

Limited experiences with nozzles and wear

After printing hundreds of kilograms of filament through several printers and consequently destroying dozens of nozzles along the way; I have probably learned nothing, but let's take a look anyway!

Cheap brass nozzles

- These can be found in a 10 pack for around \$20 USD including shipping to the door
 - At least 5 are completely usable out of the box
 - Usually a couple more can be made functional with some cleanup and deburring
 - Never had a complete batch that were all usable out of the box (No threads on one)
 - For this price, it is an acceptable choice for those willing to tinker, replace nozzles more often, and get less overall reliable quality
 - Had more than one break out the nozzle tip after some long PLA prints (turns into 1.75mm nozzle)
 - Occasionally seen warping or crumbling brass after torching nozzles to burn out a clog
 - These WILL work in a pinch so *I used to* keep a handful for emergencies
 - Brass nozzles in general, have the best print quality and reliability across all materials they can be used for (no abrasive materials)
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Cheap "Hardened" nozzles

- Cost is similar to a good brass nozzle at ~\$5 USD
 - Inconsistent internal geometry due to poor machining or dull tools
 - Nozzle out of round leading to over/under extrusion in complex parts
 - Depending upon the material used to create the nozzle, all nozzle temperatures will need to be raised by 5-20 C
 - Hardened steel has a bit better heat conductivity compared to most stainless steels
 - These CAN work for abrasive materials but they require luck and/or patience to get good results over time
 - Unfortunately, sometimes unhardened stainless steel nozzles are sold as "Hardened" nozzles
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E3D brass v.6 nozzles

- These seem reasonably priced to me at around \$5 USD so I now keep a handful of these around instead
 - When I want a brass nozzle for highest print quality, this one has great tolerances and longevity (for brass)
 - Tolerates being torched out after a clog now and then without issues
 - Brass nozzles in general, have the best print quality and reliability across all materials they can be used for (no abrasive materials)
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E3D Hardened Steel and Nozzle X coated v.6 nozzles

- These are quite affordable for Wear Resistant nozzles at around \$20 to \$30 USD
 - Raise all nozzle temperatures 5-10 C to accommodate it's low thermal conductivity compared to brass
 - Wear resistant nozzles are REQUIRED to print abrasive materials such as composites (Carbon/Glass Fiber, Glow-In-The-Dark, Sparkles, Wood, Stone, etc.)
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Everything else I haven't tried yet

Any opinions I have on other nozzles are based purely upon the evil marketing strategies of 3D printer nozzle manufacturers

- Low thermal conductivity makes sense (to me) as a real limitation to quality etc. in wear resistant nozzles
 - Makers of the DiamondBack nozzle claim it has a thermal conductivity comparable to brass, with wear resistance close to raw diamond
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