



Prusa i3 Mk4 control panel guard (Childproofing)



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Summary

Do you have a Prusa Mk4 with an accessible control panel? Do you have young children? Are they curious?

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Are your young children the curious kind?

Unable to ignore blinking lights and flashing buttons?

The Prusa printers have a very accessible and easily triggered “STOP” Abort/Reset button. In addition the Mk4 supports touch input. By default the menus make a very clear beep sound when navigated. This proves to be irresistible to my youngest child.

This idea was born when I found my Mk4 with print aborted and factory reset... by ~20 month old toddler. I have no idea how. But he did it, and within ~2 minutes of wandering out of sight. I modeled this design from scratch using dimensions from the original Prusa Mk4 xLCD part.

There is zero scaling or tolerance space added. When printed on the Mk4 the result fits snugly and firmly directly over the entire control panel. Cutouts allow USB storage to remain connected. It is easily removed but not intuitive for young children.

I chose to print this in clear PETG so I can still see a sense of what is on the display, but black would probably be the best bet for avoiding curiosity. The knob cover portion is printed separately, inverted. Once printed, use some superglue to permanently attach the knob cover in the cutout. I recommend PETG for flexibility and appearance. 0.3mm layer height. No supports. You may need to add a skirt or small raft to enhance adhesion. Sample printed in PolyMaker Polylite PETG (Clear)

Model files

prusa-i3-mk4-control-guard.step

prusa-i3-mk4-control-guard-knob-cover.step

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