

How to Design A Wearable in Blender: A Step by Step Guide

No comments



Designing and manufacturing custom-made wearables, splints and casts is one of the hottest topics of the day. To design a custom-made wearable object in Blender, considering that they shouldn't have any sharp edges in addition to having small and large lattice structures on their shell, makes the design a bit complicated. However, using some useful scripts in Python and the guides that we give you throughout this tutorial, you are going to finally learn how to design different kinds of wearables.







Design A Wearable in Blender

The example that we are going to work on is wearable for the knee with the fillets, lattice structures, and a hole with a certain size for placing a certain kind of sensor. We are going to provide a panel with tools to hasten the process of our design.





In the first 2 parts of the tutorial, we work on the scripts related to the utility functions. And if you are not interested in the details of these useful functions, you can skip ahead straight to the 3rd part.

Writing the Utility Functions to Design A Wearable in Blender

The below utility functions will help us a lot in simplifying the execution of the design and the readability of our scripts. Many of the functions written in the following are explained throughout the article.

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Boolean Function

The above function will apply the boolean operation on the object specified according to the type of boolean categorized in the class **BOOLEAN_TYPE**:

The difference, Union, and Intersect.

```
def make_boolean(obj1, obj2, boolean_type):
    if not obj1 or not obj2:
        return
    modifier = obj1.modifiers.new(name='booly', type='BOOLEAN')
    modifier.object = obj2
    modifier.operation = boolean_type
    res = bpy.ops.object.modifier_apply({"object": obj1}, apply_as
='DATA', modifier=modifier.name)
    assert "FINISHED" in res, "Error"
```

Fixing the Non-Manifold Meshes

Using the function below, we can fix the object with open meshes or what we know as non-manifold objects. At first, we remesh the object to a voxel-based mesh object. Then, we check if the object has any non-manifold meshes or not. If it has we will remove the non-manifold meshes. And finally will smooth the object and meshes of it one more time.

```
def fixMesh(obj_name):
    make_voxel_remesh(get_object_by_name(obj_name), 0.5)
    if is_object_have_non_manifolds(get_object_by_name(obj_name)):
        print(obj_name, "have non manifolds")
        if remove_object_non_manifold_loops(obj_name, loops=2)
:
        print("Filled:", fill_non_manifolds(obj_name))
        obj = get_object_by_name(obj_name)
        make_smooth_remesh(obj, 9, 0.9, 1, True, True)
```

The functions below, which are used above, will check if the object has any non-manifold meshes or not, remove the non-manifold loops and also fill the non-manifold meshes.

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```
def is_object_have_non_manifolds(obj):
        assert obj.type == 'MESH', "Unsupported object type"
        bmo = bmesh.new()
        bmo.from_mesh(obj.data)
        have = False
        for edge in bmo.edges:
                if not edge.is_manifold:
                        have = True
                        break
        if not have:
                for vert in bmo.verts:
                        if not vert.is_manifold:
                                have = True
                                break
        bmo.free() # free and prevent further access
        return have
def is_object_contain_selected_vertices(obj):
        if obj.mode == "EDIT":
                bm = bmesh.from_edit_mesh(obj.data)
        else:
                bm = bmesh.new()
                bm.from_mesh(obj.data)
        selected = False
        for v in bm.verts:
                if v.select:
                        selected = True
                        break
        bm.free()
        return selected
def remove_object_non_manifold_loops(obj_name, loops=0):
        deselect_objects()
        select_object_by_name(obj_name)
        activate_object_by_name(obj_name)
        removed = False
        bpy.ops.object.mode_set(mode='EDIT')
        bpy.ops.mesh.select_mode(type="VERT")
        bpy.ops.mesh.select_non_manifold(extend=False)
        if is_object_contain_selected_vertices(get_object_by_name(
obj_name)):
                if loops:
```

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```
for i in range(loops):
                                bpy.ops.mesh.select_more()
                        bpy.ops.mesh.delete(type='FACE')
                else:
                        bpy.ops.mesh.delete(type='VERT')
                removed = True
        bpy.ops.mesh.select_all(action='DESELECT')
        bpy.ops.object.mode_set(mode='OBJECT')
        return removed
def fill_non_manifolds(obj_name):
        deselect_objects()
        select_object_by_name(obj_name)
        # activate_object_by_name(obj_name)
        filled = False
        bpy.ops.object.mode set(mode='EDIT')
        bpy.ops.mesh.select_mode(type="VERT")
        bpy.ops.mesh.select_non_manifold(extend=False)
        if is_object_contain_selected_vertices(get_object_by_name(
obj_name)):
                bpy.ops.mesh.fill(use_beauty=True)
                bpy.ops.mesh.normals_make_consistent(inside=False)
                bpy.ops.mesh.faces shade smooth()
                filled = True
        bpy.ops.mesh.select_all(action='DESELECT')
        bpy.ops.object.mode_set(mode='OBJECT')
        return filled
```

Object Selection and Deleting to Design a Wearable in Blender

The functions below are useful when dealing with the list of items and actions like selecting, deselecting, deleting, activating the object or getting it by name.

```
def delete_object(objName):
    bpy.ops.object.select_all(action='DESELECT')
    bpy.data.objects[objName].select_set(True) # Blender 2.8x
    bpy.ops.object.delete()

def deselect_objects():
    bpy.ops.object.select_all(action='DESELECT')

def select_object_by_name(obj_name):
    get_object_by_name(obj_name).select_set(True) # Blender 2.8x

def activate_object_by_name(obj_name):
    bpy.context.view_layer.objects.active = get_object_by_name(obj_name)
```

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```
def get_object_by_name(obj_name):
    assert obj_name in bpy.data.objects,
"Error getting object by name: {}"format(obj_name)
    obj = bpy.data.objects[obj_name]
    return obj
```

Remesh Function

The first remesh function will convert the meshes from triangular to voxel-based and the second one will remesh the object by smoothing it.

```
def make_voxel_remesh(obj, voxel_size, adaptivity=0, use_smooth_shade=
True):
       modifier = obj.modifiers.new(name='remesh', type='REMESH')
        modifier.mode = 'VOXEL'
        modifier.voxel size = voxel size
        modifier.adaptivity = adaptivity
       modifier.use_smooth_shade = use_smooth_shade
        res = bpy.ops.object.modifier_apply({"object": obj}, apply_as=
'DATA', modifier=modifier.name)
        assert "FINISHED" in res, "Error"
def make_smooth_remesh(obj, octree_depth=9, scale=0.9, threshold=1,
use smooth shade=True,
                use_remove_disconnected=True):
        modifier = obj.modifiers.new(name='remesh', type='REMESH')
        modifier.mode = 'SMOOTH'
        modifier.use_smooth_shade = use_smooth_shade
        modifier.octree_depth = octree_depth
        modifier.scale = scale
        modifier.use_remove_disconnected = use_remove_disconnected
        modifier.threshold = threshold
       res = bpy.ops.object.modifier_apply({"object": obj}, apply_as=
'DATA', modifier=modifier.name)
        assert "FINISHED" in res, "Error"
```

The above functions work for different kinds of remeshing. **Utility Functions to Design A Wearable in Blender**





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In this 2nd part of the tutorial, we are going to continue writing the useful utility functions for designing different kinds of wearables. **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Remember that the scripts we are using here are related to Blender version 2.83 and if you are working with any other versions, it is probable that the scripts might differ a little bit, but we will show you ways to find the proper functions if there are any differences at all.

Functions for Creating the Fillets

The following function will create a proper fillet for a shell with a pattern (for example a circle) and an object that has been cut (with the selected vertices at the cutting curve). We can later join this fillet to the main shell. This kind of lattice is of the additive type not subtractive like most fillets.

```
def make_Fillet2(ob,pattern):
    bpy.ops.object.editmode_toggle()
    bpy.ops.mesh.duplicate_move()
    bpy.ops.object.editmode_toggle()
    bpy.ops.object.convert(target='CURVE')
    bpy.context.object.data.bevel_object = bpy.data.objects[
```



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```
pattern]
    bpy.ops.object.convert(target='MESH')
    bpy.ops.object.editmode_toggle()
    bpy.ops.mesh.select_all(action='SELECT')
    bpy.ops.mesh.normals_make_consistent(inside=False)
    bpy.ops.object.editmode_toggle()
```

Using the following function, we will get the thickness of the shell and creates a circular curve pattern for creating the fillet.

Function for Creating A Shell Around the Object

With the help of the function below, we can create a shell using the data like the thickness, offset, and the object that we are going to create a shell out of.

```
def make_solidify(obj, offset, thickness, only_external=False):
    modifier = obj.modifiers.new(name='solidify', type='SOLIDIFY')
    modifier.offset = offset
    modifier.thickness = thickness
    if only_external:
        modifier.use_rim = True  # Fill Rim
        modifier.use_rim_only = True
    res = bpy.ops.object.modifier_apply({"object": obj}, apply_as=
'DATA', modifier=modifier.name)
    assert "FINISHED" in res, "Error"
```

Object Translation Functions

Using all the following functions, you can translate an object to a certain point, and get the specified point by the user.





```
def object_closest_point_mesh(p, obj):
       result, location, normal, face_index = obj.closest
point on mesh(p)
       assert result, "Can't find closest point on mesh"
       location = location.to_tuple()
       normal = normal.to_tuple()
       return location + normal # return tuple of 6 floats
def obj_transform(filename, obj_name, size, location, angle):
       object
       bpy.ops.object.select_all(action='DESELECT')
# Deselect all objects
       bpy.context.view layer.objects.active = ob # Make the cube the act
object
       ob.select_set(True)
       obj = bpy.data.objects[obj_name]
       obj.location = location
       bpy.ops.transform.rotate(value=angle, orient_axis='Z',
               orient_type='GLOBAL',
               constraint_axis=(False, False, True))
def object_put_part2(part_name, point, obj, scale, obj_name):
       vx,vy,vz,a,b,c = object_closest_point_mesh(point, obj)
       a1 = math.atan2(b, a)
       obj_transform(part_name, obj_name, scale, (point[0], point
[1], point[2]), a1)
```

The above 3 functions will translate the object to the point given in the def object_put_part2 function.

```
def get_vertex():
    bm = bmesh.new()
    ob = bpy.context.active_object
    bm = bmesh.from_edit_mesh(ob.data)
    points = []
    for v in bm.verts:
        if (v.select == True):
            obMat = ob.matrix_world
            points.append(obMat @ v.co)
```

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```
for p in points:
    pOb = bpy.data.objects.new("VertexPoint", None)
    bpy.context.collection.objects.link(pOb)
    pOb.location = p
return p
```

The above function will get the vertex given by the user in the edit mode and store it in a variable. **More Dependency Functions**

The below dependency functions are mainly for selecting objects and optimized boolean union. The optimized boolean union creates no open or buggy meshes on the object whereas the simple boolean union created non-manifold meshes. Fixing the meshes in another way than mentioned, importing the .stl files, and so on.

```
def Fix(obj_name):
    if is_object_have_non_manifolds(get_object_by_name(obj_name)):
        print(obj_name, "have non manifolds")
        if remove_object_non_manifold_loops(obj_name, loops=2)
:
        print("Filled:", fill_non_manifolds(obj_name))
        obj = get_object_by_name(obj_name)
```

The above function independently fixes the mesh.

```
def make_custom_context(*object_names, base_context=None, mode=None):
        if base_context is not None:
                ctx = base_context
        else:
                ctx = \{\}
        if mode is not None:
                assert mode in ('OBJECT', 'EDIT'), "Wrong mode used"
                ctx['mode'] = mode
        objs = [get_object_by_name(obj_name) for obj_name in
 object_names]
        ctx['active object'] = ctx['object'] = objs[0]
        ctx['selected_editable_objects'] = ctx['selected_objects'
] = obis
        ctx['editable_objects'] = ctx['selectable_objects'] = ctx[
'visible_objects'] = objs
        return ctx
def import_stl(filename, obj_name=None, deselect=True, path=None):
        if path is None:
                filepath = os.path.abspath('%s.stl' % filename)
```

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```
else:
    filepath = os.path.join(path, '%s.stl' % filename)
deselect_objects()
bpy.ops.import_mesh.stl(filepath=filepath)
bpy.ops.object.mode_set(mode='OBJECT')
if deselect:
    for obj in bpy.context.selected_objects:
        set_mesh_items_selection(obj)
if obj_name:
        set_selected_object_name(obj_name)
```

The above function imports the object with the given name and the new name that is going to appear in the list of items.

Another Kind of Remeshing

```
def Remesh_Smooth_Voxel(obj):
    make_smooth_remesh(obj, octree_depth=8)
    make_voxel_remesh(obj, 0.5)
    # it is necessary because it normal works with self intersections
    make_smooth_remesh(obj, octree_depth=8)  # to
    make out smoother
```

And another function for creating shell with a little different functionality:

```
def solidify(obj,offset,thickness):
    bpy.ops.object.modifier_add(type='SOLIDIFY')
    bpy.context.object.modifiers["Solidify"].offset = offset
    bpy.context.object.modifiers["Solidify"].thickness = thickness
    bpy.ops.object.modifier_apply(apply_as='DATA', modifier=
"Solidify")

def set_selected_object_name(obj_name):
    for obj in bpy.context.selected_objects:
        obj.name = obj_name

def set_mesh_items_selection(obj, select=False):
    if obj.type != 'MESH':
        return
    set_mesh_data_selection(obj.data.vertices, select)
    set_mesh_data_selection(obj.data.edges, select)
    set_mesh_data_selection(obj.data.polygons, select)
```

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Designing the Main Panel to Automate Designing a Wearable in Blender

In the previous parts, we wrote the necessary utility functions and now we are ready to create a panel in Blender so that we can automate the process of 3D designing the custom-made wearables.

So we continue our script by designing the main panel containing 6 important buttons. 1 class is going to be defined for



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the main panel and 6 classes for the 6 buttons.

```
*****
                  Main Panel
########
class MainPanel(bpy.types.Panel):
      bl_label = "Object Adder"
      bl idname = "VIEW PT MainPanel"
      bl_space_type = 'VIEW_3D'
      bl_region_type = 'UI'
      bl_category = 'Design Automation'
      def draw(self, context):
              layout = self.layout
              layout.scale y = 1.2
              row = layout.row()
              row.label(text= "Design Automation", icon=
'OBJECT_ORIGIN')
             row = layout.row()
             row.operator("wm shell.myop", text=
"Import & Create a shell")
             row = layout.row()
              row.operator("wm_trim.myop", text=
"Draw the cutting pattern")
              row = layout.row()
              row.operator("wm_confirm.myop", text=
"Confirm the cut")
             row = layout.row()
              row.operator("wm_lattice.myop", text= "Lattice")
              row = layout.row()
              row.operator("wm_Fillet.myop", text= "Fillet")
              row = layout.row()
              row.operator("wm_union.myop", text=
"Optimized Final Union")
```

In the main panel class, we have determined the structure of the user interface of the panel containing the buttons, the classes they are going to use, and their name on the screen.

```
class WM_Shell_myOp(bpy.types.Operator):
    """Enter the thickness of the Shell"""
```

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```
bl_label = "Enter the thickness of the shell"
        bl_idname = "wm_shell.myop"
                thickness = 0.5
                import_stl("Leg", obj_name="Scan", deselect=True
, path='/home/mohamad/Desktop/Blender')
                #change the path to None or to your directory
                obj = get object by name("Scan")
                make_solidify(obj, thickness/2
, thickness, only_external=True)
                # Scan Fillet Object
                import_stl("Leg", obj_name="LegFillet", deselect=True
                        path='/home/mohamad/Desktop/Blender')
                import_stl("Leg", obj_name="Object", deselect=True
, path='/home/mohamad/Desktop/Blender')
                obj = get_object_by_name("Object")
                solidify(obj,0,thickness)
                obj2 = get_object_by_name("LegFillet")
                make_boolean(obj2, obj, 'UNION')
                obj = get_object_by_name("LegFillet")
                Remesh_Smooth_Voxel(obj)
delete_object('Object')
                return {'FINISHED'}
        def invoke(self, context, event):
                return context.window_manager.invoke_props_dialog(self)
```

The above class will import the leg.stl scan file and change its name to Scan then it will create a shell out of the leg scan. It also creates an object like the imported leg and will later use for the fillet.

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```
'BEZIER'
bpy.ops.curve.delete(type='VERT')
return {'FINISHED'}
def invoke(self, context, event):
return
context.window_manager.invoke_props_dialog(self)
```

The above class will help the user draw the cutting curve

```
class WM_Confirm_myOp(bpy.types.Operator):
        """Click OK to confirm"""
        bl_label = "Click OK to confirm"
        bl idname = "wm confirm.myop"
                name = self.name
                 bpy.context.object.data.dimensions = '2D'
                 bpy.context.object.data.fill_mode = 'BOTH'
                 bpy.context.object.data.extrude = 1000
                 bpy.ops.object.editmode_toggle()
                 context = bpy.context
                 scene = context.scene
                 cube = scene.objects.get("NurbsCurve")
                 bpy.ops.object.convert(target='MESH')
                 bpy.ops.object.editmode_toggle()
                 bpy.ops.mesh.select_all(action='SELECT')
                 bpy.ops.object.editmode_toggle()
                 obj1 = get_object_by_name('Scan')
                 obj2 = get_object_by_name('NurbsCurve')
                 obj3 = get_object_by_name('LegFillet')
                make_boolean(obj1, obj2, 'DIFFERENCE')
make_boolean(obj3, obj2, 'DIFFERENCE')
                 delete_object("NurbsCurve")
                 return {'FINISHED'}
        def invoke(self, context, event):
                 return
 context.window_manager.invoke_props_dialog(self)
```

The above class will let the user confirm the drawn cut.

```
class WM_Lattice_myOp(bpy.types.Operator):
```

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```
"""In editmode determine the point of lattice"""
       bl_label = "In editmode determine the point of lattice"
       bl_idname = "wm_lattice.myop"
       Lattice_Name = bpy.props.StringProperty(name=
"Enter the name of lattice", default= '')
       def execute(self, context):
                Lattice Name = self.Lattice Name
                point = get_vertex()
                bpy.ops.object.editmode_toggle()
                obj = get_object_by_name('Scan')
                obj2 = get_object_by_name('%s'%Lattice_Name)
                obj3 = get_object_by_name('LegFillet')
                object_put_part2('%s'%Lattice_Name, point, obj, 1, '%s
'%Lattice Name)
               make_boolean(obj,obj2,'DIFFERENCE')
               make_boolean(obj3,obj2,'DIFFERENCE')
                delete_object("VertexPoint")
                delete_object('%s'%Lattice_Name)
               return {'FINISHED'}
       def invoke(self, context, event):
               return context.window manager.invoke props dialog(self
```

The above class will create a lattice based on the point and the object given by the user

```
class WM_Fillet_myOp(bpy.types.Operator):
    """Click OK"""
    bl_label = "Click OK"
    bl_idname = "wm_fillet.myop"
    def execute(self, context):
        Fillet_pattern(0.2)
        ob = bpy.context.scene.objects["LegFillet"]
# Get the object
            bpy.ops.object.select_all(action='DESELECT')
# Deselect all objects
            bpy.context.view_layer.objects.active = ob
# Make active
            ob.select_set(True)
            make_Fillet2('LegFillet','Fillet')
```

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```
return {'FINISHED'}
def invoke(self, context, event):
    return
context.window_manager.invoke_props_dialog(self)
```

The above class will automatically create a fillet for all the sharp edges.

```
class WM_Union_myOp(bpy.types.Operator):
    """Click OK"""
    bl_label = "Click OK"
    bl_idname = "wm_union.myop"
    def execute(self, context):
        makeUnionOpt('Scan','LegFillet')
        Fix('Scan')
        return {'FINISHED'}
    def invoke(self, context, event):
        return
    context.window_manager.invoke_props_dialog(self)
```

The above class will boolean union the object and its fillet. And we will finally finish our script by registering and unregistering the classes.

```
def register():
        bpy.utils.register_class(MainPanel)
        bpy.utils.register_class(WM_Shell_myOp)
        bpy.utils.register_class(WM_Trim_myOp)
        bpy.utils.register_class(WM_Confirm_myOp)
        bpy.utils.register_class(WM_Lattice_myOp)
        bpy.utils.register_class(WM_Fillet_myOp)
        bpy.utils.register_class(WM_Union_myOp)
def unregister():
        bpy.utils.unregister_class(MainPanel)
        bpy.utils.unregister_class(WM_Shell_myOp)
        bpy.utils.unregister_class(WM_Trim_myOp)
        bpy.utils.unregister_class(WM_Confirm_myOp)
        bpy.utils.unregister_class(WM_Lattice_myOp)
        bpy.utils.unregister class(WM Fillet myOp)
        bpy.utils.unregister_class(WM_Union_myOp)
```

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```
if __name__ == "__main__":
    register()
```

Testing the Panel For Designing A Wearable Properly in Blender

After writing all the scripts, it is now time to test the panel we have created for our wearable design automation in Blender. First of all, click Import and create a shell.



Then, click Draw the curve to be able to draw the cutting curve with the pencil tool on the left-hand side of the Blender UI.







Then, press Confirm the cut to apply the trimming tool.







Do the same for the lower limb and remove the ankle.





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Now make sure you have large meshes on your object. If you don't, you can use the Decimate modifier.





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Now, either design or import your lattice shape. Here we have designed a shape and have named it Cylinder. After that determine a point for placing the lattice. Click Lattice, enter the name of the lattice in the box, and then click OK. Notice that this is the larger lattice and it is mainly used for placing a sensor or a necessary medical item.





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As you can see, we have the lattice created on the point we had determined.







Now, simply click on Fillet and OK buttons to get all the fillets created.







It is now time to get the wireframe of the object for smaller lattice structures. We can go to modifiers >> Wireframes and after that smooth modifier.





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Then, we can use the Multiresolution modifier to subdivide the meshes.





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After subdividing and smoothing the object a number of times we can finally boolean union the fillet and the shell with the last button of the panel.







And here is the final result!





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Summing Up

In this tutorial, we have managed to create a panel for designing a wearable, splint or cast for the 3D scan of a limb. At first, we have defined some utility functions to organize and simplify the execution of the steps of the design in Blender Python. Afterward, we have used the functions to create simple steps for the user to be able to quickly design their wearables with the aid of only six buttons or six simple steps. In the end, we have taught the steps of designing a wearable using the designed panel.





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