3DP Toolkit and Materials

There are many optional tools that make your prints a little easier, a little faster, or a little neater, especially if you are planning to post-process the model.

Smoke Alarm



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Ok, this isn’t really optional, but more of a reminder. 3D printers are machines. Machines have parts that can get very hot and can catch on fire. Ensure your smoke alarms have batteries and are in working order!

Safety Glasses



If you are sanding, pulling off supports, or cutting away bits and pieces off your model, chances are some piece of plastic will come for your eyeballs. Protect your eyeballs at all costs, you only have two and they’re pretty important!

Gloves

Leather gloves are excellent if you plan on handling the hot materials off the plate. I don’t do this often and it’s not needed for my daily workflow, but they’re nice to have on hand.

Vinyl or latex gloves are nice when working with acetone (to smooth the surface of prints) to protect your skin.

Paint Scraper



These little tools are great at peeling off your print from the print bed without tearing up your print. If you need a lot of force, I suggest pausing and bending the print plate gently to release the plastic, then using the scraper to pry the space open between the print bed and the printed object. You can damage the print plate if you exert too much force into the plate with any tool, so keep the scraper perpendicular to the print plate and gently apply force. Again, if you’re really

having to use a lot of effort, pause and either let the print cool down some more or gently bend the print plate itself to release the object.

Pliers



A good set of pliers, wire cutters, and side cutters are nice to have when you're prying supports off of a print, cutting pieces of filament away from the spool, or finishing the print for a smoother finish.

Hex Head Screwdrivers



Most of the screws and parts on the 3D printers themselves will use a hex screw, so you'll need a range of sizes to determine which one to use for disassembly and reassembly of parts on to your 3D printer. When you first purchase yours, it should come with some basic hex keys but if you're like me, you're going to lose them. A multitool like the one pictured works better for me.

Heat Gun



A heat gun is great for refining and finishing surfaces of prints, warming up the print bed for better adhesion of the print, and softening PLA for modification or manipulation. Be careful, they get extremely hot and should not be used unsupervised if you have small children. Let it fully cool down before storing.

Cleaning Agents

I use isopropyl alcohol (nothing fancy, 99% generic will work) and a microfiber cloth to clean the print bed between each print. This helps adhesion TREMENDOUSLY so don’t skip it!

Glue Sticks



When I first starting printing, I could not get my prints to stick to the print bed. I read that a lot of people use glue sticks and voila, it worked! Newer print beds have much better adhesion, and cleaning the print bed with soap and water followed by isopropyl alcohol is a better first step, but a good glue stick will help in a pinch.