

3D Design Software List

[AutoCAD](#)

A commercial computer-aided design and drafting software application. Developed and marketed by Autodesk, is used across a wide range of industries, by architects, projects managers, engineers, graphic designers, town planners and many other professionals.

Level: Mid-Professional

- Requires at least basic knowledge of 3D design and CAD procedures; not beginner friendly.

[Blender](#)

A professional, free and open-source 3D computer graphics software toolset used for creating animated films, visual effects, art, 3D printed models, interactive 3D applications and video games.

Level: Beginner - Professional

[Sketchup](#)

SketchUp, formerly Google Sketchup, is a 3D modeling computer program for a wide range of drawing applications such as architectural, interior design, landscape architecture, civil and mechanical engineering, film and video game design.

There are three versions available:

1. **SketchUp Free** – a free web-based application
2. **SketchUp Make** – a freeware application
3. **SketchUp Pro** – a paid version with additional functionality.

Level: Mid – Professional

- Can be used as an alternative to AutoCAD due to low to zero cost entry. More forgiving to the beginner learner.

[Adobe Photoshop](#)

Digital graphics and image editing software. It can edit and compose raster images in multiple layers and supports masks, alpha compositing and several color models i.e. RGB, CMYK, etc. With later editions, functionality is extended to 3D modeling and editing. Although, not as powerful as options listed above.

Level: Beginner - Mid

[Cura](#)

Cura is an open source 3D printer slicing application. It was created by David Braam who was later employed by Ultimaker, a 3D printer manufacturing company, to maintain the software. Cura allows you to prepare your 3D models by converting it to various file formats that are compatible with most 3D

printer models currently in the market, such as Ultimaker and MakerBot. Most commonly used in conjunction with Ultimaker 3D printers.

Level: Beginner friendly

[MakerBot Print](#)

MakerBot Print is a desktop application that allows you to prepare, manage, and monitor 3D prints. Similar functionality as Cura, with an added proprietary file format used only with MakerBot 3D printers.

- Prepare: import design files in native CAD and fine-tune their settings for optimal 3D printing.
- Manage: organize projects by auto arranging models across one or several build plates.

Level: Beginner friendly