

SHAPEWAYS × *Fillauer*

MANUFACTURING PROSTHETIC FEET



Fillauer Composites is a revolutionary prosthetics company designing and manufacturing prosthetic feet. All of the brand's carbon fiber materials are produced in Fillauer's facility in Salt Lake City. Fillauer was recommended Shapeways by one of their vendors and thought it would be an ideal addition to their manufacturing process. Since then, Fillauer Composites has utilized Shapeways to further their business in an efficient, cost effective way.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CHOOSING SHAPEWAYS OVER MORE TRADITIONAL MANUFACTURING METHODS?

3D printing has grown to be an invaluable tool for our prototyping

process. The speed and cost advantages for low-quantity parts are staggering when compared to traditional manufacturing methods.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING SHAPEWAYS OVER OTHER 3D PRINTING METHODS SUCH AS DESKTOP PRINTING?

Because of the size of our company (<25 people), our engineering staff is always busy with a wide variety of tasks. It is helpful to be able to offload the 3D printing process to a third party. Also, the materials we commonly use aren't commonly offered in desktop machines, [at least] to my knowledge.

WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON MATERIAL YOU PRINT WITH AND WHY?

We mostly use nylon. Many of the parts we order are end use and need to have the best strength

"SHAPEWAYS HAS BEEN THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE [3D PRINTING VENDOR] WHILE PRODUCING CONSISTENT, RELIABLY HIGH-QUALITY PARTS."

characteristics possible. Most of the parts we've bought are used to create production molds for our parts. The parts need to have high strength, be rigid, and be stable under temperature change. Nylon has worked reasonably well in that application.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TRAIT OF A 3D PRINT THAT IS CREATED FOR YOU BY SHAPEWAYS?

For most of our applications, I would say that dimensional accuracy and strength are of greatest and equal importance.

