Filament Maker



Version 2.1 - October 2023

English user guide for the Filament Maker

- Composer 350
- Composer 450
- Precision 350
- Precision 450



COMPANY INFO



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1. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

The manufacturer is not liable for any problems caused by the user's failure to observe these instructions. Read the instructions below and safe this document for future questions.

- Place the filament maker on a flat and stable surface.
- Do not use the machine if it is not compatible with the mains electricity in your country. Consult the sticker on the machine.
- Only lift if you are sure you are capable; the machine is heavy.
 Ask for help or use tools when moving.
- Use the filament maker in a ventilated area and preferable in a working temperature of 20 degrees Celsius. Area should not be too bright, the light could interfere with the optical sensor.
- Minimum age for use of the filament maker is age 18.
- Do NOT put your hands into the extrusion area when the filament maker is in use.
- Maintenance and repair by certified workers only. Please contact 3devo or reseller.
- The filament maker has been extensively tested, but if a failure occurs please contact us via support.3devo.com.

AWARNING

Make sure the filament maker is placed in a room with at least ten air changes per hour. It is also advised to use a fume hood or laminar flow cabinet.

∴WARNING

When polymers are heated, melted, and degraded in different ways volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are released into the air, thoughamounts can vary dramatically based on polymer composition, heating duration, maximum temperature, and other environmental factors. Current research associates VOCs with indoor air pollution which might lead to minor skin and eye irritations, respiratory distress and cancer.

Harmful materials such as hydrogen cyanide or styrene may be released when extruding certain plastics. In some cases it is unknown what the effects of some colorants and plasticizers during extrusion are.

Pay attention to the Materials Safety Data Sheet and the handling instructions of the materials you are using.

MARNING

Experimental use is at own risk. Some plastics may cause health hazards. Learn about the material you are using, before extruding them.

Do not set the temperature too high for the material, this can cause degradation and burning of the materials and the release of toxic gasses VOCs.

Do not set temperature too low for the material, when the temperature is too low the material will be too solid and might push the nozzle out of the machine.

Wear protective equipment (work gloves, safety glasses, protective clothing) when operating the filament maker, especially when working with new materials and when the door at the front is opened.

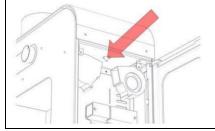
Do not leave the filament maker unattended. • Do not use materials in the filament maker that are not meant for extrusion. Only use materials when having extensive knowledge of material properties.

AWARNING

Do not set temperature too high for the material. When temperature is too high the material will turn into a liquid. This liquid can come out of the nozzle and might cause burns. When you go even higher the material will decompose and the extrusion process will not be able to be continued. Make sure you know the specific melting temperature and decomposition temperature of the material you are using.

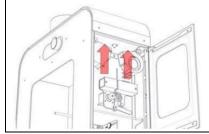
↑WARNING

Do not touch hot parts, as there is a potential risk of burns, the nozzle can reach a temperature up to 450 degrees Celsius. The remaining parts can reach a temperature of 100 degrees Celsius.



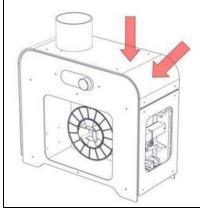
MARNING

This part of the chassis above the filament fans can be very hot, especially the nozzle cover during the extrusion process. Do not touch these parts while the filament maker is heated or extruding.



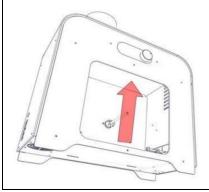
MARNING

The top of the hood is being cooled during the extrusion process by the filament fan at the back. However this still means that it can be hot and you should be careful touching it.



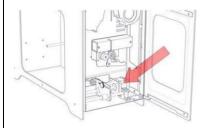
AWARNING

The top plate above the winder is located directly underneath the extrusion part of the machine, the barrel, screw and heaters. This part can become very hot during high temperature extrusion processes.



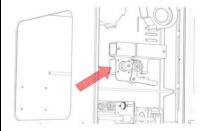
ACAUTION

The positioner stepper is a part that will be hot during the extrusion process. Avoid touching it.



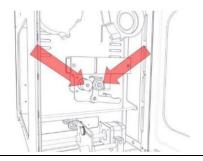
ACAUTION

The puller stepper is located behind the puller and mounted on the chassis. This stepper will definitely be hotter than the positioner stepper. Avoid touching it.



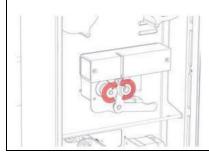
ACAUTION

The puller bearing and puller wheel will both directly get their heat from the filament and therefor can become hot and reach temperatures above 100 degrees Celsius. Do not touch these parts.



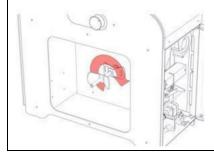
∆CAUTION

Do not touch moving parts.



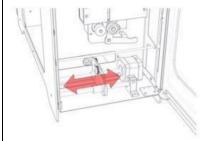
ACAUTION

Be aware of moving winder parts.



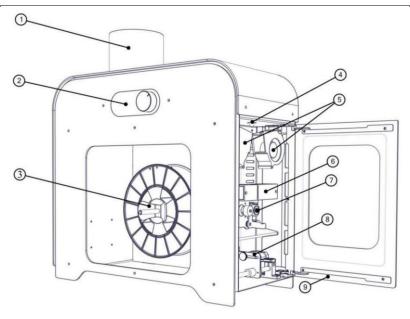
ACAUTION

Do not touch moving positioner parts.



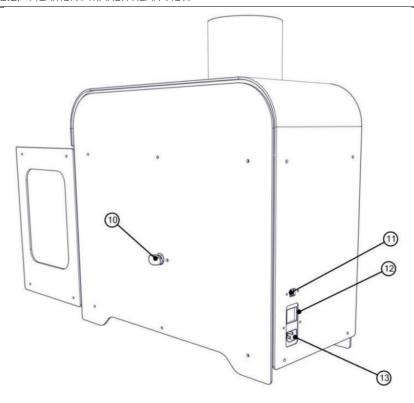
2. OVERVIEW

2.1. FILAMENT MAKER FRONT VIEW



- 1) Hopper
- 2) User interface
- 3) Spool holder
- 4) Filament nozzle
- 5) Filament cooling fans
- 6) Optical diameter sensor
- 7) Puller
- 8) Positioner
- 9) Door

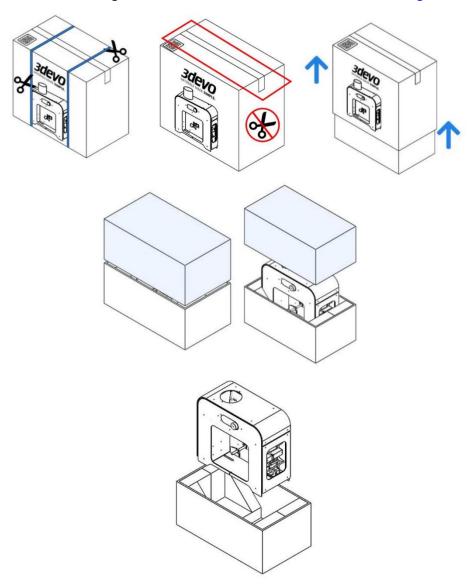
2.2. FILAMENT MAKER REAR VIEW



- 10) Winder slipper clutch
- 11) USB port
- 12) Power switch
- 13) Power socket

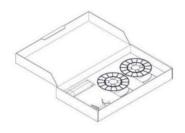
2.3. UNBOXING

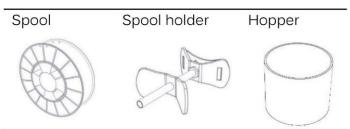
Follow the unboxing tutorial on our website: <u>www.3devo.com/fm-unboxing</u>.



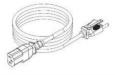
2.4. ACCESSORIES

Besides your filament maker you will find the Composer & Precision Series filament makers – accessory box. The box contains the items listed below.





power cable (type dependent on your country)



PLA Granulate Devoclean Standard
1200gram 350 gr.

2.5. QUICK START GUIDE

For the fast starters out there we have made a short and simple out of the box quick start guide. This is shipped in your Filament Maker accessory box, or you can download it from www.3devo.com/manuals.

2.6. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Туре	Composer 350	Composer 450	Precision 350	Precision 450	
Color	Silver powder coated aluminum		Black powder co	oated aluminum	
Weight	2	24kg	24	24kg	
Dimension with	506	L X 216 W X 540 H	MM [19.9 X 8.5 X 2	MM [19.9 X 8.5 X 21.3 IN]	
hopper					
Dimension	506	L X 216 W X 448 H	MM [19.9 X 8.5 X 1	7.6 IN]	
without hopper					
Operating	Up to 350°C	Up to 450°C	Up to 350°C	Up to 450°C	
temperature					
Extruder screw	ruder screw Hardened nitride steel with		Hardened nitride steel with		
	comp	ression	compression		
	zone + build in mixing section		zone		
Extrude	0,5 – 3,0 mm	[0.019" - 0.118"]	0,5 – 3,0 mm [0.019" – 0.118"]		
diameter					
Diameter sensor	43	micron	43 micron		
accuracy					
Tolerance	Tolerance 0.05 mm		0.05 mm		
Power	110 – 240 V, 50 – 60 Hz		110 – 240 V, 50 – 60 Hz		
Connectivity	ectivity USB, stand-alone filament		USB, stand-alone filament		
	extruder		extruder		
Build	2019		2019		



3. INSTALLATION

1) Place the Filament Maker on a flat and stable surface. Ensure the working station is free from liquids.



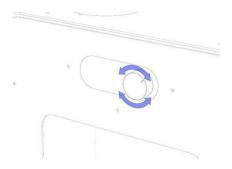
- 3) Make sure the power button is in the 'OFF' position and plug the power cable into the filament maker. Plug the other end of the cable in a grounded outlet.



4) Switch the power button in the ON position.

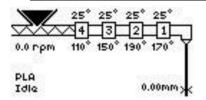
4. USER INTERFACE

The interface chapter explains the usage of the filament maker menu's and its options.



Switch on the filament maker and wait until the main screen appears. Control the filament maker by turning the button to navigate and press the button to select menu items or edit settings. To change a setting, rotate the button until your selection is highlighted. Push the button to select the value. Again rotate the button to edit the value. Once done, push the button to confirm the value.

4.1. STATUS SCREEN

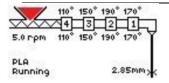


The status screen provides information about the extrusion process and the filament. The status screen information can be changed before and during the extrusion process, such as the hopper status(black triangle), the current temperature of the heaters, the set

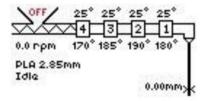
temperatures, the selected material type ('PLA'), extruder status ('Idle'), the extrusion speed in RPM and the average filament thickness.

 The manual is written with software version 1.1.3 in mind. Features, menu's or user texts may be slightly different when using newer or older software versions.

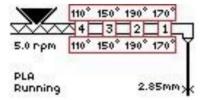
4.2. STATUS INDICATORS



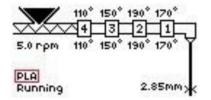
The highlighted area represents the hopper sensor activity. When granulate is inserted in the hopper, the sensor will detect its presence. This will be visible in the status screen, the hopper area will fill up. The sensor can only detect the presence of granulate, not the amount.



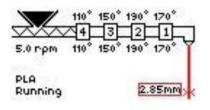
⚠ Caution: When the hopper sensor is disabled, the text in the hopper will be shown as 'OFF'. Keep in mind that the machine will continue without stop even if the hopper is empty all the way.



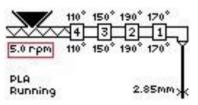
The highlighted area represents the band heaters. The Regular version has 3 heaters, the Advanced has 4 heaters. Each heater is shown separately. The set Celsius degrees are shown below the heater, the measured Celsius degrees are shown above the heater.



The highlighted area shows you what type of material you have selected to extrude.

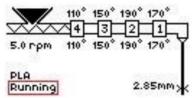


The highlighted area represents the filament diameter. The measured diameter is shown below in millimeters.



The highlighted area tells you the measured speed of the screw in rotations per minute.

4.3. STATUS TYPES



The highlighted area tells you the current status of the extruder. The following status types may occur during operation:

Status type	Information	
Idle	Initial startup state of the extruder	
Homing positioner	Resets the positioner to a known state before use.	
Heating	Heats up the barrel to the set temperatures after the positioner homing is completed	
Prepared	Only shown when the 'manual start' option is used. The extruder is on temperature and ready to start until the timeout of X minutes is reached.	
Running	The heaters have reached their set point, the extrude motor is started.	
Error	Only shown when an error has occurred before or during the extrusion process.	



4.4. MAIN MENU

Main menu

Start extrusion Settings Material presets Spooling About this machine To open the 'Main menu', press the button once when the status screen is visible and the main menu screen will appear. From here you can navigate through different settings.

When heating is done, start:

Automatically (recommended) Manually Back When choosing 'Start extrusion' a new menu will open. The menu is called 'When heating is done, start:' and has the options 'Automatically (recommended)' and 'Manually'.

4.5. START EXTRUSION AUTOMATICALLY (RECOMMENDED)

Automatic start gives the user the option to start the extruder automatically with the current material and extrusion settings. This is the recommended process of starting, since the extruder will not wait after the set points of the heaters has been reached. It automatically starts extruding whenever the extruder is ready. will be redirected to the status screen.

4.6. START EXTRUSION MANUALLY

Manual start gives the user the option to postpone the extrusion process until a certain time limit has been reached. The time limit is set by user and has a range between 1 and 10 minutes at maximum.

⚠ Caution: Manual starting is not recommended, since the quality of the stationary material in the barrel degrades over time. It may also happen that the material overheats and affects the material flow. The longer the material is on temperature in the barrel the longer it takes to stabilize the flow afterwards. Therefore this process is only recommended when cleaning the extruder of residual material in the barrel with cleaning material like DevoClean. Use of this functionality is at own risk! The manual start process starts with a warning message, for users who are unknown to the manual start process.

Set manual start timeout

After heating, the system will shutdown after this timeout to prevent damage.

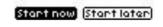


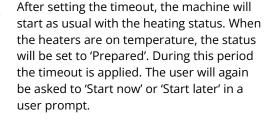
a new prompt will ask the user to input the timeout delay that will be used as safety measure after the heater temperatures has been reached. Rotate the navigation button to select the timeout and edit the timeout at will or continue by pressing 'Ok'.

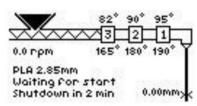
When the user acknowledges the warning,

Manual start - heating done

Heating is complete, the extrusion process can be started.







Extruding will be started directly when start now is used. With the start later the user will be returned to the status screen, while showing a timeout countdown during this period. See picture 'Waiting for start status screen'. Within the set timeout period it is possible to go to the main menu and press the 'Start extrusion' to start extruding or 'Stop extrusion' to cancel the manual start process and return to the Idle state.

Manual start - timeout reached

The manual start timeout was reached. To prevent problems, the system was shut down.



When the extruder is not started within the set timeout period, the extruder will be stopped and set to its Idle state. The user will receive a message prompt regarding the timeout being reached as shown above.

4.7. SETTINGS

Settings .	
Heater 1	180°
Heater 2	190°
Heater 3	185°
Heater 4	170°
Extruder speed	5.0RPM
Filament Fan speed	70%
Filament diameter	2.85mm
Empty spool diameter	105mm
Full spool diameter	200mm
Spool width	45.0mm
Positioner right	5.0mm
Spooling speed	Automatic
Hopper empty check	on
Reset to defaults	
Apply	
Cancel	

In the settings menu you can apply your own settings, reset to defaults and enable or disable the hopper sensor check. After choosing 'Apply', the machine will save these settings until you edit and apply new settings or until choosing a new material. Scroll down in this screen for all options. The 'Cancel' button restores the settings to the state before entering the menu and the main menu will be shown.

Please note, we have included default settings for the first use.

The list below is summary of the settings functionality:

Setting name	Information	
Heater [n]	The heater setpoints of the active material profile are the default settings of the heaters. In the settings menu the user can edit the temperature temporary without editing the selected material profile.	
Extruder speed	Screw rotation speed in RPM	
Filament fan speed	Filament cooling fans, speed in percentage.	
Filament diameter	Filament extrusion diameter in millimetres.	
Empty spool diameter, full spool diameter, spool width and positioner right	Spooling related settings, see spooling - running chapter.	
Spooling speed (toggle)	Automatic for calculated winding and Manual for fixed positioner and winder speed. Automatic is recommended as settings.	
Hopper empty check	Hopper sensor enabled when 'on', sensor disabled when 'off' is applied.	

4.8. MATERIAL PRESETS

Material presets

PLA 2.85mm PLA 1.75mm ABS 2.85mm ABS 1.75mm PA12 2.85mm PA12 1.75mm Create new Back When choosing 'Material presets' this screen will appear. Here you can choose your material. Some material presets are built-in, but this list also shows custom materials you have added. From here you can also create a new custom preset. Custom materials can be deleted by selecting 'Delete', built-in materials cannot be deleted. Built-in materials can be

modified, but can only be save as a new custom material. After choosing a material you can 'Load' or 'Modify' the material in the following screen. When choosing 'Load', you will return to the main menu. The type of material displayed on the status screen will have '(modified)' behind it, when material preset related settings are different from the standard material preset. This occurs, for example, when the temperature settings are edited in the settings menu.

Please note these settings won't be automatically saved as custom.

Material: PLA

Harar Iai. Fan	400000
Heater 1	170°
Heater 2	190°
Heater 3	150°
Heater 4	110°
Extruder speed	5.0RPM
Fan speed	75%
Filament diameter	2.85mm
Save as CUSTOM2	
Cancel	

When choosing 'Modify' on a built-in preset material, this screen will appear which gives you the option to modify different settings. When you have changed the settings to meet your needs, you can save the settings as a 'custom preset'. Choose 'Save as CUSTOM#'.

Material: CUSTOM1

Heater 1	170°
Heater 2	190°
Heater 3	150°
Heater 4	110°
Extruder speed	5.0RPM
Fan speed	75%
Filament diameter	2.85mm
Overwrite CUSTOM1	
Save as CUSTOM2	
Cancel	

When choosing 'Modify' on a custom material, you will also be able to adjust the settings. After making adjustments you can save these as a new CUSTOM# or you can overwrite the old settings by choosing Overwrite CUSTOM#. Scroll down this screen for all options.

After choosing and/or modifying your settings you may start the extrusion process by choosing 'Start extrusion' in the Main menu. Material pre-sets can also be loaded during the extrusion process.

4.9. SPOOLING - IDLE



The spooling menu is only used as status menu at the moment the extruder is not running. When the user has made a spool using the spooling wizard before, the spooling menu will still show the data from that time. It

is also possible to change the positioner settings when the machine is not yet running in the 'Positioner settings' menu. More regarding the spooling settings in the 'Spooling – running section in chapter 8.10.

Note that if the machine has not been started with 'Start extruding', it will home the positioner first before continuing with the selected preview position.

4.10. ABOUT THIS MACHINE

Information about the extruder, mostly useful for support and maintenance of the extruder. The information shown are as following:

Setting name	Information	
Serial	The serial number given to the extruder at 3devo.	
	This is the same serial number on the sticker	
	filament maker to the power switch of the filament	
	maker.	
Production date	Extruder assembly date.	
Software version	The software version of the software which is	
	installed by the manufacturer or user.	
Motor hours	Amount of running state hours.	
More details (button)	Opens the hardware version section of the 'About	
	this machine' menu.	
EEPROM version	EEPROM settings version	
Factory info version	Extruder hardware version	
Devoboard version	Main board version	
Interfaceboard version	Display board version	

4.11. RUNNING MENU

Main menu	
Stop extrusion	
Settings	
Material presets	
Speed tuning	
Spooling	
About this machine	
Back	

The Main menu has extra options available while the machine is running. Summarized these options are; Stop extruding, Modify settings, use the 'Speed tuning' menu to edit the puller speed and start spooling. The following chapters explains more about the menu's while the extruder is in the running state.



4.12. SPEED TUNING

Speed tuning	
Measured diameter:	2.85mm
Start puller	19.000
Puller speed:	Automatic
Bock	

The speed tuning menu gives the possibility to the user to actively edit the puller rotation speed while the extruder is extruding. The current 'measured diameter' shows the measured filament thickness, which is the

same value as shown on the status screen. The user also has the possibility to start or stop the puller at will.

Keep in mind that when the puller stops, the filament is still extruded and might build up all the way up to the nozzle.

At default the puller settings is set to 'Automatic' puller speed. The puller control will calculate the optimum puller speed of the measured filament thickness and will adjust the speed according to the set filament thickness. This process typically takes a few minutes to adjust to a stable puller speed. If the filament sensor cannot measure the filament thickness, because it needed correcting by user or instability of the filament thickness, then the puller control will hold the puller speed value equally. This may sometimes not be feasible when starting with the extrusion process. If you experience trouble applying the filament between the puller wheels, because the puller control moves too slowly or too fast, then it is possible to set the puller speed setting temporary to 'Manual'. This way the user can edit the rotation speed of the puller to a workable speed, placing the filament between the puller wheels and return the puller speed to automatic again.

When tuning the puller speed manually, the changes are effective instantly.

4.13. SPOOLING MENU - RUNNING

Spooling	
» Filament length:	15m
» Filament volume:	121cm3
Start spooling	
Positioner settings	
Advanced	
Back	

In this chapter the spooling menu settings will be explained, the 'Start spooling' option, which starts the 'Spooling wizard', will be explained in the 'Start extruding' chapter. The 'positioner settings' are settings related to the used size of the spool. The calculations used for spooling

The 'Advanced' menu under the 'Spooling'

menu, contains options useful while spooling.

are dependent on the measurements of the spool itself. Measure the sizes using a calliper or other tool and change the settings of the 'Empty spool diameter', 'Full spool diameter', 'Spool width' and the offset distance of the positioner end-switch to the beginning of the spool as 'Right position'. Because of the precision, input the lengths in millimetres. The 'Empty spool diameter' and 'Full spool diameter' settings are available in the settings menu. It is possible to do this step without calliper, by using the 'Preview positions' options. This moves the positioner to the locations set using the width settings.

Note that if the machine has not been started with 'Start extruding', it will home the positioner first before continuing with the selected preview position.

Advanced spooling

Start positioner Start winder Start winder & positioner Reset spool Move positioner ** to left of spool

» to right of spool Back

It is possible to start or stop both the winder and positioner manually. When a spool is full, the user is also able to manually stop the motors while replacing the spool and move

Do not forget to use the 'Reset spool' option when replacing the spool, since the extruder assumes that the old spool is still getting filled. The winder and positioner speed will continue to be reduced otherwise. Pressing the reset spool option returns the winder and positioner speed to the initial speed. The recommended way of replacing the spool is to make use of the spooling wizard once again after pressing 'Stop spooling'.

4.14. SOFTWARE ERRORS

This section describes the most general errors, which could occur during the extrusion process. If none of the steps below seems to concern your extruder's situation. For additional questions, please contact us via support.3devo.com.

Error name	Information
"The external supply voltage	This occurs when only the USB-cable is
is too low or absent."	connected or none at all. Please turn on the
	mains electricity of the extruder with the 'On'
	button on the back and check the power
	cable.
"Reset signal received."	This message is shown when the
	USBconnection is opened on the PC. This
	reset is necessary for us to upgrade the
	firmware.
"Extruder motor too hot."	This occurs when the extruder motor has run
	to hot due to too much friction generated by
	the screw or extruding for a very long period
	with high RPM settings.
"Extruder motor current	This occurs due to too much friction
limit reached."	generated by the screw. The temperature
	settings might not be correct.
"Positioner endstop hit	End-stop hit by user or with the positioner.
unexpectedly."	
"Hopper is empty for too	This occurs when the hopper sensor detects a
long."	low amount of granulate in the hopper.



5. FILLING THE HOPPER

- Step 1) Place the tube on the hopper.
- Step 2) Insert the granulate into the hopper. The hopper icon should now be active on the main screen.

Do not use granules larger than 4.5 mm.





6. MATERIALS

The extruder design is developed to handle almost any plastic that is compatible with your FDM 3D-printer. The extrusion heating system is able to extrude materials up to 350/450 degrees Celsius, depending on your model. And with the added mixing screw, you can get improved mixed plastic compounds.

6.1. WHAT MATERIALS NOT TO USE?

Some materials are not fit for extrusion and 3D-printing. Extruding plastics that release poisonous gasses when heated for example PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) is ill advised. Before extruding any kind of material with the filament maker, find out if the material is safe for use. Materials with a high hardness (for example metals, fibers and ceramics) or melting temperature higher than 450 Degrees Celsius must always be extruded mixed with plastics, and can never be processed in its pure form. Materials with a high hardness and/or melting temperature need to be extruded with care, extruding these materials with the filament maker might cause excessive wear to the extruder and can shorten the lifespan significantly.

6.2. MORE INFORMATION OR MATERIAL REQUESTS

On our webshop we offer a variety of base materials that can be used with your filament maker: https://www.3devo.com/shop.

6.3. STANDARD SET MATERIALS

Pre-programmed in the filament maker firmware we have set several material indicational presets, which can be used as an indication for fine tuning your own material of choice.

Material presets on the filament maker: PLA, ABS, PA12, PC, PEEK and PS.

(Firmware version 1.1.3 – August 2017)

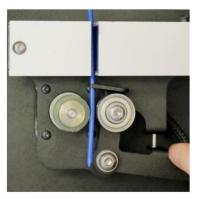
For the latest Firmware version and an overview of the latest added material preset: www.3devo.com/fm-firmware

You can also add your own material settings through the user interface (CUSTOM #).

7. EXTRUSION INSTRUCTIONS



Let it run for a couple minutes until it works properly. The filament is ready to be wound on the spool when the measured value of the optical sensor is the same as the set value.



Place the filament between the puller wheels – when the filament is not too warm any more. In case of being too warm; this will warn off the puller wheels and will not show a stable filament diameter thickness.



Let it run for a couple minutes until it works properly. The filament is ready to be wound on the spool when the measured value of the optical sensor is the same as the set value.



While waiting, prepare the spool on the spool holder.



Place spool holder on winder by sliding the metal rod into the tube.

Press the button on the status screen, select Spooling in the Main menu > Start Spooling and follow the steps shown on the display of the filament maker. When the set diameter is reached, cut filament below puller. While guiding the filament through the filament maker following the screen instructions, fasten the filament on the spool.





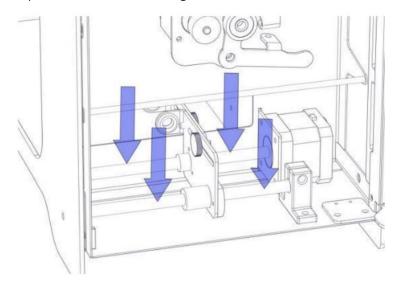


To install the slipper clutch, mount the spool on the winder and make sure the magnets attach properly.

When the machine is on, turn the slipper clutch knob until the clutch tightens and the spool starts turning. Adjust the traction as needed by turning the knob. How to do this? See the instruction video: www.3devo.com/fm-clutch.

8. MAINTENANCE

To keep the positioner moving smoothly, apply some sewing machine oil on the trapezium wire and the linear guide as seen in the areas shown above.



8.1. COMMON SPARE PARTS

All our commonly used spare parts, such as the puller wheels and nozzle package, can be found in our webshop: https://www.3devo.com/shop.

Use cleaning filament to clean the machine when you are done with extruding or to switch material types. Other maintenance should only be performed by a certified worker. For machine servicing requests and additional questions, please contact us via support.3devo.com.

9. SOFTWARE

Our software is continually being developed and improved.

Firmware updates are available on our website: https://support.3devo.com/filament-maker.

The DevoVision software, can be installed via: https://www.3devo.com/devovision.

The DevoVision software information, manuals and guides required to analyze extrusion results can be found here: www.3devo.com/fm-devovision.

The DevoVision license information, can be found here: www.3devo.com/fm-devovision.

10. TROUBLESHOOTING

An overview of the problems that are most likely to occur in the beginning and/or are good to know before experimenting: www.3devo.com/fm-troubleshooting.

For additional information on your machine or any other issue, please consult our support platform: support.3devo.com.

If the support page is not able to provide a solution then please contact us via our support platform: support.3devo.com.



11. TRANSPORTATION

Keep the original packaging. When the machine is shipped back to 3devo for service or maintenance the machine should be packed in the same way as how it arrived.

For additional questions, please contact <u>support.3devo.com</u>.



12. NOTES

3devo

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www.3devo.com support.3devo.com