

AT A GLANCE

Company: KVK Corporation
URL: www.kvk.co.jp
Location: Gifu, Japan
Industry: Leading manufacturer of faucet hardware for baths and kitchens

Challenges

Facing steeply rising manufacturing costs, KVK needed to make up the difference by saving time and money during development

Solution

→ Build on success of existing 3-D design capabilities by bringing 3-D prototyping in-house, using the Eden260™ 3-Dimensional Printing System

Results

→ Shorter overall design time
 → Reduced development costs
 → More efficient checking of water discharge capabilities



Model before the plating process (photograph – bottom) and model after the plating process (photograph – top)



“
 The Eden is a first-rate tool that improves the whole product development process
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Yoshiaki Nachi
 Deputy Manager
 Product Development Sec.2

KVK uses an Eden machine to add flexibility, save time and costs of product development

Japan-based KVK Corporation is a top manufacturer of faucet hardware used in unit baths, system kitchens and similar equipment. Over the past few years, KVK has enjoyed considerable success in using three-dimensional CAD/CAM to reduce the time needed for product development. Now, facing steeply rising prices for materials, KVK has been forced to look for new ways to further cut back development time and cost. The company decided to leverage its initial 3D success by installing a 3D prototyping system, with the expectation that having onsite rapid prototyping capabilities would be cheaper and faster than working with a service bureau. Specifically, KVK looked for a solution that would enable them to do three key things: to build models earlier in the design process, to build transparent hollow models for water flow testing, and to use model materials that could be plated and painted to closely resemble the final products.

Benefits throughout the process

Following a thorough market survey, with benchmarking of available options, KVK selected Objet's Eden260™ 3-Dimensional Printing System. Within just a few short months of installing the system, KVK has integrated models produced on the Eden260 in every aspect of product development. The company reports that it is enjoying a shorter development period and a more efficient design process. Additionally, the whole development process is less stressful, due to the ability to test designs early on and frequently. This reduces the risk that costly changes will be needed at more advanced stages of the development process.