

<http://www.computeractive.co.uk/ca/computeractive-blog/2175758/adventures-3d-printing->

## Advertisement

**Before you download:**

[Run a free scan](#) to identify PC issues causing speed loss

[Start scan now](#)You are here: [Home](#) > [Blog](#)

## Adventures in 3D printing with the Sculpteo iPad app

3D printing sounds really interesting - now there's an app so people can try it out

[James Temperton](#) | [Apps](#) | 17/05/2012 |

[Tweet](#)

How much would you pay for a miniature coffee cup with a profile picture of your face on it? What if that mug was made using a 3D printer?

The answer probably isn't €39.

Sculpteo's 3D printing iPad and iPhone app might sound rather nifty, but in practice it is poorly executed to the point of being laughable.

I put together two products, with limited success. One was a customised iPhone case and the other a mug with a profile image of a face on it. The app doesn't work as it should and customising designs was a chore. At the time of writing the Buy button on the app isn't working, so I couldn't test the process of buying a mug.

When I did buy one it cost €39. For this I get an

[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Share on Digg](#)[Free email newsletter](#)

### Recent blog posts

**Feeling like a beginner again**  
While researching a news story I started up my copy of the Windows 8 Consumer Preview in a virtual computer....

**Top 5 unexpectedly dangerous animals on Wikipedia**  
We know to avoid snakes, spiders and sharks but they're not the only members of the animal kingdom...

**Adventures in 3D printing with the Sculpteo iPad app**  
How much would you pay for a miniature coffee cup with a profile picture of your face on it? What if...

**Making the move from inkjet to laser**  
After nearly 11 years of faithful

### Latest issue & subscription deals



- Deal with online bloopers
- Protect your Apple Mac
- Erase web-browsing history

#### Subscriber club benefits

- Save up to 40% on the price
- Exclusive subscriber website
- Our price won't be beaten

[Subscribe now](#)[Sign up for our free newsletters](#)

## Advertisement



**STRATO**  
UK's Best Value  
Dedicated Servers

from **£49** p.m.

### Most popular articles



**Optimise your computer for games with Lobit Game Booster**

This system optimiser is available at no cost for a limited time

<http://www.computeractive.co.uk/ca/computeractive-blog/2175758/adventures-3d-printing->

espresso sized mug with a vague approximation of my face on it in profile. To create it I got my glamorous assistant/reviews editor Alan to take a picture of my face using the iPad and then traced the outline of it in the Sculpteo app. This might sound easy, but for some reason the line I needed to move to trace my face wouldn't move. This caused me to jab furiously at the iPad until I got bored and went and made a cup of tea.

Eventually it did work and my glorious face was outlined and ready to go. The mug was ordered and I sat, eagerly waiting. Two months later - and after having to email Sculpteo a picture of my face for them to check it - the mug arrived. Small it might be, but the mug isn't perfectly formed. The handle had some rough edges, as did the relief sections of my face in profile.

The iPhone case was slightly more successful. It cost €35 and we could select the design, add some custom symbols and even some text. The end result was a neat looking customised iPhone case.

It might sound cool, but this 3D printing app is overpriced and clumsy.

Tags: [Printing](#), [3D](#), [Apple iPad](#), [Apple iPhone](#)

Categories: [Apps](#)

Reader Comments

[Post a comment](#)

service, my HP 930cm inkjet printer finally couldn't take it any more...

### Recent comments

Laser for low output

by David Mitchell on [Making the move from inkjet to laser](#)

Inkjet is a scam

by Mike on [Making the move from inkjet to laser](#)

Cheap printer ink cartridge

by Dev priya on [Making the move from inkjet to laser](#)

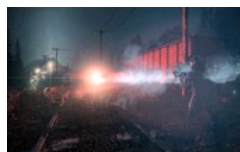
gave up on printers

by michel on [Making the move from inkjet to laser](#)

Thankyou

by Lynnrose on [Lots of online storage for Microsoft Skydrive](#)

### Related articles



Alan Wake



Hank Hazard - the Stunt Hamster



Optimise your computer for games with lobit Game Booster

Global Tech scammers tell PC users they face criminal charges and fines

Privacy watchdog takes softly-softly approach over compliance with cookie law

Why are odd patterns appearing on my monitors shortly after startup?

Government websites may not comply with new cookie law

### You say; we say



*I'm not sure what more the Digital Switchover campaign could have done but getting a message like this out to the public is always difficult.*

Tim Smith - Computeractive

[Read more](#)

### Find us on Facebook

Activité récente

Inscription

Créez un compte ou connectez-vous pour voir ce que vos amis sont en train de faire.

Module social Facebook

### Poll

Are you concerned about viruses that target mobile phones?

Yes - I already have mobile security software

Yes - don't know how to get/use mobile security tools

No - I won't act unless affected by mobile malware

No - mobile security risks are overhyped

[Vote](#)

[View poll results](#)

<http://www.computeractive.co.uk/ca/computeractive-blog/2175758/adventures-3d-printing->

Advertisement



**STRATO**  
Perfect 10 offer:  
save up to £166 per year on  
Dedicated servers now!

**10% OFF!**

**Jargon Buster**  
Computing terms explained in plain English

**GIF**  
*Graphics Interchange Format. A type of image file often used on the web, but now largely superseded by...*

[View all definitions](#)

Search Jargon Buster



## Computeractive Direct

Great shopping deals from Computeractive

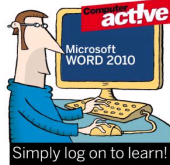
### ONLINE TUTORIAL



#### Computeractive Excel (2010) Online tutorial

Price: £19.99  
[Read more >>](#)

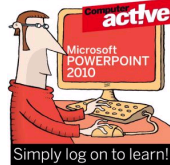
### ONLINE TUTORIAL



#### Computeractive Word (2010) Online Tutorial

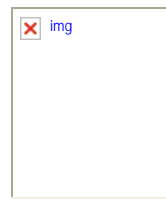
Price: £19.99  
[Read more >>](#)

### ONLINE TUTORIAL



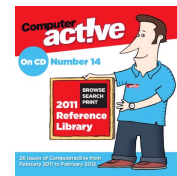
#### Computeractive Powerpoint (2010) Online Tutorial

Price: £19.99  
[Read more >>](#)



#### Angry Birds

Price: £9.99  
[Read more >>](#)



#### Back Issue CD-Rom 14 (2011)

Price: £15.99  
[Read more >>](#)

[Home](#) | [PC Help](#) | [News](#) | [Reviews](#) | [Downloads](#) | [Forums](#) | [Consumer rights](#) | [Jargon Buster](#) | [Magazine](#) | [Step by step guides](#) | [Videos](#) | [Blog](#) | [Competitions](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Security centre](#)



© Incisive Media Investments Limited 2012, Published by Incisive Financial Publishing Limited, Haymarket House, 28-29 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4RX, are companies registered in England and Wales with company registration numbers 04252091 & 04252093

Search computeractive.co.uk



Site Internet : <http://www.computeractive.co.uk> Press index  
Date : 17/05/2012  
Security Copy : [sculpteo\\_computeractive.pdf](#)  
Copyright : Computeractive.co.uk

<http://www.computeractive.co.uk/ca/computeractive-blog/2175758/adventures-3d-printing->

<b>About us:</b>	<a href="#">About us</a> <a href="#">Contact us</a> <a href="#">Terms and conditions</a> <a href="#">For advertisers</a> <a href="#">Site map</a> <a href="#">Privacy policy</a>
<b>Shopping and offers</b>	<a href="#">Our webstore</a> <a href="#">Our software store</a> <a href="#">Auctions</a> <a href="#">Games</a>
<b>Magazine:</b>	<a href="#">Magazine index</a> <a href="#">Subscription offers</a> <a href="#">Ultimate Guide Series</a> <a href="#">Ebook</a> <a href="#">Free sample</a> <a href="#">Jargon Buster</a> <a href="#">Forum</a>
<b>Free newsletters:</b>	<a href="#">Computeractive Weekly</a> <a href="#">Computeractive Direct</a>