

To all the Tarantula new builders out there.

Following is a compendium of advises that the veterans on this group are rehearsing over and over...

Adhering to these and you'll most probably have your 1st print as good as, or better than any print coming out of a Plug & Play printer.

- 1) Watch Ed Farias videos, before AND during the assembly.
- 2) Take your time! Don't try to finish the assembly in 6 hours as you have seen some folks did. Every hour on top of these 6, will save you 10 hours of frustration in the future, and lots of questions.
- 3) Make sure the nozzle is locked against the heat-break, aka heat-tube, not against the heat-block.
- 4) Make sure the Bowden PTFE tube is pushed ~40 mm down the hot-end assembly. If it goes only ~20 mm, you need to rework the heat-sink.
- 5) Make sure the frame is square.
- 6) Use all the corner-stiffeners/L-brackets that came with the kit and/or the gift-bag. Use additional corner/L-brackets from your local HW store as long as you have M4 screws/T-nuts from your gift-bag.
- 7) Make sure that the eccentric nuts are tight, and there is no wobble in any of the wheel carriages.
- 8) Make sure your belts are tight like a Violin's string.
- 9) Make sure your Z-rod is attached properly to the Z-motor spring coupler, and aligned properly with the top/bottom brackets. There should be no wobble on the Z-rod, visible or otherwise.
- 10) Make sure you are using the Latest version of community firmware (Version "D" at the time this is written). According to which side you have assembled the Y-motor, you may need to change one line in the configuration file.
- 11) Make sure you measure your filament's diameter and plug the number into your slicer.
- 12) Make sure you are using the filament vendor's temp as your starting point.
- 13) Your 1st print should be a 20 mm test cube, using one of the published stable slicer configurations. If you have followed steps 1-12 above, the result will surprise you.
- 14) Mods time: One of the first things you would like to have, when your printer is running, is a fan-duct, and some more stiffeners. You can find them in the Files section of the group or in Thingiverse. The outcome may not be great looking, however they will be functional. Remember, this is a bootstrap process in which you print objects that will make your future prints better.
- 15) Your next print should be the temp calibration towers which will pinpoint the best temp for your filament.
- 16) Don't reinvent the wheel. If you are stuck, most probably another folk have had the same issue before. Search the group for an answer. The search engine is not great; however yields good results if you use keywords that logically describe your issue. THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO LEARN.
- 17) Now is the time to tweak your slicer and start having fun !

And you veterans, if you find out that I have missed or goofed anything, please feel free to amend.

Prepared by Doron Shalev, 25-Apr-2016.