



Introduction to Personal Fabrication

CTHCl'24 – René Schäfer



RWTHAACHEN
UNIVERSITY

René Schäfer

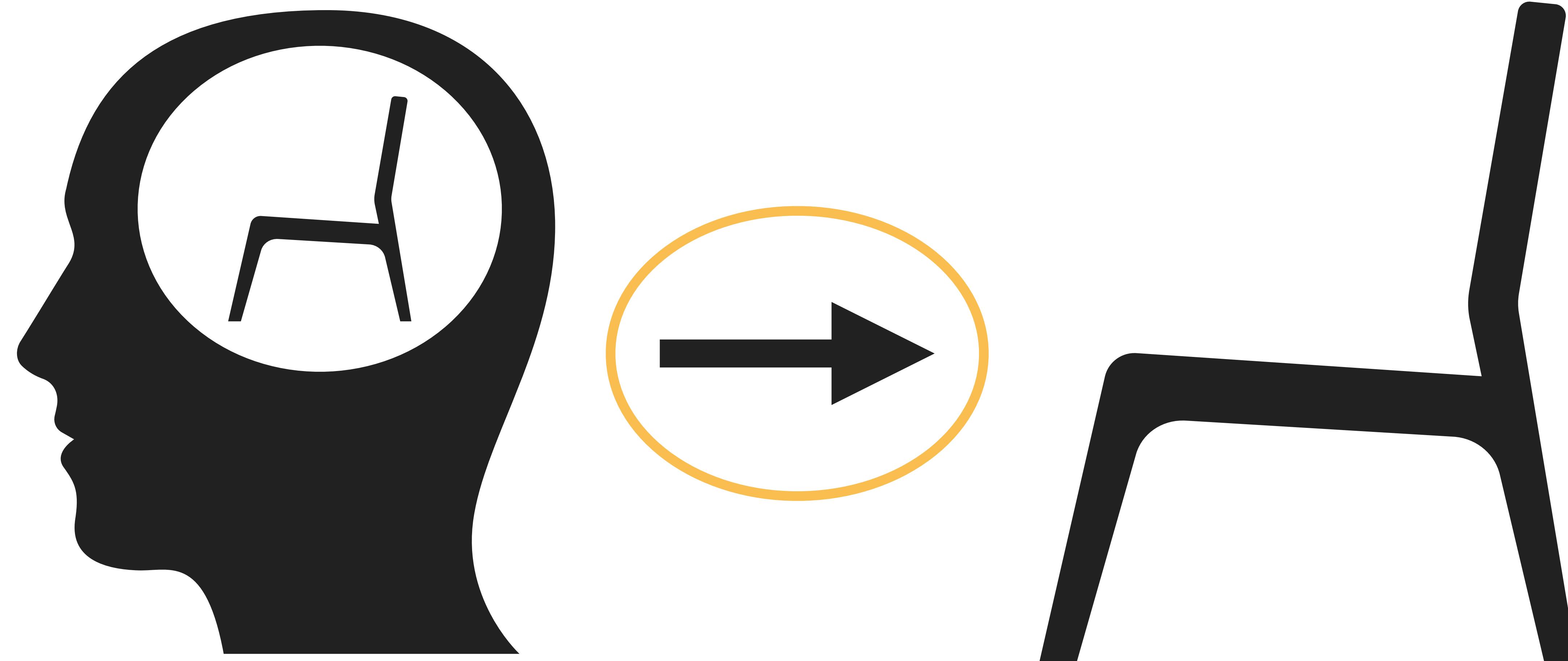
Research Assistant
PhD Candidate
RWTH Aachen University
Media Computing Group

Dark Patterns
Textile Interfaces

✉ rschaefer@cs.rwth-aachen.de
🌐 hci.rwth-aachen.de/schaefer



What is Personal Fabrication?



How can we empower **everyone** to
create physical objects with ease?

Digital Fabrication

**Digital fabrication tools turn bits
into atoms, i.e. they create material
objects from digital designs.**

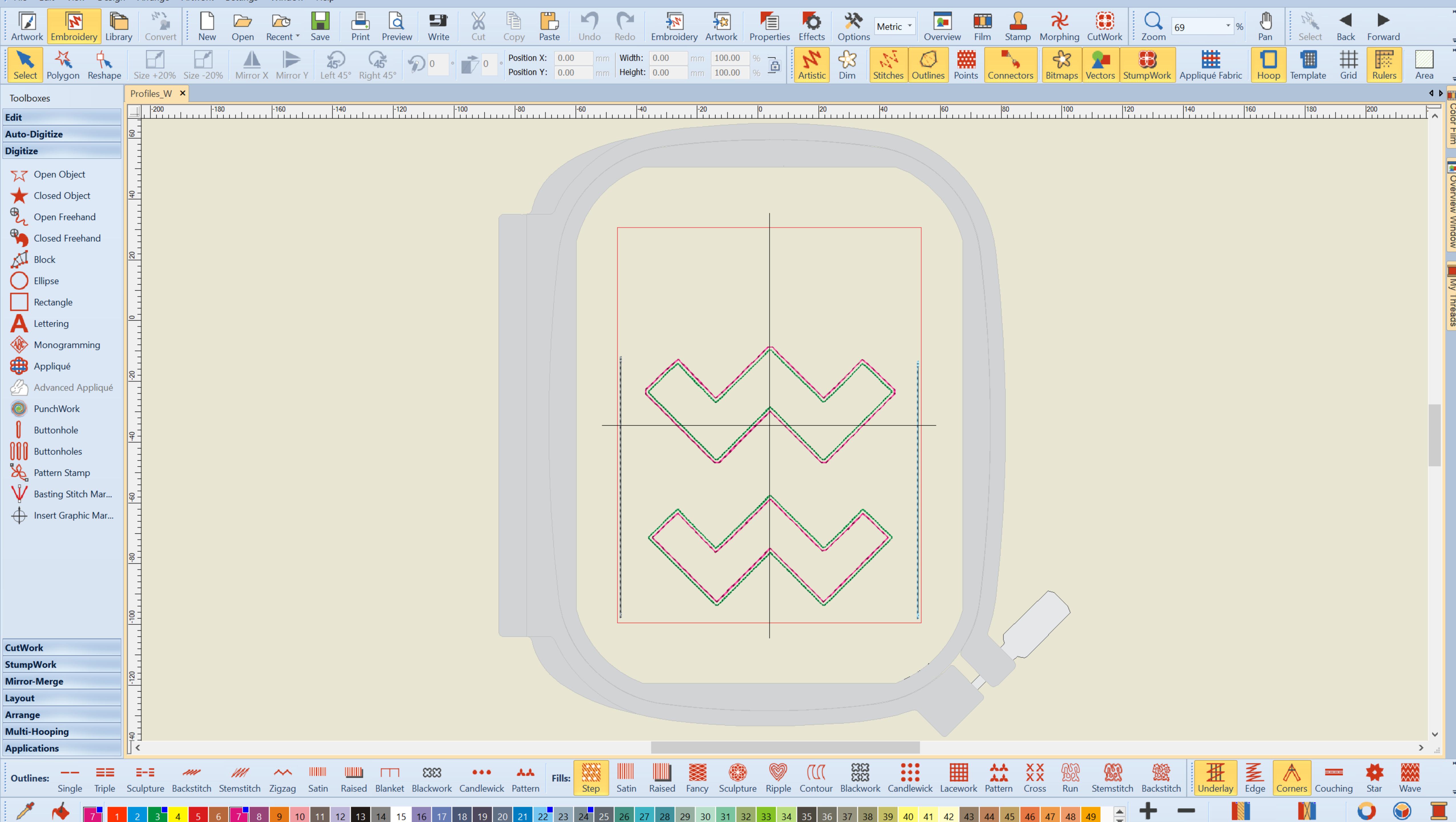
- Catarina Mota, The Rise of Personal Fabrication, C&C'11



<https://www.bernina.com>



RWTHAACHEN
UNIVERSITY





10

Shaping Textile Sliders

Nowak et al., CHI'22



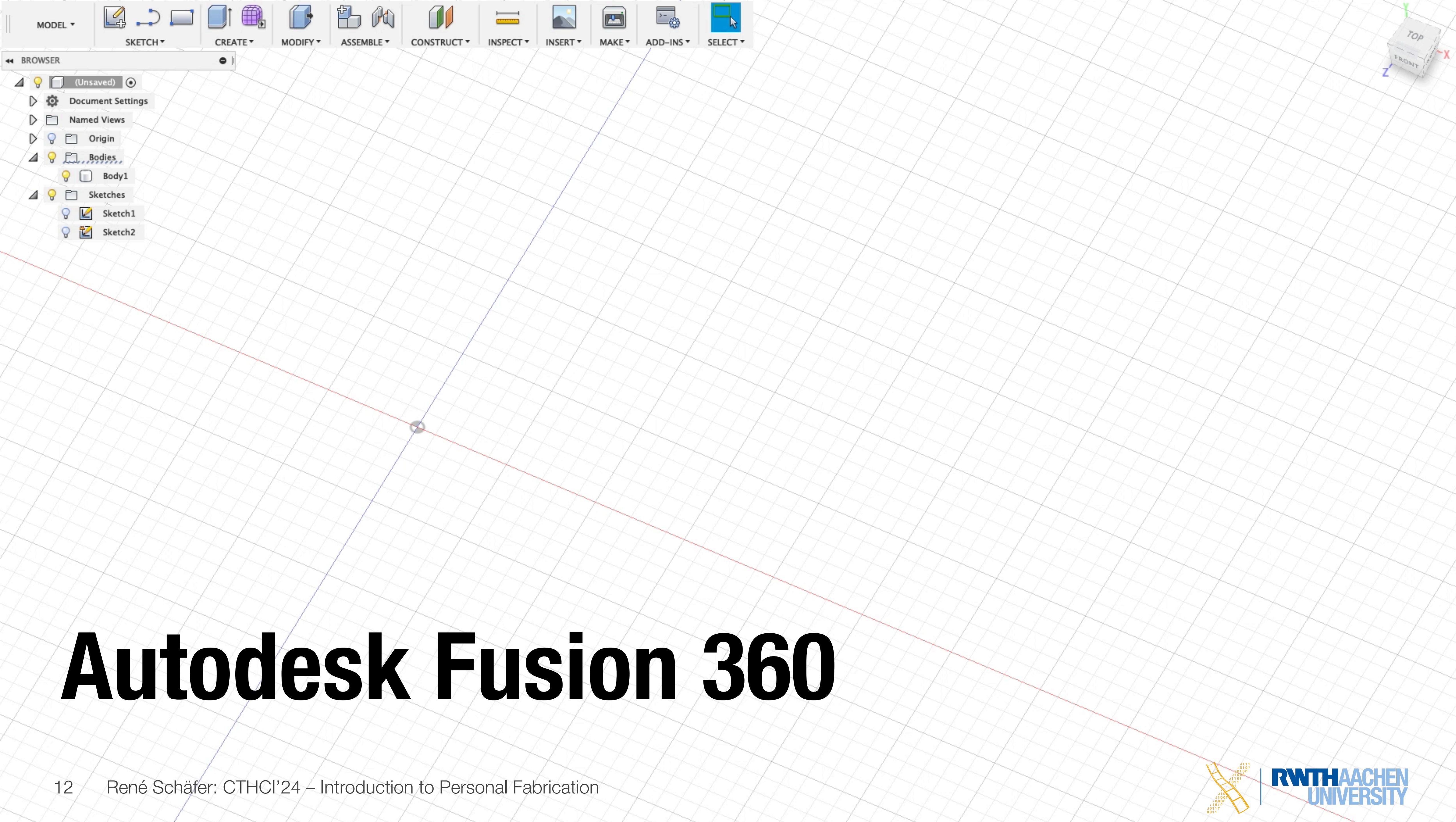
RWTHAACHEN
UNIVERSITY



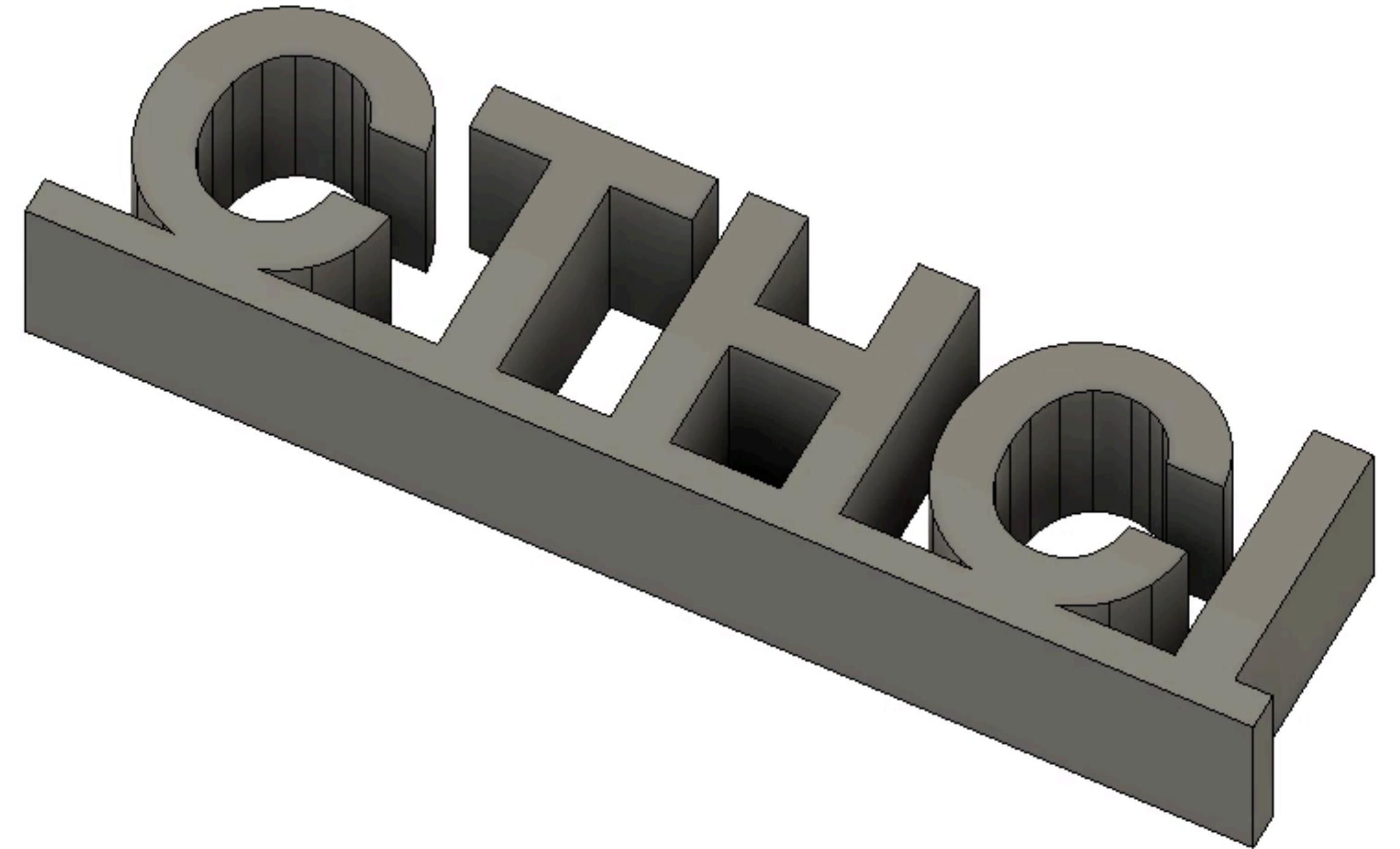
Textile Icons

Schäfer et al., CHI'23





Autodesk Fusion 360



**Digital fabrication tools turn bits
into atoms, i.e. they create material
objects from digital designs.**

- Catarina Mota, The Rise of Personal Fabrication, C&C'11

Additive Manufacturing

CDHCA



Source: Ultimaker Press Room Images

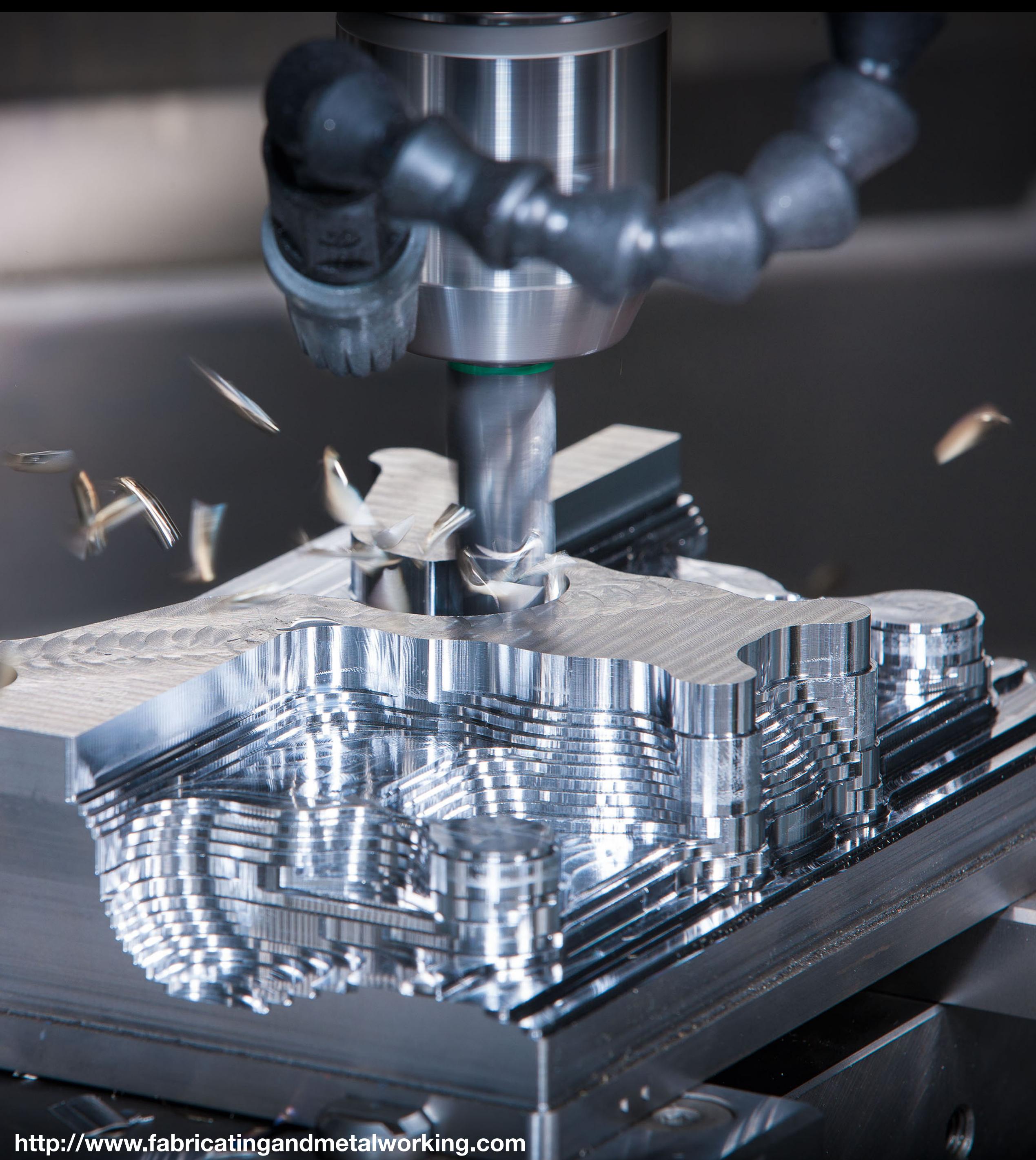


<https://formlabs.com/>



RWTH AACHEN
UNIVERSITY

Subtractive Manufacturing



<http://www.fabricatingandmetalworking.com>



<http://en.hglaser.com>



RWTH AACHEN
UNIVERSITY

Prof. Neil Gershenfeld



One of 1,000+

TEDTalks

New ideas every weekday

TED.com

https://www.ted.com/talks/neil_gershenfeld_on_fab_labs#t-772771



FAB LAB





What is a fab lab?

Fab labs are a global network of local labs, enabling invention by providing access to tools for digital fabrication

What's in a fab lab?

Fab labs share an evolving inventory of core capabilities to make (almost) anything, allowing people and projects to be shared

What does the fab lab network provide?

Operational, educational, technical, financial, and logistical assistance beyond what's available within one lab

Who can use a fab lab?

Fab labs are available as a community resource, offering open access for individuals as well as scheduled access for programs

What are your responsibilities?

safety: not hurting people or machines

operations: assisting with cleaning, maintaining, and improving the lab

knowledge: contributing to documentation and instruction

Who owns fab lab inventions?

Designs and processes developed in fab labs can be protected and sold however an inventor chooses, but should remain available for individuals to use and learn from

How can businesses use a fab lab?

Commercial activities can be prototyped and incubated in a fab lab, but they must not conflict with other uses, they should grow beyond rather than within the lab, and they are expected to benefit the inventors, labs, and networks that contribute to their success

<http://fab.cba.mit.edu/about/charter/>

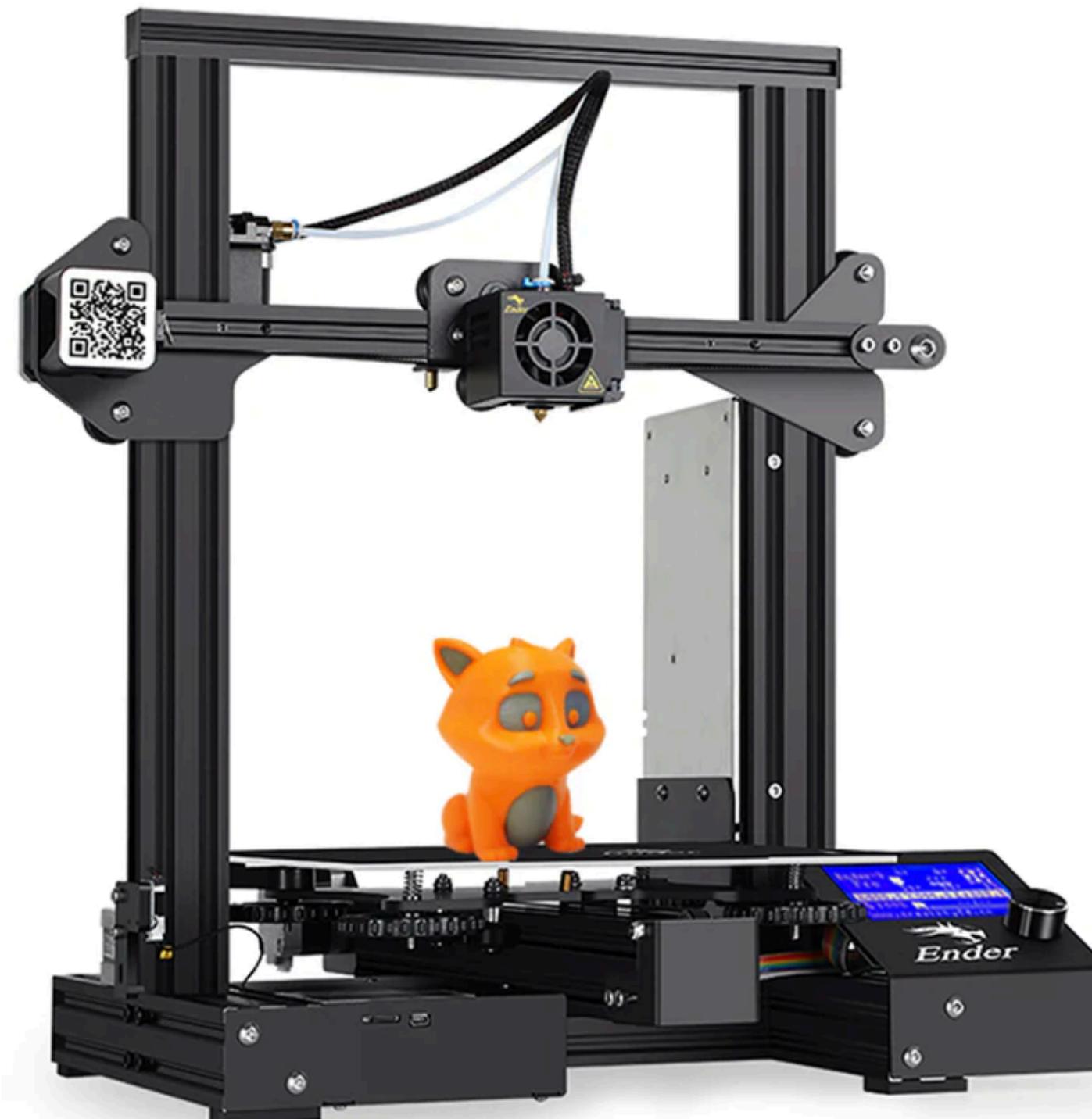
Who can use a fab lab?

Fab labs are available as a community resource, offering open access for individuals as well as scheduled access for programs

How do we connect this to HCI research?



Ender 3



Creality Ender 3 3D Printer

★★★★★ 5 reviews

Sale €179,00 ~~€199,00~~ 7 AVAILABLE

SHIP FROM

Czech

OPTIONS

Ender 3

QUANTITY

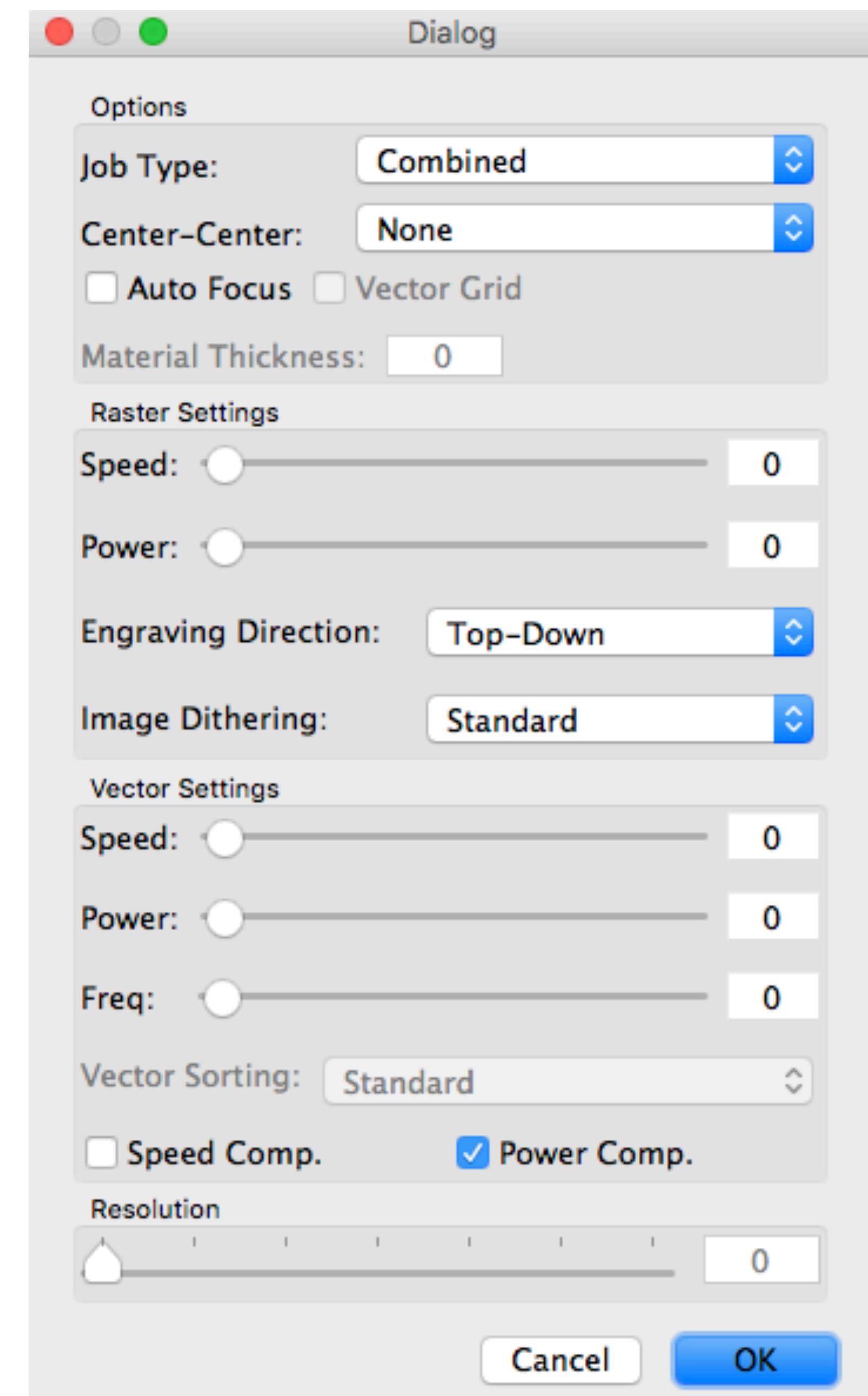
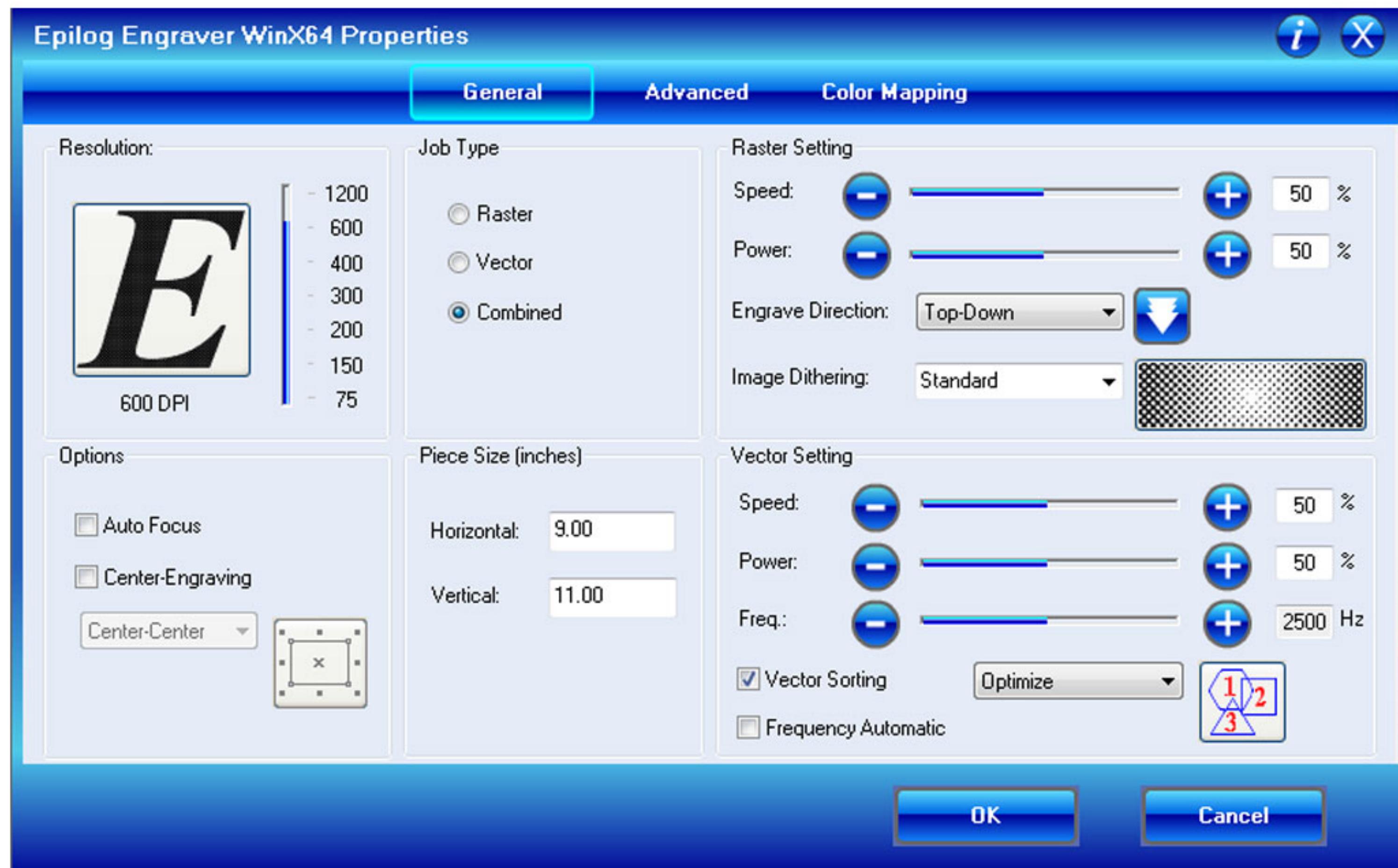
- 1 +

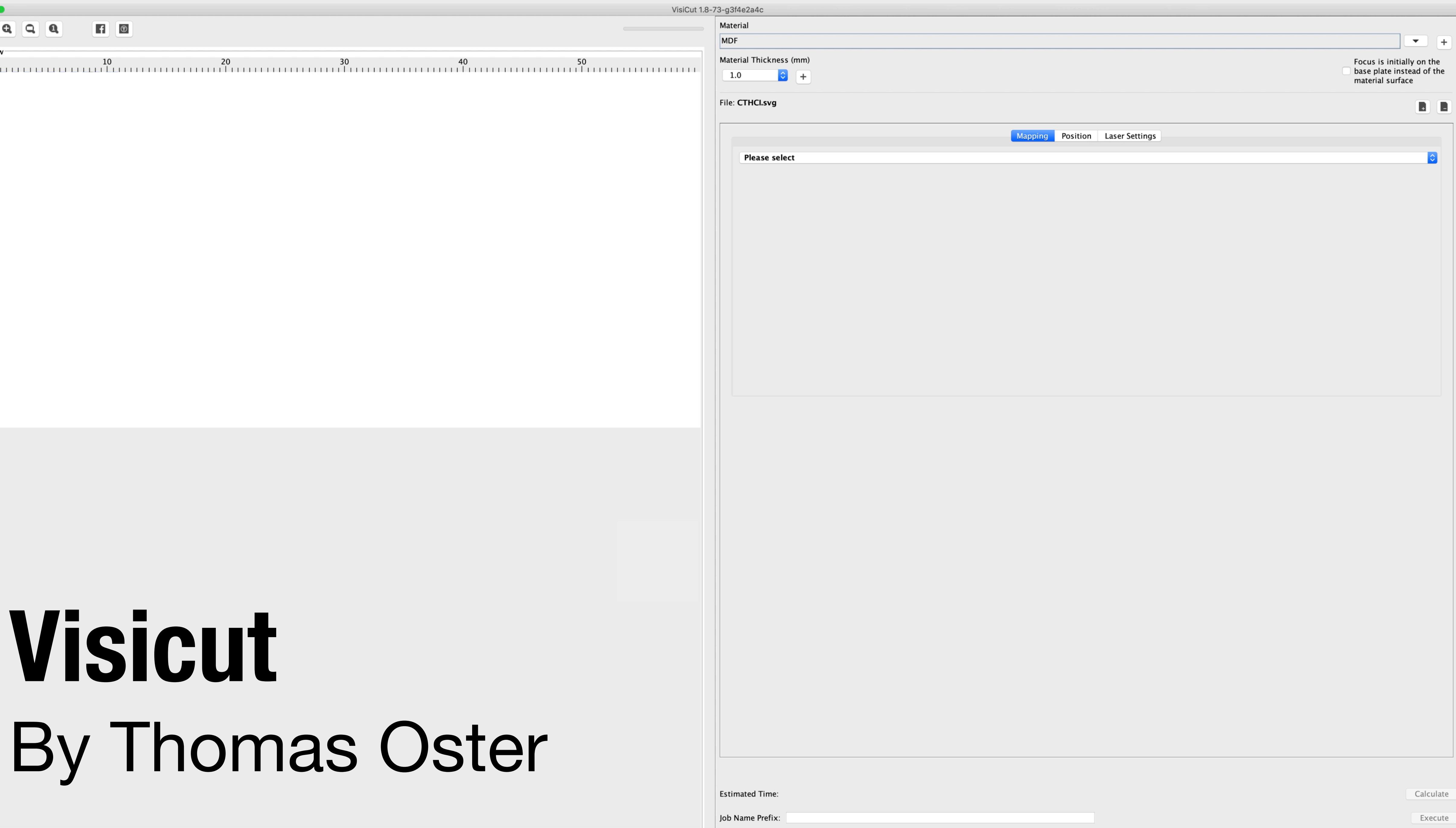
Add to Cart

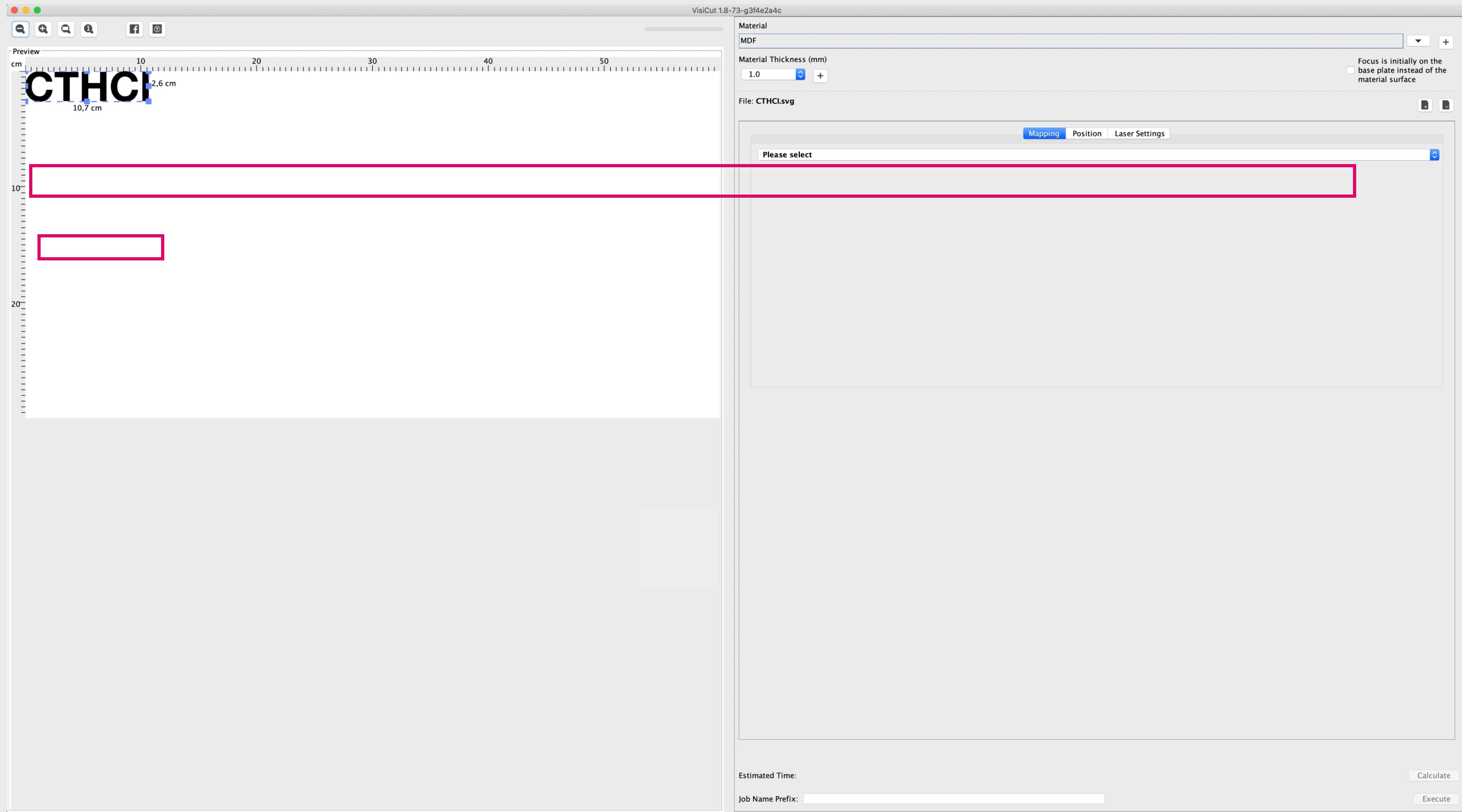
Buy it now

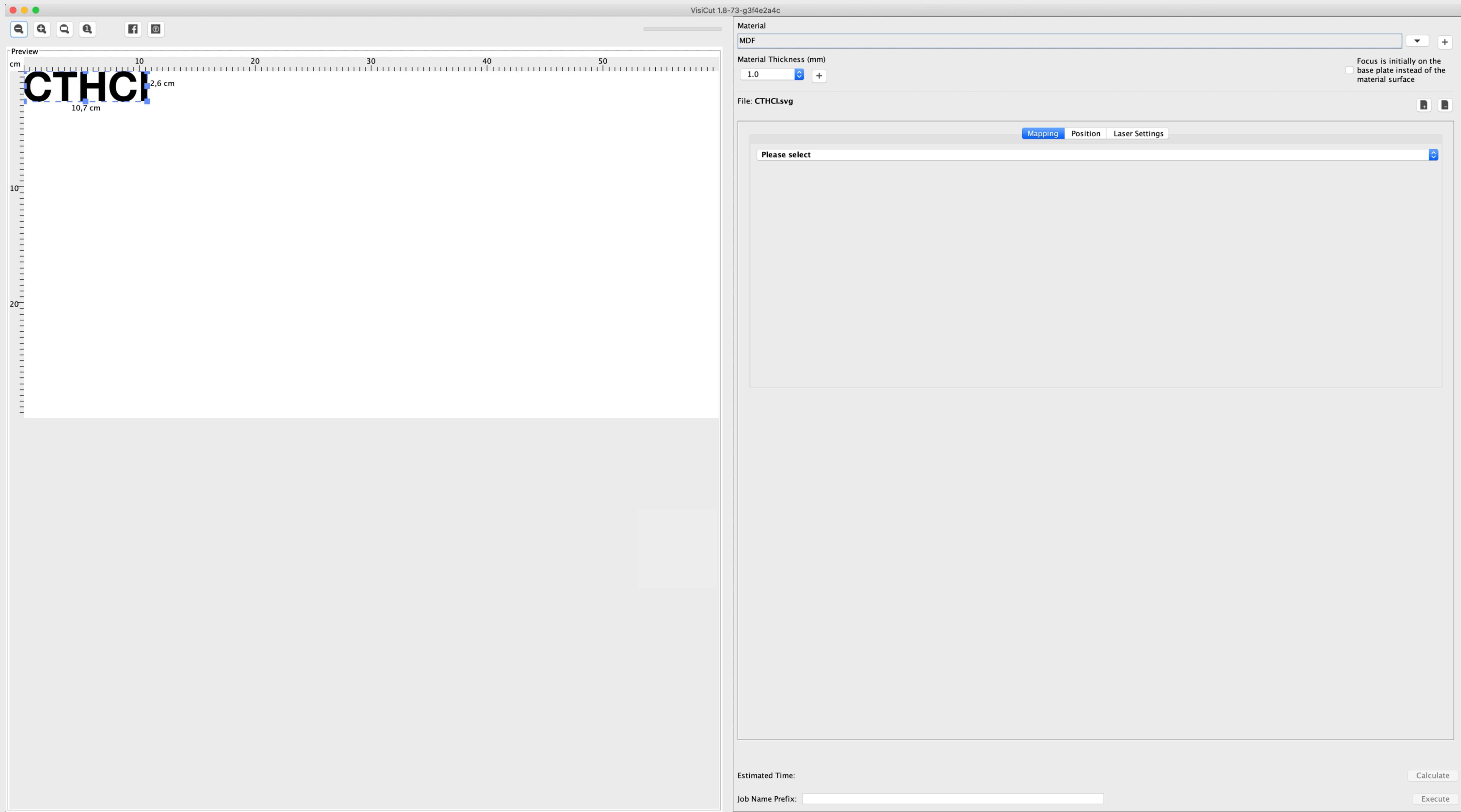
<https://www.creality.shop/products/ender-3-3d-printer> – 23th June 2023

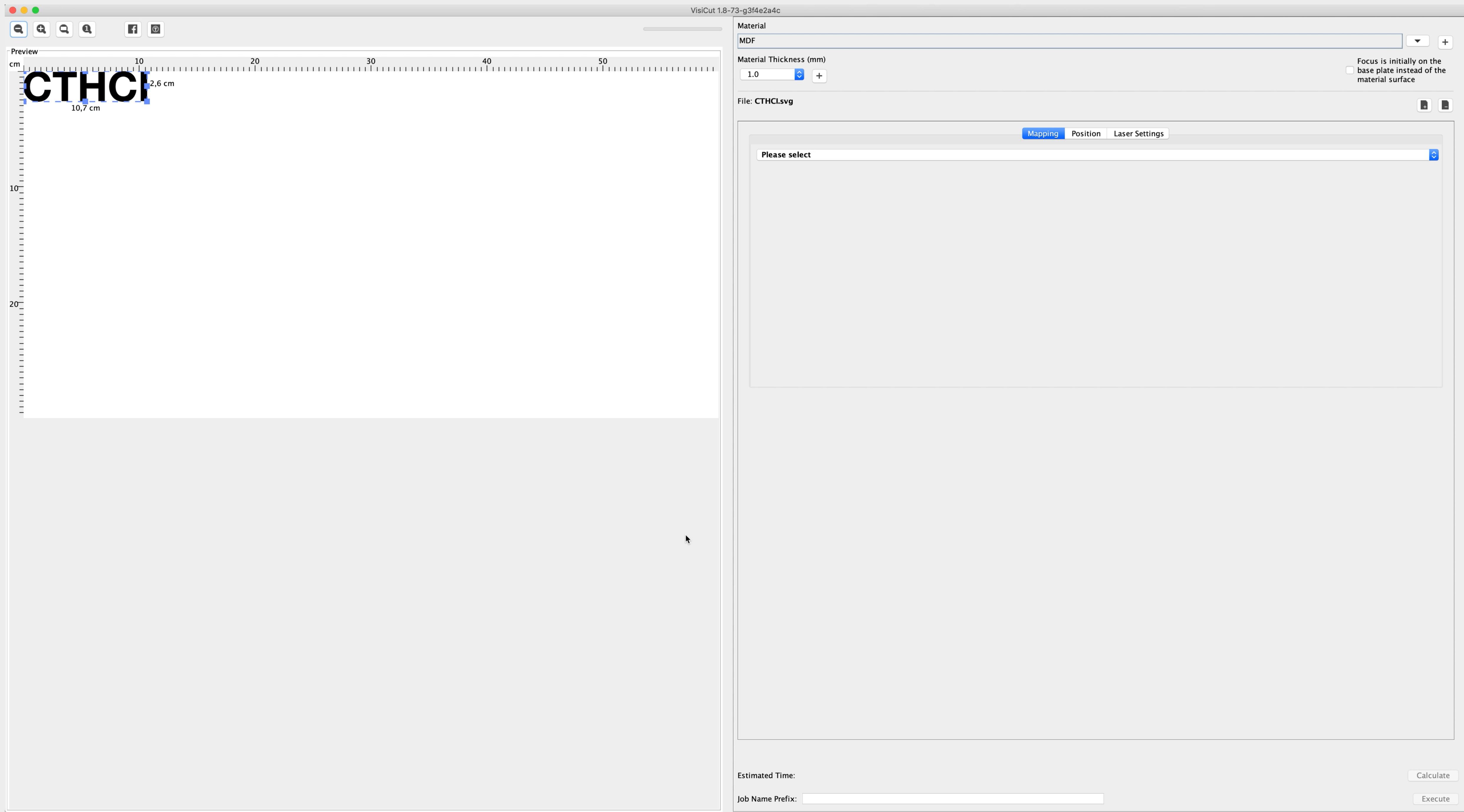
Interfaces







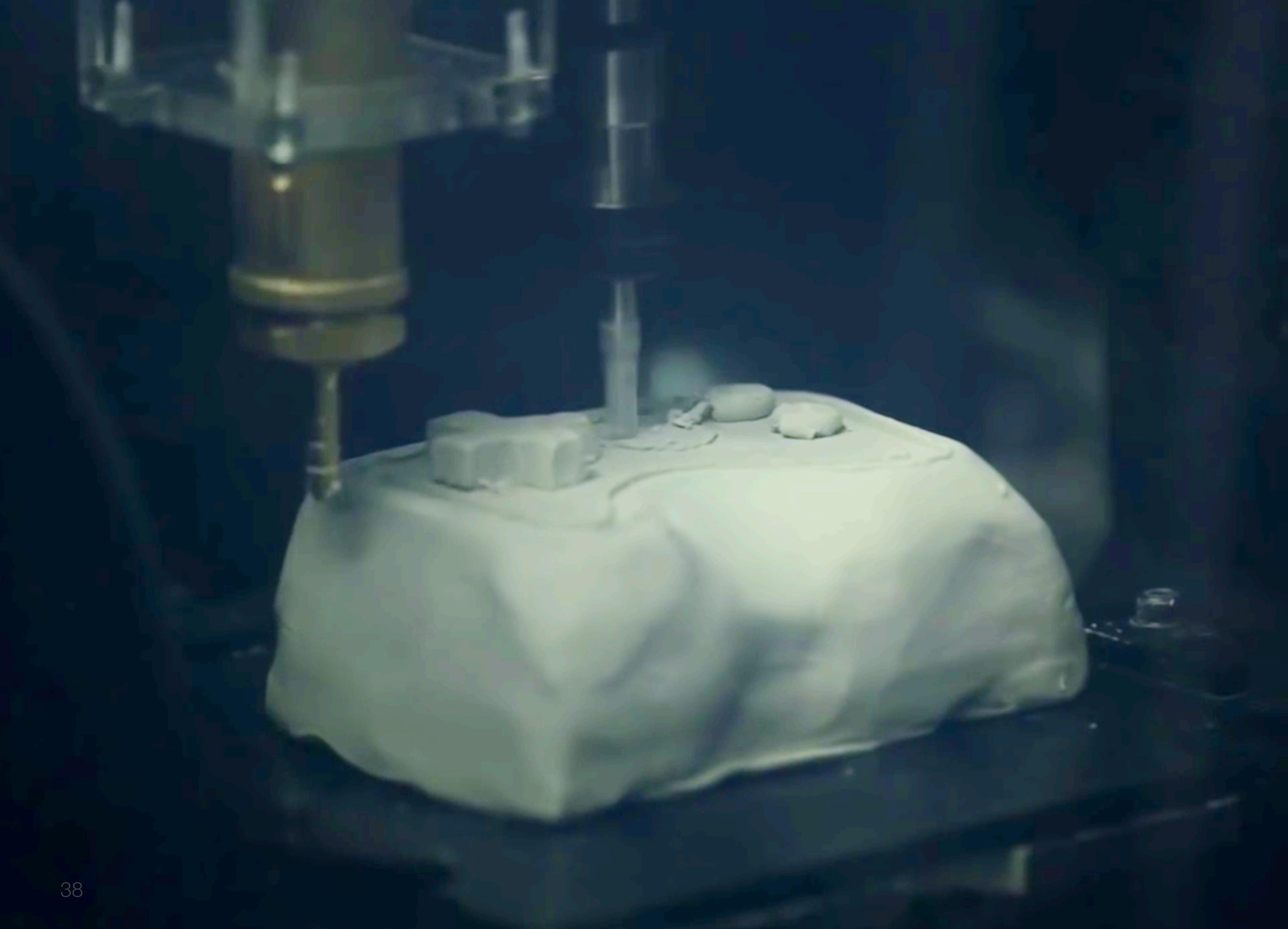




Processes

If we go back to the beginnings of interactive computing, early computer users were probably reasonably happy placing their punch cards into the reader and **waiting for their out-put** to arrive hours later—which is pretty much where 3D printing stands today

- Patrick Baudisch, Personal Fabrication in HCI: Trends and Challenges, AVI'16



ReForm: Integrating Physical and Digital Design through Bidirectional Fabrication

Christian Weichel

John Hardy

Jason Alexander

Hans Gellersen

From Lancaster
University

UIST'15



RWTHAACHEN
UNIVERSITY

Christian Weichel
John Hardy
Jason Alexander
Hans Gellersen



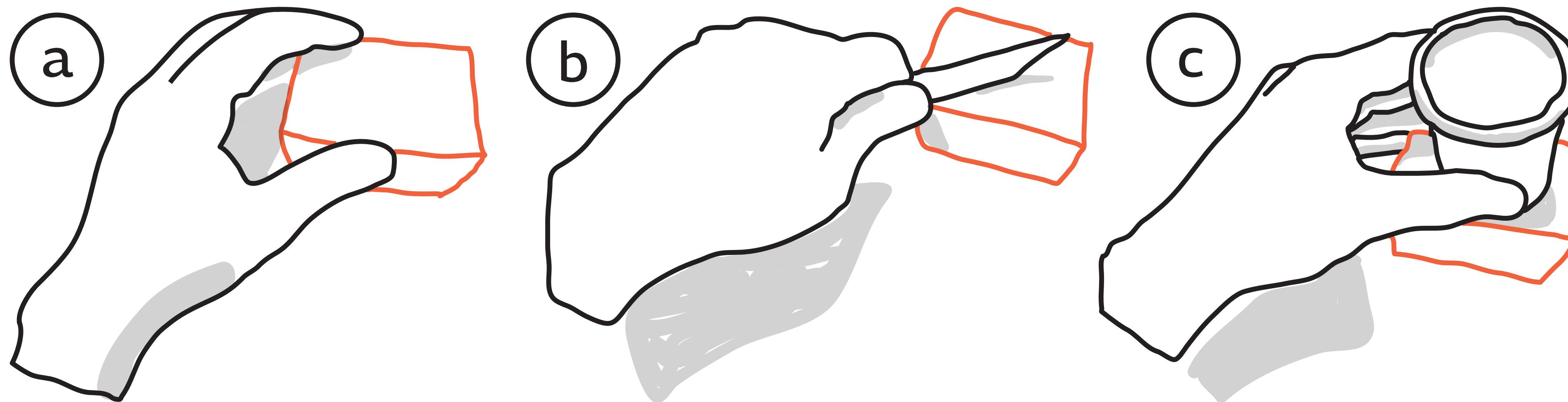
ReForm

Integrating Physical and Digital Design
through Bidirectional Fabrication

video: Robert Potts and Daniel Morrell (Ourus LTD)

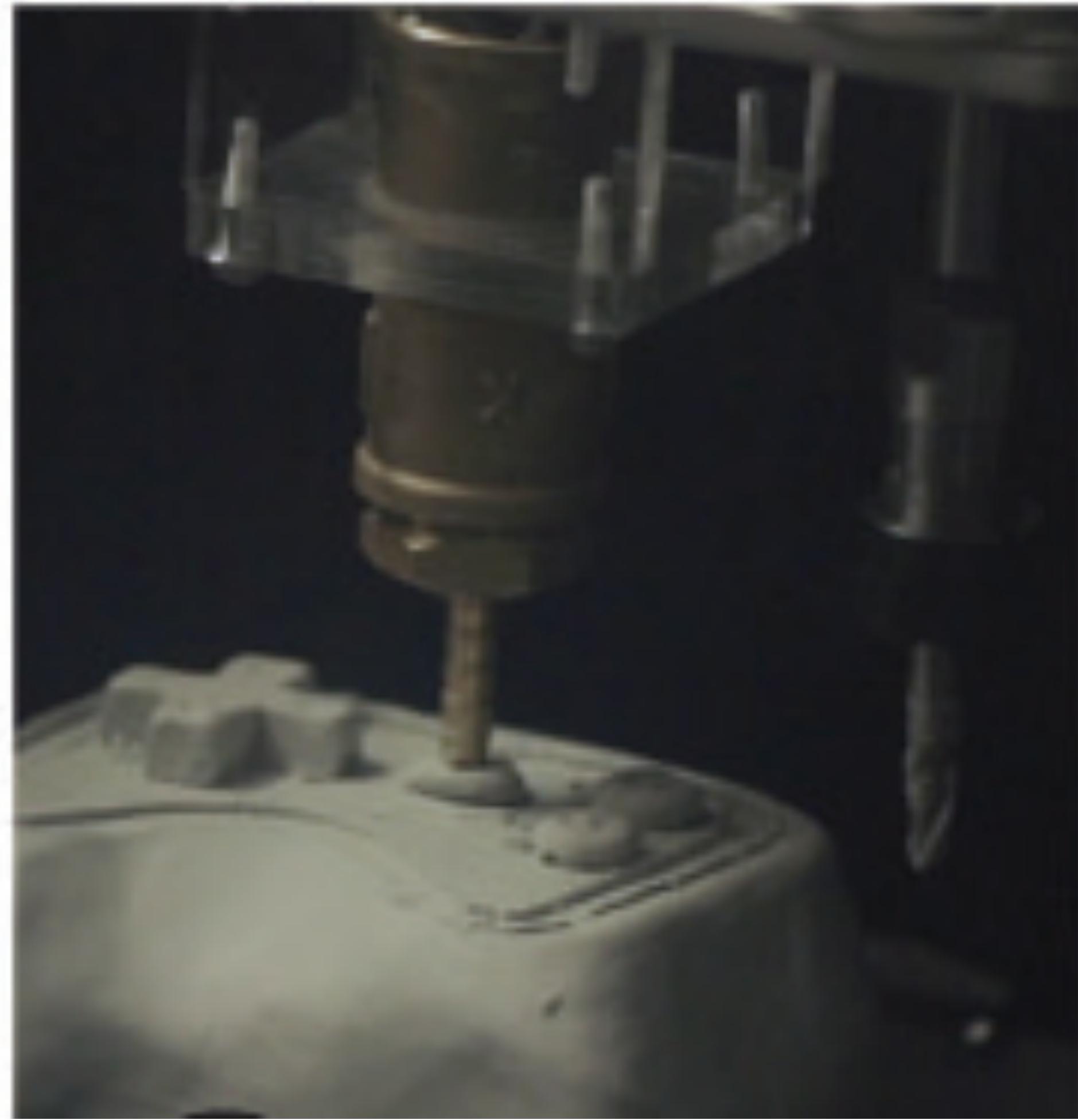
Bidirectional Fabrication

Physical Shaping



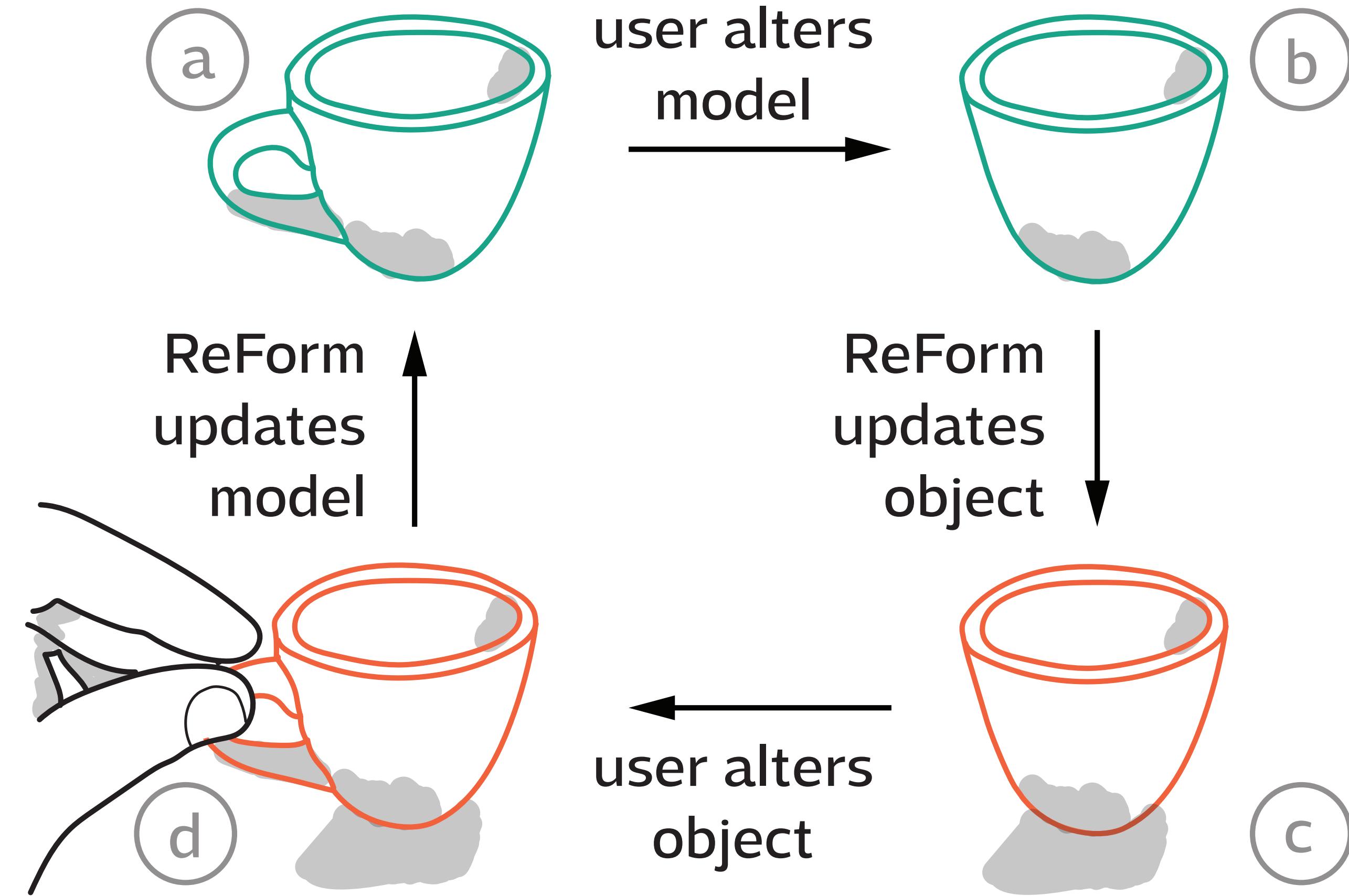


Scan



Print

digital



Toolkits

Kyub: A 3D Editor for Modeling Sturdy Laser-Cut Objects

Patrick Baudisch
Arthur Silber
Yannis Kommana
Milan Gruner
Ludwig Wall
Kevin Reuss
Lukas Heilman
Robert Kovacs
Daniel Rechlitz
Thijs Roumen

From Hasso Plattner Institute

CHI'19



kyub

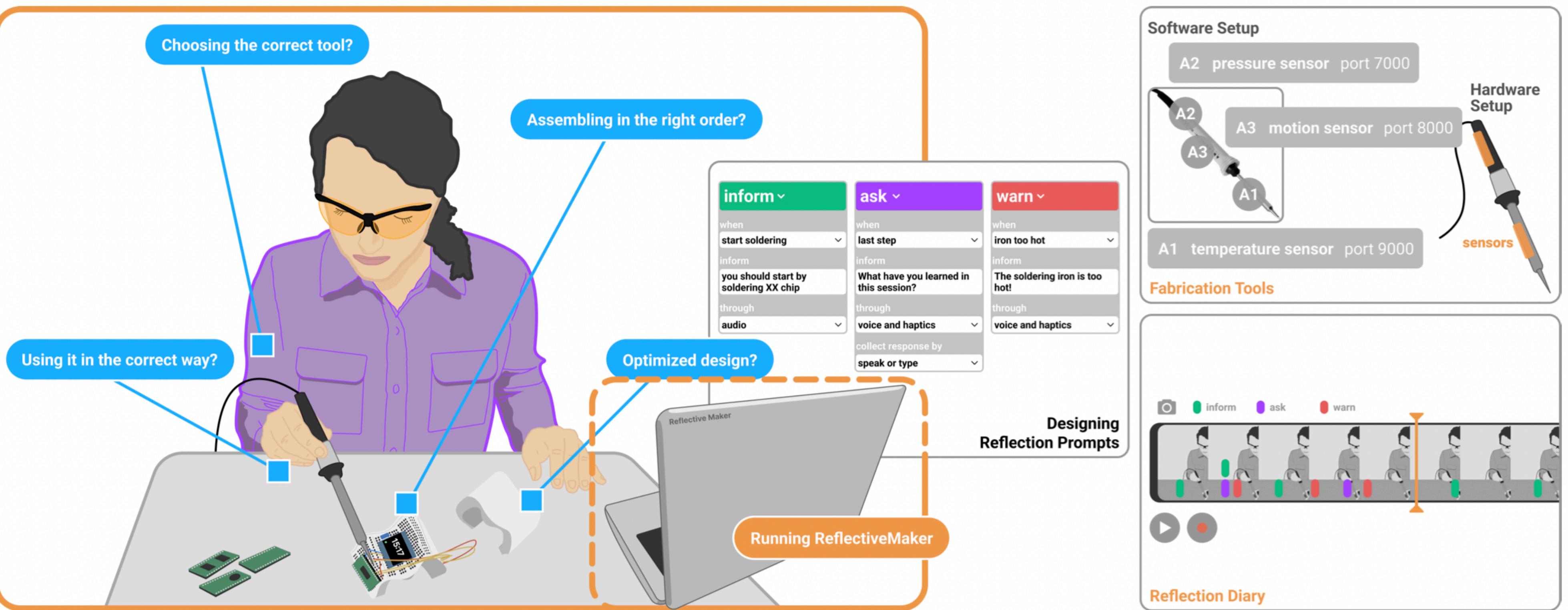
HPI



The Reflective Maker: Using Reflection to Support Skill-learning in Makerspaces

Dishita Turakhia
Peiling Jiang
Brent Liu
Mackenzie Leake
Stefanie Mueller

From MIT
CHI'22



Digital Fabrication

Manufacturing

Fab Labs

Novice Users

Research