Shapeways Offering Extensive Database of 3D Parts to 3D modelers

"Certified" 3D Parts Allow For Greater Speed, Ease and Success In 3D Design and Printing

Eindhoven, The Netherlands (June 23th, 2009)—Continuing in their efforts to offer easy and accessible 3D design and printing to their users, Shapeways announced today the opening of its 3D parts database for all 3D modelers and CAD designers. All parts can be downloaded and used for free. Consisting of commonly used and easily adaptable shapes and parts such as gears, hinges, springs and axles, the 3D parts database streamlines and speeds up the process of 3D design and printing. Parts included in the database are "certified" by the Shapeways team, guaranteeing that the parts have been tested on tolerance, accuracy, orientation and clearance. All parts have been successfully printed using typical materials. The success and possible usages of each part is further emphasized with pictures, movies and recommendations found on the details page for each model.

The database is initially stocked with parts developed by Shapeways as a gift to their community members and anyone interested in 3D modeling. But in keeping with the spirit of the dynamic community of artists and designers that use Shapeways, the database will soon be expanded to include parts developed for community members, by community members. The membership is free. Many developments that Shapeways has added to their 3D design and printing offerings have come from user suggestions, making a "for users, by users" database. The first steps towards an open source 3D parts repository have been taken and are a fitting addition to the Shapeways community. The database can be found at http://www.shapeways.com/3d parts database

"We are always looking for new ways to make 3D design and printing more accessible for everyone," commented Shapeways CEO Peter Weijmarshausen. "We found that mechanical parts are sometimes especially difficult to design well. By offering what are essentially the building blocks for 3D design to users through our new database, it will now be easier than ever for users to create and print their own custom designs that work to their exact specifications."

About Shapeways:

Shapeways, the world's first 3D co-creation community, brings design to life with cost effective, high quality 3D printing. For seasoned 3D designers advanced upload-to-print tools are available. Shapeways encompasses a diverse community of artists and enthusiasts they engage in for instance collaborative creation and selling their 3D designs as products through the unique Shapeways Shops, an international marketplace for consumer created 3D printed products. For all creative consumers Shapeways is redefining Do-It-Yourself by connecting them to the latest in micro production with easy to use click-and-drag product customization. This software is called Creators, easily allowing you to personalize for instance the **Lightpoem**, **Ringpoem**, **Stampmaker**, **Fruitconfession** and **Photoshaper**. Shapeways is spinning out from the Lifestyle Incubator of Royal Philips Electronics, located in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. You can find Shapeways at www.shapeways.com

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Editors Note:

Images available at http://www.shapeways.com/presscorner