



DOT PRODUCT

Grain Surfboards: 3D Design of Wooden Surfboards with the DPI-8X SR and Rhino

Grain Surfboards are shapers of stunning wooden surfboards designed for the modern surfer, with a 3D design process informed by the DotProduct DPI-8X SR handheld 3D scanner. Grain often collaborates with shapers of foam boards to offer their designs in Grain's signature wooden construction method. They found they needed a reliable workflow to 3D capture the precise shape of existing boards to inform their inspired wooden designs.

Many of Grain's earliest boards were designed using nothing more than a strong memory for a favorite shape and some crude hand-drawn sketches. In this case, the transition from physical to digital design was a very time consuming and challenging process. Extensive pre-planning is required to recreate the details of existing designs, and Grain soon began to look to modern technologies for assistance.

With the DotProduct DPI-8X SR, Grain has resolved these challenges and created an accurate and repeatable workflow for capturing the 3D details crucial to each board. Handheld scanning allows for full freedom of motion to walk around the board in its entirety and produce a single compressed 3D file.



DotProduct DPI-8X SR scanning a surfboard.

To perfect the process, Grain designed a stand which exposes the whole surfboard for scanning and assists with tracking from stem to stern. The scanning area is also equipped with AprilTags and scale bar targets to help produce the most accurate and consistent results on every scan.

“We don't have the luxury of starting with a big piece of foam, so the DPI-8X SR and other technologies become very important to design and production processes.”

- Mike Lavecchia, Founder & Co-Owner

After scanning, the next step is to export the binary DotProduct data into CloudCompare, a powerful, open-source tool where Grain refines the point cloud data before moving on to Rhino for 3D modeling.



Grain Surfboards' Ascher Booth capturing a board.

The meshed data is converted to a NURBS surface within Rhino 5. This NURBS surface model then informs the design of the new wooden Grain surfboard. Grain's Ascher Booth says “Rhino's flexibility, wide range of plug-ins and cross-disciplinary ubiquity” were some of the main reasons why the company settled on this solution for 3D modeling. The Grasshopper plugin for Rhino is also utilized during the design process.



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Before considering the DPI-8X SR, Grain looked at a wide variety of alternative solutions. They tried everything from photogrammetry to both lower- and higher-cost 3D scanners. The conclusion was that nothing quite compared to the speed, form factor, repeatability, and accuracy of the DPI-8X SR.

Booth says Grain looks for 1/16" (1.6mm) accuracy for the 3D scans they are producing with the DPI-8X SR. He explains that they have nearly always been able to achieve that with the initial scan and notes that where they sometimes lose accuracy is “in the process of moving from a point cloud to a mesh.”

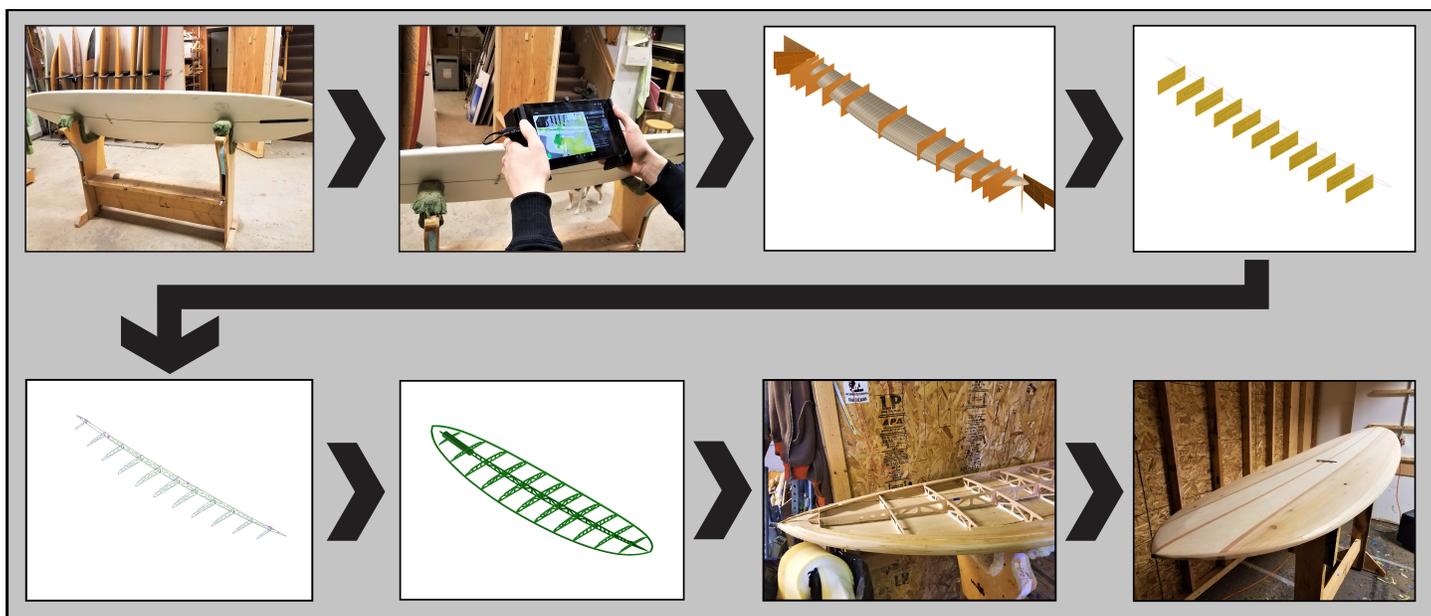
During the scanning process, Grain often finds that the boards they are working with differ from the specs provided by the original shaper. By working with precise 3D scan data, Grain is able to accurately

understand the best qualities of each board and properly inform the design of their new wooden surfboards.

About Grain Surfboards

With a background in boatbuilding and woodworking, Grain Surfboards have been perfecting the art of wooden surfboard design for the past 13 years. By combining the principles of boatbuilding with those of modern board design, Grain produces beautiful wooden boards that still stand up to today’s standards of modern materials, design, and shaping methods. Grain Surfboards is based out of York, Maine and Amagansett, NY. For more info, please visit:

grainsurfboards.com & youtu.be/bmtqKO8Un6o



Stages of the Grain Surfboards design process using the DotProduct DPI-8X SR and Rhino 5.