



Freedom to design

Gibbard initially began his quest using folded aluminum to create the prosthetics, but once he bought a LulzBot AO-101, and was later given a TAZ 2.0 as a donation from LulzBot, he was able to rapidly prototype and get the hands to a state where he could demonstrate them.

“I was able to produce plastic parts that are strong and durable,” Gibbard said. “By varying the fill density of the parts, I can experiment between weight and strength to find what will best suit my application, which has made my designs neater and safer. My LulzBot gave me the freedom to design much more intricate objects with a repeatable process. Without my LulzBot 3D printer, I would never have been able to accomplish my goals, and the development would have taken too long and been too expensive.”

Reaching a broad audience

With his prototyped samples, Gibbard created so much buzz in the crowdfunding world that he was able to raise the funds he needed to complete his project. More than 1,000 people contributed to his Indiegogo campaign. And he credits LulzBot for a lot of his success.

“Leading prosthetics can cost up to \$100,000. With 3D printing, we can cut that down to under \$1,000. That’s two orders of magnitude cheaper and means that these devices can reach a far broader audience. The LulzBot solution has saved me tens of thousands of dollars, which has meant far more efficient development and much higher productivity.”

Open Hand Project At a Glance

www.openhandproject.org

Industry

Prosthetics

3D printing application

Rapid prototyping

Key challenges

High cost and weight of current prosthetics

Key benefits

The high speed and low cost of development

3D printing software tool chain

Blender>Netfab studio>Slic3r>Pronterface

Material(s) used to print

ABS

Operating system/computer system:

Windows 7

For more information on 3D printers, parts, and plastics,

+1-970-377-1111 | sales@lulzbot.com

626 West 66th Street, Loveland, Colorado 80538 USA

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