Which 3D Printer is Best for my part?

Depending on the geometry of a part, its application, and its environment a particular 3D printer or material may be desirable to use due to its properties. While many different printers may work for a particular job, selecting the wrong printer may lead to drastically overpaying or overbuilding a part for its application. On the other hand using the wrong printer and material could lead to part warping due to moisture after instillation, or even print failure due to material geometry confliction. Selecting the right printer and material can go a long way to creating successful, long lasting parts.

Ultimaker

Default material: ABS (orange) & PVA (dissolvable)

Pros:

- Many material choices
    - ABS
    - PLA
    - PVA (dissolvable support)
    - nylon
    - CPE
    - Flexable
- Cheep and easy to run printer
- Easy to switch filaments
- Capable of creating large overhangs with less support filament (tree support)
- Highest chance of print failure

Cons:

- Requires post processing
- Susceptible to warping due to moisture

F270

Default material: ABS (blue) & SQR (support)

Pros:

- Quick easy printing resulting in fast turn around time
- Capable of printing the largest prints (305×254 mm)

Cons:

- Difficult to switch filament

Form 2

Default material: NA

Pros:

- Able to produce optically clear parts

Cons:

- Chance of print failure if positioned incorrectly

Objet

Default material: RGD450 & support

Pros:

- Able to produce smooth high quality surface finish (not on overhangs)
- Requires very little post processing
- Low chance of print failure

Cons:

- Highest material cost of all printers
- Slow printing time

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