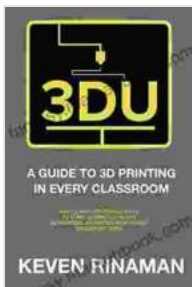# Simple and Affordable Ways to Start 3D Printing in Any Classroom, No Matter What

3D printing is becoming increasingly popular in education, and for good reason. It's a versatile technology that can be used to create a wide range of objects, from models and prototypes to toys and tools. And, thanks to the availability of affordable 3D printers, it's now possible to start 3D printing in any classroom, no matter what your budget.

In this article, we'll discuss some simple and affordable ways to get started with 3D printing in your classroom.

3DU: A Guide to 3D Printing in Every Classroom: Simple and Affordable Ways to Start 3D Printing in ANY Classroom, No Matter What Grade or Content Area!

by Susan Isaacs

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
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1. Choose the right 3D printer

The first step is to choose the right 3D printer for your classroom. There are a wide range of 3D printers available on the market, so it's important to do your research and find one that meets your needs and budget.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when choosing a 3D printer:

- **Print quality:** The print quality of a 3D printer is determined by the resolution of the printer, which is measured in microns. A higher resolution will produce a smoother, more detailed print.

- **Print speed:** The print speed of a 3D printer is determined by the speed at which the printer can extrude material. A faster print speed will allow you to create objects more quickly.

- **Build volume:** The build volume of a 3D printer is the size of the objects that it can print. A larger build volume will allow you to print larger objects.

- **Price:** 3D printers range in price from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. It's important to set a budget before you start shopping for a 3D printer.

Once you've considered these factors, you can start shopping for a 3D printer. Here are a few of the most popular and affordable 3D printers on the market:

- Creality Ender 3

- Anycubic Vyper

- FlashForge Finder

- Monoprice Select Mini

- Prusa i3 MK3S

2. Get the right software

Once you have a 3D printer, you'll need to get the right software in order to design and print objects. There are a wide range of software programs available, so you can choose one that meets your needs and budget.

Here are a few of the most popular 3D modeling software programs:

- Tinkercad

- Blender

- Autodesk Fusion 360

- SolidWorks

- CATIA

Once you have chosen a 3D modeling software program, you can start designing your own objects. You can also find a wide range of 3D models online that you can download and print.

3. Find a place to print

If you don't have a 3D printer in your classroom, you can find a number of places to print your objects. Here are a few options:

- **Local library:** Many public libraries now have 3D printers that you can use for free.

- **Local makerspace:** Makerspaces are community-based workshops that often have 3D printers that you can use.
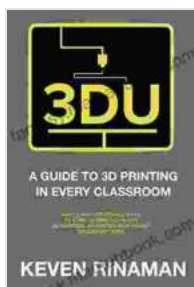
- **Online 3D printing services:** There are a number of online 3D printing services that will print your objects for you and ship them to your door.

4. Get started printing

Once you have chosen a 3D printer, software, and printing location, you're ready to start printing! Here are a few tips to get you started:

- **Read the instructions:** Before you start printing, read the instructions for your 3D printer carefully.

- **Level the bed:** The bed of your 3D printer needs to be level in order to print properly.

- **Load the filament:** The filament is the material that your 3D printer will use to print objects.

- **Start printing:** Once you have loaded the filament, you can start printing your object.

3D printing is a great way to bring creativity and innovation into your classroom. With a little planning, you can get started with 3D printing in your classroom today.

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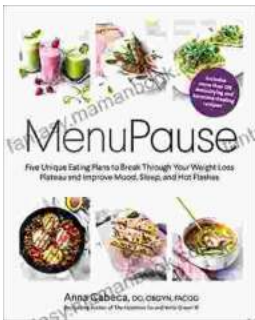
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