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Modelling And 3D Printing Of 4-Wheeler Exhaust Manifold

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Abstract: Exhaust noise is one of the main causes of vehicle disturbances, and the exhaust system is designed to reduce the noise level to meet demand levels and lower emission levels. Modern engines must be powerful while also meeting stringent pollution standards. In automobiles, the exhaust system plays an important role in removing exhaust gases from the combustion chamber after the combustion of the air and fuel mixture. The exhaust pipe, or valve, is called the exhaust manifold. Increasing the diameter of the exhaust manifold can increase the airflow rate within the manifold.

A CAD model was built using Solidworks (2022) software in the form of an SLDPRT format, and that file was saved as an STL file. It was then sent to a 3D printer for printing of the part using 3D printing technology, which converts the digital design of the object into a physical part.

Key Words: Exhaust manifold, Solidworks, CAD model, 3d printing.

1. Introduction

Exhaust manifold is the integrated part of the internal combustion engine. It is used to collect the exhaust gasses from the combustion chambers and released to atmosphere through exhaust pipe. It plays a crucial role in performance, efficiency, exhaust gas noise, emissions control etc.

Exhaust gases from the exhaust manifold will be directed to the accessory like turbocharger for boosting the performance of the internal combustion engine.

Exhaust manifold is used to converge the gases from the different cylinders into one single path. It is also used to decrease the back pressure created by the exhaust gases. This can be achieved by directing the gases to flow without any restrictions caused by exhaust manifold.

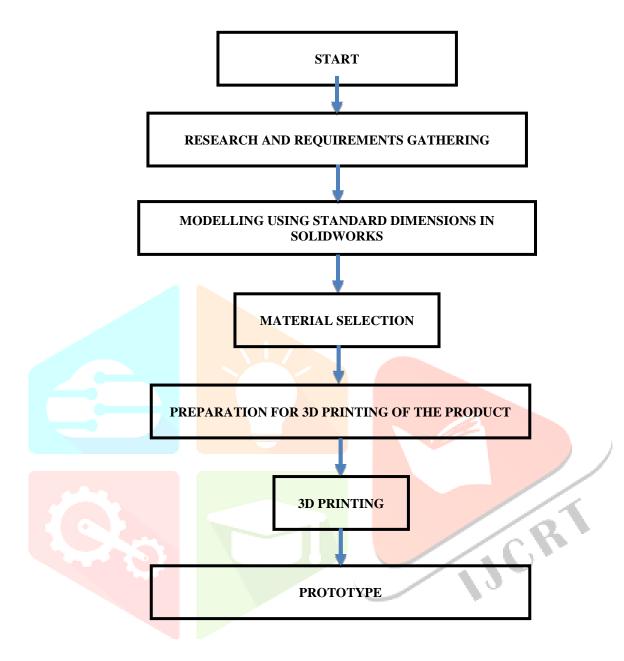
Exhaust manifolds are mostly made of cast iron or stainless steel because, exhaust gases



Figure 1 Exhaust Manifold

from the internal combustion engine are delivered with high temperatures. These materials can with stand high temperatures and have good resistance to corrosion.

2. Methodology



2.1 Modelling Of Engine Exhaust Manifold

- The Model is created in the Soildworks 2022.
- By using the Solidworks tools (i.e., sketch, extrude, revolve, extrude cut, fillet etc.) the Engine Exhaust Manifold is created.
- The Model is saved as .stl file as to insert in the Flash Forge Creator Pro for 3d printing.

2.2 3D Printing of Engine Exhaust Manifold

- The Model saved in the. stl (stereolithography) format is imported to Flash Forge 3D printing software.
- The model is loaded to the Flash forge creator pro software.
- Adjust the size of the Model according to the prototyping size by using Scale tool.
- The supports are added to the model by using the Auto supports then save the file.
- Print the Engine Exhaust Manifold by using Flash Forge 3D Printing machine.
- Select the material PLA (Poly lactic Acid) used for the model to be printed.
- The Quality of the model is selected as 100% then printed.
- Infill density is selected as 50% and type of infill pattern to hexagonal shape is selected.
- The estimated printing time is shown while printing the model.

3. Introduction To SolidWorks

SolidWorks is a software for 3D solid modelling that is used to create fully solid models in a simulated environment for accurate dimensions. In SolidWorks, users can sketch ideas and explore diverse designs to generate 3D models. It is very useful for students, designers etc which makes their work simple and accurate. The utilization of modelling software like SolidWorks is advantageous as it significantly economizes time, labour, and financial resources that would otherwise be invested in prototyping the design.

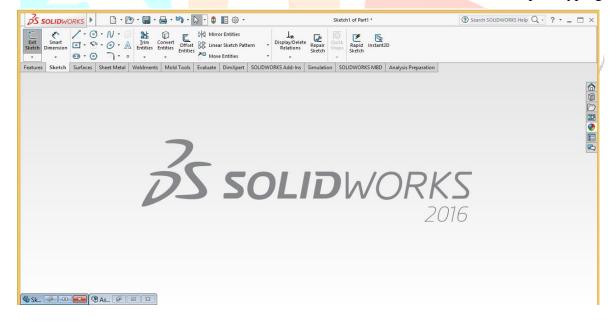
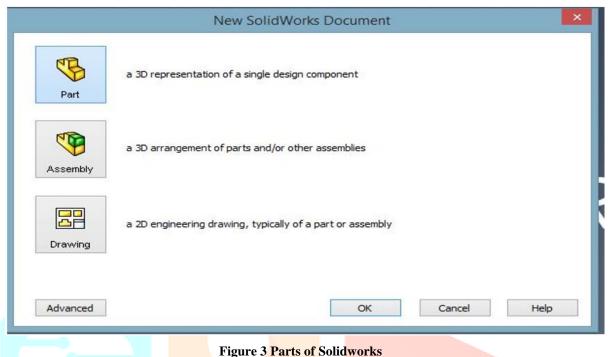


Figure 2 Solidworks Default Page

3.1 SolidWorks Components:

- **1. Part:** The fundamental element of a SolidWorks model, comprising primitive geometry and features like extrudes, revolutions, and sweeps. Parts serve as the foundation for all models.
- 2. Assembly: Collections of parts assembled using mates (constraints), forming complex models.
- **3. Drawing:** Representations of 3D models enabling engineers or manufacturers to recreate parts, essential for sharing designs uniformly.



4. Introduction To 3D Printing

3D printing, a form of additive manufacturing, encompasses various processes to create threedimensional objects of almost any shape from electronic data sources. This is primarily achieved through successive layers of material laid down under computer control. A 3D printer operates as a type of industrial robot. The early equipment and materials for additive manufacturing emerged in the 1980s. In 1984, Chuck Hull of 3D Systems Corp pioneered stereolithography, utilizing UV lasers to cure photopolymers.

3d printing is used in many streams like automotive, architecture, aero industry, medical industry etc. 3d printing is the most time saving process than the traditional processes. But it has its own drawbacks like space limitation. It is more effective when used for prototyping which saves material and time.

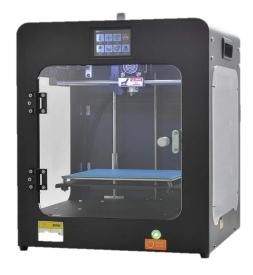


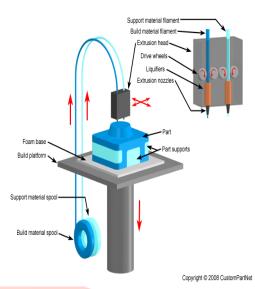
Figure 4 3D Printer

4.1 Methods Of 3D Printing

- Stereolithography (SLA)
- Selective Laser Sintering (SLS)
- Fused Deposition Modelling (FDM)
- Digital Light Process (DLP)
- Multi Jet Fusion (MJF)
- Poly-Jet
- Direct Metal Laser Sintering (DMLS)

4.1.1 Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM)

In this process a CAD model of required dimensions is created on a Solidworks software and saved as .STL format. It is then imported to the Flash Forge software and ensure the dimensions of the prototype to be printed. In this process modeling and support materials will be in the form of spool. The materials in the form of spool are then fed into extrusion head and heated to semi-liquid state. The semi-liquid modeling and support materials are then extruded through the extrusion head and will be deposited in ultra-thin layers. The air present surrounding the head is less than the melting point of material, the material deposited as thin layers will solidify quickly.



Fused deposition modeling is selected due to its advantages like this process is able to fabricate prototypes with material that are usable. In this process the material wastage are minimal. Support structures generated during the process can broken off easily after the product is built.

Figure 5 Fused Deposition Modeling

Modelling Of 4-Wheeler Exhaust Manifold

Modelling of 4-wheeler exhaust manifold is designed using the solidworks software. First wireframe and surface modelling are selected and sketch is drawn using the dimensions selected. After completion of sketch create a 3d curve profile using the intersections. Find the sweep tool and click to activate it and select the profile and path of sketch drawn. After completing the sweep use different tools to modified according the need.

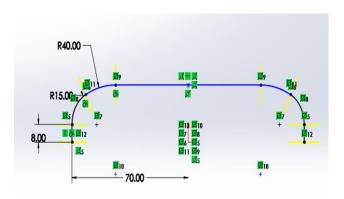


Figure 6 Sketcher

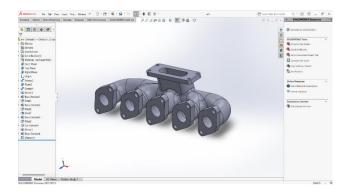


Figure 7 Creating Main Pipe Flange

Figure 9 Pad Definition

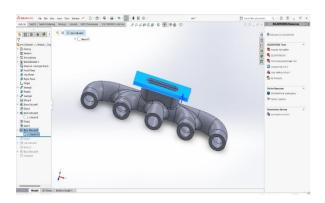


Figure 8 Final Shape Of Manifold

Printing Of 4-Wheeler Exhaust Manifold

After creating the exhaust manifold convert or save as .stl file format. Open the Flash Forge software and import the exhaust manifold file. Use the software tools to modify and adjust the printing parameters like orientation, scale and add support structures to the model at the weaker sections and save the file in the Fused Deposition Modeling fidm format. Now the 3d printer comes into play and starts printing according to our needs. The estimated time will be displayed.

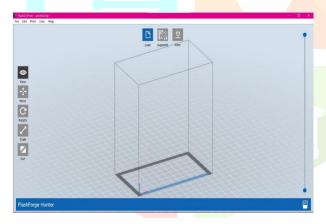


Figure 10 Overview Of 3d Printing Software

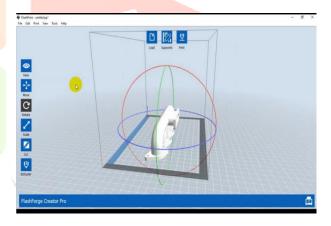


Figure 11 Exhaust Manifold Body Placed on the **Platform**

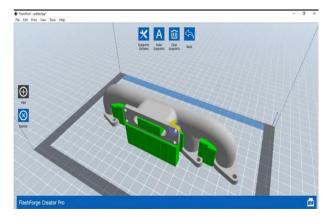


Figure 12 Providing Auto Supports To The Body

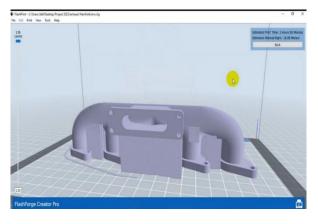


Figure 13 Final Estimated Print Time

Results

The result of following these steps is a properly designed and prepared 3D model of the Engine Exhaust manifold, converted to the required file format, configured with suitable support structures, and ready for 3D printing. The model is saved in the appropriate file format (*. svgx or *.fdp) with all the necessary settings adjusted, such as material selection, resolution, layer height, infill density, and fill pattern. The software provides an estimated printing time for the material based on the configured settings. By following these steps, we have successfully prepared the 3D model for printing, ensuring optimal print quality and accuracy.





Figure 14 Final Design

Conclusion

In conclusion, a 3D model of the exhaust manifold was designed and properly prepared, successfully created. The application of 3D printing has proven to be a practical and effective method for manufacturing exhaust manifolds, offering advantages such as customization, cost-effectiveness, and efficient production. The utilization of 3D printing technology enables the production of complex geometries and optimized designs, resulting in improved performance and efficiency of the exhaust

The potential of 3D printing as a manufacturing technique for producing high-quality and tailored components, specifically in the context of exhaust manifolds. This approach holds significant implications for industries reliant on efficient and optimized exhaust systems, such as automotive, aerospace, and marine sectors. By incorporating 3D printing into exhaust manifold production, opportunities for enhanced performance, reduced emissions, and overall improvement in engine efficiency are attainable.

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