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Subject: Re: Illegal 3D Transformation (Beginner)  
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Mon, 16 Dec 2002 18:39:40 GMT  
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"Klemens Barfus" <klemens.barfus@forst.tu-dresden.de> wrote

- > I am a beginner with IDL, got some example from other people and tried
- > them on my computer. I allways get the error message: Illegal 3D
- > transformation. I tried David Fannings Satter 3D program and get the
- > error message: SURFACE: Illegal 3D transformation.
- > Is there something to change in my IDL,or what is the problem ?
- > Thanks for your help in advance !

Hi Klemens,

What are you doing to get this error? You don't have to go into exacting detail, but I am guessing you are trying to change the way something "moves"? If so, how are you doing it? Are you setting a model's transform directly or are you using built in methods such as translate, rotate, or scale?

If you are setting the transform directly, can you print out the offending transform and post it?

-Rick

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Subject: Re: Illegal 3D Transformation (Beginner)  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 16 Dec 2002 19:23:03 GMT  
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Klemens Barfus (klemens.barfus@forst.tu-dresden.de) writes:

- > I am a beginner with IDL, got some example from other people and tried
- > them on my computer. I allways get the error message: Illegal 3D
- > transformation. I tried David Fannings Satter 3D program and get the
- > error message: SURFACE: Illegal 3D transformation.
- > Is there something to change in my IDL,or what is the problem ?

Oh, dear. \*What\* programs!?

I was once teaching an IDL course and one of the people attending said to me, "IDL is kind of strange isn't it? It never gives you any error messages."

Say what!? About an hour later I learned that

this guy had gotten an IDL startup file from one of his "friends" and that !Quiet was set to 1. Do you realize how hard it is to program something without error messages!

The bottom line is this: one of your "friends" may have a weird sense of humor.

I would do this. Start IDL without any start-up files, and without running any of the code you got from friends. Then try this:

```
IDL> Surface, dist(15)
```

If that doesn't work, tell us more about what version of IDL you are running, whether you installed it yourself, whether you had any problems during install, etc.

I think you have either set some system variables inadvertently, or your installation is not set up properly. Did you change the name of the main IDL directory?

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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