Makerbot File Setup

Step 1) Export your model from Google Sketchup or Rhino. Rhino is the preferred method for building a 3D model. Export as an .obj or .stl file. Remember where you save this file at

Step 2) If you haven’t already, download and install Makerbot Desktop. It is not on the lab computers, but it is free software that you can install on your own laptop.

Step 3) Open Makerbot Desktop. You should see an interface like what is shown in the image below.
Step 4) Click the *Prepare* tab.

Step 5) Click the *Add File* button.
Step 6) Navigate, find, and open your .stl or .obj file.

Step 7) Once your object is loaded, you now need to center it and make sure that it is on the build plate.
   - Select your object. When you click it, it will be highlighted in yellow.
   - Then double click the Move button on the left side of the screen.
   - Finally, click both On Platform and Center.

Note: The other options on the left side of the screen include: View, Rotate, and Scale. They all have double click options as well and only work if your model object is selected.
Step 8) Select the *Settings* button.
Step 9) Set up settings.
- For most models, you will want to turn Raft on. This helps the plastic stick to the build plate of the 3D printer. The raft is made in a way that it pops off after your model is complete.
- If you have a model with overhangs, you must turn on Support.
- Infill defaults to 10%. The inside of your model will be made up of a honeycomb structure to save material. If you want a solid model, set infill to be 100%. For most models, 10-20% is sufficient.
- Set Extruder Temperature to 230°C.
- Do not change Layer Height or Number of Shells.
Step 10) Set the device to the correct machine.
   - Devices ➔ Select Type of Device ➔ Replicator (5th Generation)

Step 11) Click Export Print File.
Step 12) Click *Export Now*.  

Step 13) Save exported file to a flash drive. Take the flash drive to the Annex Laser Cutting Lab.