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About Shapeways

Shapeways is the leading 3D printing marketplace and community, empowering designers to bring amazing products to life. By giving anyone the ability to quickly and affordably turn ideas from digital designs into real products, Shapeways is fundamentally changing how products are made and by whom.

Through Shapeways, designers gain access to the best industrial 3D printing technology, capable of manufacturing products with complex designs in a wide range of high-quality materials. 3D printing turns raw materials into original products, from wedding rings to rocketships, model trains to iPhone cases, and prototypes to industrial engineering parts. The Shapeways community can sell their products, share ideas, and get feedback from creative consumers and other designers around the world.

Headquartered in New York, Shapeways also has factories and offices in Eindhoven, NL, Queens, NY, and Seattle. Shapeways is a spin-out of the lifestyle incubator of Royal Philips Electronics, and our investors include Union Square Ventures, Index Ventures, Lux Capital, and Andreessen Horowitz.

How It Works for Designers

1. Upload your 3D design to Shapeways.com.
2. Select the material in which you'd like to 3D print – Shapeways offers 40 materials and finishes, including ceramic, plastics, and metals such as 14 carat gold, sterling silver, steel and bronze.
3. The designs are reviewed by our 3D print engineering team to ensure that they are viable for 3D printing. Once confirmed, the design is sent to a 3D printer.
4. 3D printers build products one layer at a time, slowly building up to the final product.
5. This process can take anywhere from hours to days depending on the size and complexity of the design. The industrial machines we use can build thousands of parts at the same time, enabling scale.
6. Once complete, products are removed from the printer and cleaned.
7. Printed products may be polished or dyed depending on the material and order.
8. The finished product is packaged by Shapeways and shipped directly to the creator or shopper!

How It Works for Shoppers

1. Find a product you love.
2. Select your favorite material for the product.
3. Complete your purchase. You'll be supporting an individual designer.
4. Shapeways 3D prints the product just for you.
5. Receive and enjoy your new 3D printed product!





Key Stats and Figures

16,000+

shops on the marketplace

400,000+

Shapeways community members

120,000+

unique designs are uploaded every month

120,000+

products are 3D printed and shipped every month

40 materials

and finishes offered, including 14k gold, sterling silver, brass and stainless steel, ceramic and plastic

119 countries

represent Shapeways global customers

10 employees

prepare each 3D printed product by hand

140 employees

in New York City, Eindhoven, and Seattle



Shapeways Story

Shapeways was founded in 2007 by Peter Weijmarshausen, Marleen Vogelaar, and Robert Schouwenburg in the lifestyle incubator of Royal Philips Electronics in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. At the time, 3D printing was prohibitively expensive and used primarily for rapid prototyping, not for creating real, finished products. Many people were using 3D software but were not able to hold their designs in their hands – they even thought it was impossible.

Shapeways.com launched in 2008 to make the impossible possible, and started to 3D print products, not just prototypes. In 2010, Shapeways spun out of Philips and moved headquarters to New York City.