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DIYELECTRONICS PRESENTS: CHANGING YOUR 3D PRINTER FILAMENT

We at DIYElectronics are eager to share our knowledge. We hope these guides will allow you to get the most out of your 3D Printers and electronics.



The first step to changing your filament is to heat up the hotend. To do this you will need to navigate to the temperature setting or equivelant for your 3D Printer. It is important to remember that different filaments will have a different range that they operate at. You will need to set the correct temperature depending on your filament. PLA is usually 200°C and ABS is 240°C. The temperature range is usually printed on the spool or on the packaging the filament comes in.

SQUEEZE THE EXTRUDER

Once the hotend has reached the required temperature it is time to purge some of the filament. To do this you first need to squeeze the extruder arms together. This will allow you to manually push through the filament. You shouldn't need to use much force when feeding the filament through.

PURGE SOME FILAMENT

Once you have started purging the filament you will need to check that it is coming out of the nozzle. Doing this allows you to see if there is any blockage or possible issues that would prevent you from removing the filament cleanly. Purging some of the filament also makes it much easier to remove the filament as the end of the filament will be softer. Purging a couple of centimetres of filament will be enough.

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REMOVE THE FILAMENT & CHECK

After purging the filament you need to squeeze the extruder arms together like you did in the second step. Pull out the filament at a consistent pace. You should not have to use too much force to remove the filament. Once you have removed the filament it is a good practice to check the end to make sure it is fairly smooth and there is no debris filament stuck to it. If you see anything that shouldn't be stuck to the end of the filament then it might be worth cleaning the hotend.

PREPARE THE NEW FILAMENT

Now that you have removed the old filament it's time to prepare the new filament. To make it easier to feed the filament into the extruder and hotend you should clip the end of the filament at an angle. If your filament has a curve to it then we recommend straightening out the end to make it align easier with the extruder holes.

PURGE THE NEW FILAMENT

The final step is to feed and purge the new filament. Squeeze the extruder arm like you have done before and feed the filament all the way through to the hotend. Once the filament has started to come through the nozzle you need to check that the new colour is coming through properly. This is due to a small amount of the previous filament being left behind. Continue to purge the filament until it is only the new colour coming through. Once it is only the new colour you are ready to print.

Please note: This guide is based on the Creality version of Marlin firmware. Some printers will have updated interfaces or different processes. Newer printers often have a function that automatically purges and retracts the filament for you.