CONFIGURING OLDER VERSIONS OF AUTOCAD FOR PRINT OUTPUT

PLEASE NOTE FOR OPTIMUM RESULTS WE RECOMMEND YOU UPDATE TO A CURRENT VERSION OF AutoCAD OR AutoCAD LT

When setting up your AutoCAD files for output from a bureau service it is important to set up your files correctly. As simple & obvious as it seems it never surprises us (print bureau's) to see failed attempts for major presentations, in the majority of these cases it turns out to be a simple mistake and/or printing at the last minute leaving no time to correct files.

Print bureau's do not have the benefit of having all your personal/custom files (ie; xref, images, fonts, pcp & pc2(print config) etc:), so if you are intending for the bureau to produce your print/plot files it is important to include these associated files with your drawing file. If you are producing your own print/plot files you will need to use the correct driver.

Producing HPGL/2 plot files from Autocad 14.

If you are creating plot files you can load the HP 750 C driver from within the Autocad 14 printer configuration. The following steps are:

1. Type config at the command line or pick Tools/Preferences from the Menu.
2. Preference box appears, select printer tab.
3. Select New.
4. From the list of installed available print drivers, select Hewlett Packard HPGL/2 devices, ADI 4.3 for Autodesk by HP.
5. Supported models list comes up. Select HP Designjet 750 C then "Enter" to continue & "P" Enter .
6. Specify a Port enter. (Dot) for none, (printer not connected to computer/printing to file).
7. Enter N (no) for Do you want to change anything.
8. Back at the preferences window the new printer should be hi-lighted. Pick Modify & change the hi-lighted name to AAG. This will be the printer you create you plot files to.
9. To set your printer, open your drawing (or any small cad file), select Print/Plot then pick Device & Default Selection. Select AAG printer (HP 750 C) & pick OK, now select your paper size (in MM), remember, the standard sheet sizes are smaller than they should be so use the User Size ie; A2=594x 420, A1=841x594mm, A0=1189x 841mm. Next select your Pen Assignments and set to your requirements, remember to set any colour you want to print as black to Pen No 7. Now Window, Pick the area you want to print (or Display/Extents/Limits/View your choice), select Rotation and Origin & select your scale. Always do a Full Preview, it is not 100% accurate but it is where you can pick up some faults.
10. Tick the Plot to File box & select your directory to place your file in & OK.
11. Now the printer driver is locked in place you can set the HP Configuration. Type HPCONFIG at the command line & enter, the config box appears, tick Optimise Memory Usage * set to 24 Mb. Under "Quality" select Printer Default then select "In Colour", pick Media Orientation select landscape (bottom left hand option) & OK. **NOTE:** if your drawing is to be printed at any length longer than 1300mm you will have to select the Portrait Option. Pick Annotations & tick Crop Marks on (this will allow us to trim to the correct size) & OK. Now you can re-do your first plot file with the correct settings. **NOTE:** you **will not** have to adjust the HPCONFIG again as it keeps these settings.
12. Remember, once you have created a .PLT file we can't change it, however we do have software to enable us to view it in greyscale format before printing. So if it is wrong you will have to do it again, or bring in all your files for backup, just in case.

Producing HPGL/2 plot files from Autocad 2000+.

Printing from Autocad 2000 presents some different problems, unlike Rel 14, 2000+ uses the windows drivers so you need to access the Oce website on www.oce.com, and download the 9800 or TDS800 driver.

1. Select Download from the Oce web site.
2. Choose or type in TDS800 as the product.
3. Select your version of Autocad.
4. Download the .exe file to your computer.
   - Copy the downloaded file in a temporary directory
   - Run the exe-file to decompress it, the installation files will be extracted in a directory of your choice, or in the default directory '\OCEHDI' on the current disk partition.
   –Install through the "Print Wizard" within autocad.
5. Open AutoCad. Pick Print/Plot
6. Select the appropriate .ctb (pen weights)
7. Change "plotter configuration" to the "Oce 9800 EPC"
8. Tick Plot to file.
9. Select your paper size (with expand).
10. Tick "Centre Plot"
11. If you haven't set up your layout tab, select "Window"
12. Always do a full preview, and then click O.K.

Producing PDF files from Autocad 14.

PDF format is another option to HPGL/2 plot files. This option allows you to view & check the final result before printing.
You will need the Full version of Adobe Acrobat 4 (not Acrobat Reader which is available off the net).
PDF writer needs to be installed as a Windows print driver through the Add New Printer option then accessed through Autocad 14 via the Print/Plot set-up.

1. Pick Print/Plot & pick Device & Default Selection then select Default System Printer.
2. Pick Change & select Acrobat PDF Writer.
3. Pick Properties & select Page Setup.
4. Adjust settings as required ie; resolution, orientation & page size then OK. **NOTE:** maximum size is A1, so for sizes to be printed larger you will have to print you file at scale to fit & enlarge later.
5. Adjust all your settings ie; pen weights & colours etc, Preview & then OK.
6. Acrobat will open after the file is processed & allow you to view the file. **NOTE:** this may require several attempts at printing to PDF to get the format right (a suck & see approach).

Producing PDF files from Autocad 2000.

PDF writer needs to be installed as a Windows print driver through the Add New Printer option then accessed through Autocad 2000 via the Print/Plot set-up.

1. Start AutoCad 2000 & select Page Setup & pick Plot Device, select Acrobat PDF Writer then pick Properties & adjust to your preferences. Pick Layout Settings & adjust to your preferences.
2. Pick Print/Plot re-check and adjust all settings were necessary.
3. Acrobat will open after the file is processed & allow you to view the file. **NOTE:** this may require several attempts at printing to PDF to get the format right (a suck & see approach).

Inserting/Attaching Raster files to Autocad

When attaching raster images ie; Jpeg or Tiff files, it is important to configure images correctly. Before inserting into Autocad
Images should be sized & cropped at final printing size ie; 1:1, colour balanced/manipulated in Photoshop or equivalent software.
Autocad is not a graphics package and so does not handle large image files well, images should be kept around 150 – 200 dpi at final print size. Hi-res images do not mean better prints it may just make bigger problems, you should identify what you want to achieve before you start to compile your drawings with multiple images, if you are unsure, ask.
Some of the basics are as follows.

1. Once your files are ready to insert. Pick Insert, Raster Images & Attach. Locate your file & Open.
2. You now should specify your parameters.
3. Pick "AT" and set to Specify On Screen (unless you do want to insert at 0,0).
4. Set Scale Factor to "1".
5. Rotation can be left at "0".
6. Pick "Details" & set Current Autocad Unit to Millimetres.
7. Now pick OK and insert where required. **Note:** you can insert into either Paper space or Model space, if you insert into Model Space you will have to scale your viewport at 1:1. Image order can be affected if you are overlaying using viewports, so you will need to experiment to see what suits you.

Quick Notes:

1. Do not cut & paste images into Autocad.
2. Do not Xref images from other drawings into Autocad.
3. Adjusting pen weights & colour no's when plotting does not affect your attached images.
4. Use the "Imageframe" command to turn your image frames off before plotting.
5. When using a combination of raster images & background colour fill in paperspace/modelspace, your image order may not work as you intend, despite looking OK when you do a Full Preview.
6. If you are unsure about what you are doing, ASK.
7. Leave plenty of time for printing. If you assume your prints will not work the first time you can work out how much time will be required.

If you have any queries regarding formatting your prints please call Repro-Online on 0800-737-764 or email us on sales@repro-online.co.nz