objects in the editor, but still need them to merge in-game. See “AutoCollapse Groups” in the “Interface Overview” section for details on using this function. **NOTE: this feature has been removed temporarily, but will be back soon!**

**Custom Collision** should be used wherever possible, as it can significantly reduce in-game overhead and pre-game loading times. Essentially, anywhere that you can reduce a complex collider, or a group of colliders, down to a single, simple collider, you should use Custom Collision.

A good example of this is a stairway- if you left it’s collision default, each and every step is part of the collision, and it would also be non-convex. Instead, disable the stairway’s collision component, then create a ProBuilder Object that matches the stairways slope. Set this Object to the “Collision” Entity Type by pressing “C” on your keyboard, and give the stairway a test run- not only will your game run better, but you can now move smoothly up and down the stairway, without those annoying “bumping” and collision-snagging actions that happen far too often in sub-par games. Here is an image for better illustration:



**Lightmap Size** is a special fix that involves using a separate script, so we left it for last. Essentially, all the visual optimizations in ProBuilder are geared toward reducing draw calls- this is mostly done by getting objects to “batch” in the renderer. In an ideal game, every single mesh that uses the same material will batch down to one single draw call. You could have thousands of items, and only one draw call- as long as they all batch properly.

Unfortunately, there are lots of things that break batching- scaling, as mentioned is one of those. Another, trickier one, is lightmap index.

Lets say you have 10 objects, you lightmap your scene, and end up with 2 lightmaps at 1024x1024 each. All objects should batch down to one, but you get 2 draw calls- why? Because you have more than one lightmap, and therefore, technically more than one material. This can get really ugly in a real-world situation, where you have multiple materials, and once you lightmap, your objects are spread throughout the lightmaps, allowing only a few or none to actually batch.

So, the solution is bigger lightmaps. And you can control that via this very handy script: <http://forum.unity3d.com/threads/56435-light-map-max-at-1k-solved>

All credit for this “Optimization”, and many thanks, goes to the forum users in the above linked post. We will be implementing our own version of this, as part of the ProBuilder 2.0 GUI, but for now just use the above script to set your lightmap size to larger than 1k (1024).

Each time after building your maps at larger than 1K size, you will also need to reset the lightmap texture’s import settings to “Max: 4K”, as well.

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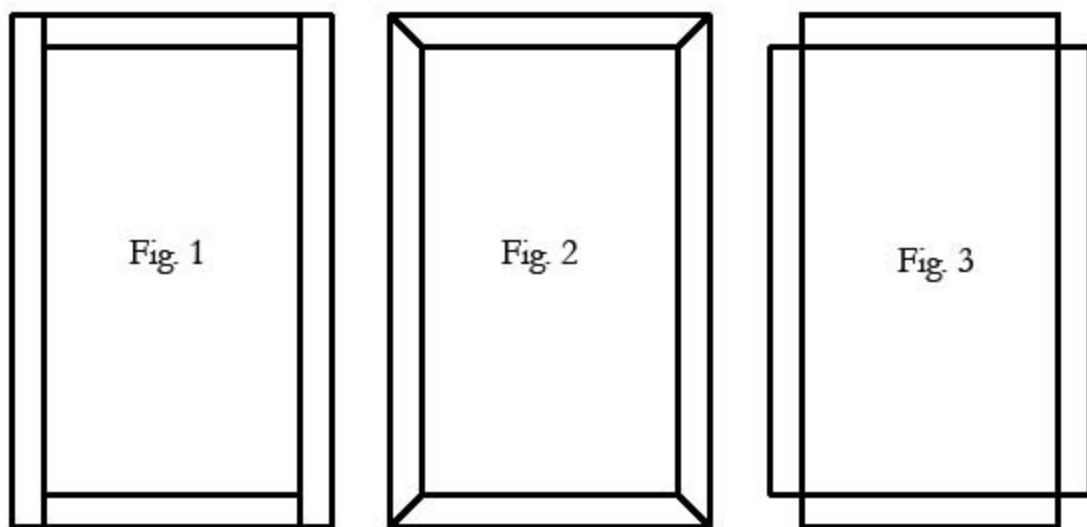
## [10] Lightmapping

ProBuilder automatically generates perfectly sized, normalized, UV2 channels for each and every ProBuilder Object. There are a few things to keep in mind when lightmapping, however:

**Lightmap Size:** As mentioned above, make sure you use the largest lightmap size possible. For mobile devices and web/flash, I wouldn't go over 2K (2048x2048), but otherwise 4096 should be perfectly fine, if you need it.

**Use NoDraw:** Without using NoDraw, your lightmaps will, on average, be about 2-3 times the size they should be- bad for baking time and game performance. So use that NoDraw wherever possible!

**Miter Corners:** This is a throw-back to the days of Hammer, Radiant, etc, but still very much applies, even with non-ProBuilder meshes. Take a look at this illustration:



(Illustration credit to “camydogger” on [www.tf2maps.net](http://www.tf2maps.net))

*Figure 1* will allow light and/or shadows to “leak” and “bleed” under the edges, causing visual seems, artifacts, and wasted lightmap texture space.

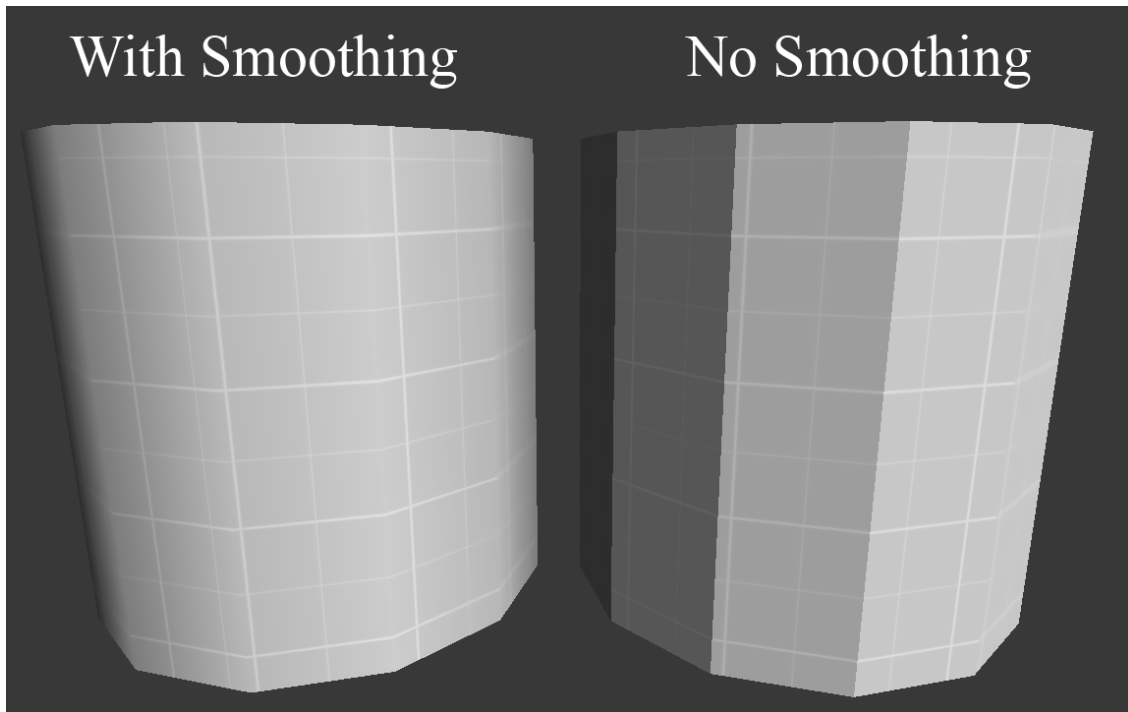
*Figure 2* is the OCD mapper’s method, and honestly the best- the mitered corners make sure zero light/shadows can leak or bleed, and no space is wasted.

*Figure 3* is technically just as good as Figure 2, but not as clean on the corners.

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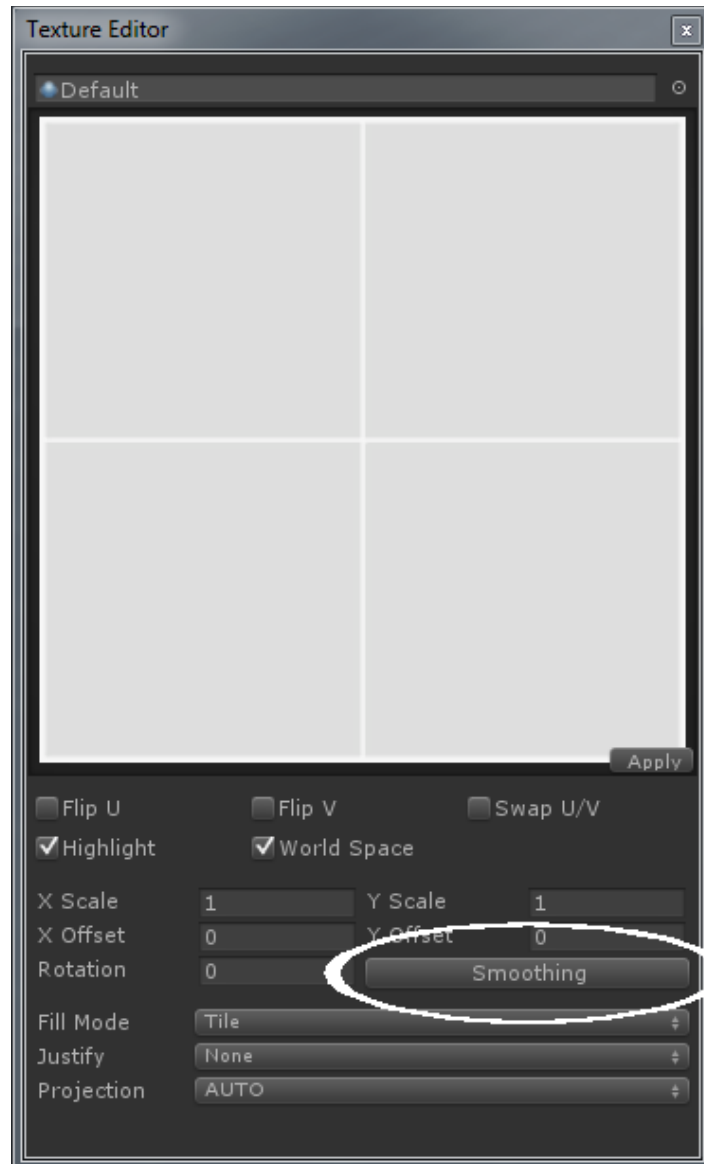
## [11] Smoothing Groups

New in ProBuilder 2.1.3 is the ability to assign faces to smoothing groups. Smoothing groups average the vertex normals with neighboring planes. This allows lighting to behave in a more realistic manner when dealing with edges that are intended to be smooth. The example below shows 2 identical cylinders with the same polygon count and a single directional light. Note the rounder appearance and soft shading the left cylinder has relative to the right.



### Opening the Smoothing Menu

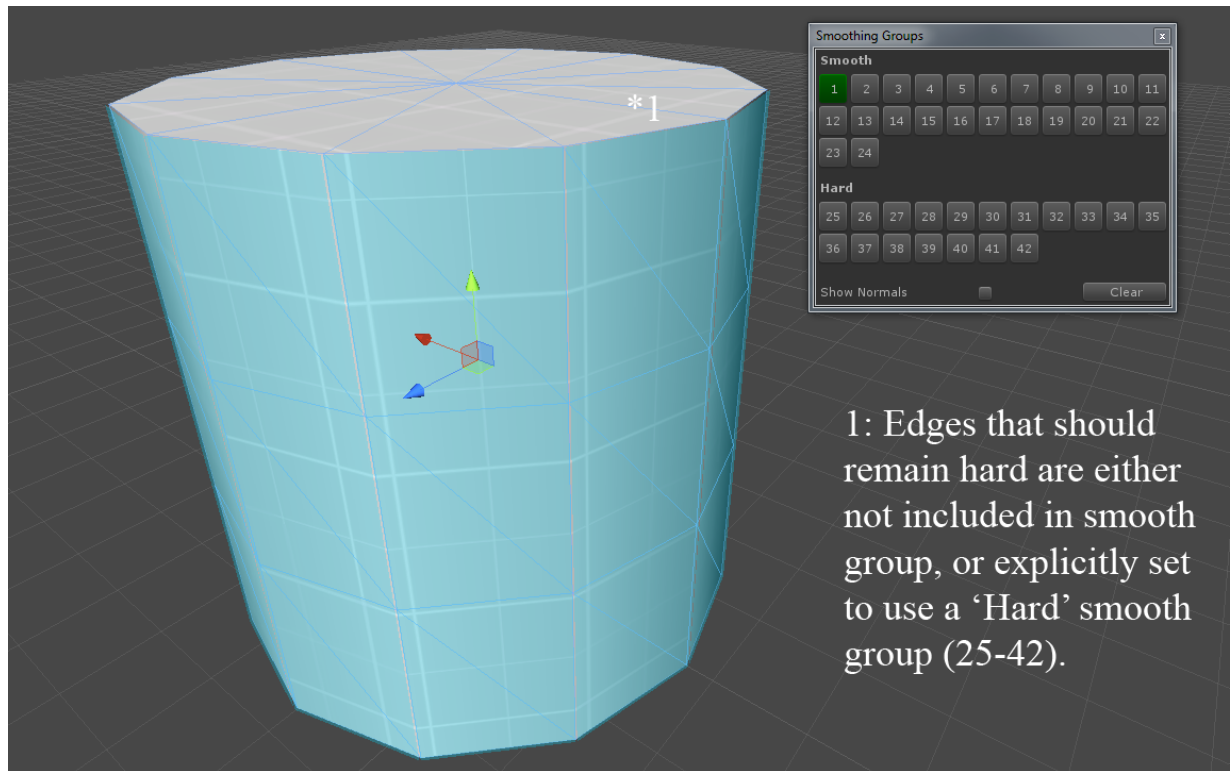
To open the smoothing menu, first open the Texture Window (either by pressing the 'J' key, or navigating to Window -> ProBuilder -> Texture Window). In the texture window, click the button titled "Smoothing."



### Using Smoothing Groups

ProBuilder decides which edges should be smoothed by checking for neighboring faces that are in the same group. It also checks for 'Hard' groups, which as you might guess, hardens edges of neighboring faces.

As an example, selecting all side faces on a cylinder and setting them to the same smoothing group will result in smooth sides, while keeping the top and bottom edges hard.

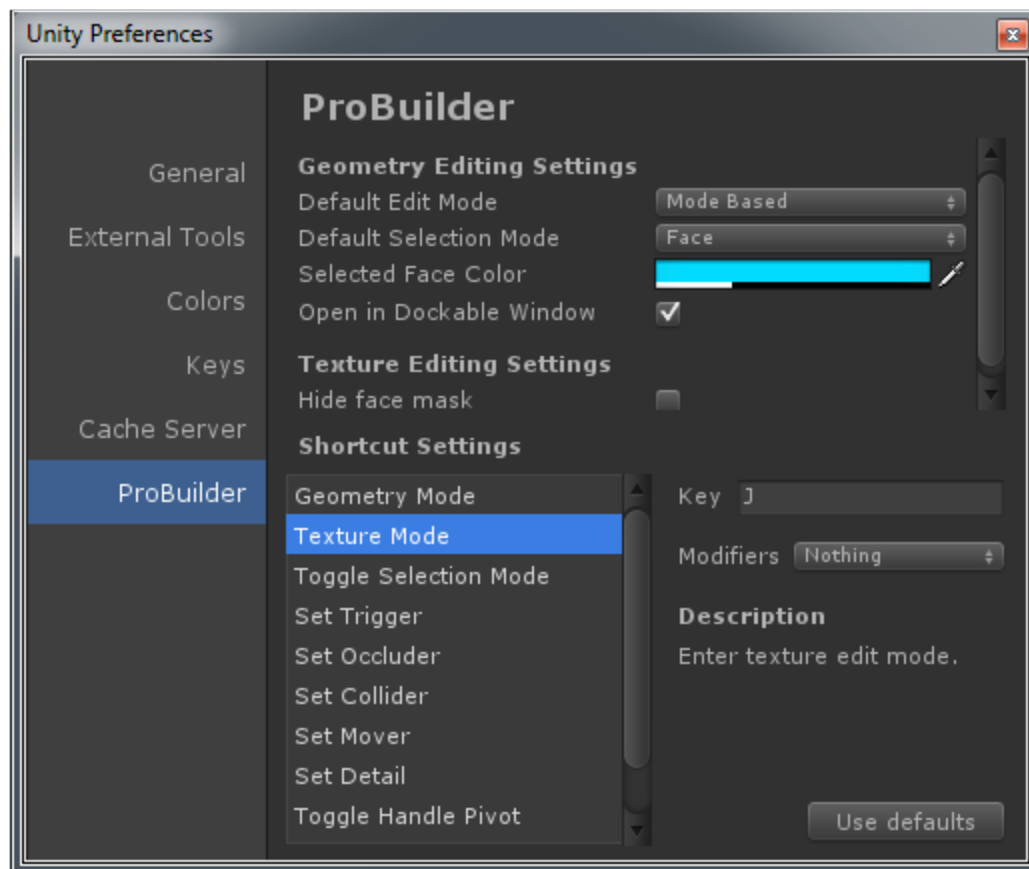


1: Edges that should remain hard are either not included in smooth group, or explicitly set to use a 'Hard' smooth group (25-42).

In some cases it may be desirable to have adjoining faces smoothed with certain neighbors, but not others. In these cases, you may use multiple groups in order to achieve the desired result. ProBuilder provides 24 smooth groups (all functionally the same, but only same number faces will smooth edges) and 18 hard groups.

## [12] Customizing ProBuilder 2.0

Also new in ProBuilder 2.0 is the ability to customize many of the tools features, visuals, and shortcuts. To open the ProBuilder Customization Panel, click on “Edit > Preferences”, in the Unity top menu, which will open the Editor Preferences window. Choose the “ProBuilder” tab, and you will be presented with the following options:



Edit as much as you like, and simply press “Use Defaults” if you would like to return to the standard configuration. We really hope everyone enjoys and uses this new feature, it should be very useful for those who want a specific keyboard layout, visuals, and workflow.

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*This documentation is still in-progress, so please post any questions, comments, or suggestions for improvement on the forum at: "[www.sixbysevenstudio.com/forum](http://www.sixbysevenstudio.com/forum)", or email to "[contact@sixbysevenstudio.com](mailto:contact@sixbysevenstudio.com)". **Thanks, and happy building!***