

Using Google SketchUp

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Oregon State University

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Computer Graphics

What is Google SketchUp?

Google SketchUp is a program which lets you sketch in 3D. It is excellent for creating buildings, houses, and even mechanical designs. And, it's easy to do. As their tagline says "SketchUp is for Everyone". And, it can be downloaded for free!

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Getting Google SketchUp for Free

Go to:
<http://sketchup.google.com>

Follow the links to the free download (see the next page).
There is also a SketchUp Pro which costs money.

Google SketchUp comes in Windows 2000/XP/Vista and Mac OS X versions.

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Getting Google SketchUp for Free

1. Click here

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2. Then click here

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Getting Google SketchUp for Free

3. Select the operating system (Windows or Mac)

4. Then click here

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SketchUp Student Learning Objectives

1. Learn that the computer can be used to enhance creativity. It's not just for nerds and gamers!
2. Learn that the computer can be used to design and plan.
3. Learn the basics of 3D interaction. This will have further application in fields ranging from engineering CAD to art and animation.

Getting Started

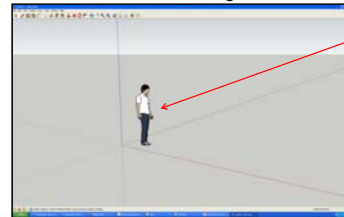
Double-click the Google SketchUp icon



or click:

Start → All Programs → Google SketchUp 7 → Google SketchUp

The start screen should look something like this:

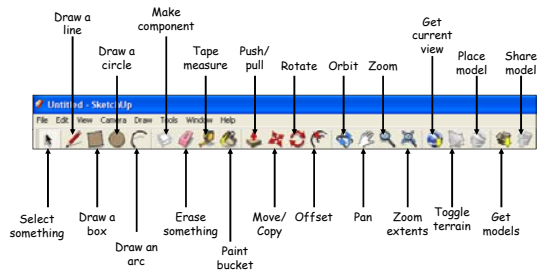


This person is 5' 9" tall - this sets the scale for what you are about to create

Right now, click File → Save As - and hit Save often while you are editing

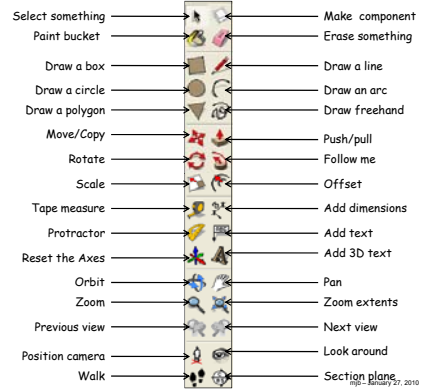
Getting Started Toolbar

The icons across the top are *really* important:



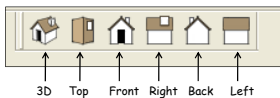
Large Toolset Toolbar

Select View → Toolbars → Large Tool Set



The Views Toolbar

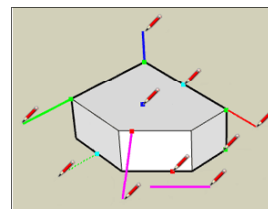
Select View → Toolbars → Views



This is a *very* handy toolbar to have active because it lets you change to a specific view of your scene with one mouse click!

SketchUp "Inferences"

One of SketchUp's key strengths is that it doesn't require you to enter every little piece of information as many 3D computer programs do. Instead, it tries to infer what you really mean by how you do things. Oftentimes it uses colors to tell you what it is inferring.



- Green dots = Endpoints
- Red dots = On an edge
- Cyan dots = Midpoints of edges
- Blue dots = On a surface

- Red line = X axis
- Blue line = Y axis
- Green line = Z axis

- Magenta line = something is parallel or perpendicular to an edge

- Hold **SHIFT** to capture and lock an inference

Axis Coordinate System

This is called *The Origin*

This is the 3D coordinate system that SketchUp uses. This is referred to as a **Right-Handed Coordinate System**

- Red line = X axis
- Blue line = Y axis
- Green line = Z axis

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Drawing a 2D Box

This is called *The Origin*

Click on the **Draw-a-Box** icon, then click on the origin, and while holding down the mouse, drag in this direction

You'll end up with something like this:

We are going to build a house, so make this square an appropriate size, given that the person is almost 6 feet tall. **Hint:** also look at the box in the lower-right corner.

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Notice the Bottom of the Screen

This is the **Measurement Toolbar, or MTB**

It is used to show you the dimensions, size, angle, etc. that you are currently setting

It can also be used to set exact values - just type into it while you are sizing with the mouse. But, if inputting length, be sure to use units: ' for feet and " for inches.

Dimensions: 2' 1/8", 10' 4 9/16"

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Extruding it into a 3D Box

Click on the **Push/pull** icon, then click on the box you just created, and while holding down the mouse, drag in this direction

You'll end up with something like this:

We are going to build a house, so make this height an appropriate size, given that the person is almost 6 feet tall. **Hint:** also look at the VCB box in the lower-right corner.

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Deleting an Object

1. Select the **Select** icon
2. Select the object to delete by dragging a box around it with the cursor
3. Hit the **Delete** key (not Backspace)

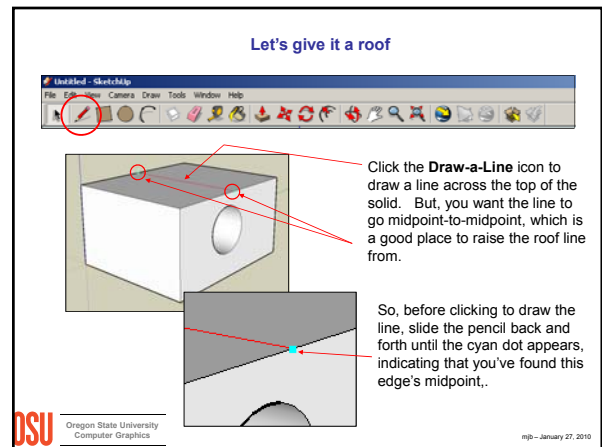
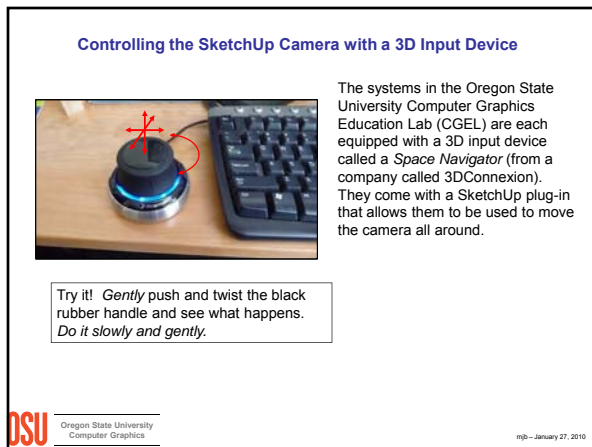
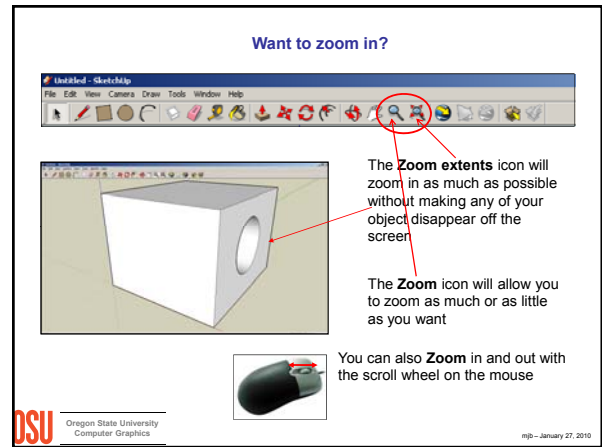
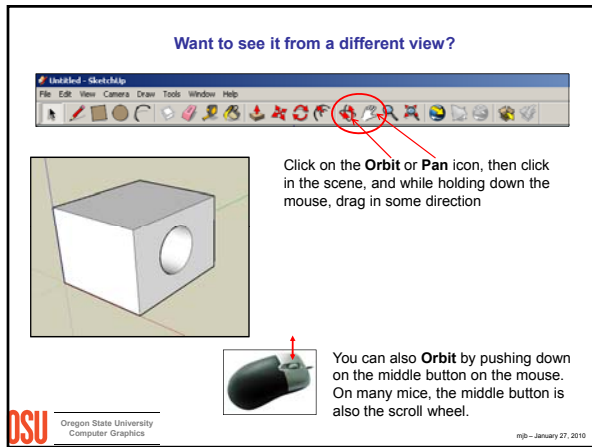
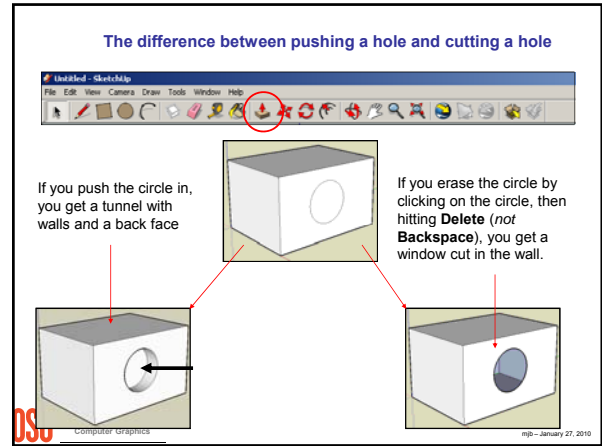
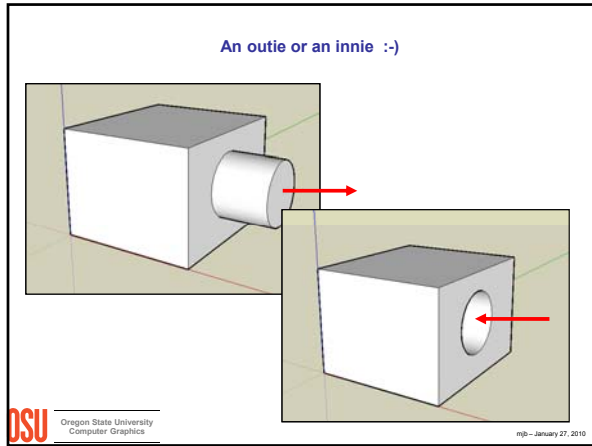
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Adding more detail to an existing face

Click on the **Draw-a-circle** icon, then click on one face of the 3D solid you just created, and while holding down the mouse, drag in some direction

Click on the **Push/pull** icon, then click on the circle you just created, and while holding down the mouse, drag in this direction

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Let's give it a roof

Now click on the **Move/copy** icon, then click on the line you just drew, and drag upwards

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Want to bevel the edge of the roof?

1. Draw a line here
2. Move the point at the tip of the roof

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Want to make it look more interesting?

Click **Window**→**Materials**

1. Click on a category
2. Click on a specific color or pattern
3. Click on the surface(s) you want to apply it to.

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Pure colors are considered Materials too

Click **Window**→**Materials**

1. Select **Colors**
2. Treat the color just like you did the material

Scroll up and down to get more colors

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Dimensions

Click **Tools**→**Dimensions**

1. Click on an edge
2. Drag where you want the dimension to be drawn

Dimensions are useful if you are giving your design to someone so that they can build it

1. Click on the circumference of a circle
2. Drag where you want the dimension to be drawn

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Adding Windows

Click **Windows**→**Components**

Click **Large Thumbnails**

Click **Architecture**

Click **Windows**

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Adding Windows

Drag a window type onto a wall of the house

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Adding Landscape Components

Click **Window**→**Components**

Click **Landscape**

Click **DC Landscape**

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Adding Landscape Components

Click **Dynamic Pine Tree**

Drag it into the scene where you want it

To release it, click on the black **Select Arrow icon** and then click in some empty spot in the scene

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Moving and Copying

1. Select the **Select** icon
2. Select the object to move
3. Click the **Move** icon
4. Move the object
5. Holding down the **Control** key will result in a **Copy** instead of a **Move**

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Scaling

1. Select the **Select** icon
2. Select the object to scale
3. Select **Tools**→**Scale** or click the **Scale** icon in the **Large Toolset** toolbar
4. Grab a grip point and scale the object

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Styles

Click **Window**→**Styles**

Select **Default Styles**

Click on the style you want

Earth Modeling – adds grass and sky

Shaded with textures (this one is good)

Wireframe

X-ray

Simple Style -- this one is good

The X-ray style is good to use if you want to see and place objects inside a structure

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Try Some of the Assorted Styles – They're Fun!

Blue surface and background colors with fine white lines.

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Tell SketchUp Where in the World you Are

Click **Window**→**Model Info**→**Location**

Wow! SketchUp even knows about Corvallis!

This sets your latitude

You care about setting your latitude because SketchUp also lets you . . .

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Setting Shadows in SketchUp

Click **Window**→**Shadows**

Set time of day and day of year

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Projections

Click **Camera**→**Perspective**
Click **Camera**→**Parallel Projection**

In perspective, things get smaller as they get farther away, which is more realistic. In parallel, they don't. But parallel helps you see if front and back faces line up.

Perspective Parallel

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Exporting an Image File

Click **File**→**Export**→**2D Graphic**

Your image can be exported in one of 4 formats:

1. BMP
2. JPEG ← Web browsers all know about this format
3. TIF
4. PNG

You would do this, for example, to email someone an image of your scene, to import it into a document, or to put it on your website

You can also export the 3D scene, but in the free version, only to Google Earth format. For more 3D formats, you need the Pro version.

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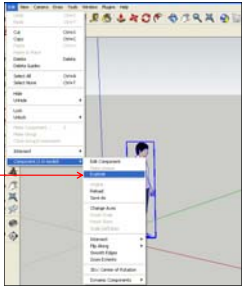
Other Cool Things you can do with SketchUp

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Changing the Person's Clothing

The person in the default scene is a SketchUp "Component", that is, he is a group of geometry collected together. To change his clothing, you need to first break, or "Explode", the collection apart.

Even easier, right-click on the person and select **Explode** from the pop-up menu.



After that, you can click on **Window→Materials** and re-color or re-pattern the clothing




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Creating Groups

Sometimes you would like to collect several pieces of geometry together and be able to treat them as a single unit. This is called a SketchUp **Group**.

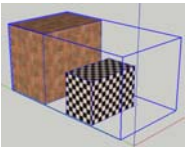
Create a SketchUp Group by first clicking on the **Select** icon.



Then, click on the first object you want in the Group. It will turn blue.

Then, hold down the **Shift** key and click on all other objects you want in the group. They will also turn blue. If you select the wrong item, just click it again to un-select it.

You can select many things at once by creating a rectangle around all of them with the Select cursor.



When you are done, right-click and select **Make Group** from the pop-up menu.

To ungroup the objects, right click on them and select **Explode** from the pop-up menu.

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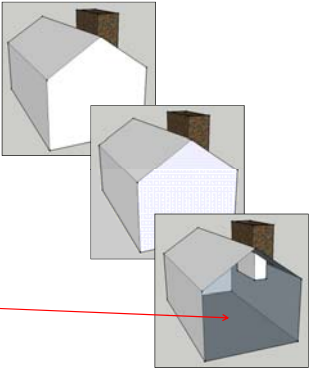
Hiding Geometry

Sometimes it would be nice to temporarily eliminate some geometry so that you could see inside something. This is referred to as **Hiding**.

To hide one or more pieces of geometry, select all of them as if you were about to create a group.

Then, right-click and select **Hide** from the pop-up menu. The selected objects look like they are gone, but they aren't. They're just hidden.

This is useful for putting things into an object (such as furniture) or for editing the object (as is needed here).

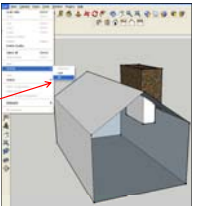


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Un-Hiding Geometry

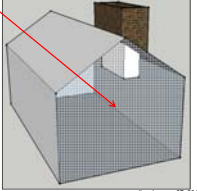
There are two ways to bring back hidden geometry.

The first is to select **Edit→Unhide→All**, like this:



The second is to select **View→Hidden Geometry**. This will make hidden geometry show up like this:

From there, you can right-click on it and select **Unhide** from the pop-up menu.




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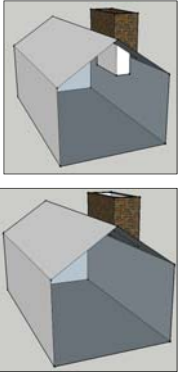
Eliminating Geometry

Sometimes extruding geometry results in it existing places it shouldn't.

To eliminate any geometry, take the **Eraser** tool and click on the edges of the geometry you want to eliminate.




As soon as an edge of a surface has been eliminated, the surface will disappear too.



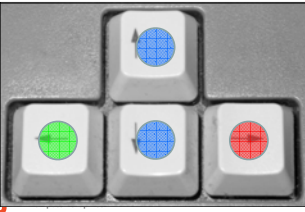
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Move Tricks

You can turn the Move into a Copy by holding down the **Control** key.



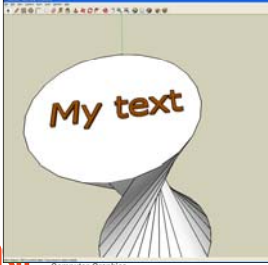
You can force the Move/Copy to move along one of the 3 axes (red, green, or blue) by holding down one of the arrow keys as follows:



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Adding 3D Text

1. Click on **Tools**→**3D Text**
2. Type the text into the dialog box
3. Make any text settings you want
4. Place the text by clicking on an object

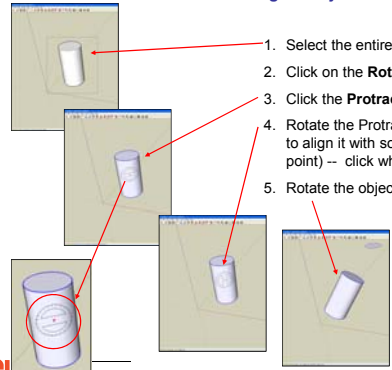


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Rotating an Object

1. Select the entire object
2. Click on the **Rotate Tool**
3. Click the **Protractor** onto the object
4. Rotate the Protractor with the mouse to align it with something (e.g., a key point) -- click when ready.
5. Rotate the object. Click when done.

Once you've started rotating, you can also type in an exact angle into the Measurement Toolbar (MTB)



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A Rotation Trick

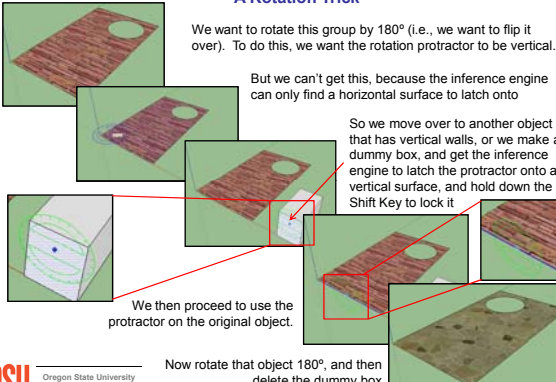
We want to rotate this group by 180° (i.e., we want to flip it over). To do this, we want the rotation protractor to be vertical.

But we can't get this, because the inference engine can only find a horizontal surface to latch onto

So we move over to another object that has vertical walls, or we make a dummy box, and get the inference engine to latch the protractor onto a vertical surface, and hold down the Shift Key to lock it

We then proceed to use the protractor on the original object.

Now rotate that object 180°, and then delete the dummy box



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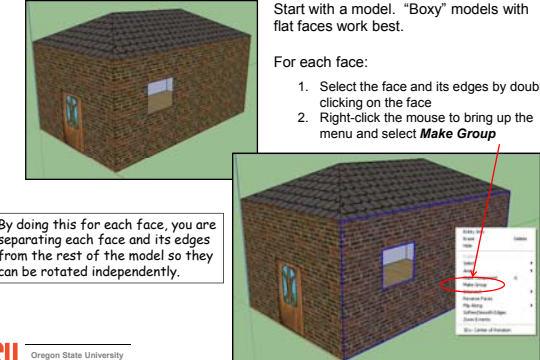
An Interesting Use for Rotation -- Building a Real Model from Paper!

Start with a model. "Boxy" models with flat faces work best.

For each face:

1. Select the face and its edges by double-clicking on the face
2. Right-click the mouse to bring up the menu and select **Make Group**

By doing this for each face, you are separating each face and its edges from the rest of the model so they can be rotated independently.



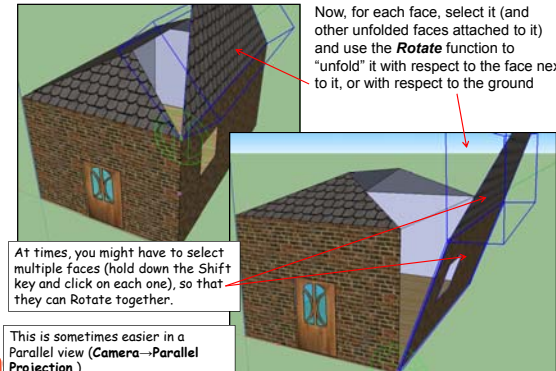
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An Interesting Use for Rotation -- Building a Real Model from Paper!

Now, for each face, select it (and other unfolded faces attached to it) and use the **Rotate** function to "unfold" it with respect to the face next to it, or with respect to the ground

At times, you might have to select multiple faces (hold down the Shift key and click on each one), so that they can Rotate together.

This is sometimes easier in a Parallel view (Camera--Parallel Projection)

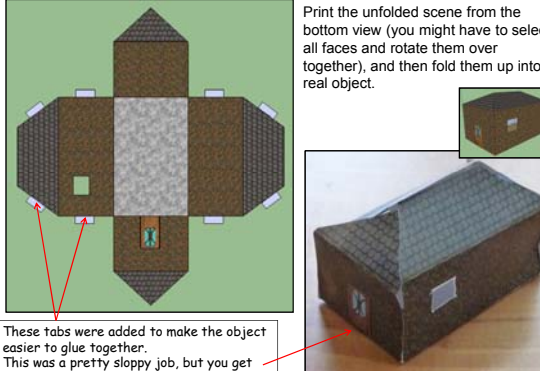


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An Interesting Use for Rotation -- Building a Real Model from Paper!

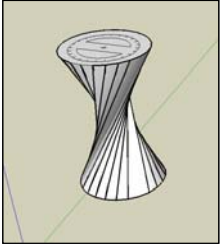
Print the unfolded scene from the bottom view (you might have to select all faces and rotate them over together), and then fold them up into a real object.

These tabs were added to make the object easier to glue together. This was a pretty sloppy job, but you get the point...



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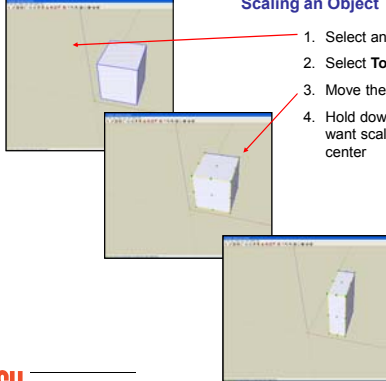
Rotating a Face



Strange as it may seem, you can also rotate just a face. Follow the same procedure, but select only the face.

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Scaling an Object



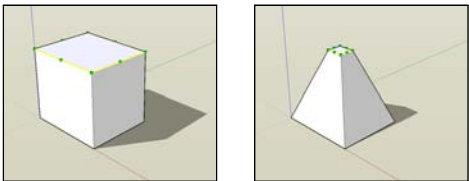
1. Select an object
2. Select **Tools**→**Scale**
3. Move the grips with the mouse
4. Hold down the **Control key** if you want scaling about the object's center

Moving a side grip will stretch the object in that direction. Moving a diagonal grip will scale the object equally in all directions ("uniform scaling")

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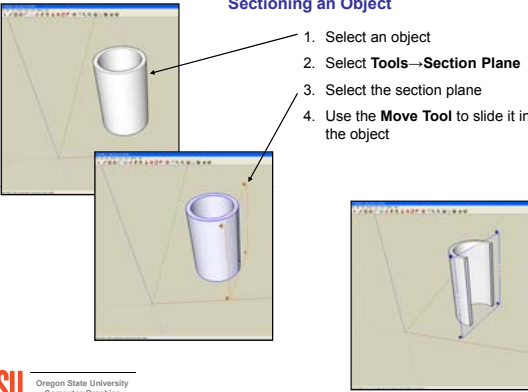
You can also scale just a face

1. Select a face
2. Select **Tools**→**Scale**
3. Move the grips with the mouse
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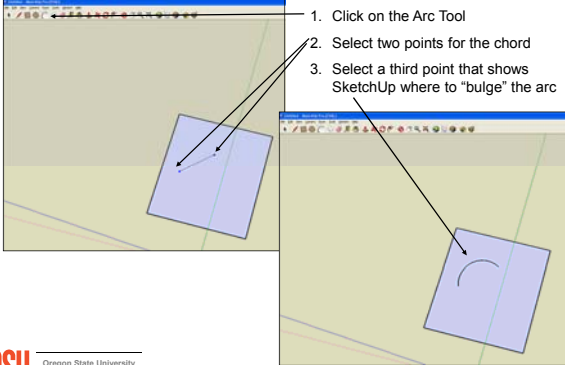
Sectioning an Object



1. Select an object
2. Select **Tools**→**Section Plane**
3. Select the section plane
4. Use the **Move Tool** to slide it into the object

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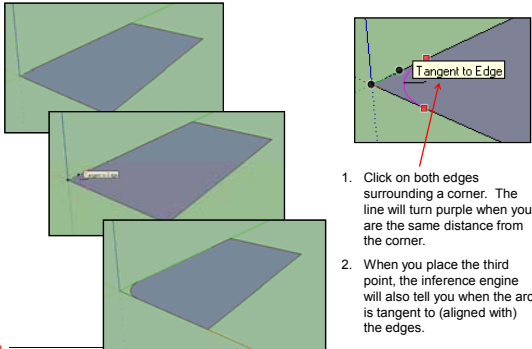
Drawing an Arc



1. Click on the Arc Tool
2. Select two points for the chord
3. Select a third point that shows SketchUp where to "bulge" the arc

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Arcs are Often used to Round Corners



1. Click on both edges surrounding a corner. The line will turn purple when you are the same distance from the corner.
2. When you place the third point, the inference engine will also tell you when the arc is tangent to (aligned with) the edges.

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Want to create Crown Molding?

Draw an arc in the corner

Click **Tools**→**Follow Me**

Click on the arc area

Move the cursor along the perimeter – don't click again until you are done with the full path

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Another use for Follow Me – make a Sphere

1. Create a circle
2. Copy the circle using the Move Tool with the Control key held down
3. Rotate the top circle 90°
4. Select the bottom circle, select **Tools**→**Follow Me**, and select the top circle
5. Erase the bottom circle and Delete it

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Offsetting a Surface

1. Click on the Offset Tool
2. Select the surface to offset on
3. Move the mouse to show how much to offset – click when ready
4. This only creates offset edges – you need to use the Push-Pull Tool to do something with it.

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Combining Several Techniques: Making a Swimming Pool

Start by creating a rectangle on the floor

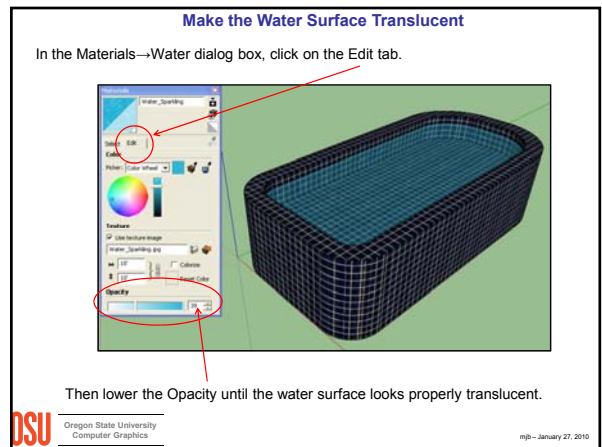
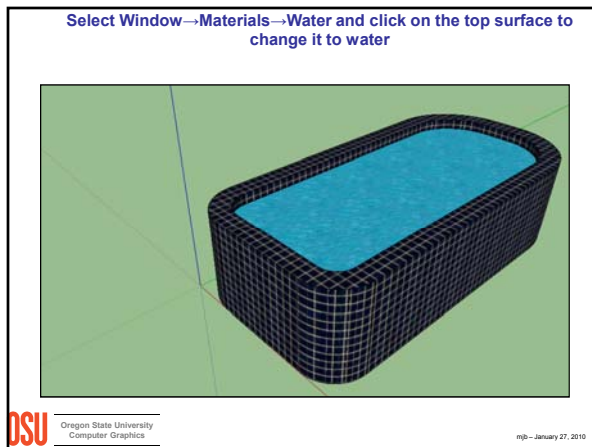
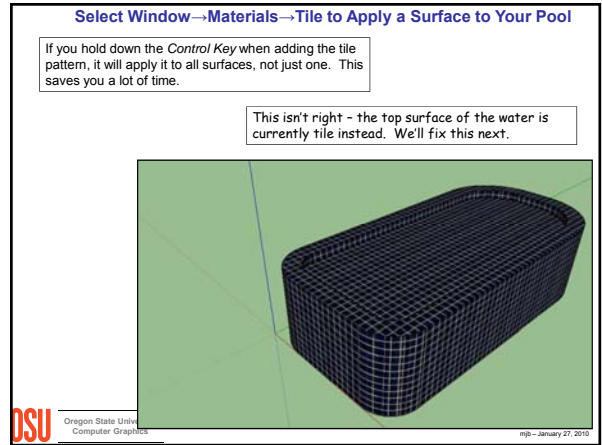
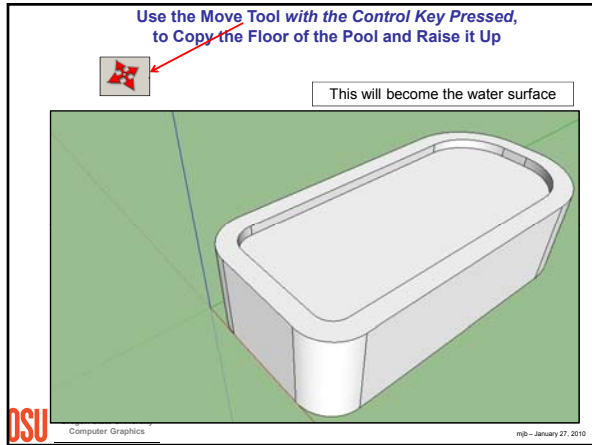
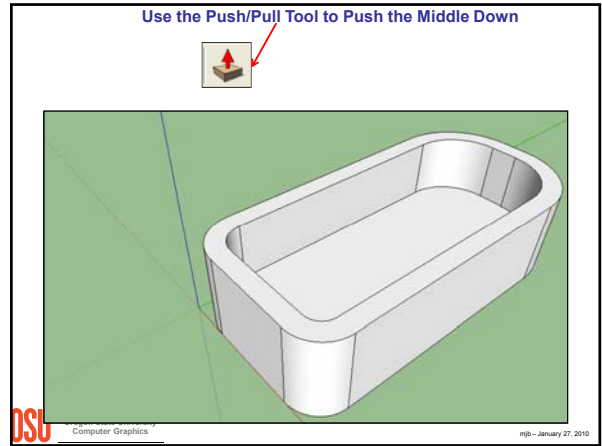
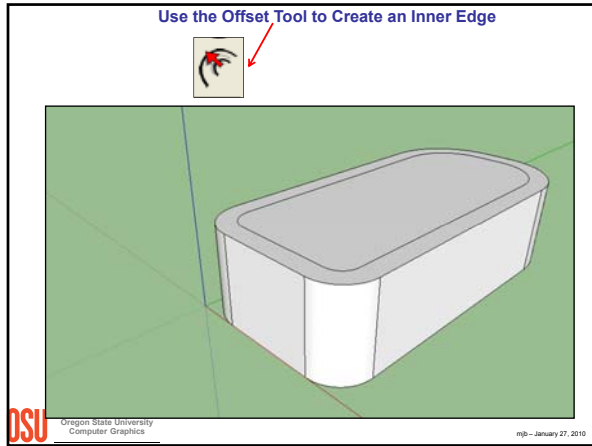
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Use the Arc Tool and the Erase Tool to Create 4 Arcs to Round the Corners

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Use the Push/Pull Tool to Lift it into 3D

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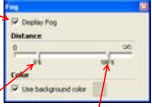
Adding Fog

Click **Window** → **Fog**



This brings up the Fog dialog box

Click here to turn the fog feature on




This slider adjusts how far in front of your eye the fog starts. Items closer to you than this will not be fogged at all.

This slider adjusts how far in front of your eye the fog completely hides your scene. Items farther away than this will not be visible at all.

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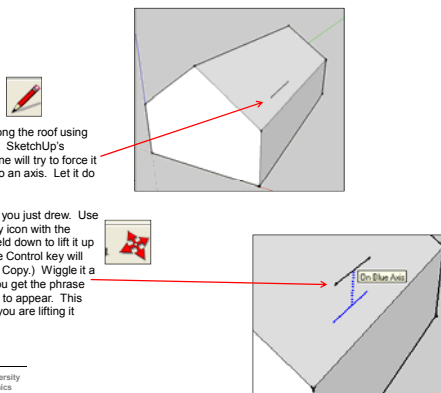
Adding Fog



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Adding a Vertical Chimney to a Sloped Roof

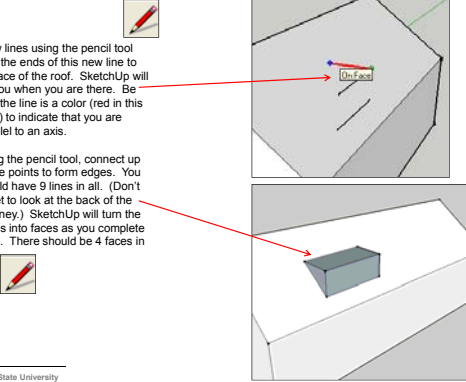
1. Draw a line along the roof using the pencil tool. SketchUp's inference engine will try to force it to be parallel to an axis. Let it do that.
2. Select the line you just drew. Use the Move/Copy icon with the Control Key held down to lift it up in the air. (The Control key will force it to do a Copy.) Wiggle it a little bit until you get the phrase "On Blue Axis" to appear. This indicates that you are lifting it straight up.



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Adding a Vertical Chimney to a Sloped Roof

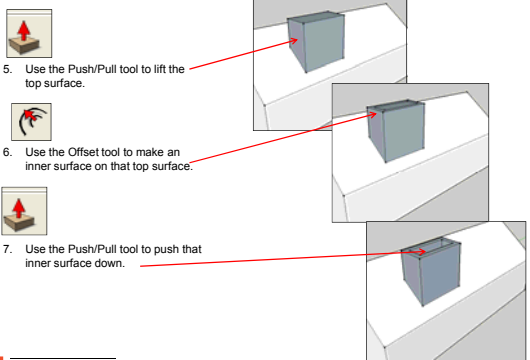
3. Draw lines using the pencil tool from the ends of this new line to the face of the roof. SketchUp will tell you when you are there. Be sure the line is a color (red in this case) to indicate that you are parallel to an axis.
4. Using the pencil tool, connect up all the points to form edges. You should have 9 lines in all. (Don't forget to look at the back of the chimney.) SketchUp will turn the edges into faces as you complete them. There should be 4 faces in all.



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Adding a Vertical Chimney to a Sloped Roof

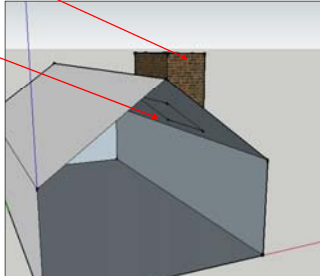
5. Use the Push/Pull tool to lift the top surface.
6. Use the Offset tool to make an inner surface on that top surface.
7. Use the Push/Pull tool to push that inner surface down.



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Adding a Vertical Chimney to a Sloped Roof

8. Add whatever **Window** → **Material** decoration you want
9. Get rid of the excess chimney under the roof by hiding an end face and erasing those edges. (See previous sections.)
10. Unhide the end face when you are done



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Subtracting one Surface from Another

1. Create two objects
2. Use the **Move Tool** to overlap them
3. Select both objects
4. Select **Edit--Intersect--Intersect with Model**
5. Erase the surfaces and lines you don't need

Note the difference in edges

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Creating a Flying Animation

To create an animation:

1. Create a view of the scene
2. Select **View--Animation--Add Scene**
3. Create a different view
4. Select **View--Animation--Add Scene**
5. . . .

To play the full animation:

1. Select **View--Animation--Play**
2. Pause or stop the scene with these buttons

As you add scenes, SketchUp will list them. You can click on any of them to get back to that view.

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Animation Settings

Set how long each scene transition lasts

How long to wait before starting the animation

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Exporting Your Animation

To save an animation to a file:

1. Select **File--Export--Animation**
2. Save as an AVI file

To play the animation file:
Double-click on your AVI file

To import your animation into PowerPoint:

1. Select **Insert--Movies and Sounds--Movie from File**
2. Double-click on the image when editing the slide
3. Click on the image in Slide Show mode

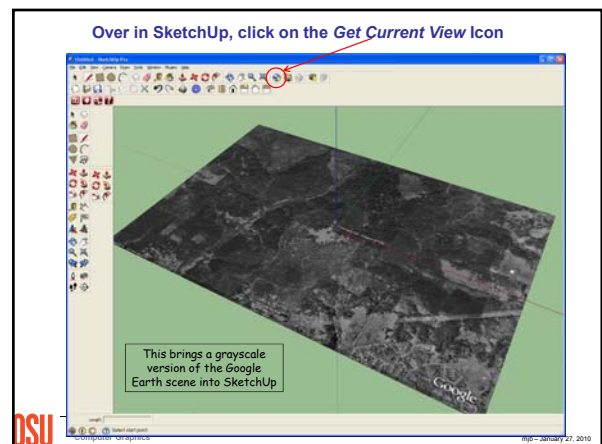
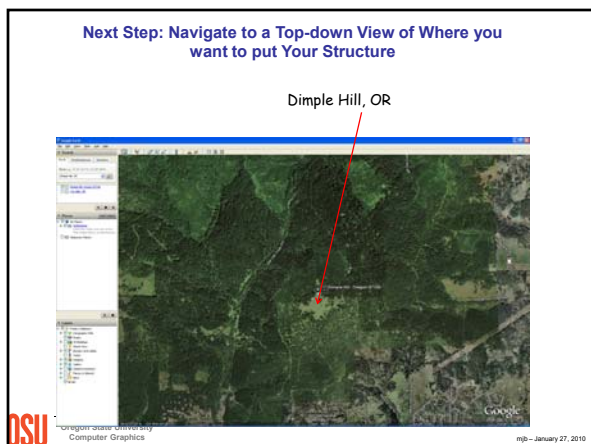
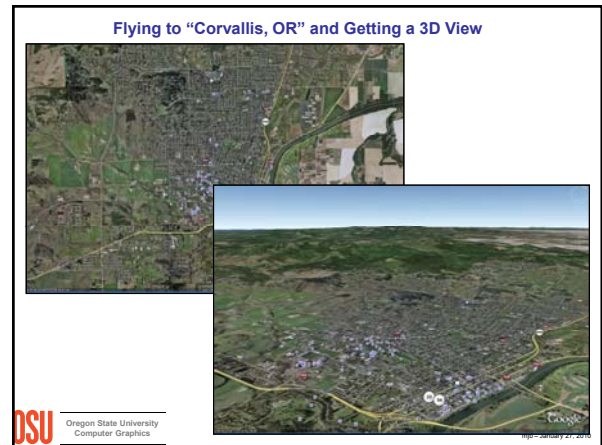
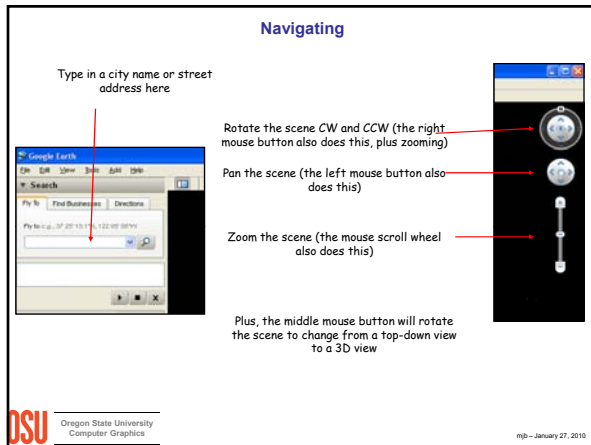
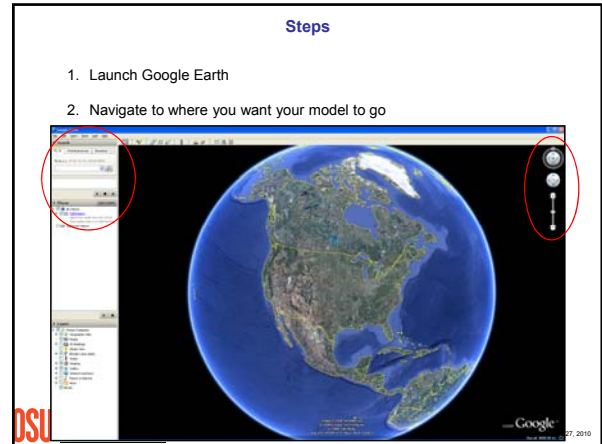
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Making SketchUp Work with Google Earth

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What if you want to show your creation . . .

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SketchUp Menu Icons Related to Google Earth


Get current view




Place model




Get models



Toggle terrain



Share model



Get current view – copy the Google Earth scene into SketchUp

Toggle terrain – change the terrain in SketchUp from flat to 3D and back again

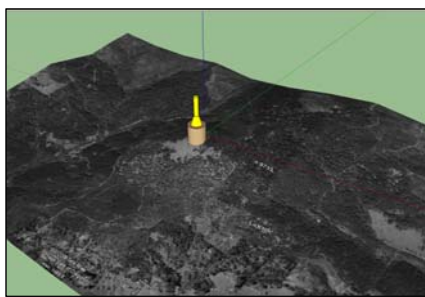
Place model – send your model back to Google Earth to see how it looks

Get models – Get 3D models that others have created


Share models – Publish the model so that others who use Google Earth can get them too (you need a Google account to do this)

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Use SketchUp to Draw a New Model, or File→Import an Existing One

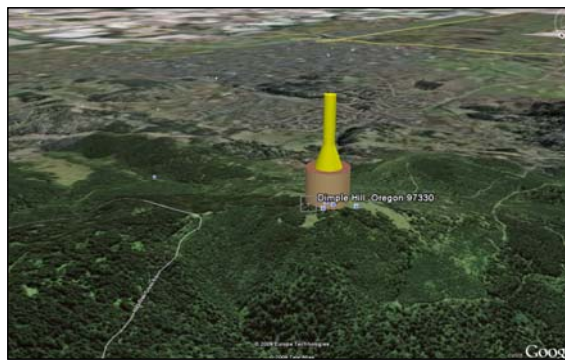


Then, use *Place model* to ship it back to Google Earth



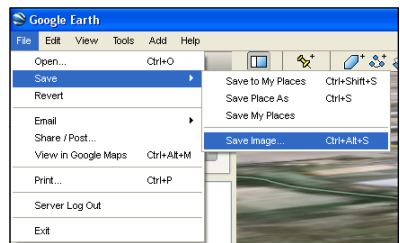
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Placing the Model



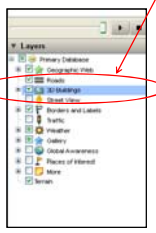
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In Google Earth, select File→Save →Save image to write an image file of this scene, suitable for displaying on a web page or a poster





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In Google Earth, you can also turn on the 3D Buildings layer to see what other buildings people have published – this is really fun



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If you want to be seriously awed, Fly To Washington, DC or New York City and turn the 3D Buildings on

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Marking GIS Areas with SketchUp and Google Earth

Outlining the meadow area of Dimple Hill

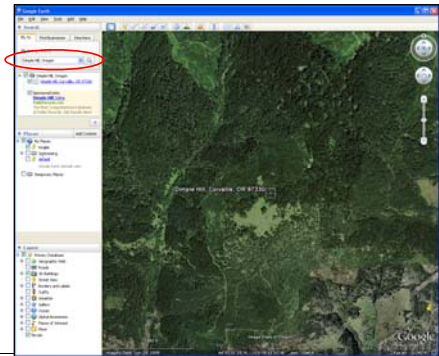


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In Google Earth, Navigate to Where you Want to Be

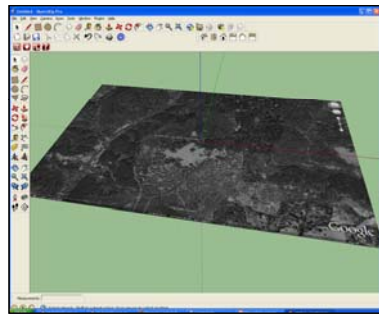
Dimple Hill, Oregon



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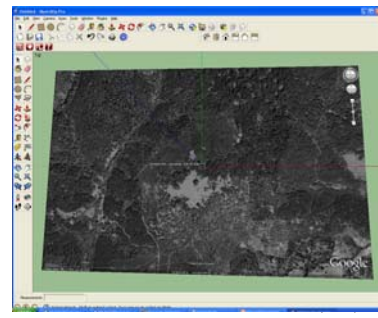
Fire Up SketchUp, and Import the Google Earth Image



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Get a Top-Down View

(You might have to hit *Zoom Extents* to Center the View)



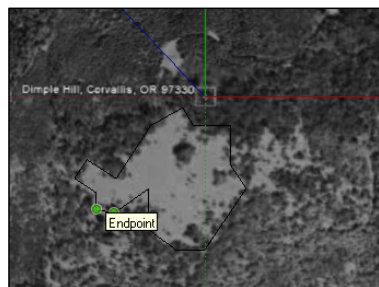
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Using the *Line Tool*, Click Multiple Times to Draw a Connected Series of Lines Around the Dimple Hill Meadow Area



The outline will be a little hard to see because the lines are black and the background is gray. Oh well.

Be sure the last point you click matches the point you started with. SketchUp will help you do this by popping up the *Endpoint* inference. Click there . . .



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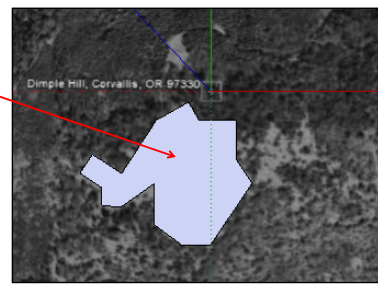
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Use the *Line Tool*, Click Multiple Times to Draw a Line Around the Dimple Hill Meadow Area



. . . to form a polygon.

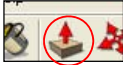
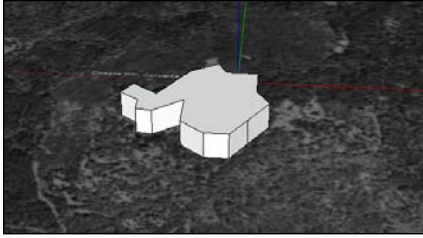
You can tell that a polygon has been formed because it will color the inside, like this.



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Use the Push-Pull Tool to Lift the Polygon into 3D





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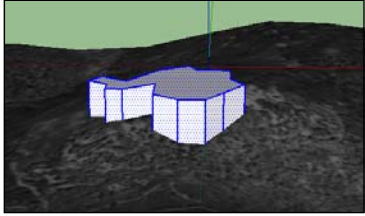
Turn the Google Earth Terrain into 3D, Sweep over the Entire 3D Box with the Selection Tool, then use the Move Tool to Push the Building Down into the Terrain

You might have to hold the Down Arrow key to force the movement to be along the vertical (blue) axis only.



You also might need to Push-Pull the top of the box higher.

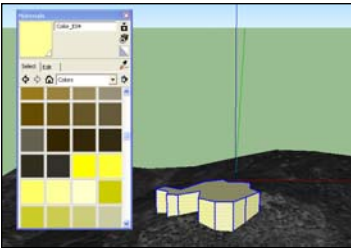
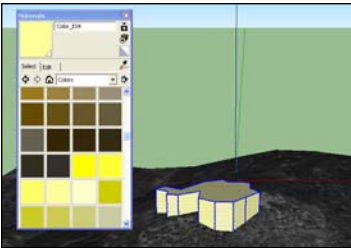


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Select Window → Material → Colors and Pick a Nice Color for the Box. Holding down the Control Key, click the Paint Brush on the Box

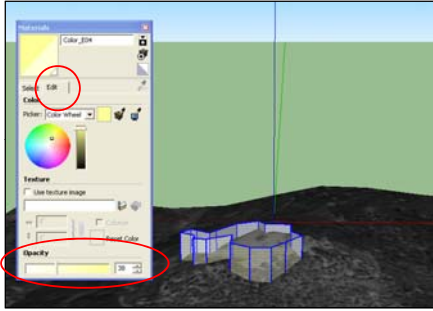
You hold down the Control Key when you click the paint bucket on your box so that it will color all the faces connected to the one face that you click.

Otherwise, you will need to click the paint bucket on each face individually. Yuch.

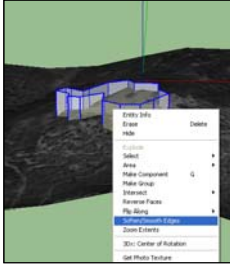
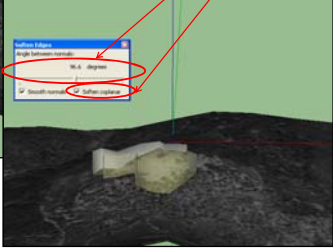
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While We're at it, Click on the Edit Tab and Adjust the Opacity of the Colored Box




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If you want to make the Box Look "Softer"(like it is made from Jello), Right-Click on the Box and Select *Soften/Smooth Edges*, then Adjust These Two Controls

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Now, Send your Box Back to Google Earth



If Google Earth has changed your height exaggeration, go to:

Tools → Options
and change the *Elevation Exaggeration* back to 1.0



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Good SketchUp Web Links

These Notes
<http://cs.oregonstate.edu/~mjb/sketchup>


General SketchUp Site
<http://sketchup.google.com>


Download SketchUp Models
<http://sketchup.google.com/3dwarehouse>

Tips and Tricks
<http://sketchupupdate.blogspot.com/search/label/Tips%20and%20Tricks>

Step-by-Step SketchUp Examples
<http://www.3dvinci.net/teacherguide>

SketchUp Blogs
<http://sketchupupdate.blogspot.com>





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More Good SketchUp Web Links

Video Tutorials
<http://sites.google.com/site/3dbasecamp2008>

Developing Plug-ins (Advanced!)
<http://groups.google.com/group/SketchUp-Plugins-Dev/web/index.html>
<http://groups.google.com/group/SketchUp-Plugins-Dev>



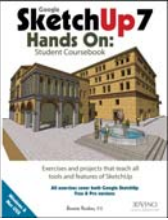


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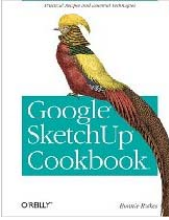
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Reference Books

Bonnie Roskes, *SketchUp 7 Hands On.*



Bonnie Roskes, *Google SketchUp Cookbook.*



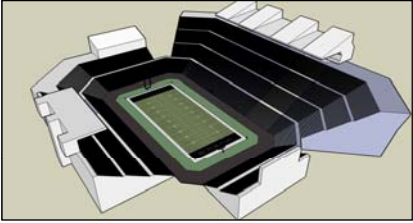


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Other Examples

Hassan Sinky



OSU's Reser Stadium

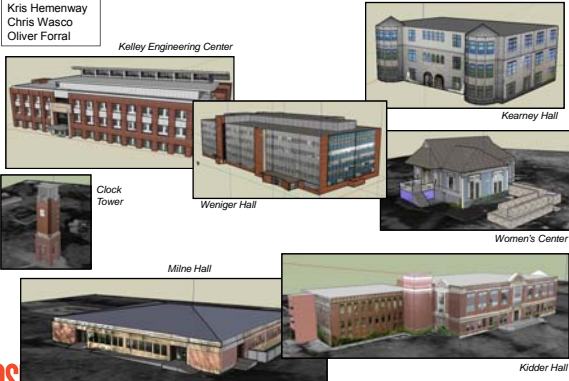



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Other Examples – the OSU 3D Campus Map Project

Kris Hemenway
Chris Wasco
Oliver Forral





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SketchUp 7 Quick Reference Card

