Subject: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by alienology on Wed, 10 Oct 2012 21:19:19 GMT
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Hi,

It's great to have polished colored WSF.

So, I am reading in this new e-mail that:

"Most excitingly, all Colored Strong & Flexible products will now be polished first. By polishing and then dying, 3D prints look and feel like final products so the quality rivals what you can find in a store. "

OK - but will you keep an option to still have colored objects that are NOT polished first?
I would need that option for some of my bracelets. I actually like how non polished feels for that particular purpose.

Can you keep that option? Just as it was - non polished but colored?

TNX,
Igor

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by natalia on Wed, 10 Oct 2012 22:28:19 GMT
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Hi Igor,

Unfortunately not. We are moving towards more consumer level materials and based on feedback from makers and shoppers alike, most people prefer the polished objects.

We are doing this to increase the desirability of your products and hopefully make them more appealing for sale!

You can still do black and white in unpolished for now.

Best,
Natalia

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by BillBedford on Wed, 10 Oct 2012 23:48:42 GMT
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My customers would certainly not like polished railway carriage underframes. You seem to be making assumptions based on only part of the market.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by mkroeker on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 08:49:52 GMT
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My guess is that the real message behind the marketing-speak is that shapeways found it too much hassle to get the vivid and even dyeing of finely detailed models right.

The tumble grinder probably has the additional advantage of removing the last few bits of loose material that survived the normal cleaning. Based on Murphy's principle, I would expect those to normally come off after dyeing, leaving white specks.

With black dye, one can probably just chuck such a part back into the soup - it can't get blacker than black anyway. (Same goes for models where recessed parts got less than their share of the dye.) With red and blue, repeated dyeing would probably make them too dark, or at least come out uneven. I wonder how such problematic cases are handled now - hope the customer accepts it as is, hand-paint over the spots, or even reprint behind the scenes ?

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by BillBedford on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 11:08:56 GMT
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Maybe, but this bit :-
Quote:You can still do black and white in unpolished for now. (my italics)

Suggests that SW wants to limit the use of unpolished SF. If this is true than there will be a knock-on effect on the maximum size they will allow in SF.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by mkroeker on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 11:49:45 GMT
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AFAIK, maximum size of polished models is limited by the size of the polishing tumbler, not by the size of the printer. I do not see a viable business model in printing only small, simple shapes, so I would hope that the current decision hinges on the dyeing process alone.
If they switch to some less rustic polishing process in the future, one that is also safe for fragile details, most customers will probably be content with polished objects.
(Such a decision would adversely affect only those cases where rough surfaces are actually desired for mechanic or artistic purposes (?)

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by natalia on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 14:41:57 GMT
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Hi Everyone,

Just to clarify some concerns you have raised:

Bill, not to worry! You will still be able to order black and white in unpolished.

As mkroeker noticed, we have had consistency issues with the colors in the past so are improving the color palette to be consistent and vibrant.

Black and White will NOT be affected. You will still be able to order black and white in unpolished. We are investigating ways to add black polished as well in the future.

We do want to enable you to make bigger polished color models and working hard to make this happen as quickly as possible.

We really appreciate all your feedback, please keep sharing any questions or concerns you have

Best,
Natalia

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by duann on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 15:01:32 GMT
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Hey All,

Just wanted to add that the new dying process is MUCH more sophisticated and gives a much more even coating.

We are expecting to see greater consistency both in coverage on each model, and across batches.

The dye itself has two components, one that soaks into the 3D printed nylon structure, and one that coats the surface, giving a much better, even finish.

The 3D printer we will be using for the new colors has a higher resolution then the current colors.

This means that tolerances will be tighter, finer layers and better resolution.

Overall it is a massive improvement to the current colors that I am personally REALLY happy to see.

Please do keep the feedback coming, especially when you have some new color prints to see and feel..

We have more on the way...

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by tomrust on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 16:16:15 GMT
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Black polished would be a big plus. Ok, how do we order the new colors, blue & hot pink? This i gotta see.
also, when we order red or purple now, will we get the polished?

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by mkroeker on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 16:29:10 GMT
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Well, the announcement stated "Starting October 17, you and your customers will be able to

order..."
So what you order now will have to be tickled pink, what you order in a week will be pickled in ink.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by natalia on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 16:45:06 GMT
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Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by gibell on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 17:14:50 GMT
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Is the new pricing info correct? The price of any dyed polished model is only 25 cents more than a white, polished model? That is a lot cheaper than the extra cost of the old dyeing process (which had a higher per cc cost).

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by natalia on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 17:36:46 GMT
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Yes indeed the pricing is correct

Because we are moving the process in house, we are able to make it cheaper for you.

(Overall, cheaper. To be precise, very small models under 2cc will be a tiny bit more expensive due to startup cost)

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by Dragoman on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 18:21:39 GMT
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duann wrote on Thu, 11 October 2012 15:01
The 3D printer we will be using for the new colors has a higher resolution then the current colors.

This means that tolerances will be tighter, finer layers and better resolution.

Interesting.
Does that mean we could get items at WSF prices with better resolution? Will that printer be available for unpolished items?

Greetings
Dragoman

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by duann on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 18:37:14 GMT
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Dragoman, we are already using this 3D Printer for white nylon, both polished and not. (WSF PWSF)

It is only the colored nylons that are currently in the lower resolution machine.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by gibell on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 20:12:51 GMT
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duann wrote on Thu, 11 October 2012 15:01Just wanted to add that the new dying process is MUCH more sophisticated and gives a much more even coating.
We are expecting to see greater consistency both in coverage on each model, and across batches.
The dye itself has two components, one that soaks into the 3D printed nylon structure, and one that coats the surface, giving a much better, even finish.

That is great, I am interested to hear more details on the new dyeing process! Have you experimented with dying the pieces in a pressure cooker? I would think increasing the pressure would help infuse the parts with dye.

I do most of the dyeing myself, but if the new process is good I may have to switch. The one

remaining thing I would find useful is to dye parts of a single model different colors ...

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by duann on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 20:19:59 GMT
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Hi gibell

It is not with a pressure cooker, that sound interesting though, similar to the way in which our elasto was impregnated.

multiple colors would be tricky for us at our volume..

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by natalia on Thu, 11 Oct 2012 21:06:19 GMT
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Hey Guys,

Just to let you know, the next Shapeways Live is scheduled for: Monday October 15th 8pm UTC (4pm EST for those in the US)

I think we'll go back to UStream for this one, so more people can participate and we're not limited to 10.

We can chat about the new colors we're introducing and answer any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you all again!

Natalia

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by gibell on Wed, 17 Oct 2012 14:07:01 GMT
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OK, it is October 17th, but I don't see the new colors???

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by mkroeker on Wed, 17 Oct 2012 16:16:55 GMT
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Be patient, let the software guys change color first

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by natalia on Wed, 17 Oct 2012 18:47:58 GMT
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Perfect answer...we are indeed waiting for today's release to go live first, so you can see the new colors in the material picker...

Stay tuned, it's not far away!

Best,
Natalia

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by Youknowwho4eva on Wed, 17 Oct 2012 22:34:36 GMT
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Check now

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by gibell on Wed, 17 Oct 2012 23:27:21 GMT
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Here is a screen snap just taken of a new upload! No polished colors, but colored WSF is cheaper than normal WSF!!??

File Attachments
1) Materials.png, downloaded 385 times

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by mkroeker on Thu, 18 Oct 2012 06:56:12 GMT
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Blog says
colored WSF will be 10% cheaper until Oct 31, so thelist you got is probably correct.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by Youknowwho4eva on Thu, 18 Oct 2012 11:39:36 GMT
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Non polished colors are no longer available, so all the colors you see are polished.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by Zeeflyboy on Thu, 18 Oct 2012 12:50:17 GMT
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Youknowwho4eva wrote on Thu, 18 October 2012 11:39Non polished colors are no longer available, so all the colors you see are polished.

except the black according to what I have read here, which is pretty confusing. I think there should be a note saying what is polished and what is not.

I also would really like to see black polished - what is the reason this isn't currently available as an option along with the others?

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by Youknowwho4eva on Thu, 18 Oct 2012 13:01:01 GMT
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I don't know the exact reasoning, all I know it's in the process of happening. We want to make sure we do it right, and with an unmatched consistency.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by Zeeflyboy on Thu, 18 Oct 2012 13:04:12 GMT
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Thanks for that - so hopefully black should soon join the other colours as being available polished?

Could you be so kind as to post here if you hear when it might be available? I have some parts waiting that I would love to try in a new black and polished material....

Cheers

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by Youknowwho4eva on Thu, 18 Oct 2012 13:09:07 GMT
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As soon as that information is available, it will be emailed to all shop owners, blogged about, posted about, etc. I can't give any advanced knowledge, I usually don't know myself till I see the emails . I can tell you these colors and black are just the beginning.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white remain...
Posted by gibell on Thu, 18 Oct 2012 14:59:23 GMT
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Awesome! Looks like the new colors are working!

The one thing that I find confusing is that the new colors are not listed as "polished". People may assume they are not if they haven't read the latest announcements ...

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF questions: yes, unpolished black and white

remain...
Posted by duann on Thu, 18 Oct 2012 18:02:34 GMT
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Hey All,

Correct all Nylon SLS colors are polished by default EXCEPT for black.

Black is a different dyeing process that reacts poorly to polished models.

We will soon be moving to polished black nylon so all of your designs will be consistently awesome.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by Steve Winter on Thu, 18 Oct 2012 19:49:14 GMT
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duann wrote on Thu, 11 October 2012 15:01Hey All,

...
The 3D printer we will be using for the new colors has a higher resolution then the current colors.

This means that tolerances will be tighter, finer layers and better resolution.

...

If you are using a higher resolution printing for the new polished colors it would be good to do some resolution tests with the new printing. This would be similar to the Shapeways Design rules & detail resolution for SLS 3D printing on this page:
http://www.shapeways.com/tutorials/design_rules_for_3d_print ing
If there are higher resolutions options that Shop owners know how to design with, then they can utilize these to make new designs that may not have been possible before. It will also give designers the information they need on what to expect when they print with the new colors.

Also, will you be using the new higher resolution with White Strong and Flexible polished also?

The new colors look really great. But for the models I make I would just like some information on what various resolution models will look like before I start using these.

Best Regards

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by mkroeker on Fri, 19 Oct 2012 12:06:13 GMT
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Duann had already clarified the "higher resolution printer" later that same day (message #55213 in this same thread)
to mean the same model they are/were already using for WSF. So there are probably no adjustments to be made on
our (customer) side, it is just that print quality should look a tiny bit nicer than previous dyed models as a side effect
of retiring the older hardware.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by TOM_TOM_TOM on Sun, 04 Nov 2012 13:51:05 GMT
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So, from the previous posts, am I correct that:

WSF is not polished, lower resolution machine
WPSF is polished, lower resolution machine
BSF is not polished, lower resolution machine
all other colored WSF is polished and printed in higher resolution?

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by mkroeker on Sun, 04 Nov 2012 14:19:52 GMT
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From my reading of Duann's post #55213 in this thread on Thu, 11 October 2012 18:37 UTC:
Quote:
Dragoman, we are already using this 3D Printer for white nylon, both polished and not. (WSF PWSF)
It is only the colored nylons that are currently in the lower resolution machine

this should probably be :

WSF is not polished

WSFP is polished
BSF is not polished
all other colored WSF is polished

and all use the same ("high") resolution printer, while the old "colored WSF" before the process upgrade
was done on a lower resolution machine that has since been decomissioned.

Subject: Re: Polished Colored WSF question - will non-polished option remain?
Posted by TOM_TOM_TOM on Sun, 04 Nov 2012 14:28:29 GMT
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"old colored" as in black, or just all models made before Oct. 17?

All SF now made with the higher resolution?