

MUSICAL BOX SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Awards

70th Annual Meeting

Rockville, Maryland

Friday August 30

2019

Unsung Hero Award

Selected by the Vice President to honor those who have worked quietly behind the scenes, often at the Chapter level, and who deserve to be recognized for their outstanding dedication to the Society's mission and goals.

Knowles Little

MBSI Member since 1995

Authored Articles in Mechanical Music

Designed and built Regina MIDI Player

Presented two convention workshops

Co-Chair with Ginny - National Capital Chapter

Co-Chair with Ginny - 2011 Annual Meeting

Designed Sousa table favor for 2011

Several music box restoration projects

Developed NCC web page

MBSI Web Secretary since 2014



Gave Regina MIDI Player Workshop



<https://mbsi.org/video/reversible-midi-conversions-for-mechanical-musical-instruments/>



Knowles Little



Q. David Bowers Literary Award

This award is given for outstanding literary contributions to the field of automatic music.

Terry Smythe

A. Sax.

Corn. / 1
Tpts. / 2

Beginnings

- Terry fell in love with a player piano at a party in 1968
- Purchased a still-functioning upright player piano and later that year, a Duo-Art grand piano
- Needed help restoring the player piano
- Learned about MBSI and AMICA from the periodicals index at his local library
- Joined both MBSI and AMICA in 1971 through Ginny Billings

Personal Collection of Instruments Over Time

Pianos

New Scale Williams upright player

1930 Mason & Risch 6 ft Duo-Art grand

1929 Fischer (former Ampico) with a
Pianocorder

Instruments Cont.

Music boxes:

Nicole Freres 10-tune cylinder box

Kalliope upright disk box



Instruments Cont.

Nickelodeons and orchestrions:

Cremona Style 3

Cremona Style G

Seeburg KT



Research Documentation:

- Established AMICA's first web site about 1989 and began to build an on-line research library
- Digitized a full set of AMICA Bulletins and added them
- Scanned the Welte book (pdf)
- Digitized the entire set of 600+ Music Trades (pdf)
- Currently digitizing Emmett Ford's collection of news items about recording artists, pianos, etc.
- Currently digitizing the huge collection of photocopied roll catalogues from Ed Sprankle via John Motto-Ros

Current Research Library

AMICA's on-line research library has expanded to include more than 5000 items

ranging from single page advertisements to complete books

Books

Terry did the layout using QuarkXpress for the book “Violin-Playing Machines” authored by Q. David Bowers and published by AMICA

The Violin-Playing Machines

Hupfeld Phonoliszt-Violina Mills Violano-Virtuoso

A Study and Appreciation



Q. David Bowers

Foreword and Technical Editing

Arthur A. Reblitz

Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association
www.amica.org

Books Cont.

The Encyclopedia of Disc Music Boxes 1881-1920

A History, Catalog Raisonné, and Appreciation



by Q. David Bowers

Foreword by Steve Bozhek

Published by the Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association
www.amica.org

Similarly Terry did the layout for the book “Encyclopedia of Disc Music Boxes”

Books Cont.

Terry did the layout for the book “Encyclopedia of American Organettes” also authored by Q. David Bowers and published by AMICA

The
Encyclopedia
of
American Organettes
1870s-1910s

A History, Catalog Raisonné, and Appreciation

Q. David Bowers



AUTOMATIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION

www.amica.org

Books Cont.

**The Reblitz-Bowers Encyclopedia
of
American Coin-Operated Pianos and Orchestrions
and Related Instruments**

•
Arthur A. Reblitz
Q. David Bowers
•

Foreword by Fred Dahlinger, Jr.



AUTOMATIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENT COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION
(www.amica.org)

Art Reblitz and Q. David Bowers are collaborating on a new book, “American Coin-Operated Pianos and Orchestrions and Related Instruments”. Terry is using Adobe InDesign to do the layout and AMICA will publish it later this year.

Books Cont.

It should be noted that the manuscripts of all the books referenced above have been donated and Terry is also donating his time to keep the cost to purchasers as low as possible.

Terry's Suggestions for the Future

- Digitize as much existing material as possible
- Make the information widely available
- The various Societies and Associations should collaborate on such endeavors so that we collectively

**preserve a unique slice of our
musical heritage**



Terry Smythe

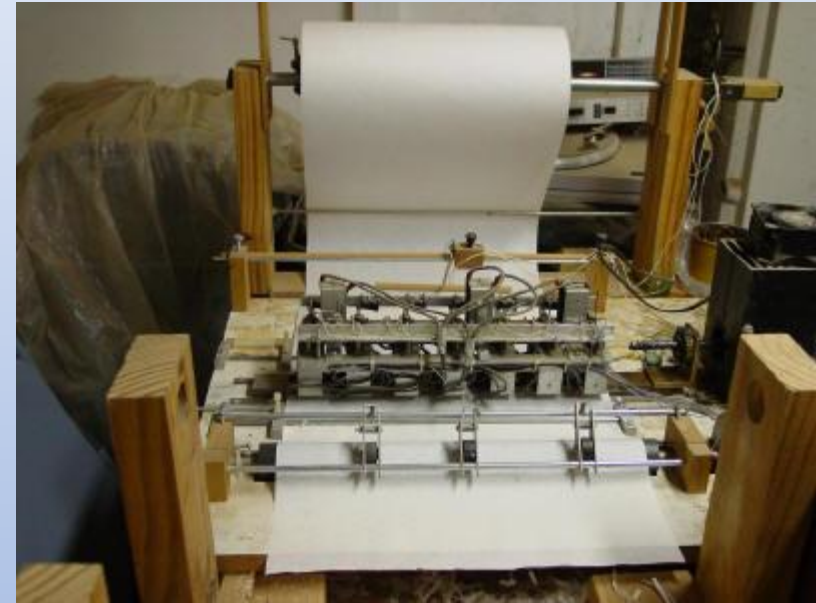


Darlene Mirijanian Award

This award is given for creativity in the field of mechanical music, to stimulate and encourage interest in producing new items of interest.

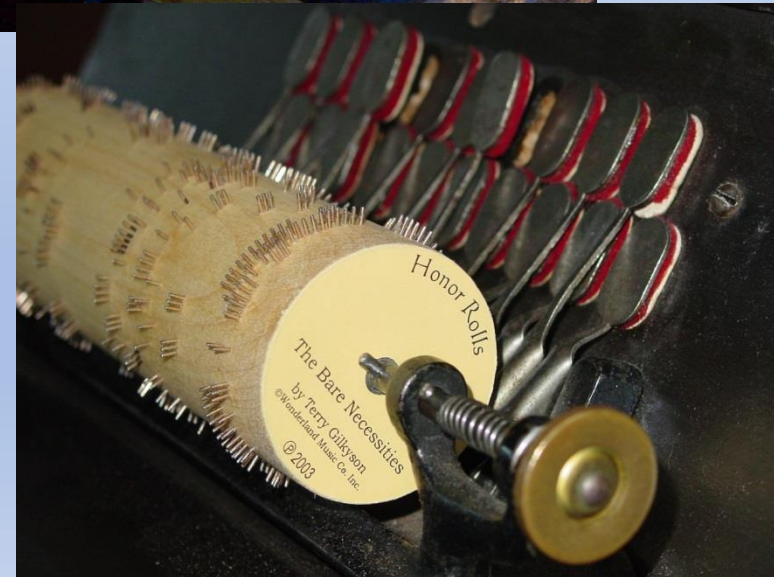
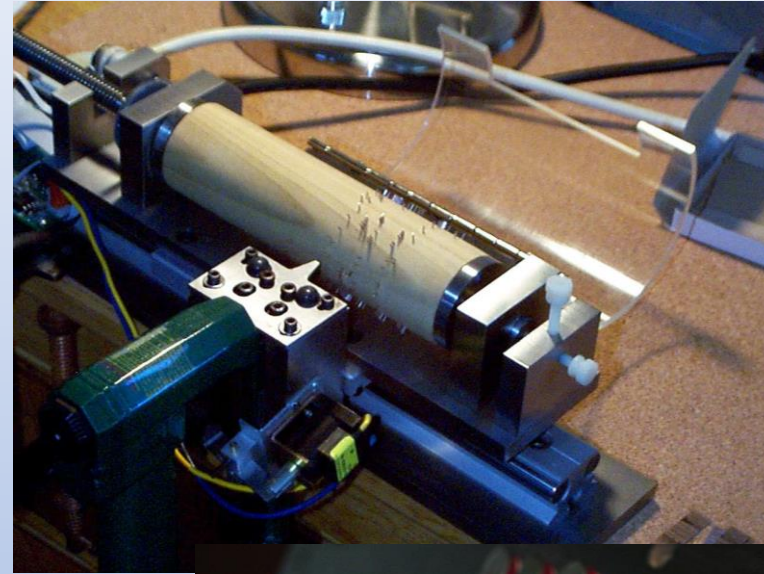
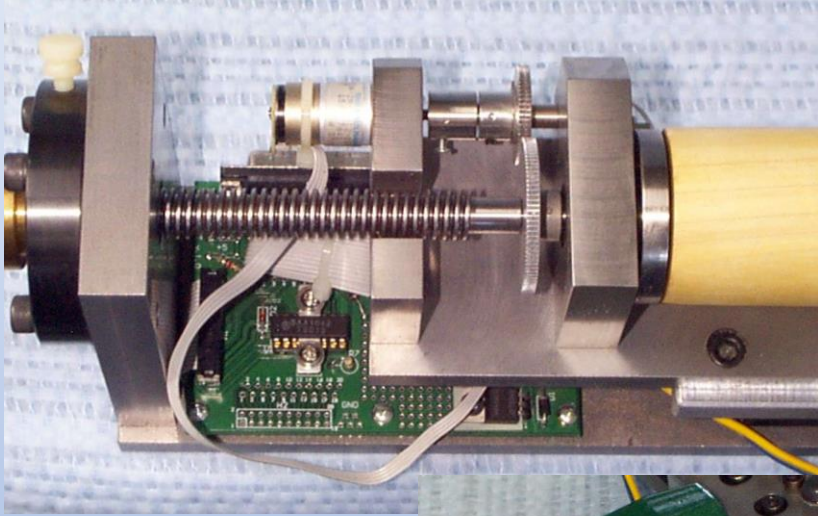
Charlie Moore

- Interest in organettes began about 1984
- Built a crude paper punching machine from spare parts

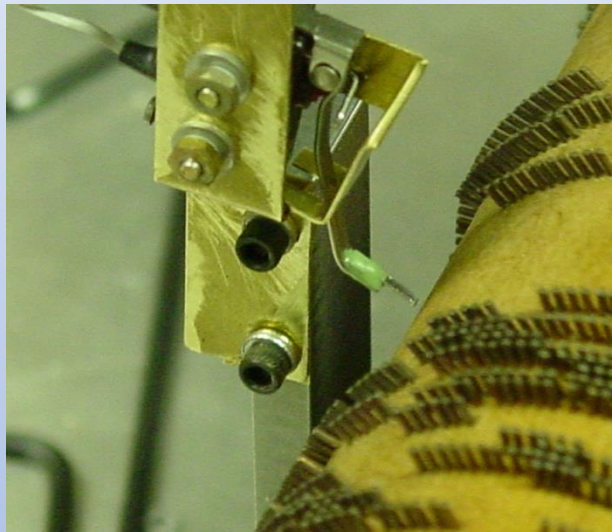


- In 1995 Charlie and his father obtained two machines and other tools developed by Carl Semon for manually indexing, copying and pinning both 20 note Gem and 32 note Grand Roller Organ cobs

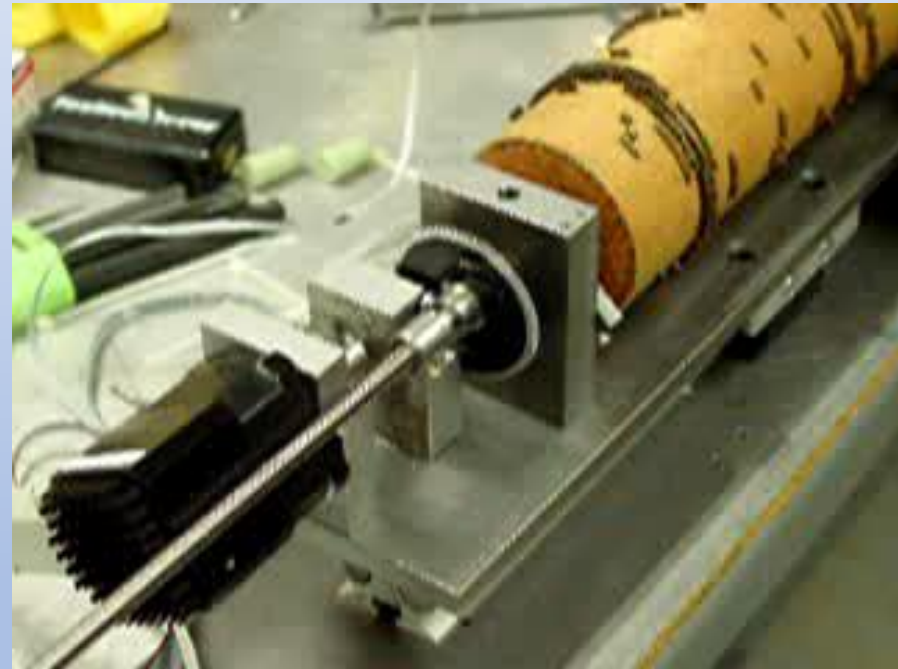
Original Gem pinning machine



Digitizing an original Grand cob



Microswitch to read
pin run positions and
length

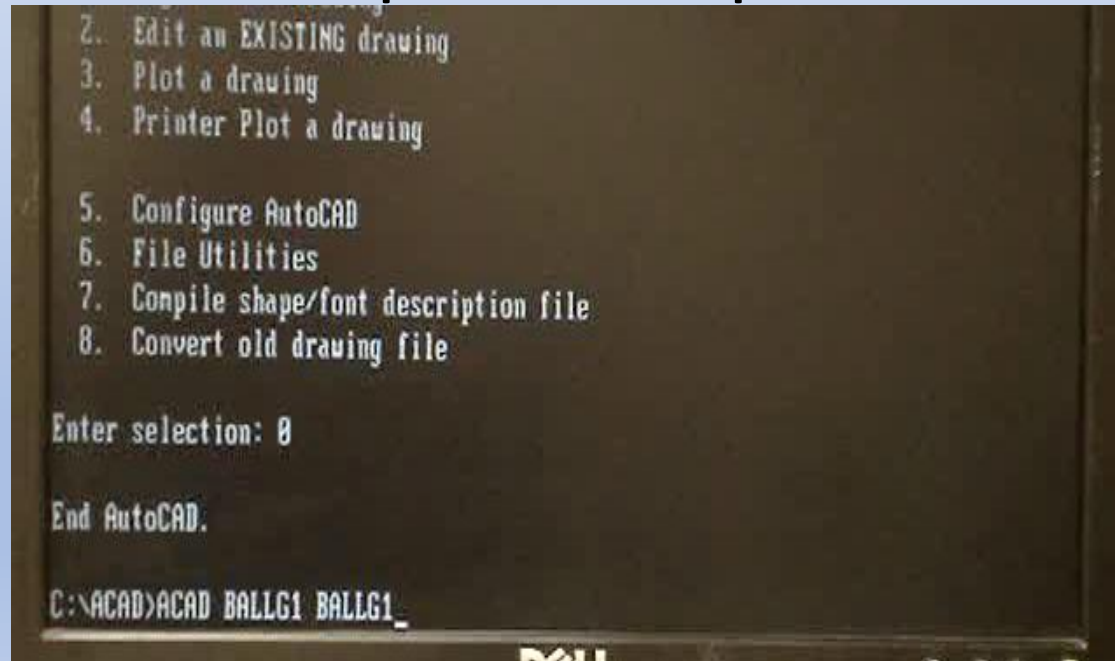


Musical arrangement library

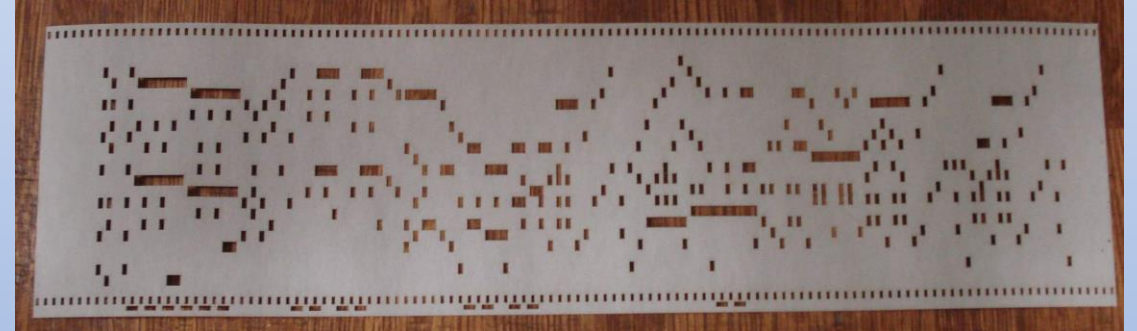
- About 1000 out of approximately 1300 original Gem cob arrangements have been scanned
- The scanned data can be used for making reproductions
- They can also be used to create midi files available on the “cobography” web site (cobs.rollerorgans.com) developed by Todd Augsburg.

Brian Walter helped digitize 22 and 32 note Autophone strips, 200 out of about 350 so far

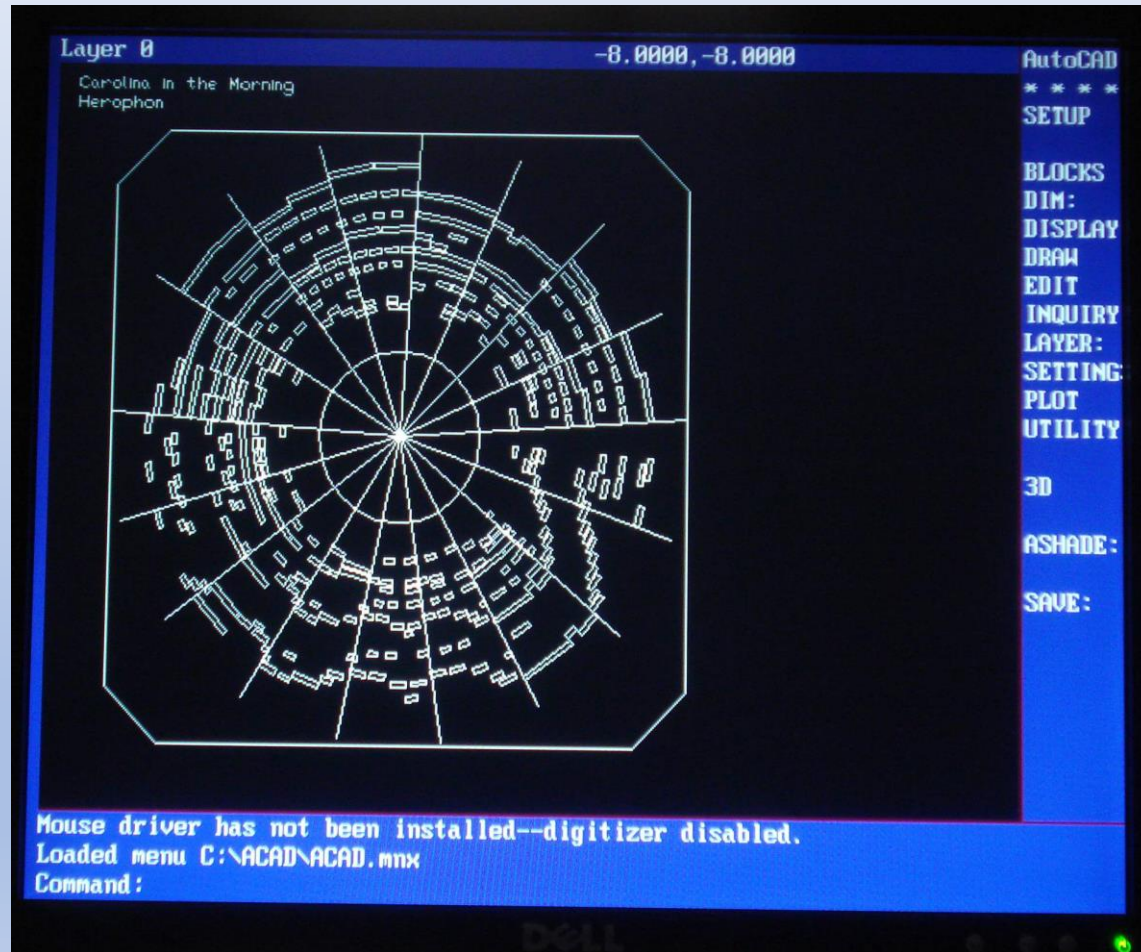
AutoCad drawing software generating a drawing of a 22 note Autophone strip



Laser cut 22 note Autophone strip "Take me out to the Ball Game"



An AutoCad drawing of a Herophon disk “Carolina in the Morning”



Printed this one out and Charlie's father, Walter, used it as a template to cut the disk using one of Carl Semon's punching jigs

Video of a new laser cut Orchestrionette loop playing



Reproduction parts for organettes made by Charlie over the years



Replacement keys for
Grand Roller Organ



Knob and formed brass washer
for Concert Roller Organ



Accurate reproduction crank handles
for Gem and Concert Roller Organs
and other Organettes

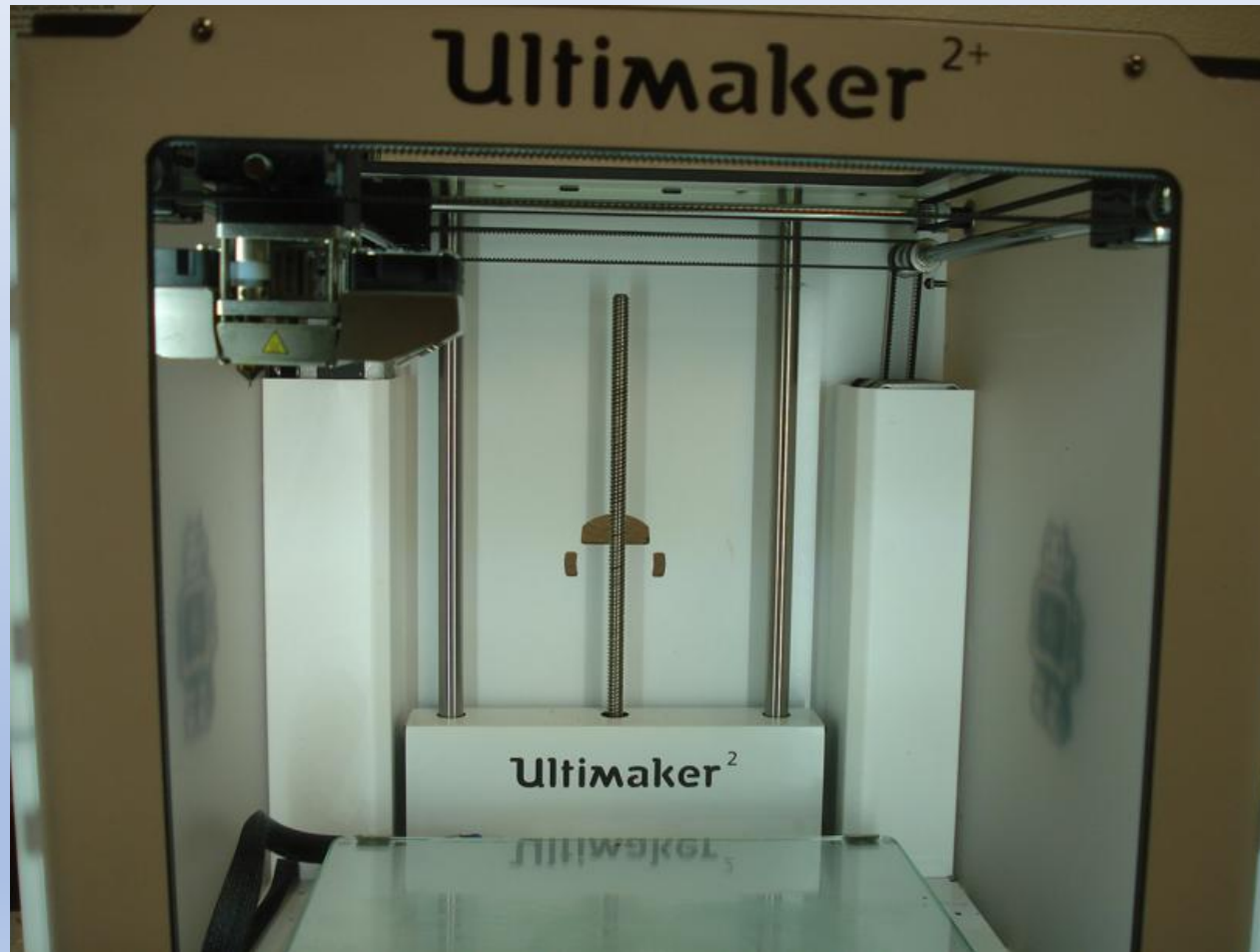
3D Printing

Can cobs be made using a 3D printer?

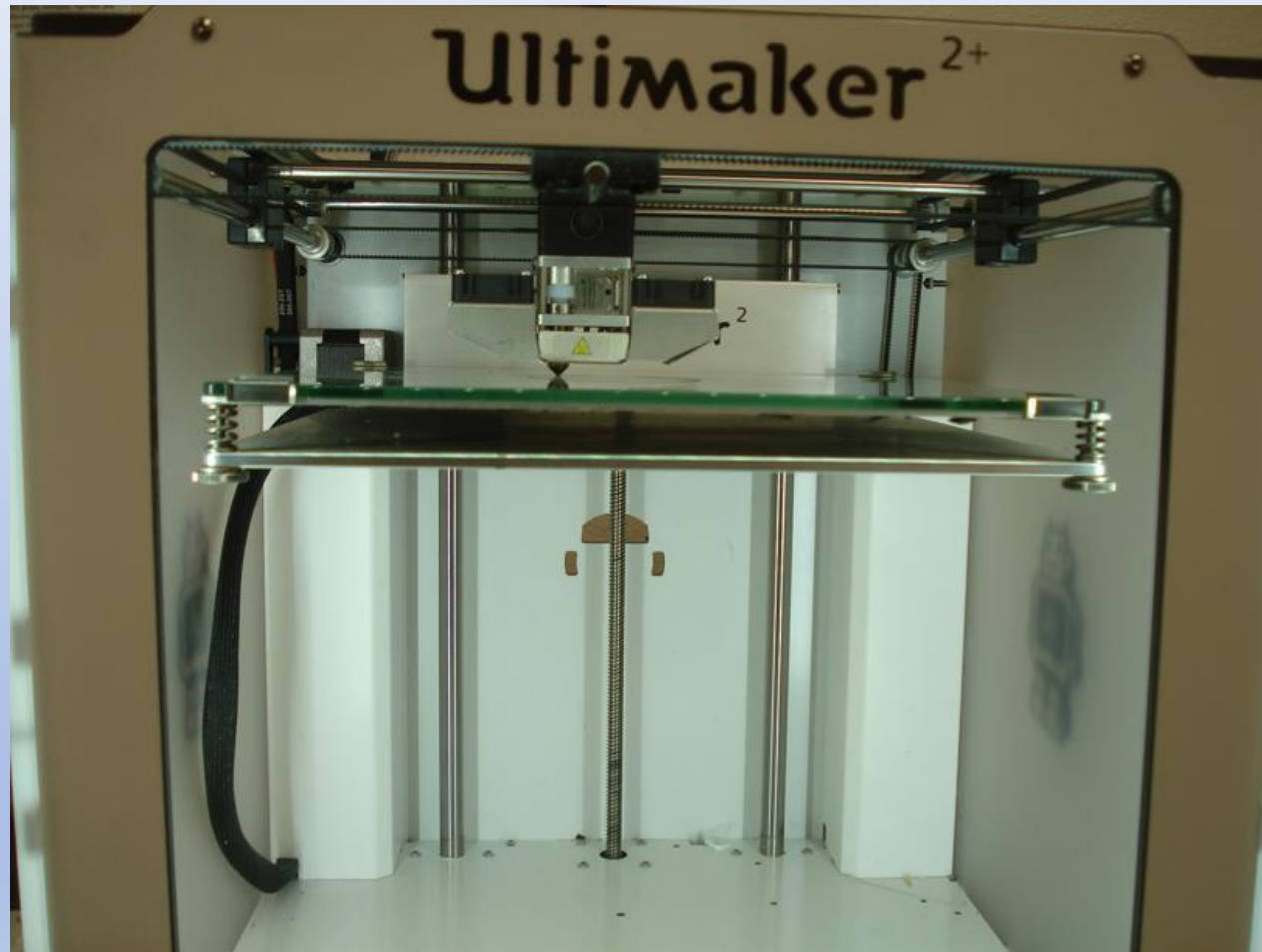
Yes, if you:

- 1) create another software program to read pin location files
- 2) convert that to a 3D script file that plots the pin runs on the correct spiral path
- 3) learn how to pass commands from text format to the 3D AutoCad program to draw an extended object following a defined path
- 4) start the printer
- 5) wait up to 12 hours for the final result

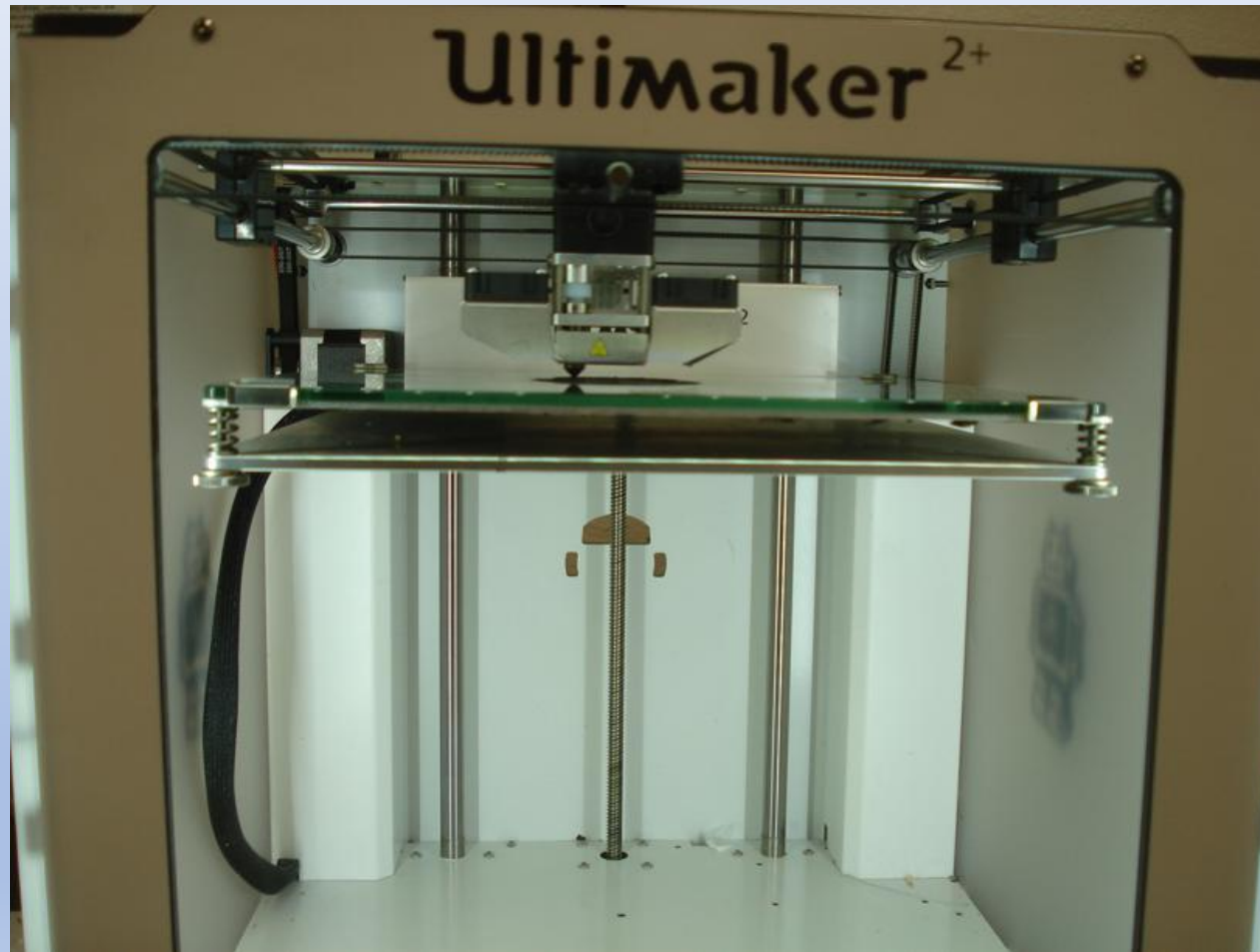
3D Printing a Gem Cob



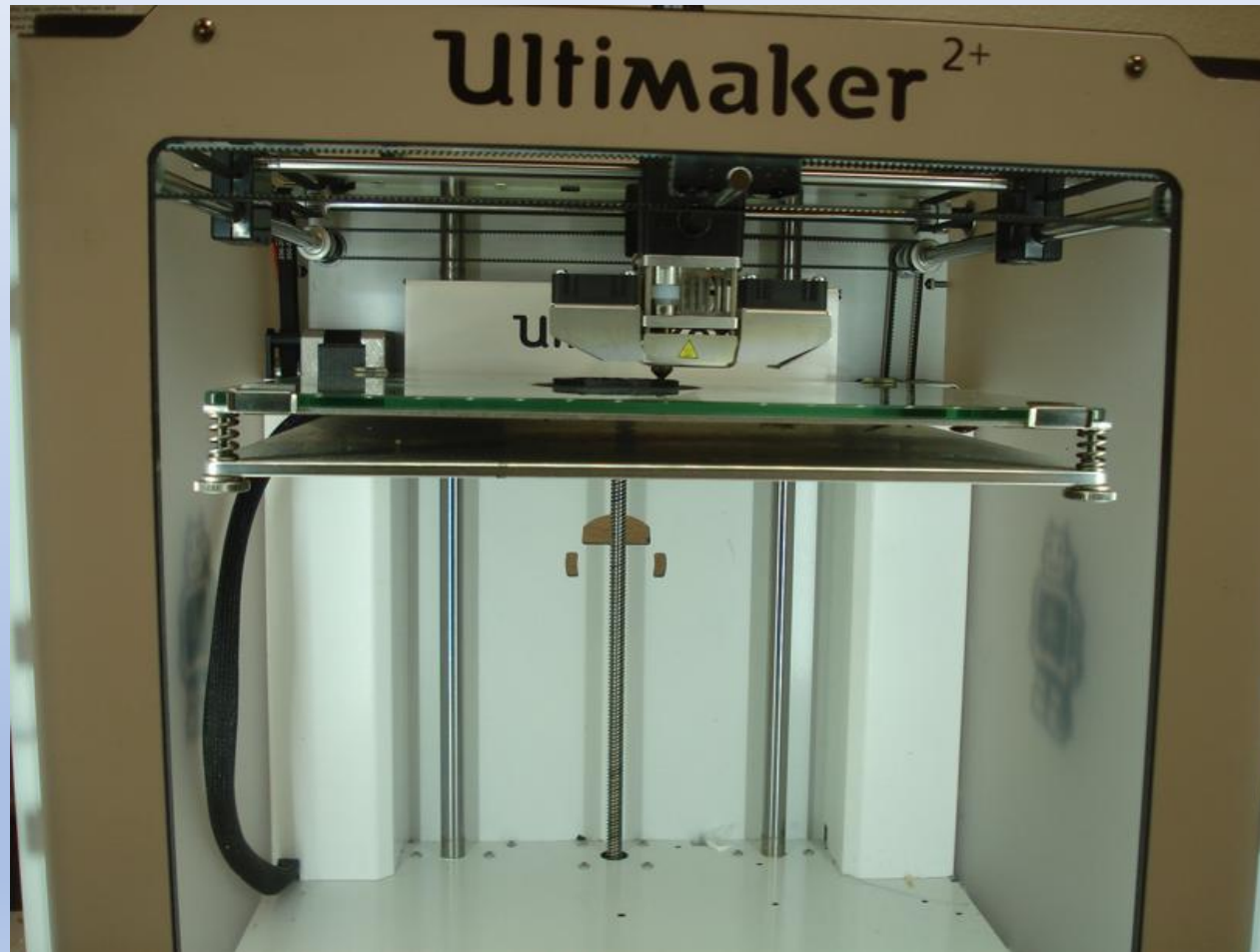
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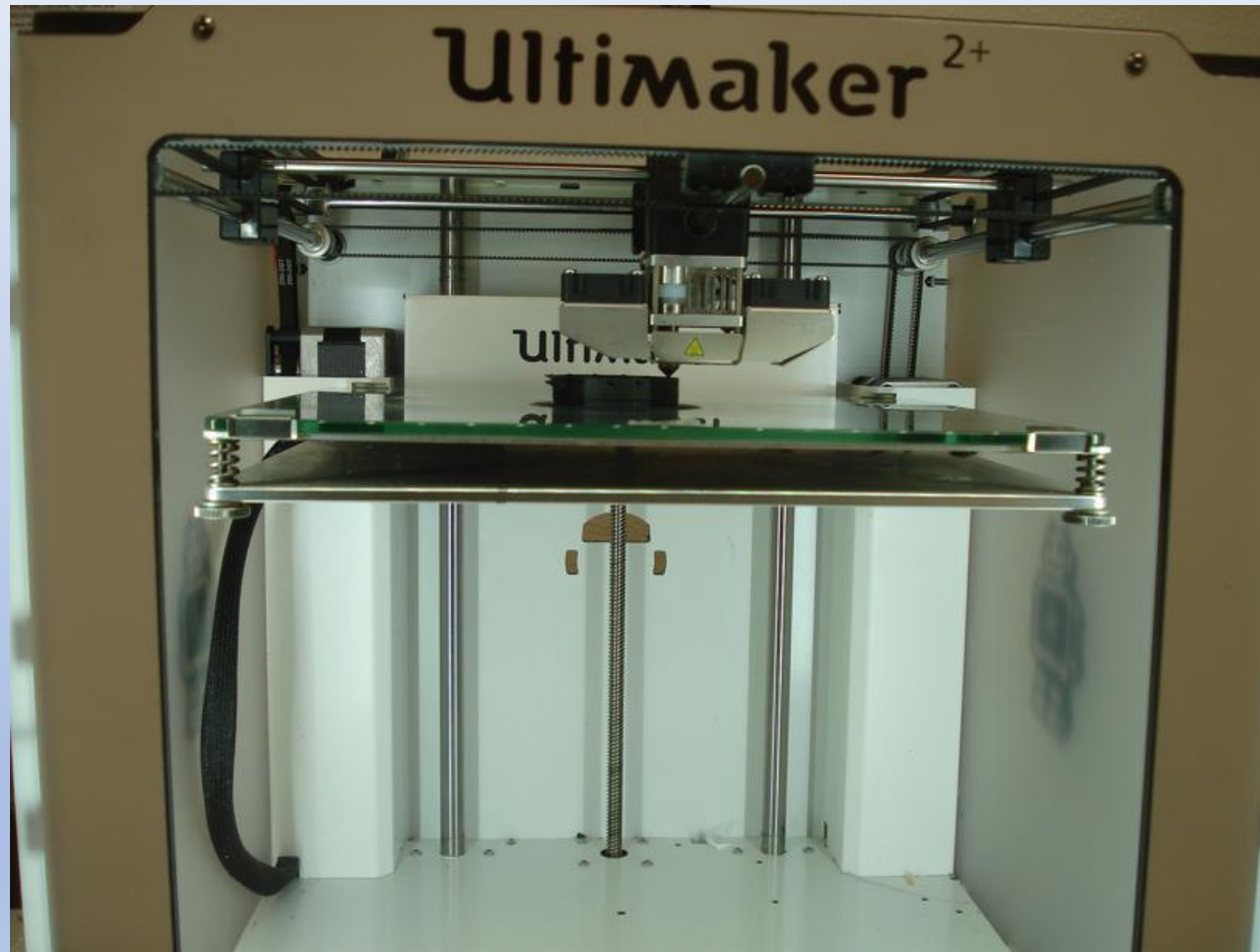
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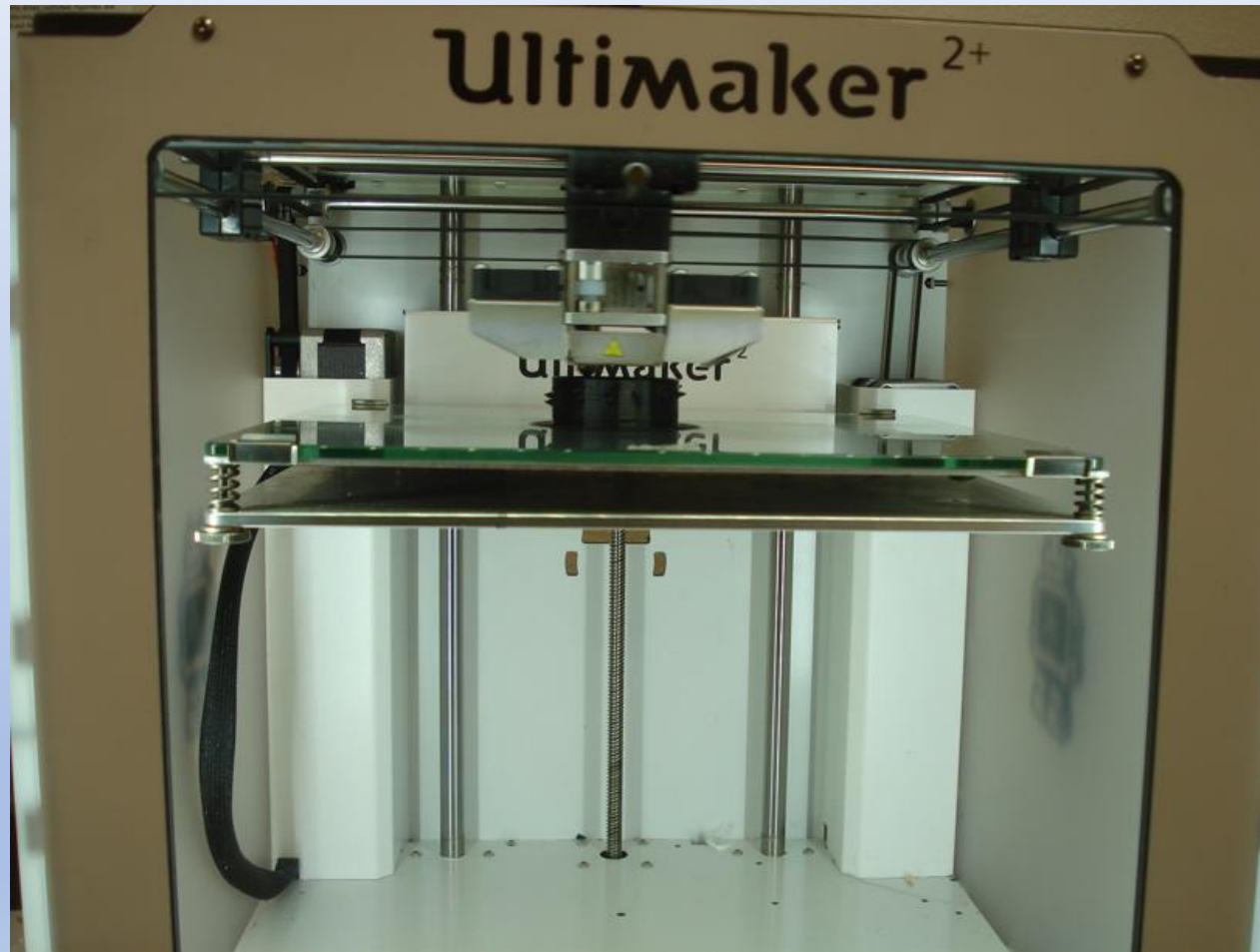
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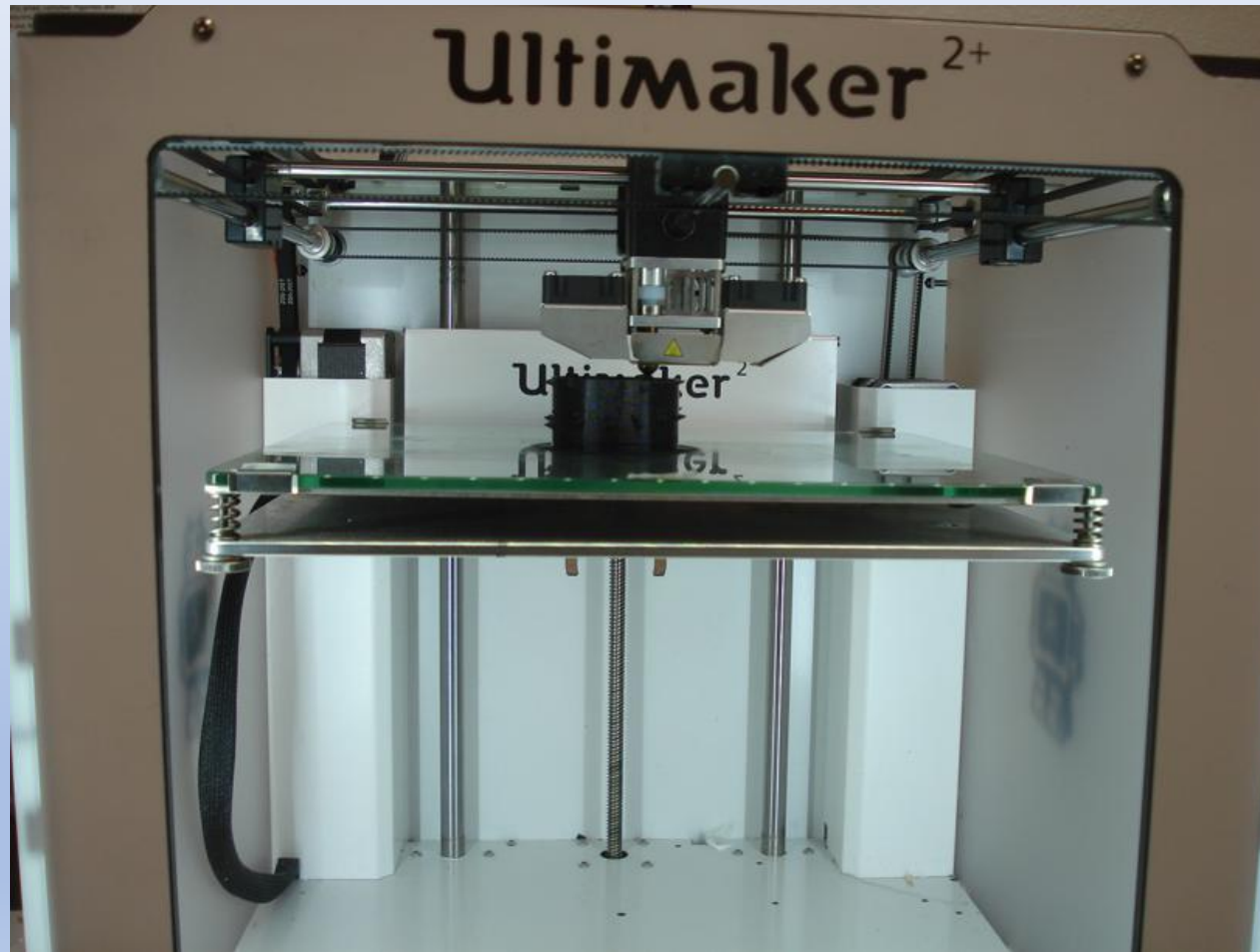
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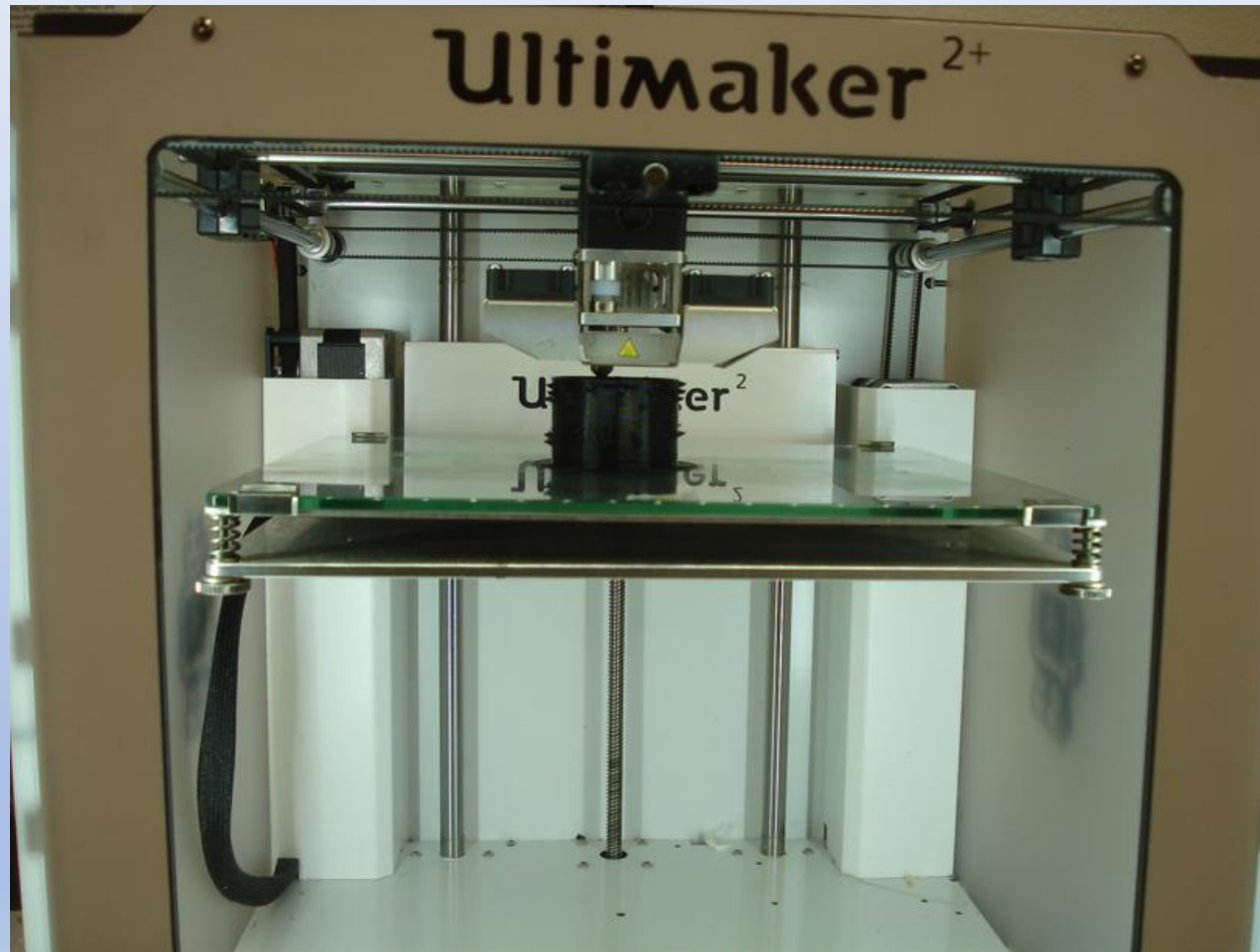
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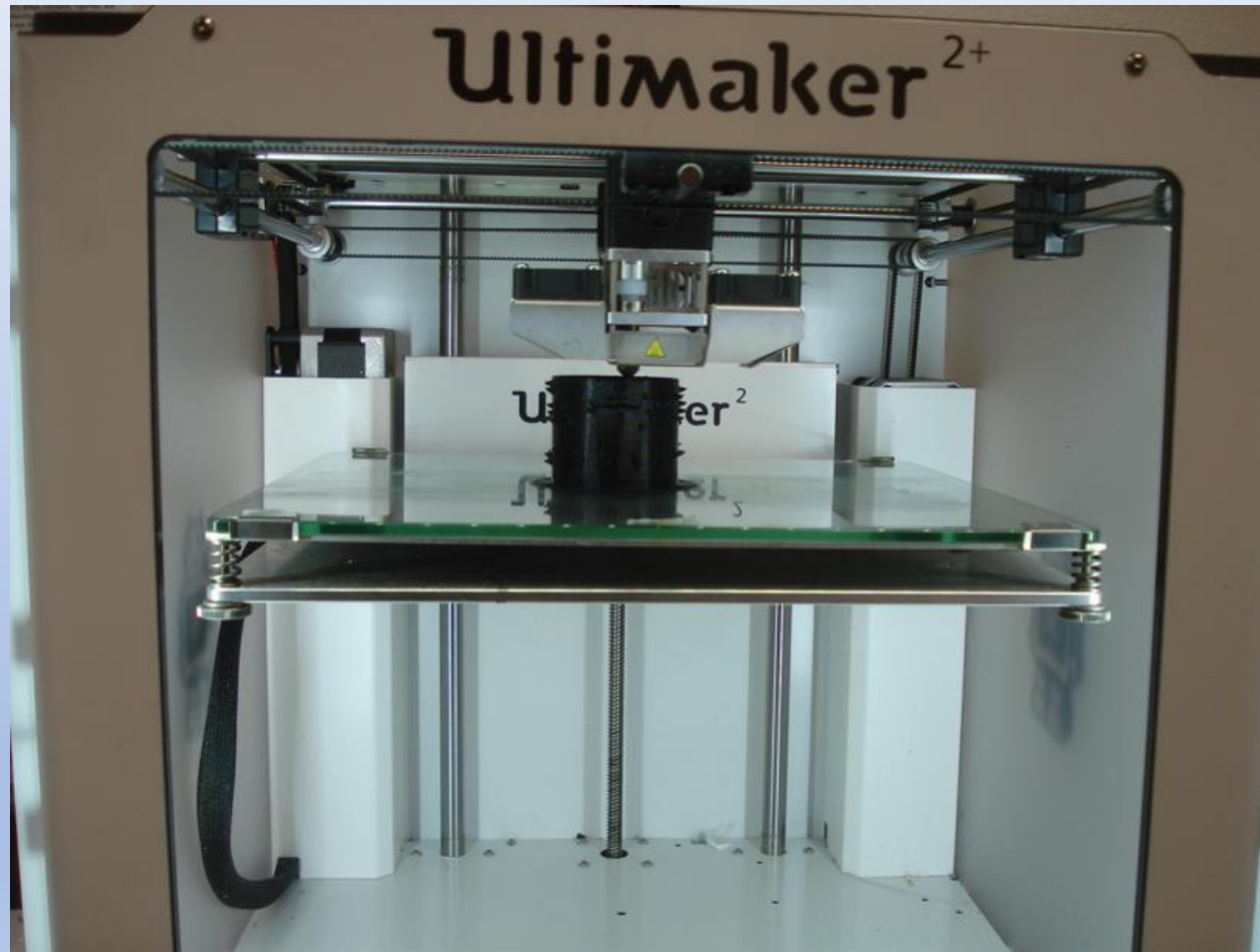
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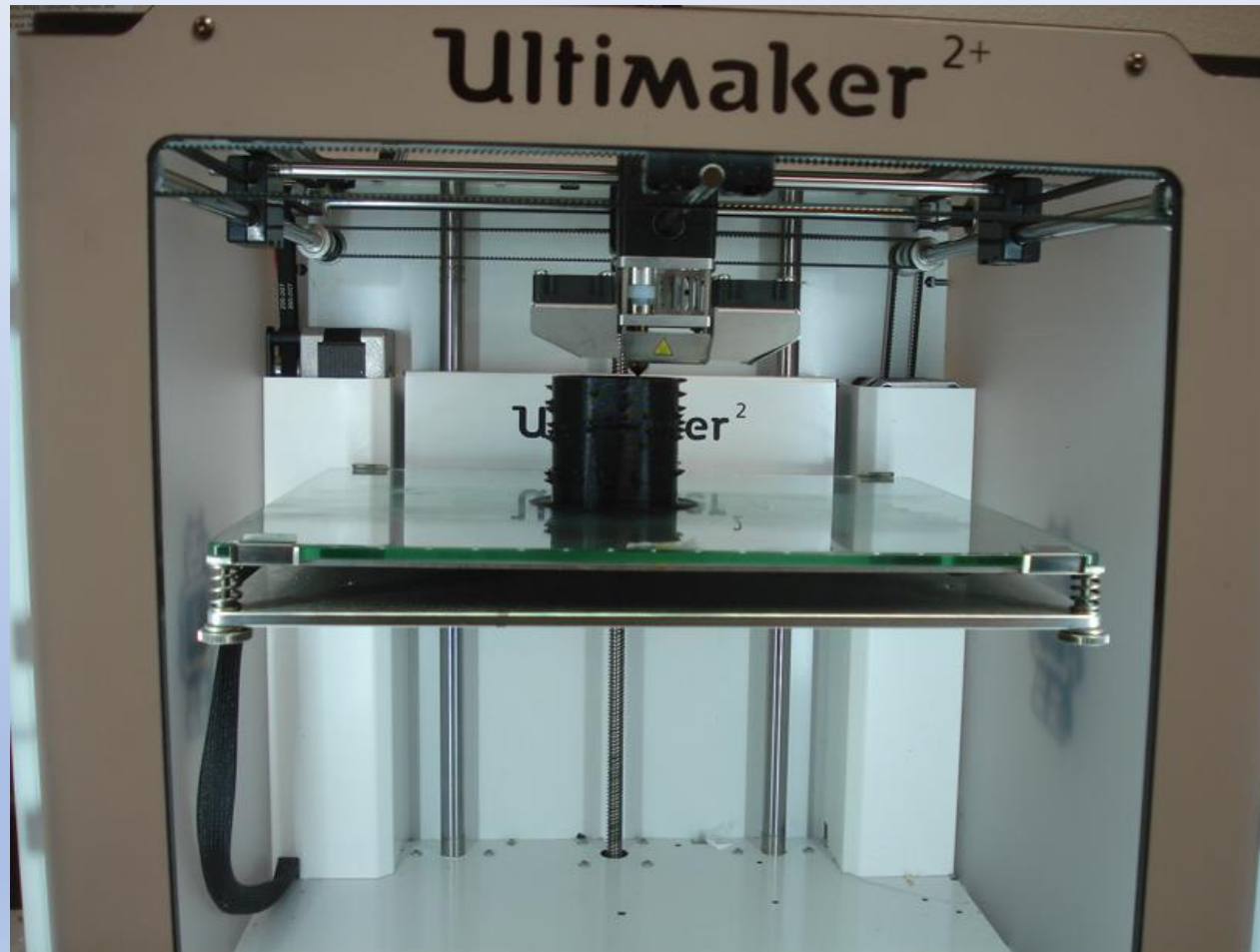
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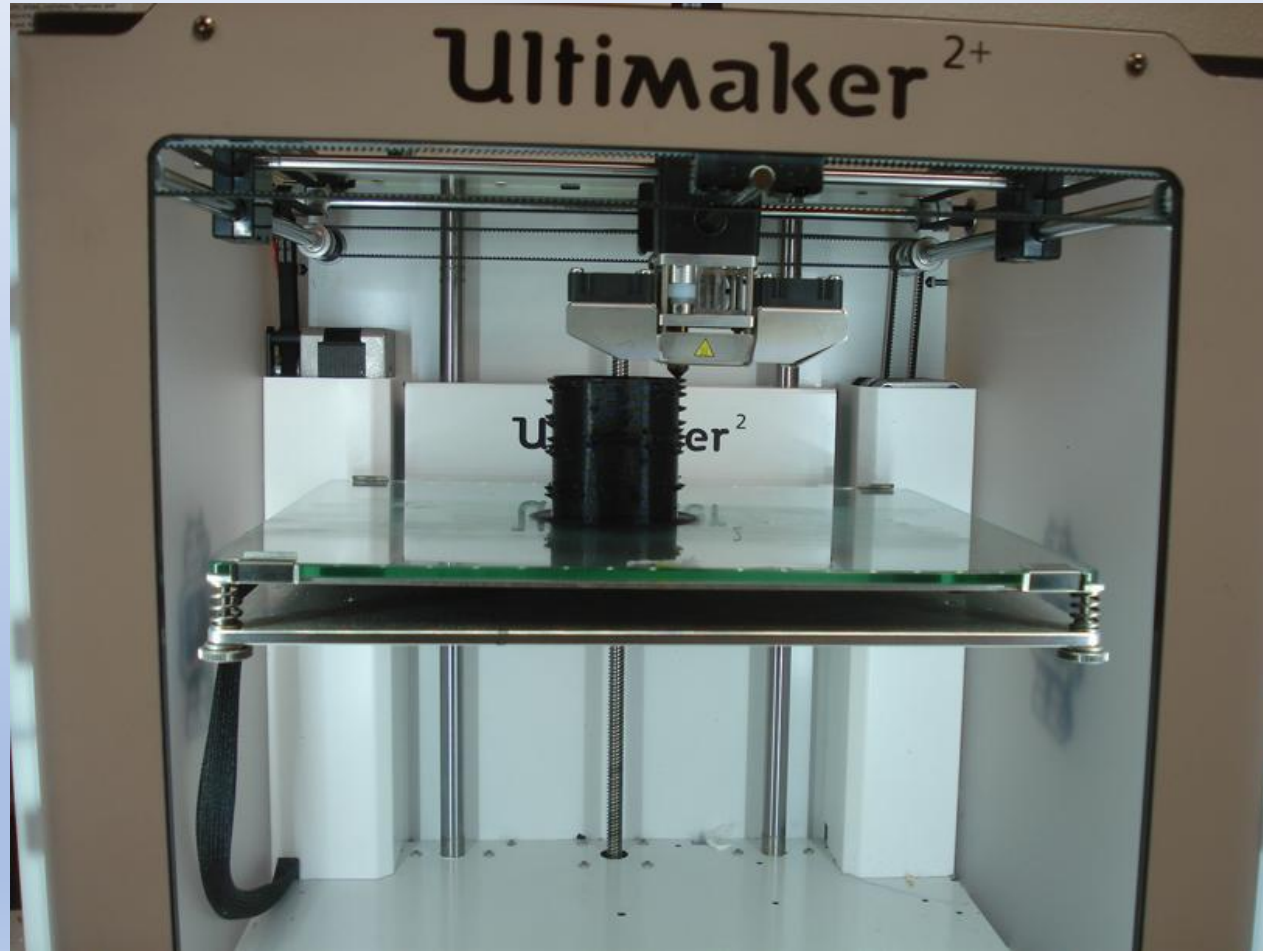
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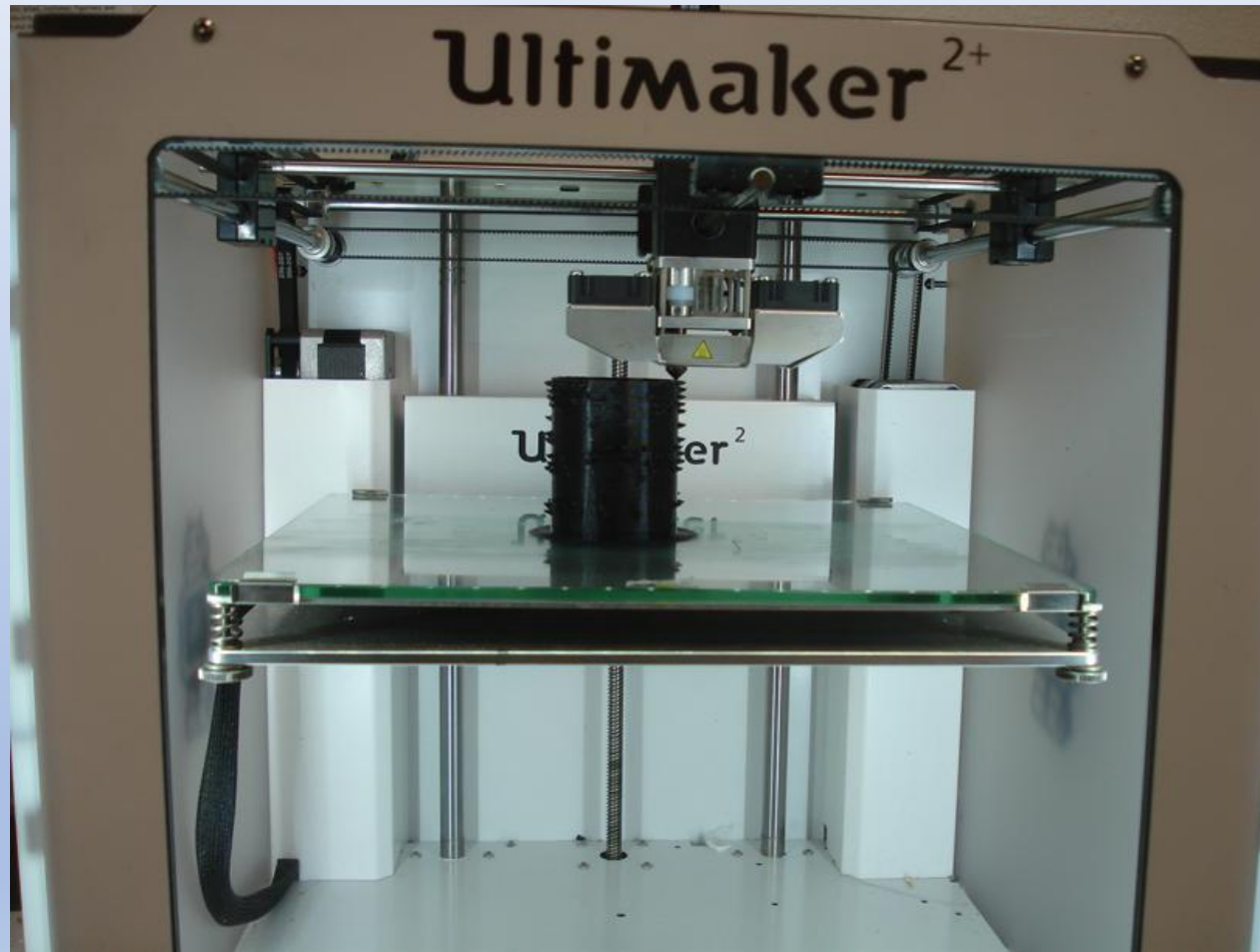
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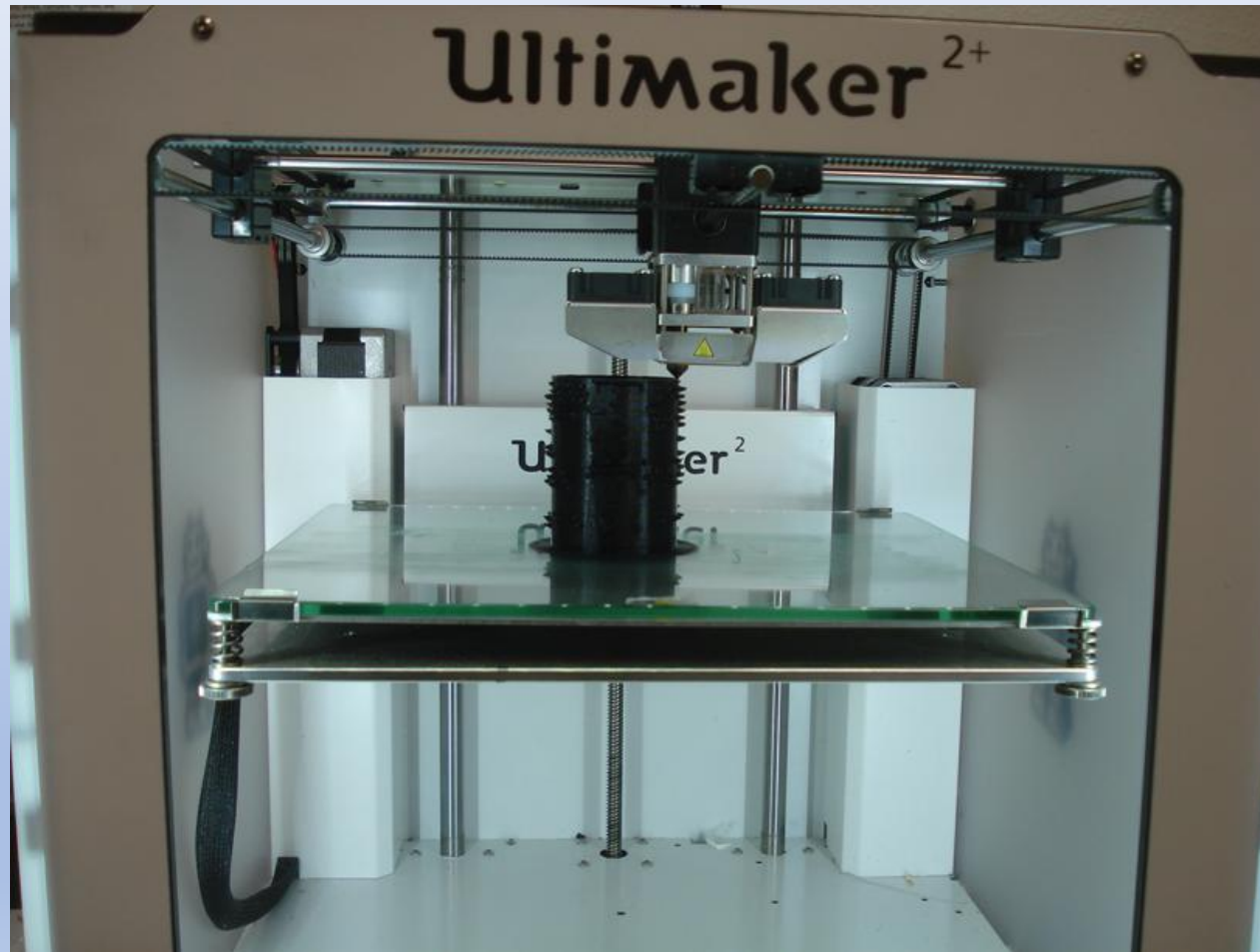
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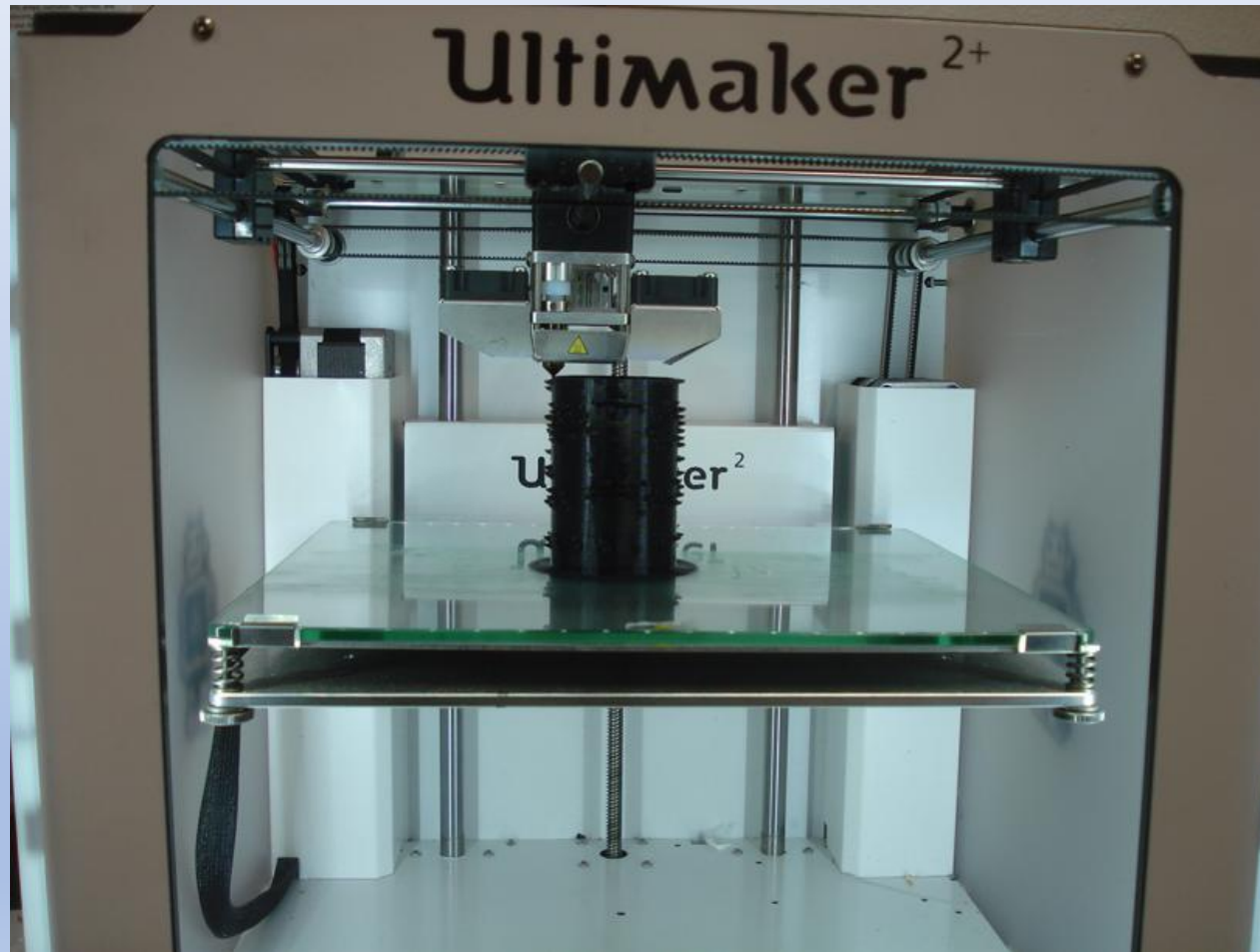
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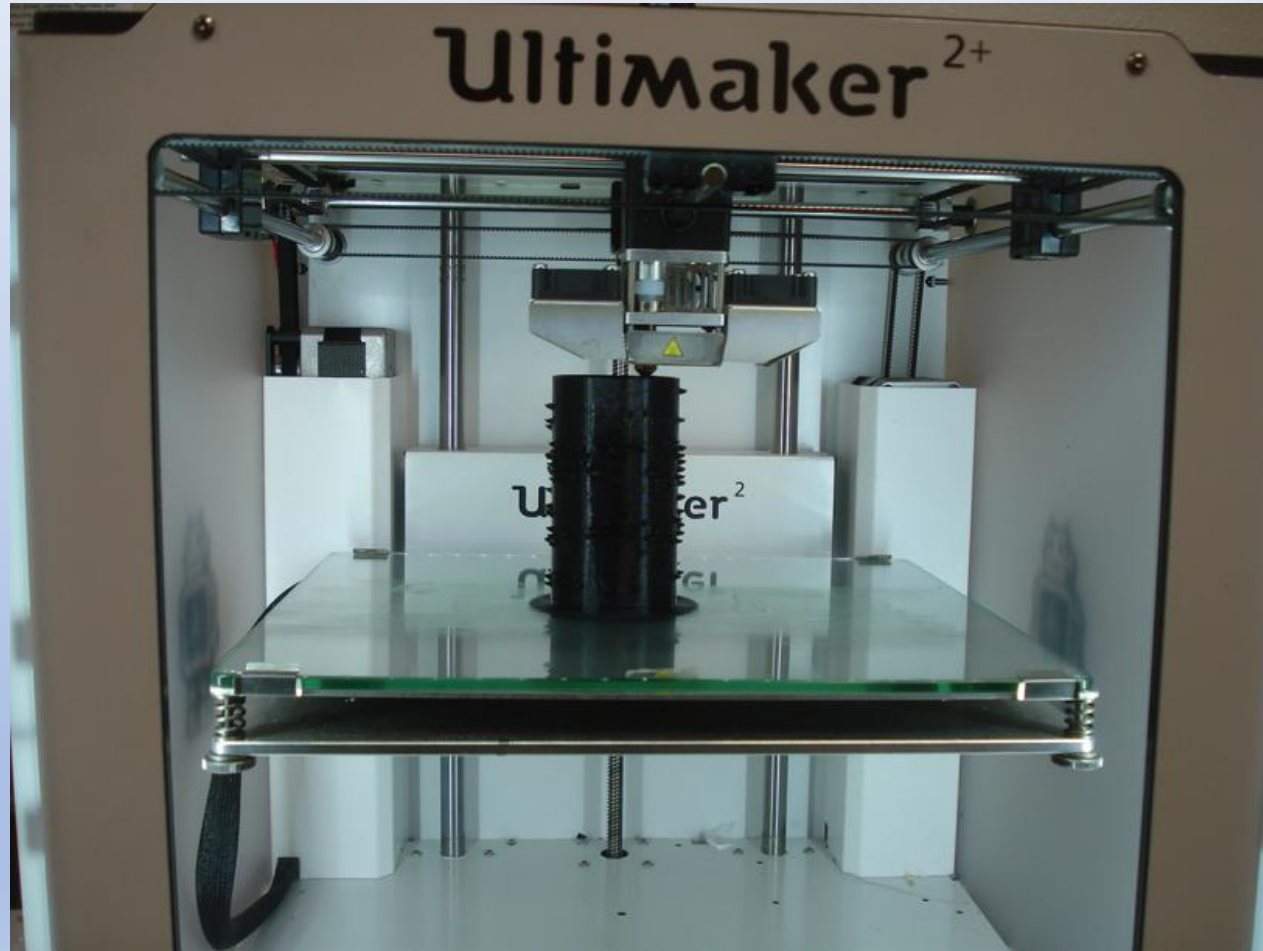
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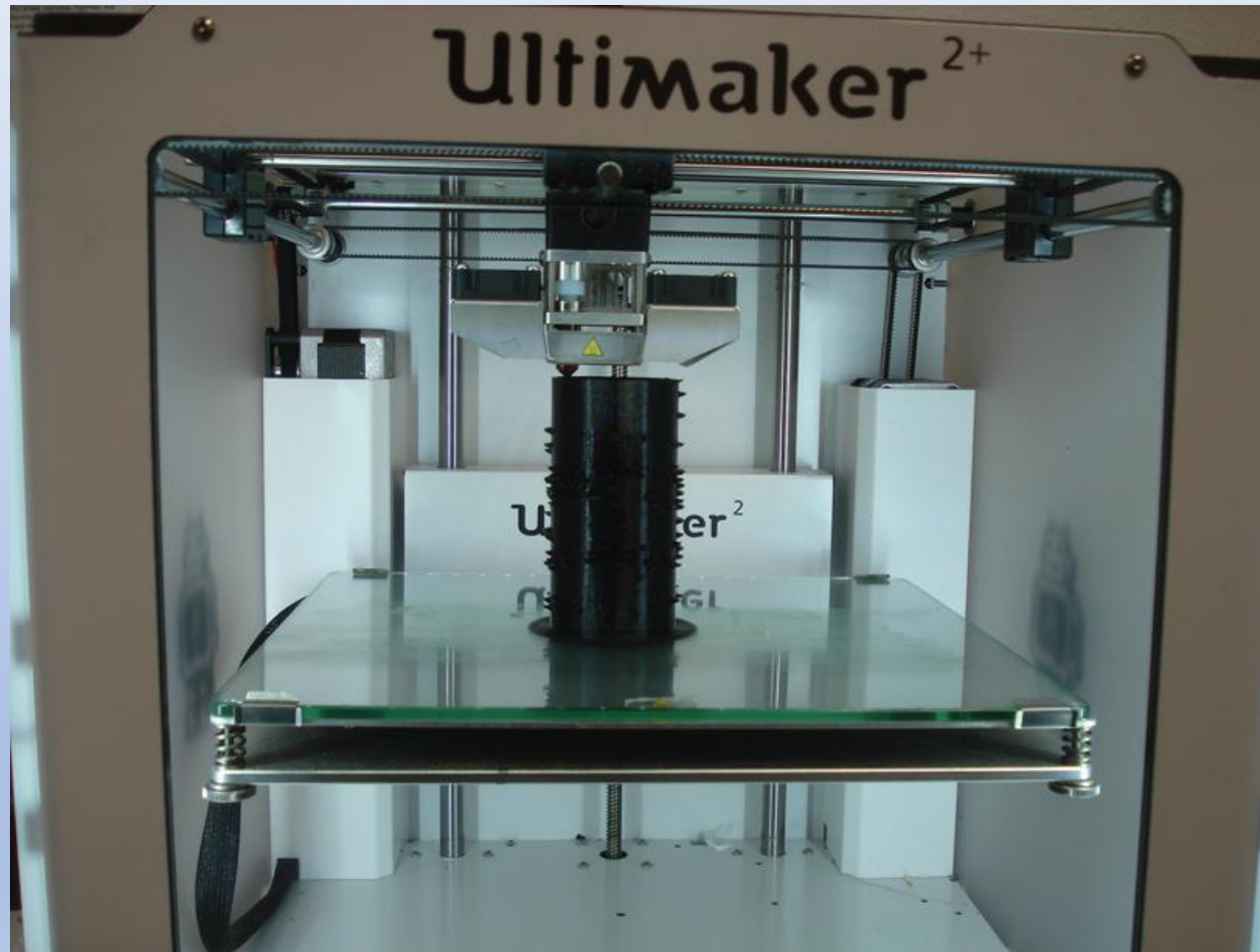
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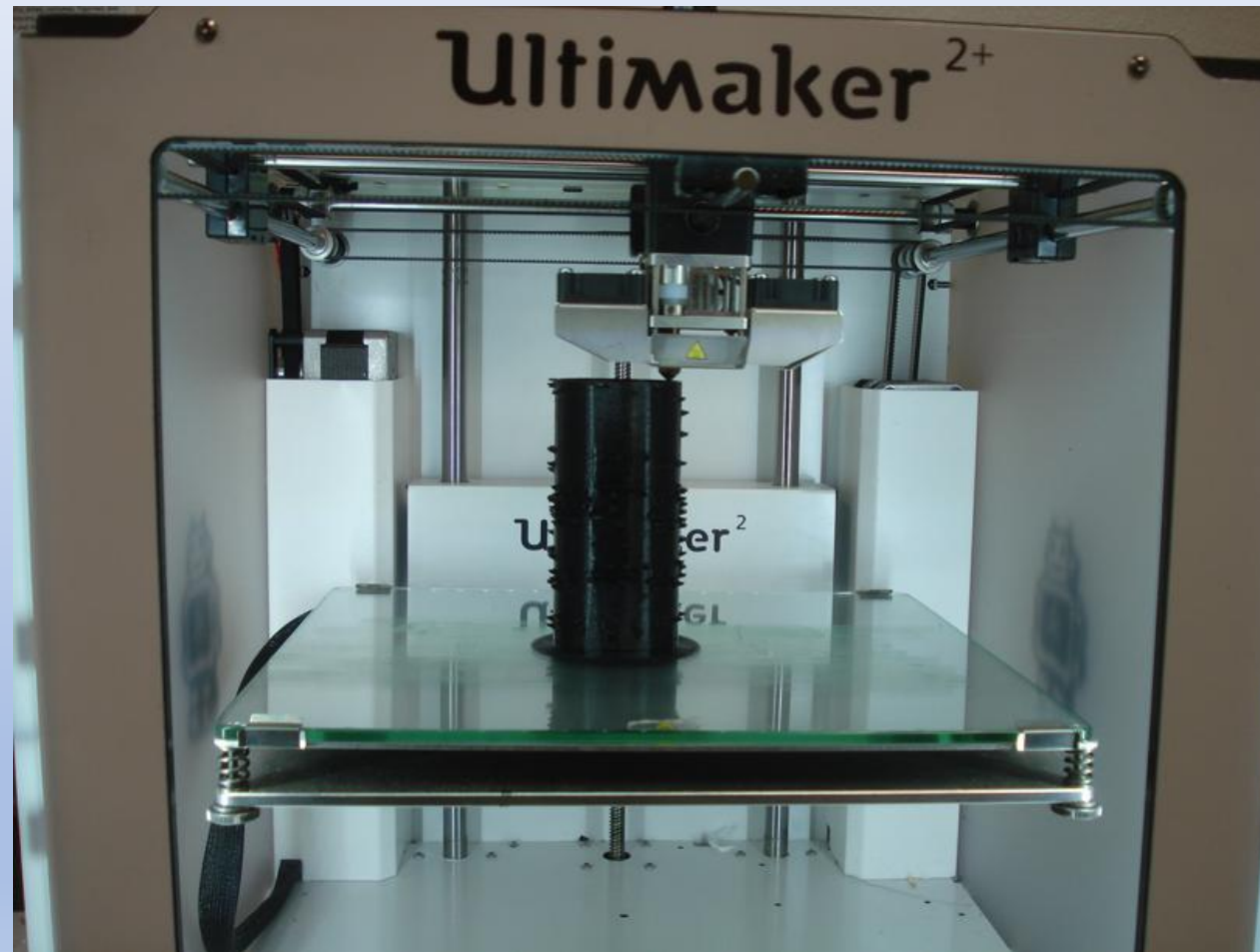
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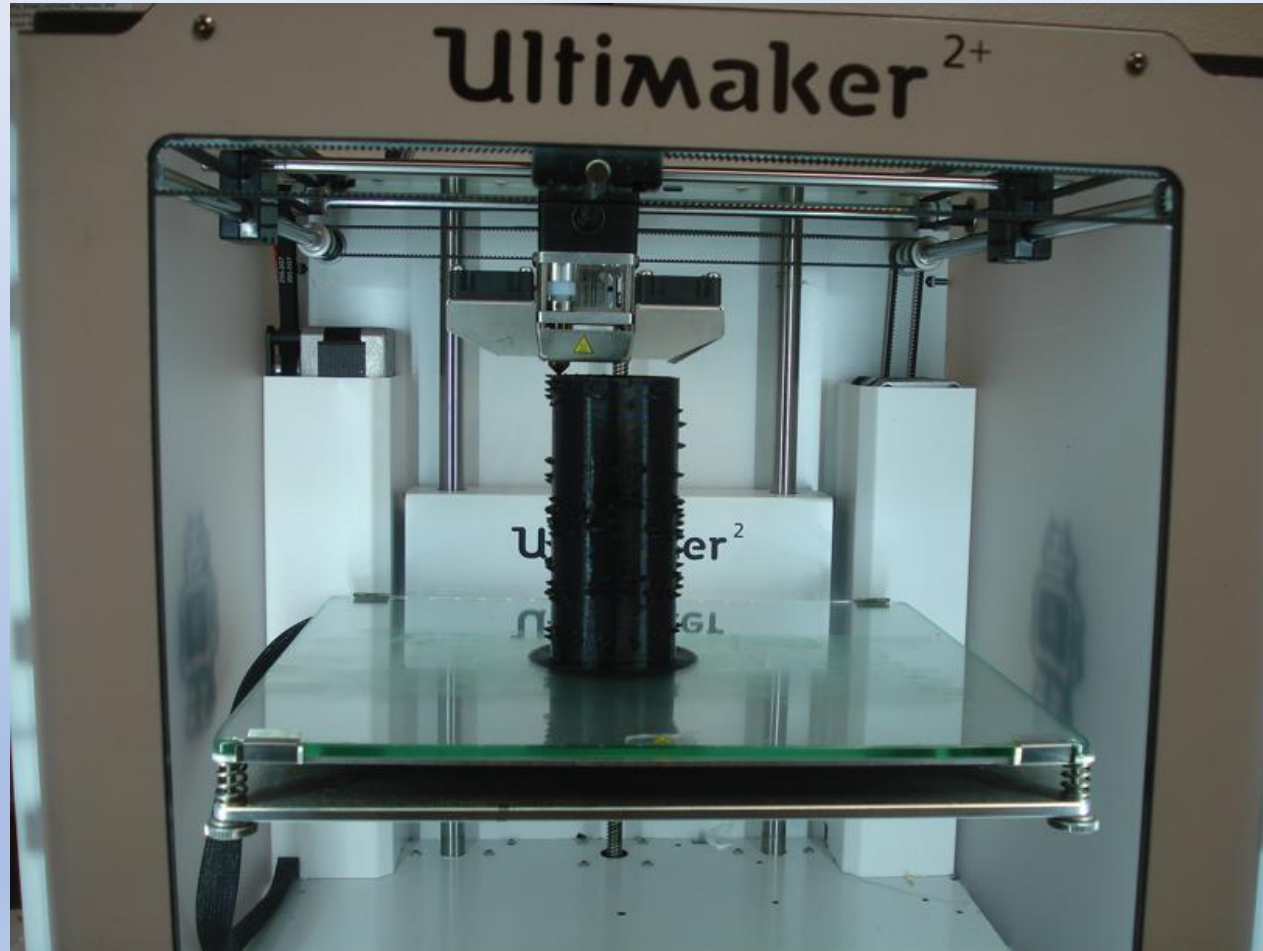
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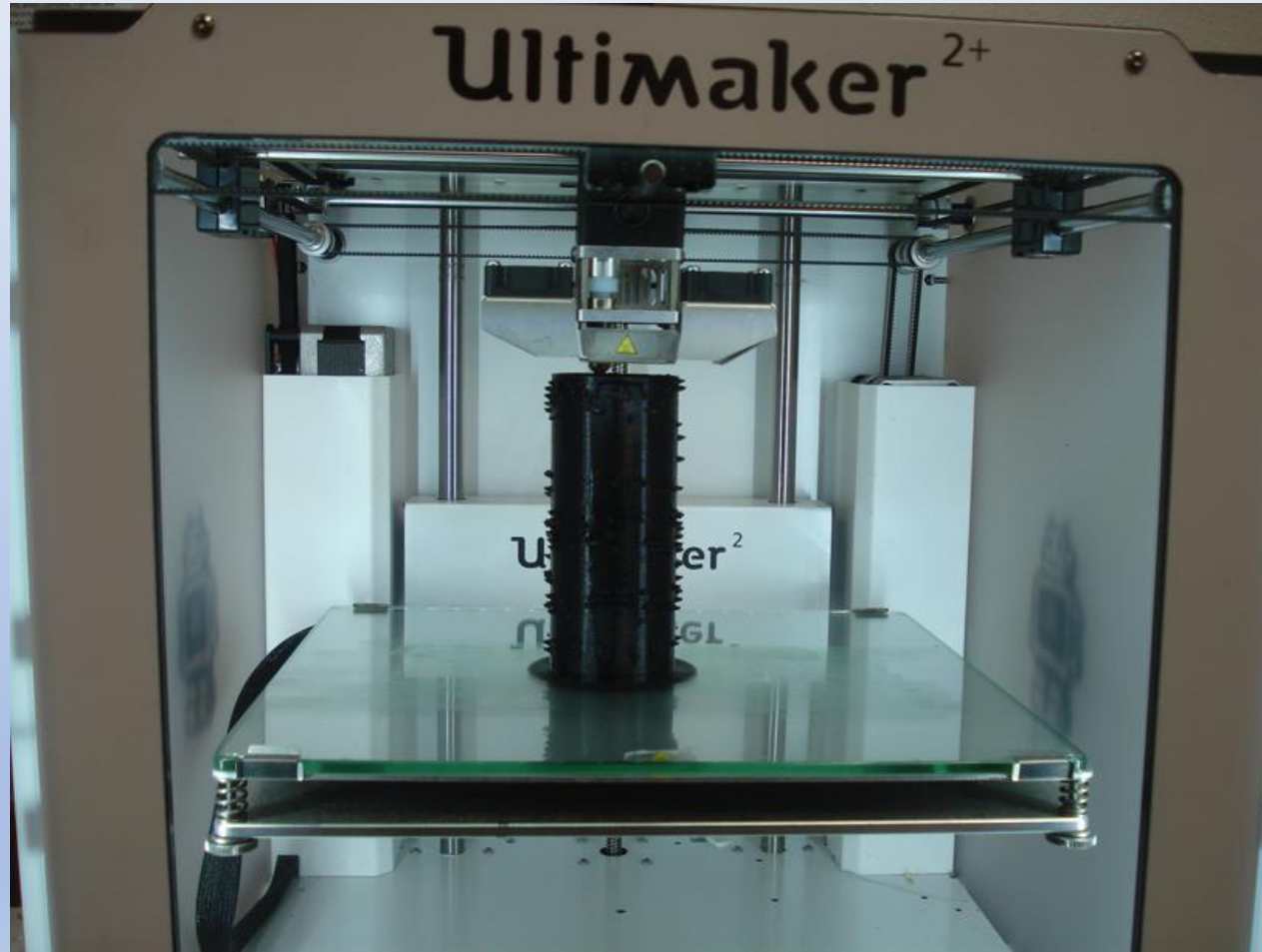
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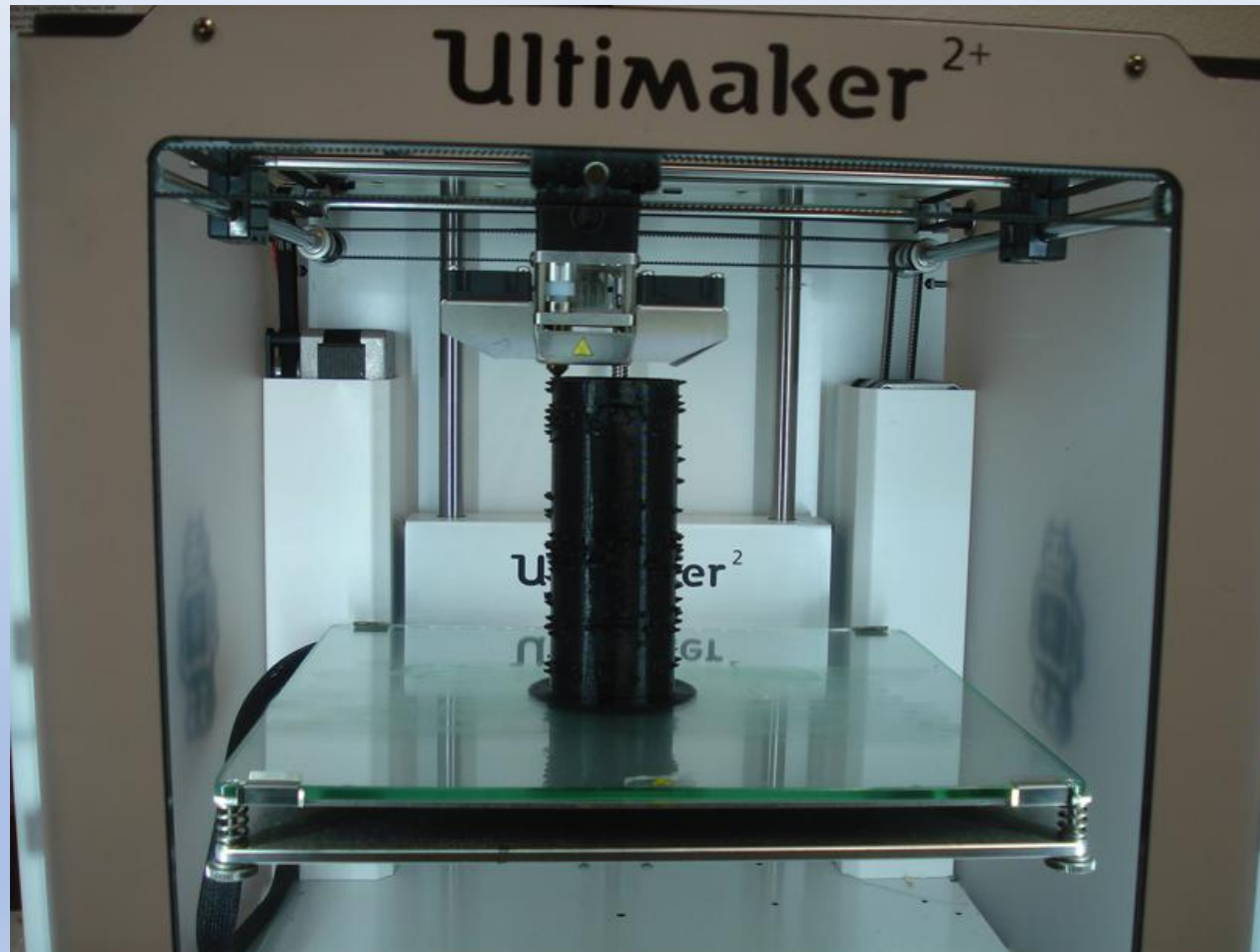
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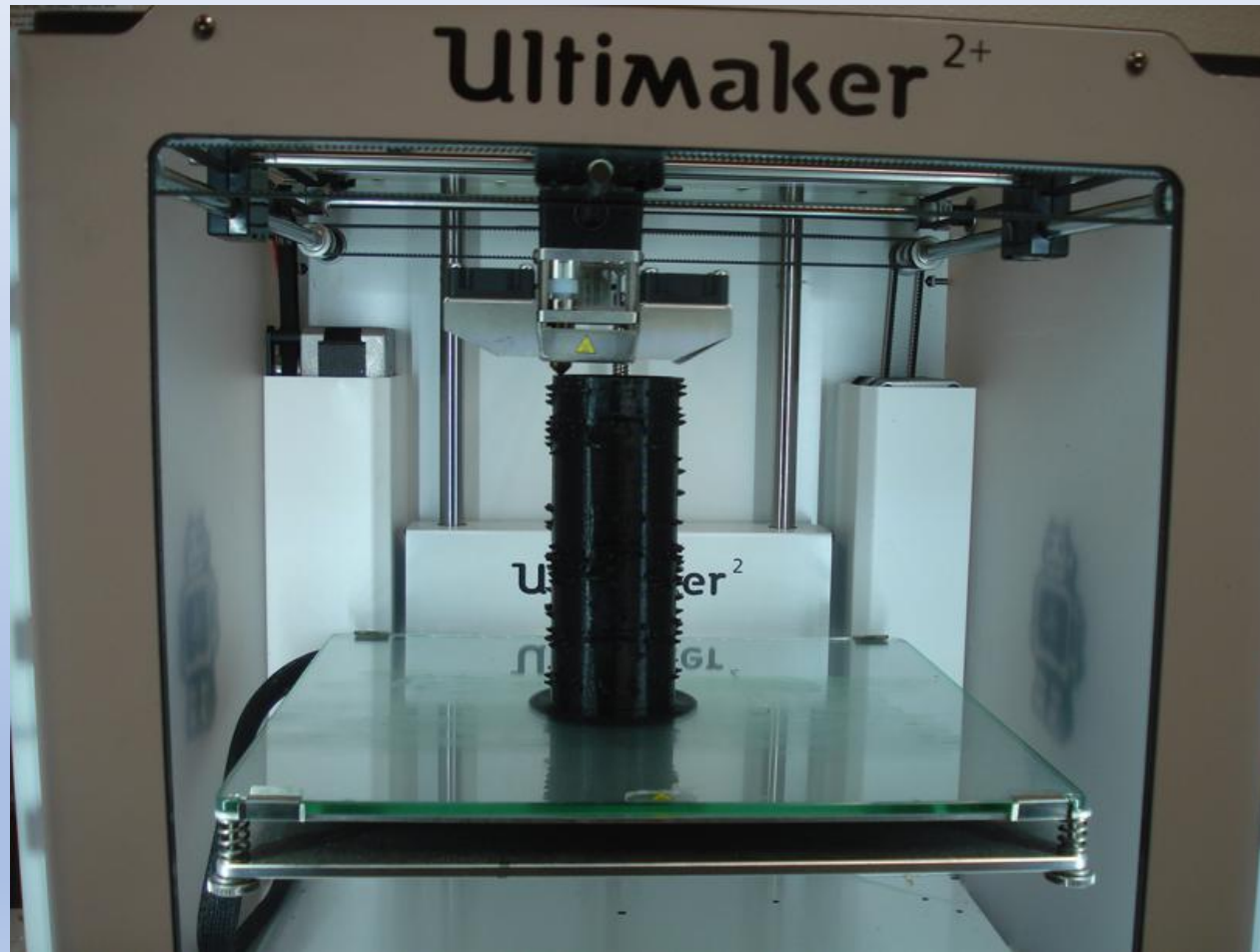
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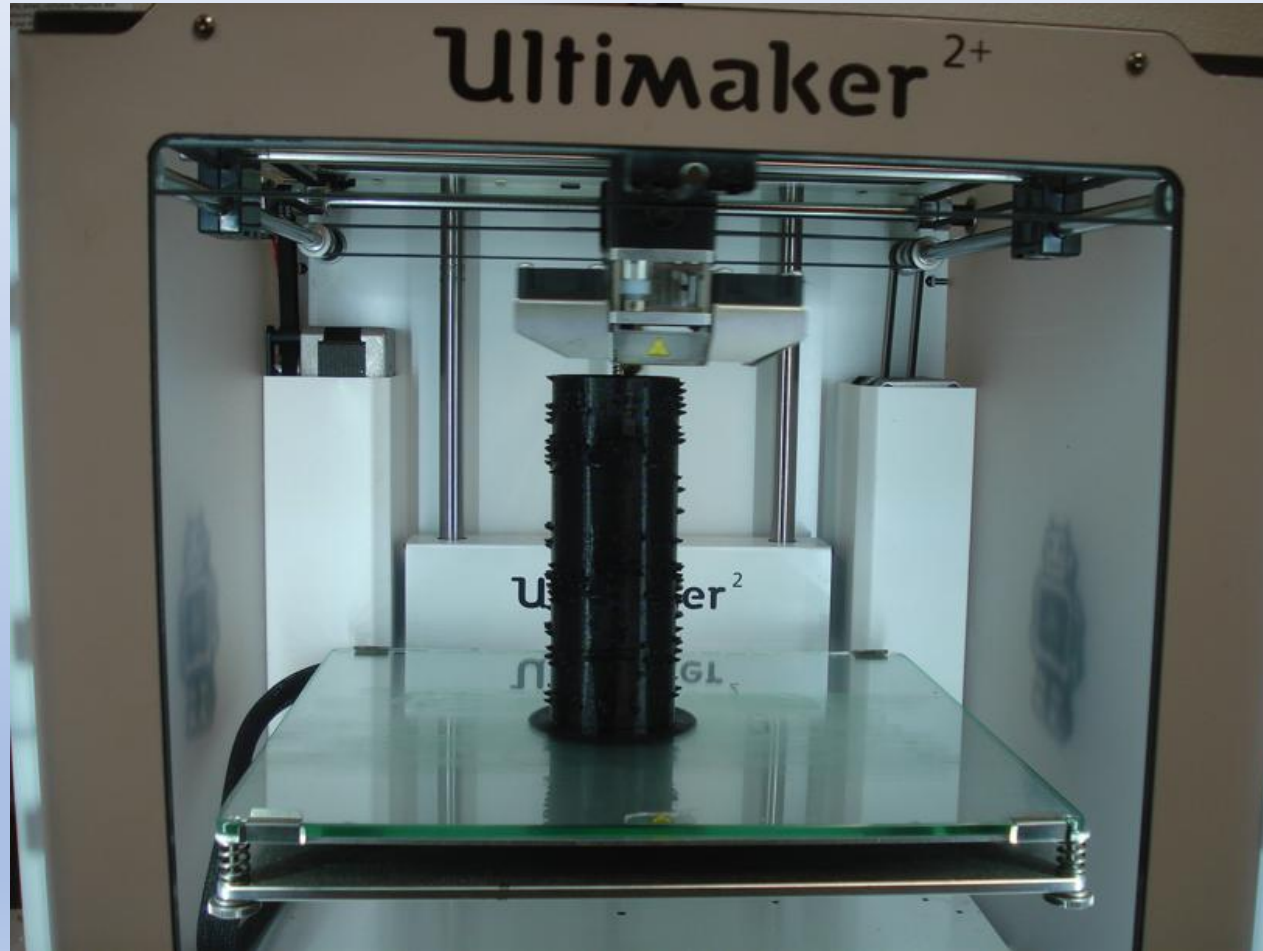
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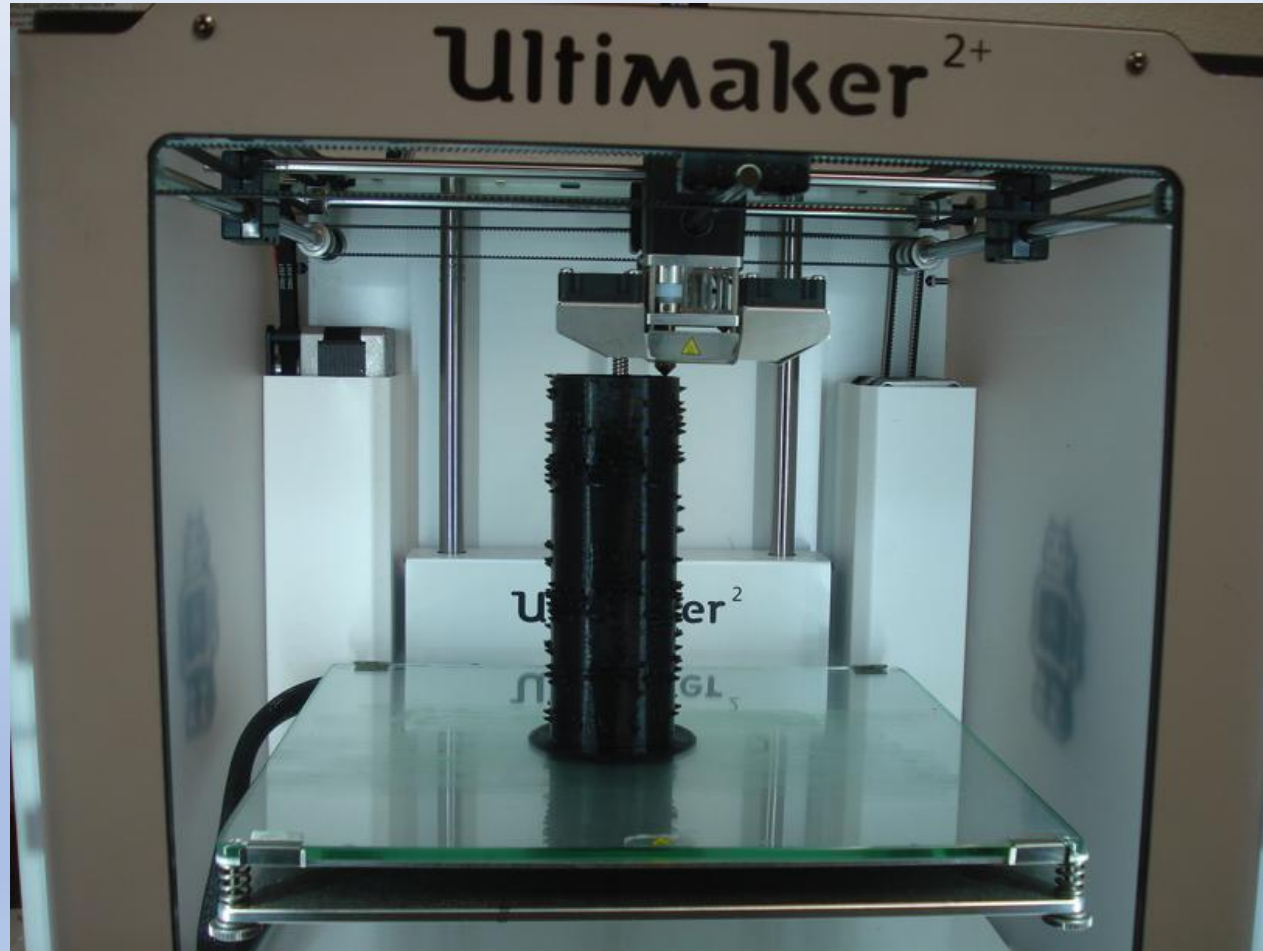
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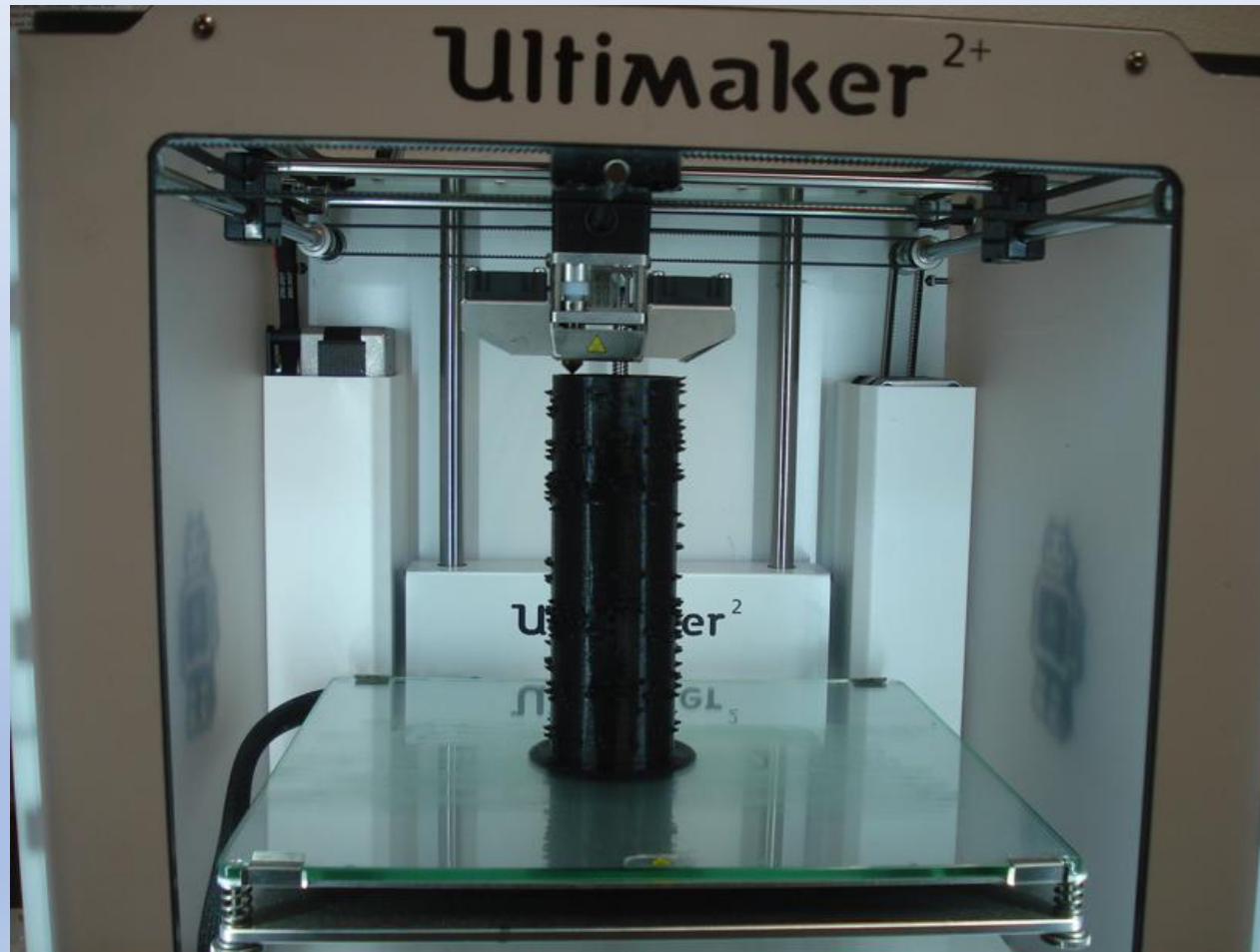
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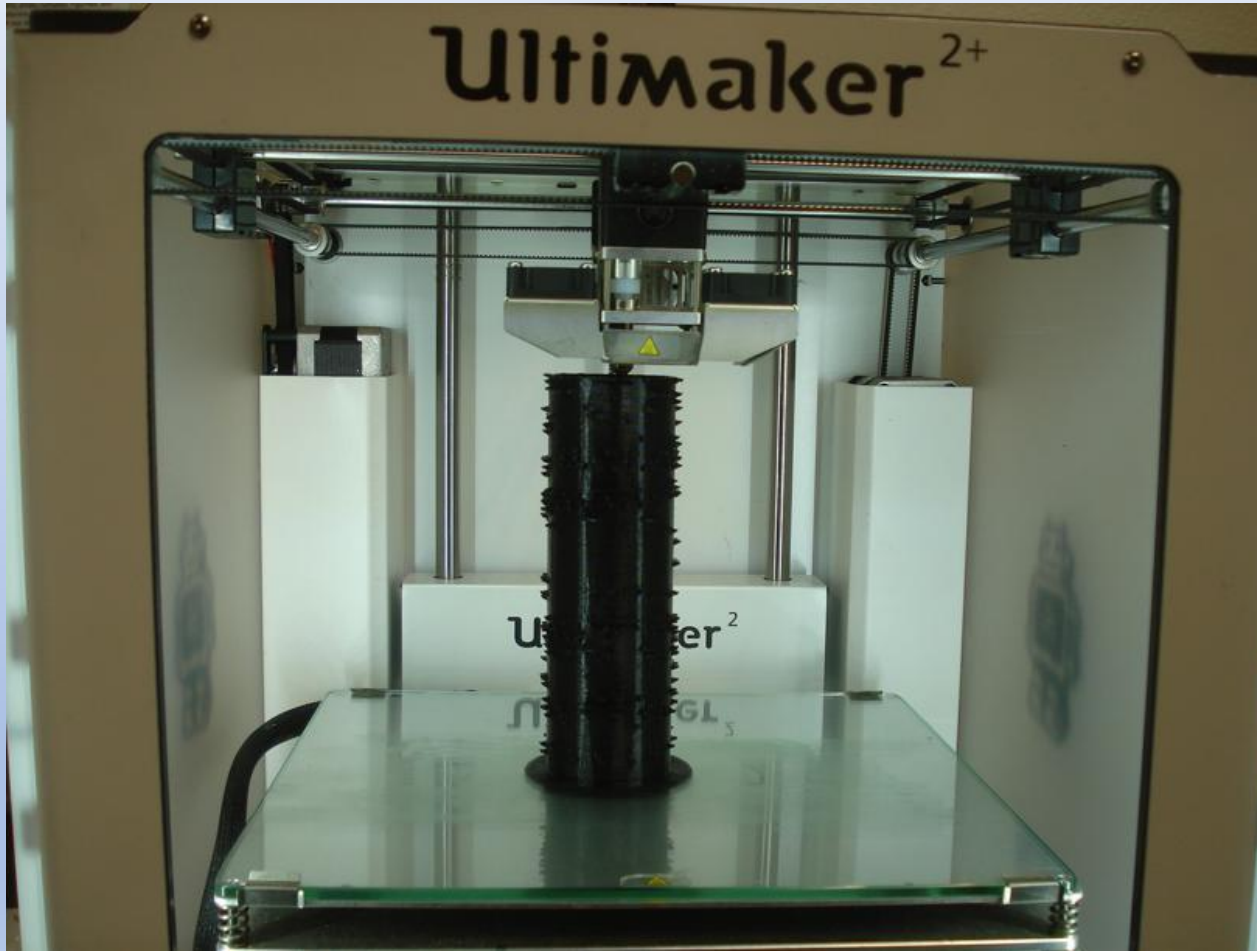
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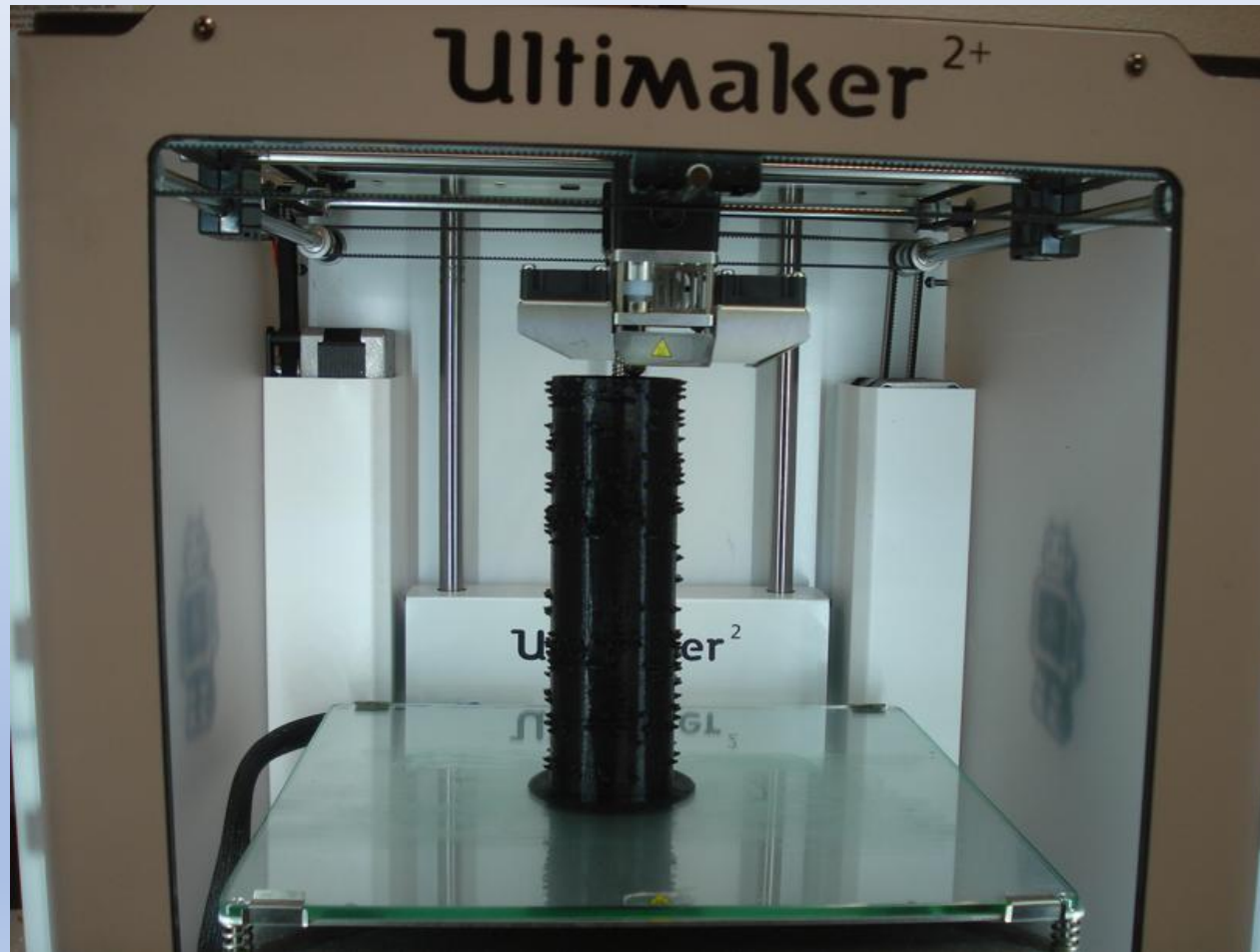
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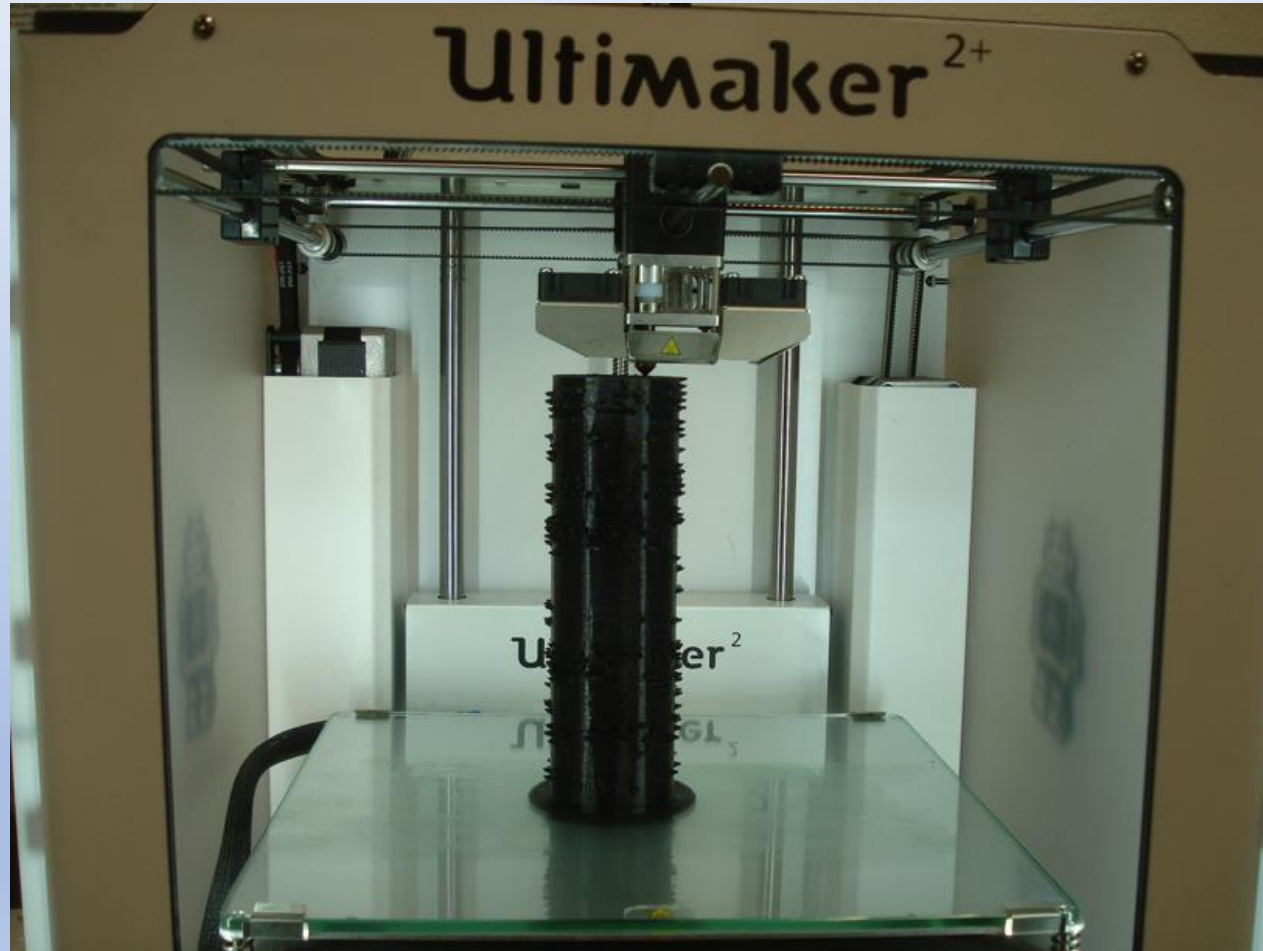
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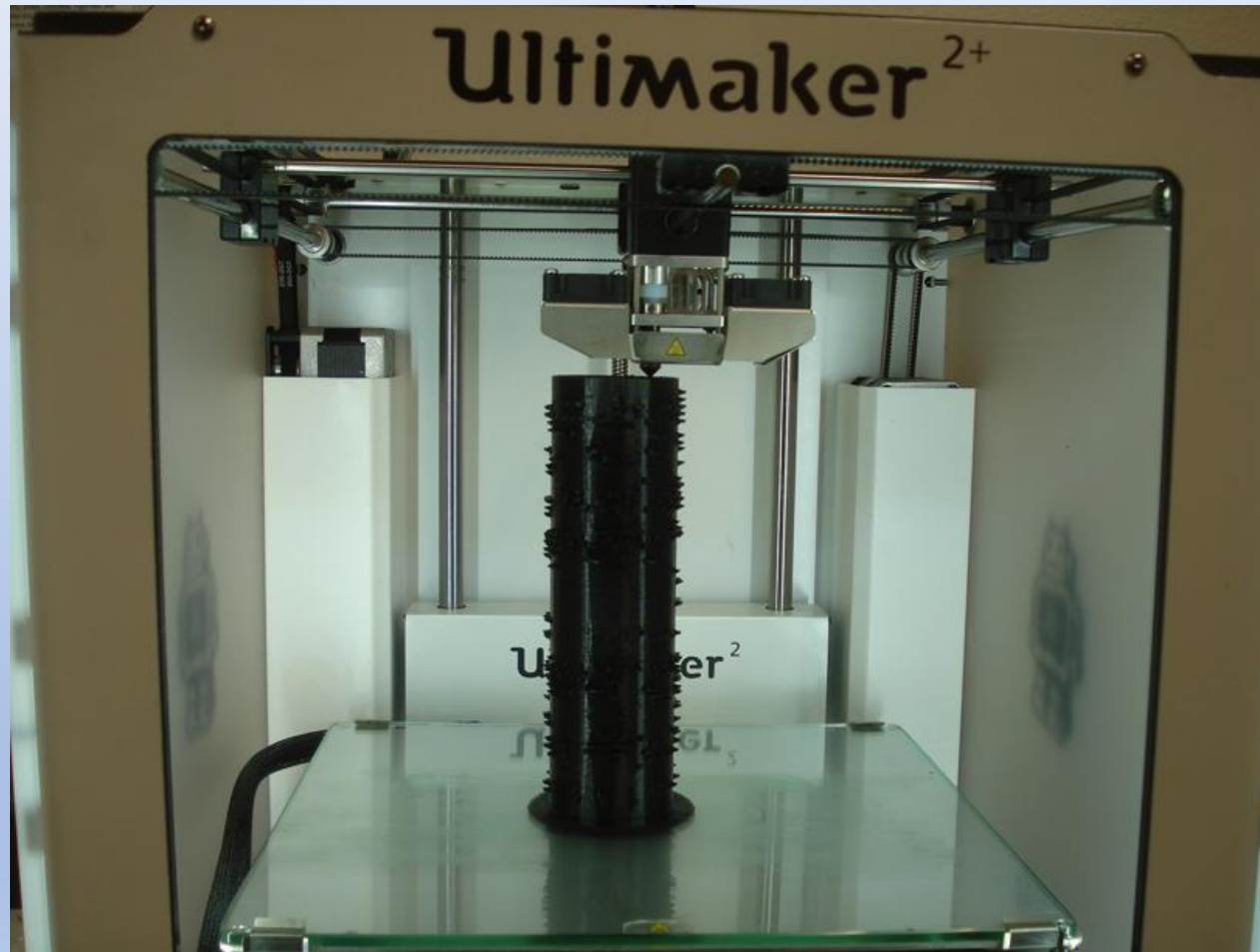
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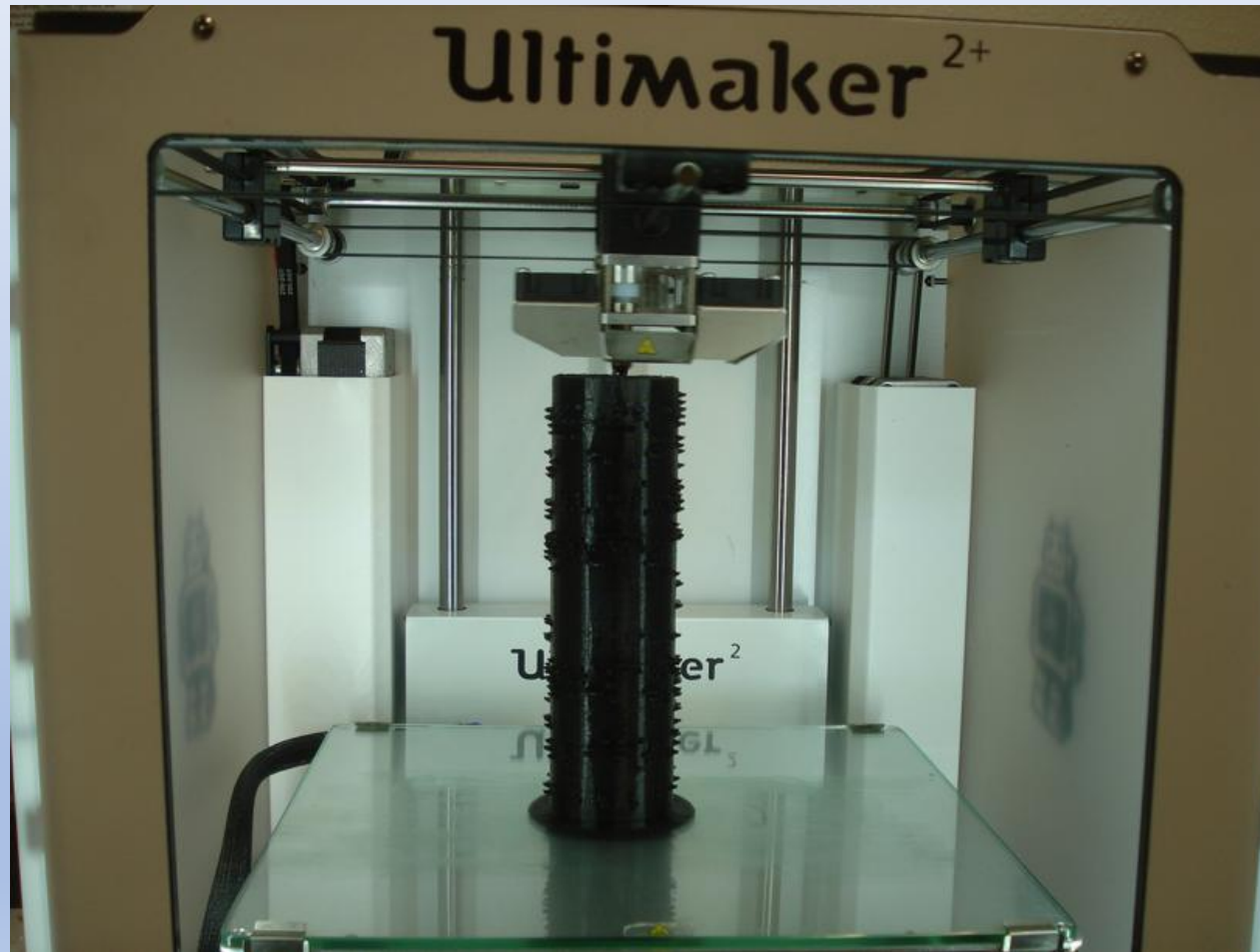
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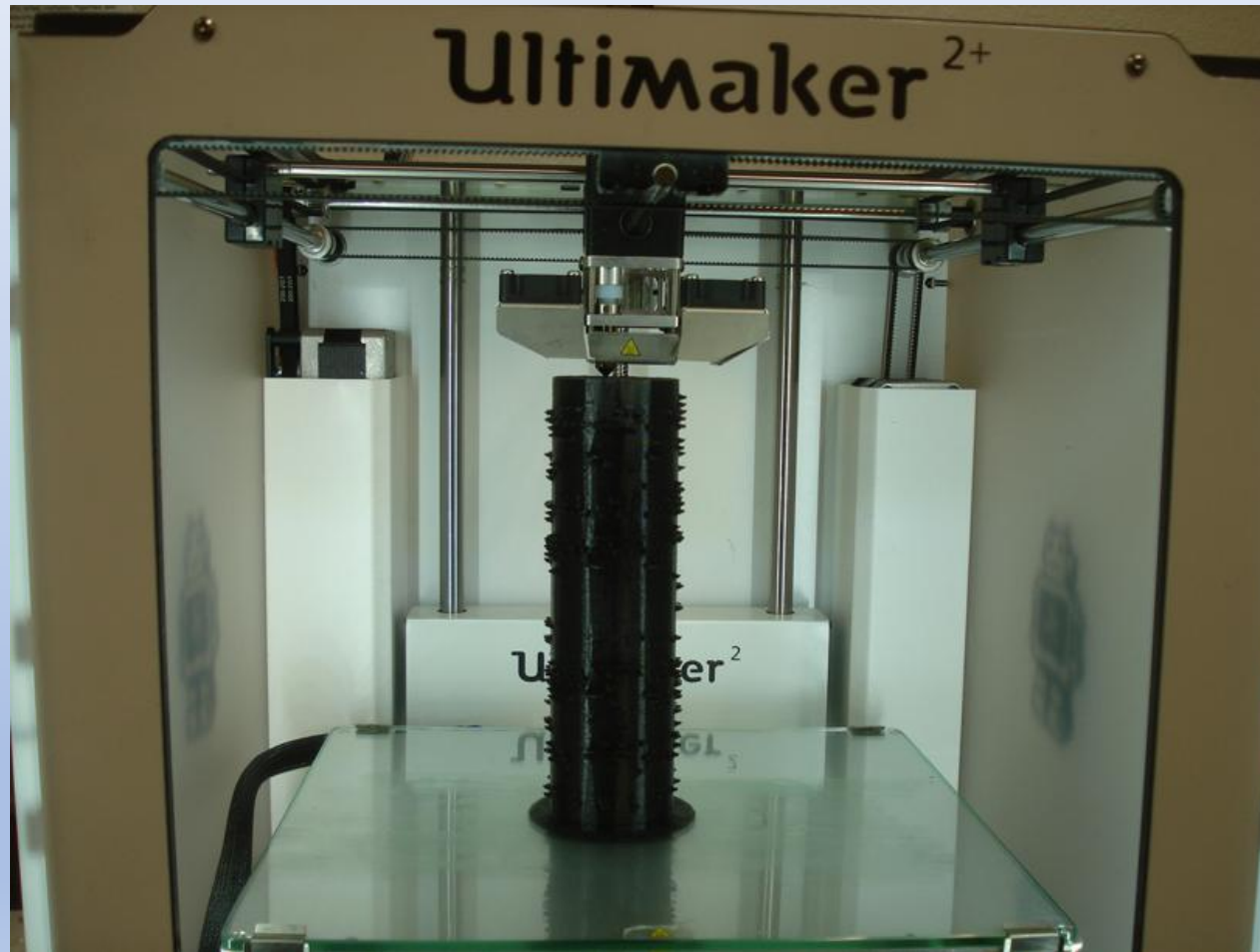
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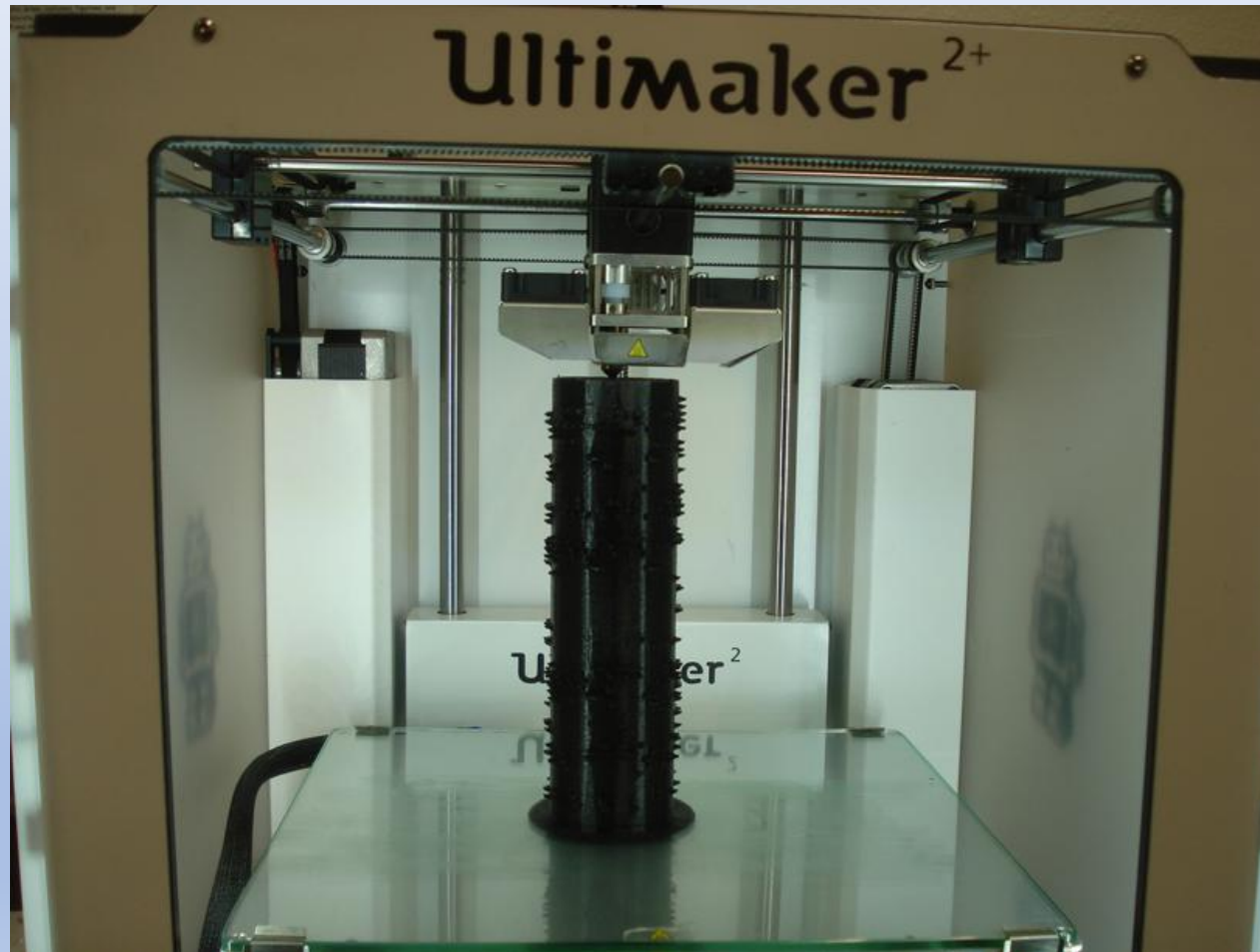
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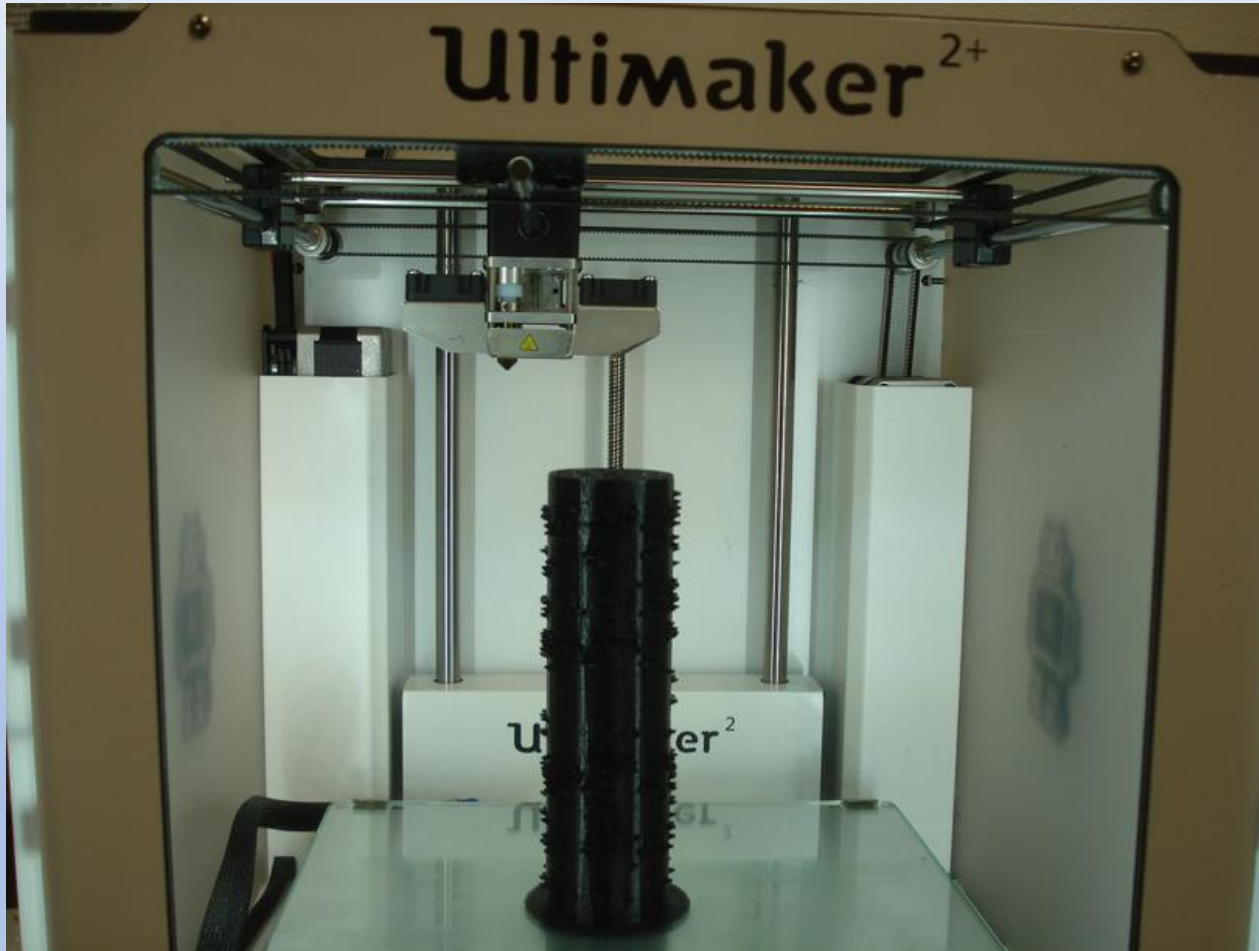
3D Printing a Gem Cob



3D Printing a Gem Cob



3D Printing a Gem Cob



Replay



Next



Final Product



Click on image to start video

A more practical use of the 3D printer,
a new roller organ key alignment tool



For his continuing creativity in the field of mechanical music, the Mirijanian Award for 2019 is presented to **Charlie Moore**



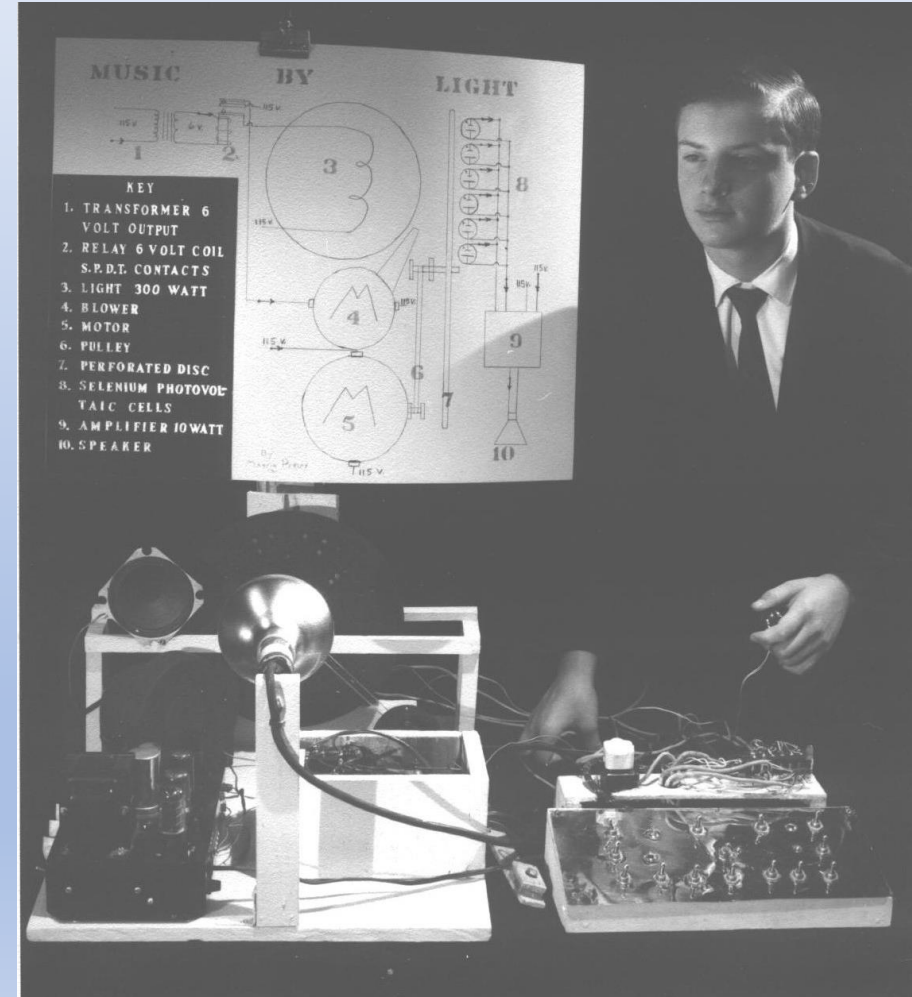
Trustees' Award

This award is given for outstanding contributions to the Society and/or the field of automatic music.

Marty Persky

Marty was an inventive kid fascinated by mechanical and electrical gadgets

Here he is at age 13 with his 8th grade science project, “Music by Light”, that generated organ tones by light passing through a perforated, rotating disk that activated photodetectors.



Entry into Mechanical Music

- Marty grew up in Chicago and was first exposed to mechanical music at Svoboda's Nickelodeon Tavern and Museum in the late 1960's.
- Mel Septon and Marty were good friends and when Mel joined MBSI he introduced Marty to high quality cylinder and disk musical boxes.
- The 1977 MBSI Annual Meeting in Cleveland was his first. Since then he has chaired the Mid-America and Lake Michigan Chapters, Chaired or Co-chaired MBSI Annual Meetings held in Chicago, served eight years as a Trustee and organized tours and galas at the Sanfilippo collection for three decades.

Business as an Instrument Dealer



In 1990 Marty partnered with Norio Isogai of Tokyo, Japan to provide instruments for the Japanese market with the support of colleagues in the U.S. including Art Reblitz, Jerry Biasella and Mel Septon.

Some of the Instruments Provided for the Ukai Music Forest Museum in Kawaguchi-ko, Japan



He supports collectors in the U.S. and abroad.



Marty has supported Sanfilippo Collection acquisitions and restorations for over two decades and currently serves as its curator.



Workshops presented at MBSI Annual Meetings

Symphonion Eroica

Three Discs are Better Than One

Kawaguchi-ko Music Forest Ukai Museum

Marty Persky and Norio Isogai

August 30, 2002

The Phonoliszt Violina A Work of Art & Engineering

Marty Persky

August 30, 2003



How to Buy at Auction

Marty Persky

MBSI Annual
Meeting

August 29, 2008



The Sanfilippo Collection Three Plus Decades Full Steam Ahead

The Marvelous Violin Playing Machines

Marty Persky

September 4, 2015

The Sublime Harmonie Music Box

MBSI Annual Meeting
September 1, 2017
by Marty Persky

The Sanfilippo Collection



MBSI Annual Meeting 2018
Detroit Michigan
by Marty Persky

How do you use these long earplugs?



The Trustees' Award for 2019 is presented to **Marty Persky** for his unwavering support for our hobby and organization.



President's Award

This award is given at the discretion of the MBSI President for outstanding service.

Nancy Fratti

Nancy has been in the antiques business for
over 50 years

(naturally she began as a toddler)

She has displayed at numerous
antique shows over the years
including Chicago, New Jersey,
Indiana, Pennsylvania and
Massachusetts

She tries to show people just
what cylinder and disk musical
boxes are and how to appreciate
them



Beginnings

- In 1972 she purchased her first musical box, a 15 ½ inch Regina that needed work
- Found MBSI member Dr. Joseph Roesch who educated Nancy on musical box operation and repair
- Joined MBSI in 1972
- Issued her first catalogue on musical box restoration supplies in 1973

Nancy with Ruth Bornand
and Chuck Walker



Cylinder Musical Box Restoration School

- Taught by Dr. Joseph Roesch nearly every summer from 1986 to 1996
- 6 students per class
- Beginner and Advanced classes
- Total of 236 students from the U.S. and several other countries including Australia, Japan, The Netherlands and England



Musical Box Restoration Supply Catalogue

- Provides assistance to those who wish to repair their own cylinder or disk boxes
- Some common parts are manufactured including disk supports, governor gears, damper wire, damper pins and tune cards
- Also stocks a wide variety of disks for disk boxes (currently about 9400)

MBSI Activities

- Organized and set up an MBSI exhibit at the Museum of the National Watch and Clock Collector's Association, June 1990- February 1991
- Wrote and laid out the MBSI 50th Anniversary Book in 1999
- Served on the Publications Committee for more than 20 years
- Served on the Museum Committee for more than 25 years
- Served as a Trustee from 2001 to 2009
- Stored 1000 copies of *The Music Box Makers* published by MBSI in 2004 and handled their distribution until the supply was depleted last year



For this amazing history of a life of service to
mechanical music,
this year's President's Award goes to
Nancy Fratti



THIS CONCLUDES THE AWARDS CEREMONY

70th Annual Meeting
Rockville, Maryland
Friday, August 30
2019