

# ProstoCAD — Quick Start

Version 0.12.0 · free parametric CAD for 3D printing, on the FreeCAD 1.1.3 engine

The program's menus and buttons are in English; this guide gives their names as you see them on the screen.

## 1 Install

### macOS (Apple Silicon, macOS 13 or newer)

1. Open the DMG and drag ProstoCAD.app onto Applications.
2. First launch: macOS cannot verify the app. Click **Done** (not Move to Trash).
3. System Settings ▶ Privacy & Security ▶ **Open Anyway**, confirm with your password. Needed only once.

### Windows 10 / 11 (x64) — Portable

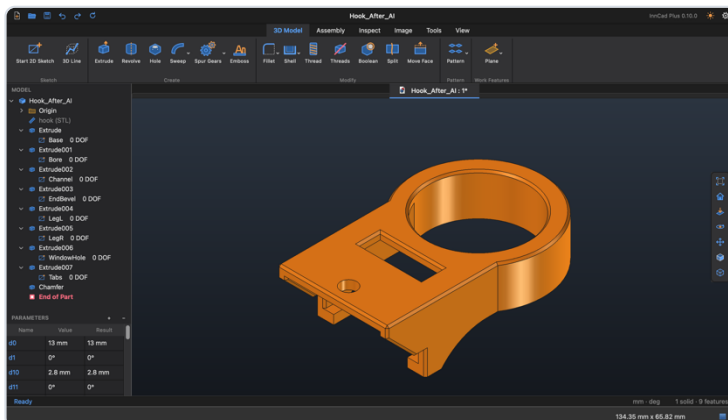
1. No installation needed: unzip the ZIP to a short path with Latin letters only, for example C:\ProstoCAD.
2. Run **ProstoCAD.exe**.
3. "Windows protected your PC"? Click **More info** ▶ **Run anyway**.

No FreeCAD to install: the engine is inside. Downloads: [github.com/lgr11/ProstoCAD-releases/releases/latest](https://github.com/lgr11/ProstoCAD-releases/releases/latest)

## 2 First start

ProstoCAD asks what to make: **Part** (one part) or **Assembly** (part files placed and constrained), and the units: **Millimeters** or **Inches**. Click **Create**. With **Remember my choice** it does not ask again.

## 3 The window



The ribbon on top (tabs **3D Model**, **Inspect**, **Tools**, **View**); the **Model Browser** on the left with the part's history down to **End of Part**; **Parameters** below it — every dimension by name, formulas allowed; the status line at the bottom: tips in blue, errors in red.

## 4 Mouse

|                   |                                                                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Left click        | Select; ⇧ or ⌘ (Ctrl on Windows) adds to the selection                     |
| Left + right drag | Orbit around the point under the cursor                                    |
| Middle drag       | Pan                                                                        |
| Wheel             | Zoom at the cursor                                                         |
| Right click       | Marking menu; a quick right drag runs its command in that direction        |
| Double click      | In the browser: edit that feature or sketch; in a sketch: edit a dimension |

No middle button? **Orbit** and **Pan** on the strip at the right edge of the view.

## 5 Your first part in five steps

1. Press **S** (**Start 2D Sketch**) and click **XY · Top**.
2. Press **R** (**Rectangle**) and click two corners.
3. Press **D** (**Dimension**), click a side, type **40** and press Enter; the other side **20**.
4. **Finish Sketch** (or **Esc**).
5. Press **E** (**Extrude**), set **Distance** to **10 mm**, **OK**. Then **Fillet** on a few edges.

Every step is a row in the **Model Browser**: double-click it to change it. Undo is ⌘Z (Ctrl+Z on Windows).

## 6 Try next

### A photo at its true size

**Image ▶ Insert Image**, then **Scale**: two points and one real length. **Horizontal** / **Vertical** levels a crooked photo.

### Real threads

**3D Model ▶ Modify ▶ Thread** on a round face. **Print-friendly** has flat crests; **Print clearance** of any size (0.2 mm by default) lets printed parts screw together. **Custom**: your own pitch, angle and depth — for jars and lids.

### An STL back into a part

**Tools ▶ Files ▶ Import** the STL, then **Mesh Section** or **Smooth** — or let your AI rebuild it.

### Your AI in ProstoCAD

Install Claude Code, Codex or Gemini CLI, then **Tools ▶ AI ▶ Connect AI**. Tell it what you want, in your words.

### 3D lines

**3D Model ▶ Sketch ▶ 3D Line**: pick points on a virtual cube, on any layer — a path for **Sweep** and **Loft**.

### Too big for the printer

Draw the cut line (a dovetail, for example) in a sketch, **Split ▶ Keep all**, then **Make Assembly**: the pieces become an assembly at once, each a part to print. A second line with **Offset** gives any clearance (delete the strip between).

## 7 Print it

**File ▶ Export**: **STL** for your slicer (the **STL Precision** slider sets how fine) or **STEP** for other CAD programs. The files stay plain FreeCAD .FCStd.

## 8 Help

- The full manual (English, Russian) explains every tool; chapter 10 has tips for 3D printing.
- Something wrong? **⚙ ▶ Show Log File** shows the log; send it with what you did:  
[github.com/lgr11/ProstoCAD/issues](https://github.com/lgr11/ProstoCAD/issues)

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ProstoCAD is made by one person. Wishes, bug reports and requests are welcome — please forgive me in advance if fixing a bug or making a wish come true takes a while.