

Storm3D Tool

The *Storm3D Tool* or also sometimes called *Storm3D utility* is a piece of software used to manipulate SOD models, as they are used by [Star Trek: Armada](#). It directly uses the [Storm3D Engine](#) to display the models loaded.

Setting Storm3D Tool Up

You can get the *Storm3D Tool* from here: [Armada Files](#). It was meant to be used with versions 1.1 and 1.2 of *Star Trek: Armada*. (See also [Hashes of the Different Versions](#).) But in reality only version 1.2 has any relevance today. The *Storm3D Tool.exe* is placed in the root folder of the *Star Trek: Armada* installation folder and started from there.

It works well with the original CD Version of *Star Trek: Armada*, but not so much with an (unaltered) GOG version of the game. Reason for that are the modifications GOG made to the game in form of some DLLs. They make *Storm3D Tool* crash upon loading. You can in principle get the *Storm3D Tool* to work with the GOG version by removing all unneeded files from the GOG folder (make backups of it, before you do so!). If put that to the extreme, you can create a stand-alone variation of it, by only keeping the following files/folders:

- *SOD*,
- *Sprites*,
- *Textures* and
- *Storm3D Tool.exe*.

Placing mod files into those directories is necessary to modify SODs with *Storm3D Tool*. But the rest of the *Star Trek: Armada* installation is not required for *Storm3D Tool* to work then.

If created in this fashion, it will also start on a modern system.

Usage

Keys

There are a number of things you can do with the *Storm3D Tool* directly. The following keys may be useful:

Key	Effect
F1	Displays the different keys and their effects. The descriptions are, however a bit spartan.
F2	Activates the »advanced« mode.
F5	Increases reticule size when in mesh mode.
F6	Decreases reticule size when in mesh mode.
F8	Opens a loading dialog to select an SOD file for use with <i>Storm3D Tool</i> . This does not yet place the model anywhere.
F9	Opens up a save dialog to save an SOD file.

Key	Effect
<u>PG Down</u>	Selects the next element. Depending on the mode that can be an entire model (when in object mode), a node (when in node mode) or a mesh LOD (when in mesh mode).
<u>PG Up</u>	Selects the previous element. Depending on the mode that can be an entire model (when in object mode), a node (when in node mode) or a mesh LOD (when in mesh mode).
<u>A</u>	Zooms out from model (when in object mode) or node (when in node mode) or mesh (when in mesh mode).
<u>Z</u>	Zooms in from model (when in object mode) or node (when in node mode) or mesh (when in mesh mode).
<u>B</u>	Plays the build/construction animation, that is also used when a ship is built in a yard, or a station by a Constructor .
<u>D</u>	Displays the indicators for low crew (damage patches), borg assimilation and emitters (life support or engines down).
<u>O</u>	Switches ob object mode, when in advanced mode.
<u>N</u>	Switches to node mode, when in advanced mode.
<u>M</u>	Switches to mesh mode, when in advanced mode.
<u>SPACE</u>	Place a loaded SOD model near the mouse pointer. Note: This also considers the mouse pointer location if the mouse pointer is not inside the window of <i>Storm3D Tool</i> . Meaning, your newly placed model might not be visible initially.
<u>DEL</u>	Removes the currently selected object (regardless whether you are in node or mesh mode, it will always remove the entire selected model!).
<u>W</u>	Switch display to displaying the mesh (no textures).
Left Mouse Button	Turn the selected element (in object mode, it will be the entire model, in node mode it will be the node).
Right Mouse Button	Moves the object in-plain (in object mode, it will be the entire model, in node mode it will be the node).
Middle Mouse Button	Moves the object perpendicular to the viewing plain (in object mode, it will be the entire model, in node mode it will be the node).

Modes

Modes can be switched by pressing F2, to activate advanced mode (or deactivate it), or keys O, N and M for object, node or mesh mode.

Advanced Mode

When this mode is active, the other (following) modes can be used. If you switch from advanced to normal mode with F2, then these modes will be turned off as well.

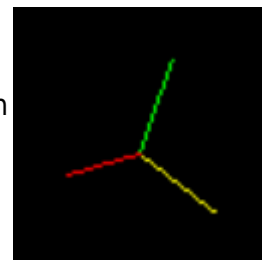
Object Mode

This is basically the default mode. If advanced mode is not active, *Storm3D Tool* will behave exactly the same, except, that in advanced mode you can also switch to the node or mesh mode. In object mode you can place a loaded SOD model with SPACE, select other models with keys PG Up and PG

Down, remove selected models with **DEL**, as well as move and turn a selected object. View toggles such as wireframe or emitters can influence how the model is displayed.

Node Mode

In node mode not the entire model is selected with **PG Up** or **PG Down**, but the nodes of the [hierarchy](#). **Important:** Even when in node mode, **DEL** key will remove the entire model, not just the node. So avoid using it, unless you intend on removing the currently worked on model.



Selected nodes can be moved just as if they were entire models, including their directions. A node is represented by a triad of the three colors red, green and yellow. Their intersection (root) is the location of a node, while the yellow line indicates the direction the node faces. Some tools like [Milkshape 3D](#) cannot be used to properly set nodes **and** have them face the correct direction. If you use one of these modelling tools, you may need to adjust the node directions eventually, e.g. with *Storm3D Tool*.

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