



AutoCAD FAQ

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If You Need Some Information On Our CAD Plotting Services
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Plotting

What types of files can you print?

Answer: Atlantic can plot from virtually all standard CAD file formats. These are: AutoCAD dwg, dxf, HP-GL2, Postscript.

How do I configure my system and create a plot file in AutoCAD14 & 2000

Configuring the HP 650c Printer Driver For Atlantic Blueprint Company Digital Print Systems For use with AutoCad 14

Note: These instructions assume a general working knowledge of Windows based computers and AutoCad 14.

After opening AutoCad 14, from the "FILE" menu select "PRINTER SETUP" this displays the "PREFERENCES" window.

From the "PREFERENCES" window select the "PRINTERS" tab. Select "NEW" and then select "HPGL-2 DEVICES" and "OK" it.

From the displayed "AUTOCAD TXT WINDOW" enter the corresponding number to match the HP 650c driver and "ENTER".

When prompted to configure port setting, press "ENTER". The default of LPT1 will suffice. Press enter until you return to the "PREFERENCES" window.

The HP 650c driver should now be displayed and correctly installed in the "PREFERENCES" window. "OK" it.

To verify installation load a sample drawing and select the HP 650c plotter

form the "PRINT" window under "DEVICE AND DEFAULT SELECTION" and choose the HP 650c driver.

Configuring the HP 755cm Driver For Atlantic Blueprint Company Digital Print Systems For use with AutoCad 2000.

Note: These Instructions assume a general working knowledge of windows based computers and AutoCad 2000.

Open AutoCad 2000. Select "TOOLS" from the pull down menu. Select "WIZARDS" and "ADD PLOTTER".

From "ADD PLOTTER-BEGIN" window leave selection to "MY COMPUTER" and "NEXT".

From the "ADD PLOTTER -PLOTTER MODELS" window choose "HEWLETT-PACKARD" and "DESIGNJET 755CM" model.

From the "ADD PLOTTER -PCP" window, don't "import" just select "NEXT".

From the "ADD PLOTTER -PORTS" window, leave the default setting and select "NEXT".

From the "ADD PLOTTER -PLOTTER NAME" window the Hp 755cm plotter is already hi-lighted, select "NEXT".

From the "ADD PLOTTER -FINISH" window, just select "NEXT". A printer driver compatible with Atlantic Blueprint Digital Print Systems should now be loaded in your AutoCad 2000 program.

To verify the driver has been installed, open AutoCad 2000 and select "FILE" and "PLOT". In the "PLOT DEVICE" tab the new driver should be one of your choices. Select this device whenever preparing .dwg or .plt files to be printed at any Atlantic Blueprint location.

Preparing Plot files (.plt) for Atlantic Blueprint Digital Print System In AutoCad 14

Note: These Instructions assume a general working knowledge of windows based computers and AutoCad 14.

After drafting a drawing within AutoCad a "print ready file" can be prepared with all the Draftsman's specific attributes and characteristics encoded within it. This file is called a "PLOT FILE" (.plt). A drawing file (.dwg) will always take on the attributes and software settings of the computer viewing it which can vary greatly from the draftsman's specifications.

Make sure to select the HP 650c plotter in your "DEVICE AND DEFAULT SELECTION" area of the "PRINT" window.

From the "PRINT" window select the appropriate media (paper) size and orientation. The correct scale must be selected as well. That is to say the drawing must fit within the confines of the media to be printed on.

All line styles and pen styles and widths must be selected.

Because Atlantic Blueprint will be printing these plot (.plt) files on a monochrome (black & white) Digital Print System, ALL PENS MUST BE SET TO #7. This insures crisp black lines.

In "ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS" select "EXTENTS".

Perform a "FULL PREVIEW" of the drawing before plotting to insure it fits within the confines of the media (paper).

Select the "PLOT TO FILE" OPTION" and select "FILE NAME" to name and select a location for the Plot File to be saved. "OK" the plot. You just created a plot file (.plt). Save it to a disk or email it.

Preparing Plot Files (.plt) for Atlantic Blueprint Company Digital Print System In AutoCad 2000.

Note: These Instructions assume a general working knowledge of windows based computers and AutoCad 2000 or AutoCad Lt 2000.

After drafting a drawing within AutoCad a "print ready file" can be prepared with all the Draftsman's specific attributes and characteristics encoded within it. This file is called a "PLOT FILE" (.plt). A drawing file (.dwg) will always take on the attributes and software settings of the computer viewing it which can vary greatly from the draftsman's specifications.

From "FILE" MENU" select "PLOT" to display the Plot Window. From the "PLOT DEVICE" tab, choose the HP 755cm plotter or comparable HPGL-2 device.

Also from the "PLOT DEVICE" tab, under "PLOT STYLES (PEN ASSIGNMENTS)" choose "MONOCHROME.CTB" or your own pen settings from the pull down menu. This insures crisp black lines.

Finally, also from the "PLOT DEVICE" tab, check "PLOT TO FILE". Browse for the desired location you would like the plot file (.plt) saved.

From "PLOT SETTINGS" tab, select the desired "PAPER SIZE". Also select the proper "PAPER SCALE". That is to say once scaled, the drawing should fit within the confines of the borders of the media.

Also from THE "PLOT SETTINGS" tab, in the "PLOT AREA" section choose "EXTENTS".

Finally from the "PLOT SETTINGS" tab, in the "PLOT OFFSET" section, check "CENTER".

Perform a "FULL PREVIEW" of the drawing to insure it fits within the confines of the media (paper). Press "ESC" on the keyboard to return to plot window.

Can I send AutoCAD drawing files? What do I have to do to send them to you?

Answer: We can accept drawing files from AutoCAD14 & 2000 . When sending DWG files to us please include 1) Fonts, shx, ttf, postscript and

bigfont files. We have most of the typical AutoCAD shx fonts on file at our office, but check to see if you are using any special or proprietary fonts. 2) Include any xrefs. The most common dwg problem we have is when the customer fails to send their xref title block. 3) Tell us the scale of each drawing and the media size you want it printed on. 4) List of all of the line colors to pen weights that you need. Example: Color 1 red = .25 Color 2 yellow = .35 etc. or if you have a .pcp or .ctb pen configuration file send that along with your drawings. We can keep your standard set of pen weights on file, this way you won't have to remind us each time of your settings. Once you have gathered this information together you then may send the files to us via disk, e-mail.

I forgot to change a couple of things before I sent you my drawings. Will you change them for me?

Answer: No. Due to production schedules and other factors we are unable to edit your drawings.

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