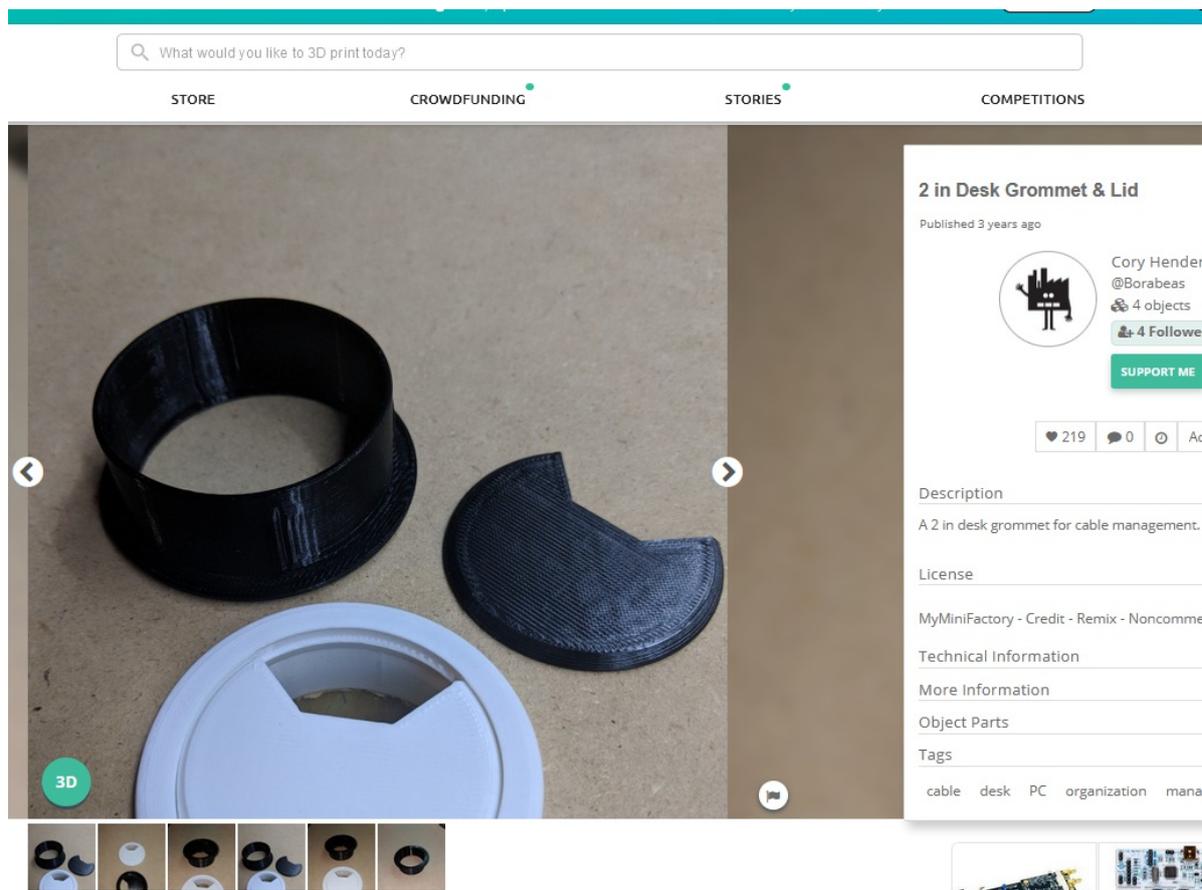
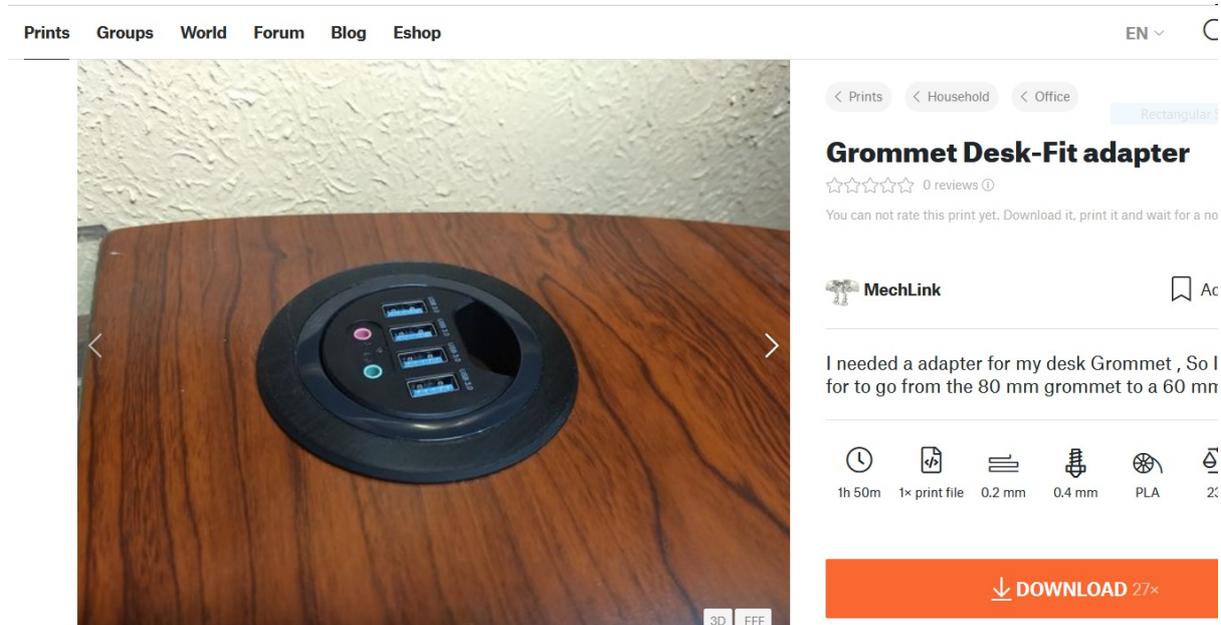


### Desk Grommets

Desk Grommets are those plastic inserts, usually circular or in the shape of a rounded rectangle, that are often put along the back edge of modern office furniture. The furniture is typically constructed from foiled chipboard, and so making a hole in it to allow cables to pass through for IT or other purposes would leave an unsightly edge. To mitigate against this the manufacturers use snugly fitting plastic inserts, either simply a hole, or more often a hole with a little lip to accomodate a cover plate. The cover plate can limit the exposed hole area to just enough for the cables to pass through, or can completely cover the hole if it not being used.



Recently desk grommets have started to appear that incorporate cable extensions. Extending the likes of USB, audio or networking cables to the desktop means the desk jockey can plug and unplug without having to go down on hands and knees below the baseboard, sorry, the desk, but you can see where I'm going with this, can't you!



Using a router we can readily prepare a clean, specific hole that is a snug fit for our desk grommet. This can be strategically placed behind scenery, under a building or in a fiddle /marshalling yard, wherever is most appropriate We can then route wiring cleanly and allow easy access. If we wish to incorporate sockets, for DCC controllers, Ezybus controllers, a monitor, mimic panels or whatever, all we need do is design them into the grommet plate.

A couple of final thoughts. When I searched google for '3D print desk grommet', the first site in the results was "Yeggi.com". No, I'd never heard of it either, but that one site had over 1900 results for 'desk grommet' so there's a lot of ideas, existing designs and options out there.

Lastly in order to create a suitable opening in the baseboard or desk, apart from a router we need a template guide, and a suitable template. These we can 3D print too. Or we can google for existing examples to suit our router and our desktop grommet.

As ever, if you are interested in exploring any of these topics, just let me know, or bring it up at a Sunday zoom chat session.

In the mean time stay safe and well.

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