solidscape
HIGH PRECISION 3D PRINTERS

Fostering Innovative Growth

Krikawa Jewelry breaks new ground with the precision of Solidscape

> *"When we purchased our first Solidscape, it absolutely changed our business. Our business increased by 60 percent that year."*
>
> — Lisa Krikawa, *Krikawa Jewelry Designs*

A perfect fit

Krikawa Jewelry Designs is a small, family-operated precision studio dedicated to creating one-of-a-kind engagement and wedding rings. Building a new business in the jewelry industry is no small undertaking. After years of experimentation and hard work, Krikawa Jewelry Designs took a giant leap forward with the purchase of its first 3D precision modeling machine — a Solidscape® 3D printer.

Solidscape was a perfect fit "because of our detailed, organic, complex designs," explains Krikawa Jewelry Designs Owner Lisa Krikawa. "It created waxes for us that were absolutely beautiful and that cast well."

Precision remains the underlying factor in custom jewelry design, particularly with the mokume-gane technique used by Krikawa. Mokume (wood eye) gane (metal) is derived from a 17th century Japanese sword making technique in which layers of mild steel and carbon steel were forged together to create blades of great strength. Krikawa designers use this same technique to fuse, forge and pattern alternating colors of precious metals, creating unforgettable made-to-order pieces for their customers.

"We are running extremely precise waxes, and we do different symbols, a lot of very organic 3D designs, parts that need to fit together with extreme precision," says Krikawa. "Solidscape was the only way to go."

Krikawa Jewelry

1.888.KRIKAWA
krikawa.com

Industry

Jewelry

Customer Needs

- Handling complex designs with intricate details and organic shapes
- Creating parts that fit together
- High print quality
- Quick prototypes to facilitate the creative process

Benefits

- High precision
- Excellent wax quality
- Fast process
- Castability
- 60% business growth in the first year

Design Cast Deliver

An expanded toolbox

Moving to CAD design and 3D printing allowed Krikawa to pursue a more customized and profitable business model. Instead of stocking cases with physical inventory, Krikawa has a vast library of virtual inventory to show and sell to customers. New designs are added regularly to showcase the team's creativity and keep inventory fresh. Each design is easy to customize, allowing clients to participate in the process of getting a truly unique piece of jewelry every time. And designs are iterative; Krikawa artisans build on successes instead of having to start from scratch each time.

Using Solidscape 3D printers adds efficiency with rapid prototyping and enables the production of groundbreaking, complex designs – such as the ovate channels required for mokume-gane – that aren't possible with traditional casting.

From a business standpoint, Krikawa's investment in technology has reaped enormous dividends. Having a virtual inventory means no money is lost on unsold physical inventory. Customized pieces are both more in demand and more profitable. Prototyping and producing jewelry is cost-effective and much less labor-intensive.

Onward and upward

Krikawa Jewelry Designs is widely recognized as an industry leader. The studio has assembled a dream team of artisans and master goldsmiths, has clients all over the world and has received more than 20 design awards to date.

"At Krikawa, you'll find a beautiful dance taking place between cutting-edge technology and old-world craftsmanship," says Krikawa.

> *"This is a transitional time for my company; we are looking at new designs and new techniques to integrate into the workshop. Right now, we are on the threshold of creating a new line and absolutely couldn't do it without Solidscape."*
>
> — Lisa Krikawa

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Solidscape is the leading manufacturer of high-precision 3D printers, materials and software for rapid prototyping and manufacturing.

www.solid-scape.com