

AutoCAD LT®
2007

Preview Guide

AutoCAD LT® 2007 software is used for drafting and detailing by design professionals in all industries who require full DWG file format compatibility, but do not require 3D capabilities or advanced customization of their software.

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Introduction

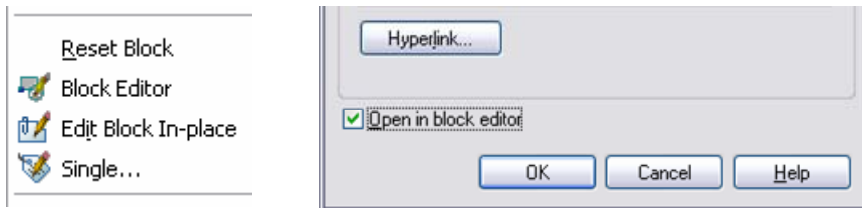
Enhance your productivity with AutoCAD LT® software, the world's number one-selling drafting and detailing product. AutoCAD LT 2007 is better than ever. Blocks are now dynamic, Express Tools for better layer management were added, and drafting enhancements abound. Now the tasks you perform every day are streamlined with just one thing in mind—boosting productivity. With full DWG file format compatibility you've never experienced a more efficient design process.

Defining Dynamic Blocks

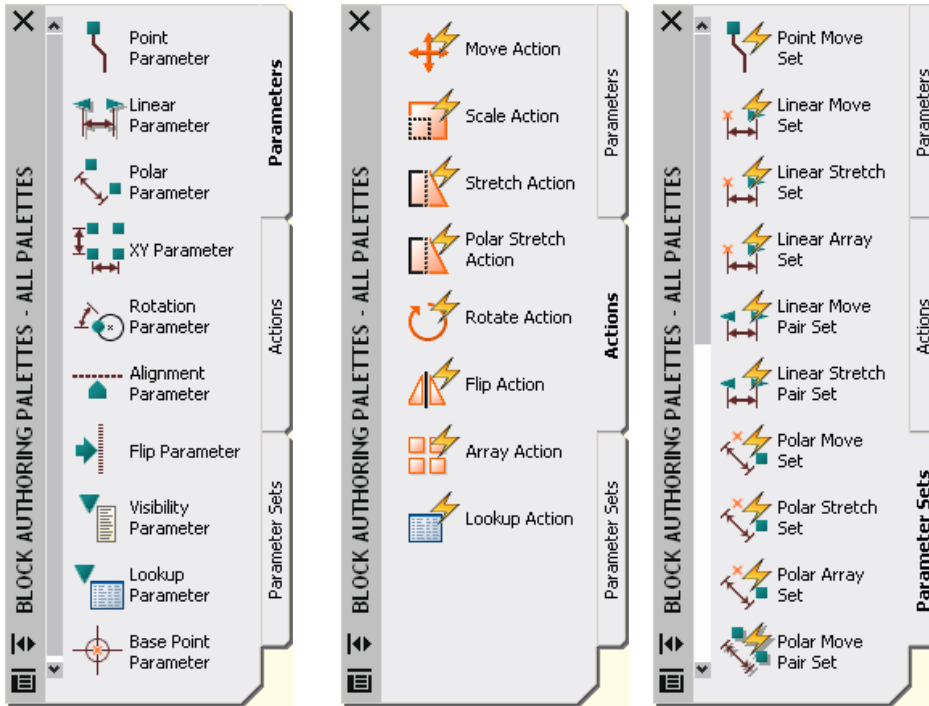
Defining blocks that fit every shape and size required to create all of your drawings is an almost impossible task resulting in an extensive library of blocks that include multiple variations of the same symbol. All of these symbols and their variations add up to hundreds and even thousands of block definitions. As your block library grows, individual blocks can become difficult to find and access.

Using the Dynamic Block functionality in AutoCAD LT 2007, you can drastically reduce the size of your block libraries. You can make individual block geometry editable, so you don't need to define a new block for every variation of shape and size.

The new Block Definition Editor enables you to create new block definitions or update your existing blocks. You can access the Block Definition Editor from several locations including the Block Definition dialog box, the right-click menu when you have a block selected, and the BEDIT command.

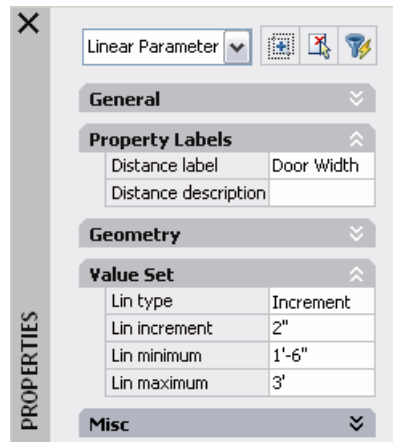
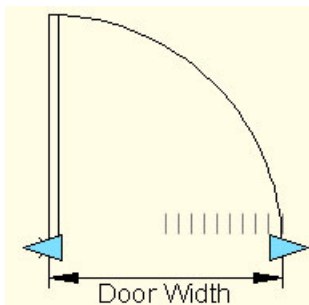


In the Block Definition Editor, you can use typical AutoCAD LT drawing and editing functionality to create and modify the geometry for your block definition. In addition, the Block Definition Editor includes a Block Authoring Palette with tools that enable you to apply parameters and actions to your block geometry.



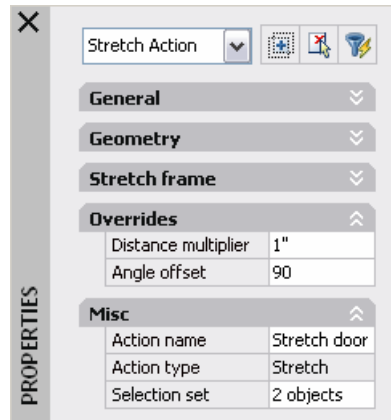
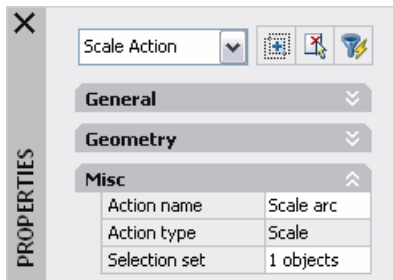
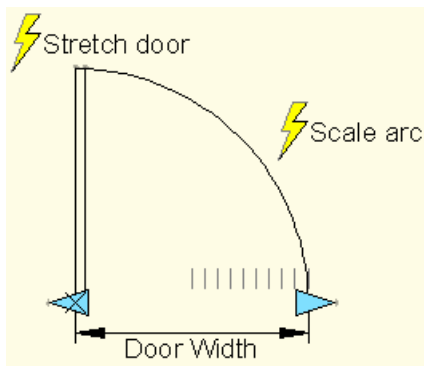
Applying Parameters

Parameters, available on the Parameters tab of the Block Authoring Tool Palette, are dimensions that drive the block geometry. For example, you could add a linear parameter to a door block to drive the width of a door. Parameters are objects with their own relevant properties, which you can edit using the Properties window. For example, you can modify the properties of the linear parameter so that the door width is constrained to 2-inch increments between the values of 18 and 36 inches.



Applying Actions

Actions, available on the Actions tab of the Block Authoring Palette, are what change the geometry as you insert or edit a Dynamic Block instance. For example, if you want to change the width of an inserted door block, you must apply a Stretch action to the Door Width parameter. You can apply multiple actions to a single parameter and you can adjust the properties of the actions using the Properties window. If you stretch the grip for the door width, you want all of the objects that make up the door block to adjust accordingly. You want to scale the arc, which represents the door swing, and you want to stretch the two lines, which represent the door itself. In this case, you would add both the scale action and the stretch action to the same Door Width grip. You would then need to edit the properties of the Stretch action so that it stretched the two lines at a 90 degree offset from the door width parameter.



Working with Layers

The most popular layer tools that were previously part of Express Tools have been integrated into the AutoCAD LT software core and can be found in the Format menu.

They are:

COPYTLAYER: Copy Objects to New Layer: Copies selected objects to a different layer, leaving original objects intact.

LAYCUR: Change to Current Layer: Changes the layer of one or more objects to the current layer.

LAYDEL: Layer Delete: Deletes all objects from the specified layer and purges the layer from the drawing.

LAYFRZ: Layer Freeze: Freezes the layer of the selected object(s).

LAYISO: Layer Isolate: Isolates the layer(s) of one or more selected objects by turning all other layers off.

LAYLCK: Layer Lock: Locks layer of the selected object.

LAYMCH: Layer Match: Changes the layer(s) of selected object(s) to match the layer of a selected destination object.

LAYMRG: Layer Merge: Moves all objects on the first layer selected onto the second layer selected. The first layer will be purged from the drawing.

LAYOFF: Layer Off: Turns off the layer of selected object(s).

LAYON: Turn All Layers On: Turns on all Layers

LAYTHW: Thaw All Layers: Thaws all layers

LAYULK: Layer Unlock: Unlocks the layer of a selected object.

LAYVPI: Isolate Layer to Current Viewport: Isolates an object's layer to the current viewport

LAYWALK: Layer Walk: Displays objects on layers when the layer names are selected in the dialog box. The number of objects on the selected layers and the number of layers in the drawing are displayed. With this tool, you can alter the layer state when you exit, save layer states, and purge layers that are not unreferenced.

CHSPACE: Change Space: Seamlessly moves objects from one space to the other while maintaining the appearance of the original objects.

Tracking from Key Points

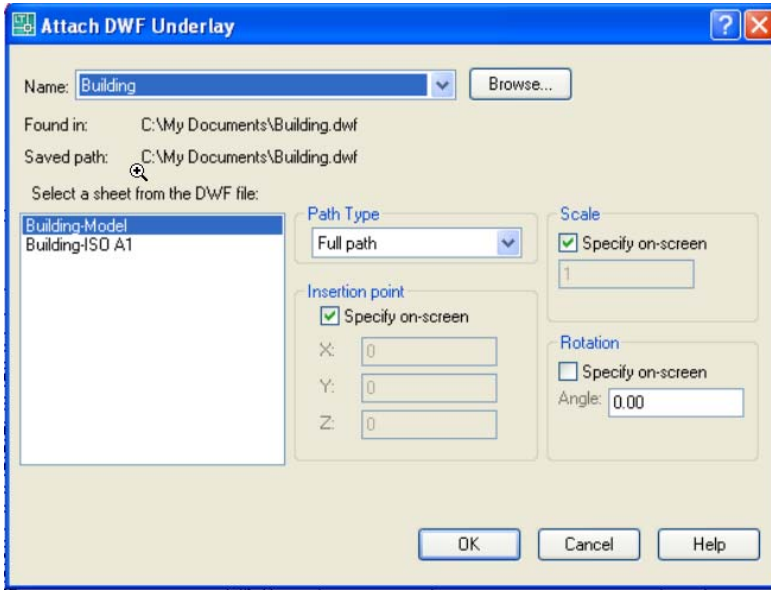
You can draw objects at specific angles or in specific relationship to other objects along specified directions called alignment paths.

AutoTrack™ functionality helps you draw objects at specific angles or in specific relationships to other objects. When you turn on AutoTrack, temporary alignment paths help you create objects at precise positions and angles. AutoTrack includes two tracking options: polar tracking and object snap tracking.

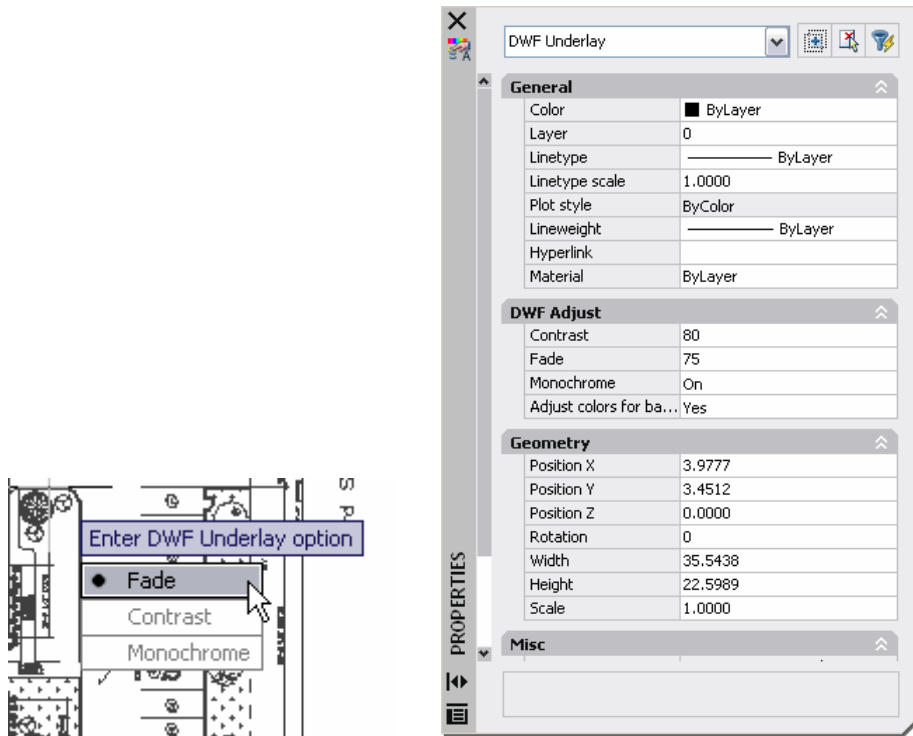
You can toggle AutoTrack on and off with the Polar and Otrack buttons on the status bar. Use temporary override keys to turn object snap tracking on and off or to turn off all snapping and tracking.

Working with DWF Files

AutoCAD LT 2007 combines the security and compression of the DWF™ file specification with the reference concept of xrefs and images. The new DWFATTACH command displays the Attach DWF Underlay dialog box where you can specify the path type, scale, insertion point, and rotation to attach a DWF file. If you attempt to attach a DWF file that is password protected, you will be prompted to enter the password.

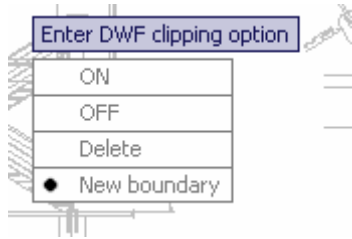


After you have attached a DWF file, you can modify its appearance. The DWFADJUST command and the Properties window enable you to set the DWF underlay to monochrome and to adjust its fade and contrast. The Properties window offers an additional property to automatically adjust the DWF colors for the background.



The DWFCLIP command enables you to specify a clipping boundary to limit the visible area of the DWF underlay and the DWFFRAME system variable displays a selectable

frame around the extents of the DWF underlay. The new DWFSNAP system variable provides control for snapping to geometry within the DWF overlay.



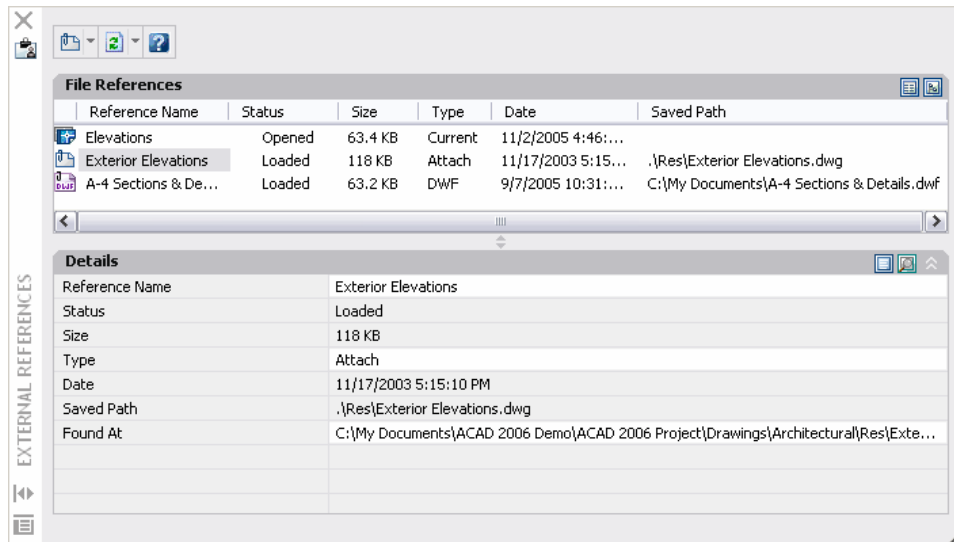
AutoCAD LT 2007 includes additional DWF enhancements to provide greater flexibility for publishing and viewing DWF files. To take full advantage of the DWF file enhancements, AutoCAD LT 2007 includes the updated Autodesk® DWF™ Viewer. The new Viewer includes improved navigation, Microsoft® Office support and Windows® operating system shell integration.

Plotting to PDF

AutoCAD LT 2007 includes a new driver that enables you to plot your drawings to Adobe® PDF. You will find the PDF driver, DWG to PDF.pc3, in the list of devices in the Plot and Page setup dialog boxes.

Working with Reference Files

The new EXTERNALREFERENCES command enables you to see all your externally referenced files in a central location. The new External References window displays attached DWG files, images and DWF underlays.



Saving to Older File Formats

If you have upgraded to AutoCAD LT 2007, you are undoubtedly benefiting from the powerful new and enhanced functionality this release has to offer. However, the hassle of

having to exchange files with other project members, that have not yet upgraded, can cut into the productivity you have gained.

AutoCAD LT 2007 enables you to save your drawings down to older formats to facilitate data exchange with other project members. In addition to saving in the current format, you can save your drawings in all DWG formats as far back as AutoCAD® Release 14.

Additional Customer Requests

Mtext Editor. The Mtext editor has been updated to support the Shift+Tab key combination as a method for removing one level of nesting from a numbered or bulleted list.

Drawing Recovery. AutoCAD LT functionality automatically removes old drawing recovery files.

Block insertion. When you insert a block, the Properties Palette displays block properties enabling you to edit some values, such as color and layer, upon insertion.

Palette windows. Palette windows have been updated to allow AutoHide while docked. In addition, if you stack docked tool palettes with AutoHide turned on, the active palette will temporarily unhide to the full height of the display.

Tables. The table formula function has been updated to recognize a comma as a period.

Dynamic Input. When you enter an unacceptable value in a tooltip, the value automatically highlights enabling you to reenter the value.

Customize User Interface. CUI functionality has been updated enabling you to drag and drop from the command list onto tool palettes. Additionally, a new Double Click Actions node has been added to the CUI enabling you to customize the double-click behavior of objects. For example, by default, if you double-click on a line object, AutoCAD LT opens the Properties window. Maybe you rarely edit line properties but you often copy lines. You can change the double-click behavior so that each time you double-click on a line, AutoCAD LT launches the COPY command. A new control on the User Preferences tab of the Options dialog box enables you to toggle double-click editing on and off.

Model/Layout Tabs. You can regain valuable screen space by hiding layout and model tabs. When you select this option by right-clicking over the model or layout tabs, the tabs are removed and new model and layout are automatically displayed on the status bar. You can use the buttons to set a layout current and switch between the current layout and Model space.

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