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# High Quality Press Coverage



## How 3-D Printing Figures To Turn Web Worlds Real

By ROBERT A. GUTH  
December 12, 2007; Page B1

Last year, Alias was just a videogame character known for stabbing monsters in the back. Today the bald-headed rogue has come to life on a bookshelf near Seattle as a four-inch-tall figurine with emerald dagger in hand.

Bringing such fantasy characters to life is possible thanks to the technology of 3-D printers, which turn two-dimensional images into three-dimensional objects. The statuette is the work of a start-up called FigurePrints LLC, which is featured in this business this week. The company was founded by a former Microsoft Corp. executive who is taking advantage of the 3-D printing industry to populate the world with troll and other fantastical creatures from the online game World of Warcraft.



Richard Brown Photography

World of Warcraft figure made with a 3-D printer.

The 3-D technology comes with software and specialized copier-size machines that are as easy to use as a tool akin to a set of high-end 3-D printers. Following a 3-D design, the printer's nozzles squirt layers of a porcelain-like object.

For 20 years, 3-D printing has been used in labs and research



## 3-D PRINTING for the Rest of Us

Costs of rapid-prototyping technology are plummeting, opening new opportunities for crafty entrepreneurs.  
BY CHRIS MORRISON

**A** WEEK MORNINGS, 11:15 A.M. Dark and mostly silent in the Klock Works Custom Cycles shop (kustomcycles.com) in Athol, S.D. The only sound is the low hum emanating from a box that looks like a cross between a dormitory fridge and a Xerox machine. Behind a counter

of clear glass, the device—a Stratasys F120 3-D printer—is constructing a complex shape, all curves and spaces, out of plastic.

What he arrives at his stop in the morning, Brian Klock steeled ever to the printer and pops upon the glass compartment. Carefully backing away the support, he pulls out a perfectly curved

## The New York Times

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EDITORIAL

## Science Fiction Sneaks Up

Published: May 9, 2007

Make your own spatula or SpongeBob key ring. That is the promise of the 3-D printers that may soon be gracing your kitchen or family room.

Instead of using ink, they layer, layer by layer, the powder melted into place to create three-dimensional objects. It's so logical that you can now "3-D print" a Star Trek replicator.

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