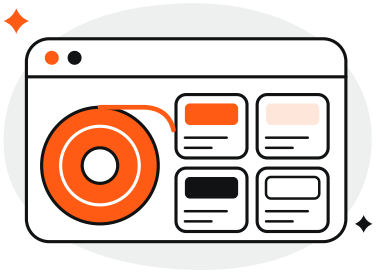
Install online



Spoool keeps your 3D printing filament in one list: color, material, brand, rolls and photos. It runs on your own web space and is protected by your password. This guide takes you through the setup once. You don't need to know how to program.

ABOUT 30 MINUTES | MAC OR WINDOWS | THEN ON YOUR COMPUTER AND PHONE

What you need

The Spoool package

The file `spoool-installation-1.0.0.zip`. It contains the file `spoool.zip`, which you upload, and the folder **Guide Online** with this guide and a short video.

Web space with PHP

A web hosting plan from any hosting provider. It usually costs a few euros a month and often includes your own address (domain). It needs PHP 8.1 or newer and an SSL certificate.

A web browser

You upload in your provider's customer area, right in the browser. You don't need any extra software.

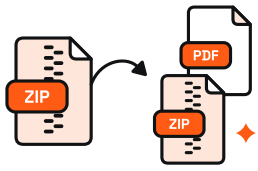
A good password

At least 10 characters, ideally created and stored by a password manager.

No web hosting? Spoool is also available as an app for Mac and Windows, with no hosting at all. It's in the package too: on a Mac, drag `Spoool.app` into Applications; on Windows, run `Spoool-Setup.exe`. Because the apps aren't signed, your system asks the first time you open them: on a Mac, choose "Open Anyway" in System Settings → Privacy & Security; on Windows, click "More info" → "Run anyway".

Step by step

1 Open the package

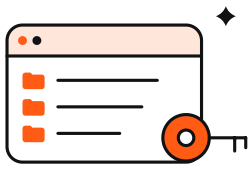


Double-click `spoool-installation-1.0.0.zip`. This creates the folder `spoool-installation-1.0.0`. For your web space you only need the highlighted file **spoool.zip**. Don't open it: it goes onto your web space exactly as it is and is only unpacked there.

```
spoool-installation-1.0.0/
├── Guide Online/       this guide and video
├── Spoool.app          app for the Mac
├── Spoool-Setup.exe    app for Windows
└── spoool.zip          goes onto your web space
```

`spoool.zip` also contains a **hidden file**, `.htaccess`. It protects your data. Because everything is in one file, it is sure to come along.

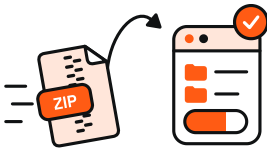
2 Open the file manager



Log in to your provider's customer area and open the **file manager** for your web space. It shows the files on your web space right in the browser. Depending on the provider it may be called "File Manager" or "Files".

Prefer an app? Instead of the browser you can also use an FTP program, for example Cyberduck (Mac and Windows) or WinSCP (Windows), both free. How is explained at the end of step 3.

3 Upload and unpack spoool.zip



1. In the file manager, go to the **top level** of your web space, not into another folder.
2. Upload the file `spoool.zip`: with **"Upload"** or by dragging it into the browser window.
3. Select the uploaded `spoool.zip` and choose **"Extract"** (sometimes "Unpack" or "Unzip").

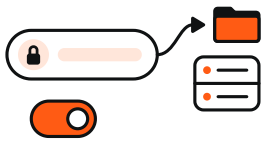
Your web space now has a folder called **spoool**. It comes inside the ZIP file, so you don't create it yourself. You can delete `spoool.zip` afterwards. This is what the folder looks like. The highlighted file is the hidden one; many file managers don't show it, and that's fine:

```
spoool/
├── .htaccess
├── api.php
├── css/
├── icon-180.png
├── icon.svg
├── index.html
├── js/
├── robots.txt
└── vendor/
```

If the folder ends up one level deeper (`spoool/spoool`), use the inner one, which contains `index.html`, in step 4. If your web space already has a folder called spoool, unpack the file in a new, empty folder, for example `filament`, and use `/filament/spoool` in step 4.

Prefer an FTP program such as Cyberduck or WinSCP? That works too: unpack `spoool.zip` on your computer and upload the whole spoool folder to the top level via SFTP, including the hidden file.

4 Set up an address



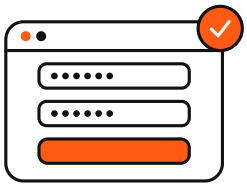
In the customer area, choose the address where Spoool should be reachable, for example `filament.your-domain.com`. As the **target**, select the `/spoool` folder that was created when you unpacked the file.

- Turn on the **SSL certificate** for the address so that it works with `https://`.
- Check that **PHP 8.1 or newer** is selected.

Where to find it: usually in the customer area under “Domains” or “Subdomains”. Set the folder `/spoool` as the target (sometimes called “directory” or “document root”). The PHP version is usually under “PHP settings”.

A new address sometimes takes a few minutes to start working.

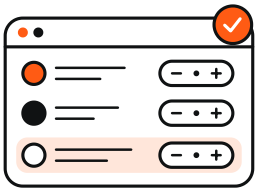
5 Set your password



Open the address in your browser. Spoool shows **“Choose a password”**. Enter your password twice and click **“Set password”**. You’re then signed in.

Do this straight away. As long as no password has been set, anyone who knows the address could set one. So open it right after step 4. If someone got there first, see “Forgot your password” below.

6 Try it out



- **First filament:** click **“+ Filament”** at the top right, enter a name and a color group, then **“Add”**. Reload the page. The filament is still there.
- **Your own lists:** color groups with their colors, types, materials, brands and categories are under **“…”** → **“Edit lists …”**. New values are also added by themselves as you type.
- **Language:** Spoool comes in English and German; switch under **“…”** → **“Language”**.
- **Check protection:** open `https://your-address/data/`. You should see **“Forbidden”**. This means nobody can fetch your stock directly.

7 On your phone, right at the shelf



On an iPhone, open the address in Safari, tap the Share button and choose **“Add to Home Screen”**. On Android, use **“Add to Home screen”** in Chrome’s menu. Spoool then starts like an app. You sign in once on each device and then stay signed in for 60 days.

At the shelf you count rolls with **–** and **+**, and attach a photo of your print right away with the camera icon.

Everyday use

Change password	**“…” → “Change password …”**. All other devices are signed out. This also helps if a device gets lost.
Back up	**“…” → “Download backup”**: one file with your whole stock. On top of that, Spoool keeps a copy of each day on your web space and holds on to the last 30. To bring a backup back, use **“Restore backup …”**. Photos aren’t part of the backup file; they’re in the `data/photos` folder on your web space. To be completely safe, download the `data` folder in the file manager now and then.
Export a spreadsheet	**“…” → “Export as CSV (Excel, Numbers, Sheets)”**. The file opens in Excel, Numbers or Google Sheets.
Install a new version	When there’s a new version, Spoool shows a notice at the top. Download the new package from your orders at Lemon Squeezy (sign in with the email address you bought with). Download a backup first. Then upload `spoool.zip` from the new package to the top level in the file manager and unpack it there. If the file manager asks whether to replace existing files, confirm. Never delete the `data` folder or the `config.php` file inside the spoool folder on your web space. They hold your stock, your photos and your password. `spoool.zip` contains neither, so it doesn’t overwrite them.
Move to the app	With the app for Mac or Windows you can take your stock along, photos included: download the `data` folder in the file manager and put its contents into the app’s data folder (in the app: **“…” → “Data folder…” → “Show in Finder”** or “Show in Explorer”). Quit the app before you do.

If something doesn’t work

Forgot your password

In the file manager, open the spoool folder and delete the file `config.php`. Then open the address and set a new password. Your stock and photos are kept.

The file manager can’t unpack ZIP files

Then unpack `spoool.zip` on your computer and upload the spoool folder with an FTP program, as described at the end of step 3. Your provider’s customer area lists the SFTP login details.

The address shows a provider page or “Not Found”

The address doesn’t point to the spoool folder yet. Check it in the customer area and wait a few minutes after a change.

The browser warns “Not secure”

The address doesn’t have an SSL certificate yet. Turn it on and wait a little until it is active.

Blank page, “The server does not run PHP” or another error

PHP is usually not turned on for the address, or the version is too old. Select PHP 8.1 or newer in the customer area.

`/data/` doesn’t show “Forbidden”

The hidden file `.htaccess` may be missing: unpack `spoool.zip` again and replace existing files. If that doesn’t help, your web space ignores the protection file. Please don’t store your stock there and ask your provider whether `.htaccess` files are supported. Standard web hosting plans support them.

Spoool can’t save

If adding a filament only says “That did not work”, Spoool isn’t allowed to create files in its folder. Ask your provider how to give PHP write permission for the folder.

“Too many attempts”

After five wrong passwords, signing in from that connection waits one minute, longer after more mistakes (up to an hour). This stops people from guessing passwords. Just wait.

As of 26 October 2026 · Spoool 1.0.0. The menus of your provider may be named slightly differently from this guide.