Setting up your First Print With CURA

Begin by logging into the computer, opening CURA from the start menu, and selecting Lulzbot Taz 4 or 5 > Stock Taz 5 > 3.5mm filament > Finish. Once the build window opens, you should see some basic settings on the left and a “Rocktopus” on the build plate. Click the Rocktopus and hit delete on the keyboard. Then, drag and drop an .STL version (often exported from Solidworks) of your part into the CURA window. You can move the part around the build plate by clicking and dragging. The three buttons at the bottom left of the screen will allow you to rotate, scale, and mirror your part. If you’d like to print multiple parts at once, simply follow the above steps to add them to the build plate. As a last step click “lay flat” to make sure your part evenly contacts the build plate.

Settings

CURA gives you two options for handling the settings: Quick Print, and Expert. The program defaults to quick print mode, which gives you basic settings. If this is your first time, you might want to start here. **Make sure HIPS is selected as the build material, and then move on to the control window.**

If you want more control, go to the menu bar > Expert > Switch to full settings > OK. This gives you control over everything from shell thickness and infill to travel speed. **Make sure HIPS is selected and the Extruder and Bed temperatures are set. Check out the box to the right for standard settings.** Too much? Simply click Expert > Switch to quickprint to go back.

The Control Window

To open the control window, click . The control window allows you to control the printer in real time.

**Before you click print, set the temperatures according to the standard settings above, and wait for the bed and extruder to reach that temp (it’ll show up on the graph).** When the bed and extruder are at the right temperature, click print. Keep an eye on the printer to make sure your print starts ok, and then let it run until your print is done!