

Press Release

The Iconic 3DBenchy Enters the Public Domain

14 February 2025 – 3DBenchy, a 3D model designed specifically for testing and benchmarking 3D printers, is now in the public domain. Originally released on April 9, 2015, by Creative Tools, the model has become a beloved icon of the 3D printing community. Following Creative Tools' acquisition and merger into NTI in 2024, NTI has decided to release 3DBenchy to the world by making it public domain, marking its 10th anniversary with this significant gesture.

The Origins of 3DBenchy

While working at Creative Tools, Daniel Norée designed the boat model as a benchmarking tool for 3D printers. Paulo Kiefe, CEO of Creative Tools until 2018, shared Norée's enthusiasm for 3D printing, named the model “3DBenchy,” and established its online identity by uploading it to 3D printing repositories. Released in 2015 under a Creative Commons: No Derivatives license, the model's design was protected from modifications, ensuring its effectiveness as a calibration tool.

The immense popularity of 3DBenchy quickly made the original model widely recognizable. The 3D printing community embraced it wholeheartedly, creating numerous versions despite the licensing restrictions. However, Creative Tools never had to enforce the “No Derivatives” clause, as the community respected 3DBenchy’s original purpose.



The original 3DBenchy

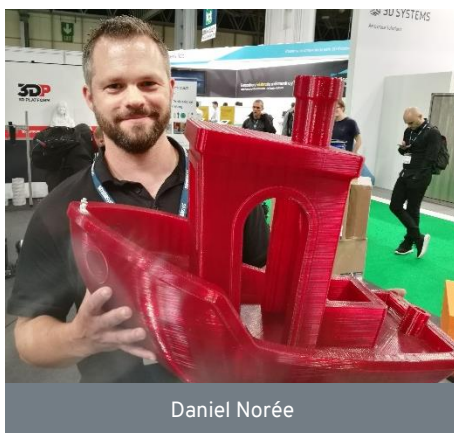
Transition to the Public Domain

When Creative Tools was acquired by NTI in 2024, NTI became the custodian of 3DBenchy. As a leading full-service supplier of digital solutions for the construction, design, manufacturing, and media & entertainment industries, NTI had no interest or plans to monetize the use of 3DBenchy. In January 2025, rumors surfaced that remixes of 3DBenchy were being removed from Printables due to the enforcement of the original license. However, NTI did not initiate this action. Prusa Research, the company behind Printables, later confirmed that a third-party report - not NTI - prompted the enforcement. NTI clarified it had not sought to remove downloads or derivatives of the model and had taken no legal action in this regard.

This incident highlighted the enduring importance of 3DBenchy within the 3D printing community. Recognizing its cultural significance, NTI, Daniel Norée, and Paulo Kiefe collaborated to decide on transitioning 3DBenchy to the public domain, ensuring it remains accessible and remixable for everyone.

Passing the Torch

With this licensing change and to preserve the open-source legacy of 3DBenchy, the website www.3dbenchy.com and associated social media accounts will be entrusted to Paulo Kiefe and Daniel Norée. The only stipulation for this transition is that 3DBenchy remains publicly available to all.



Daniel Norée



Paulo Kiefe

A Celebration to Remember

Mark your calendars for April 9, 2025, as 3DBenchy celebrates its 10th anniversary! A special surprise is planned for the 3DBenchy community to commemorate this milestone. Stay tuned for exciting updates and downloads on www.3dbenchy.com.