

EDUNews - October 2000

AutoCAD - Tips & Tricks



Express Tools for AutoCAD 2000

The additional Express Tools released since AutoCAD 2000 was released, are available for download for free until October 14th, whereafter they will incur a fee. Even if you do not think you will need them now (there are some fantastic routines) you may want to download them for future use.

What to do:

- ✓ Visit www.autodesk.com and click on the **PointA** icon. You will need to register to Point A then will be able to download the **Vol 1-9.exe** file.
- ✓ Double click on the **.exe** file you have downloaded to begin the Wizard to guide you through upgrading your current version of AutoCAD 2000.
- ✓ The same **.exe** can be run on any number of installations of AutoCAD.

*These Express routines are sure to speed up your CAD drawings significantly!
We are offering One-on-One training sessions for the Express Tools (2000) or the Bonus Tools (r.14) to help you utilise these time saving features!*



AutoCAD 2000 & 2000i quick keys

The following key combinations make minimising and maximising the AutoCAD Design Centre & Properties Box/Window quick and easy. Try them out:

Ctrl + 1 - Properties Window/Box

Ctrl + 2 - AutoCAD Design Centre



AutoCAD 2000i AutoCAD 2000i has now been launched into the market with many exciting features. The “i” standing for Internet driven/capabilities.

This product stands for more than that, it integrates new Internet capabilities into the AutoCAD interface for streamlined access to the Autodesk Point A website, or to intranets for your office. It also enables the use of NetMeeting to establish intranet/internet meetings within AutoCAD! There are also a host of improvements e.g. Fillet & Chamfer commands remain in the command after you reset the Radius or Chamfer distances!! *A big “finally” for that one, from all us old users!*

For more information on AutoCAD 2000i, visit the Autodesk website as above, or contact your AutoCAD dealer. We have integrated AutoCAD 2000i into our courses and will be offering specialty “i” driven courses for those that would like to make use of all the new “i” features.

AutoCAD Advanced Courses

The A04 – Advanced course covers a wide range of topics, and provide essentials skills for those AutoCAD users wanting to advance their AutoCAD skills, and/or take on more of a CAD Management role. They have been very popular and we have seen great results from them.

For more information and course dates – please call us.

A04 - Advanced Course Contents

Shortcuts/Tip & Tricks
Advanced Selection Methods
Xreferencing Management – projects
Customising Linetypes
Raster Image Support
Display Order
OLE Linking & Embedding/Hyperlinks
Attribute Extraction
AutoCAD Configuration/Preferences
Creating Custom Toolbars
Plotter Configuration
Plotting to Files – for Bureau output
File Interchange
Script Routine Creation

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AutoCAD - Tips & Tricks continued.....

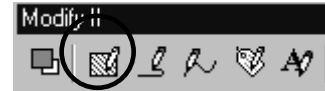


Hatchedit command

We have found that many AutoCAD users do not utilise the Hatchedit command. This is a very quick and easy way to edit existing hatch patterns, and also to establish the existing hatching specifications without using the Properties box.

To access the Hatchedit command, either:

- Type **Hatchedit** at the command line.
- Go to the **Modify menu > Object > Hatch**
- Use the **Hatchedit** icon from the **Modify II** toolbar.



Now select the existing Hatch to edit it.

The **Modify II toolbar** contains a selection of handy editing commands, you may want to bring out the toolbar and see what other commands are available.

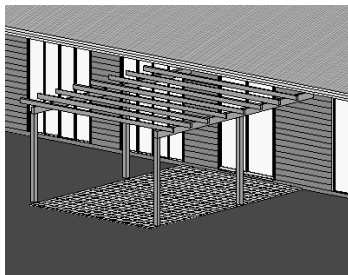
Chief Architect - Tips & Tricks



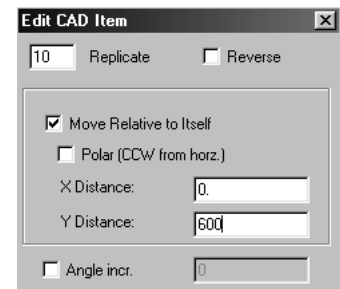
Copying Soffits quickly at precise spacings!

When you place soffits in your plan to represent rafters, pergolas, feature panels etc, the only way to “replicate” or copy the soffits at precise spacings is to add a CAD object.

1. Place your first soffit and resize it accordingly e.g. 100 x 50 pergola rafter, 2200 from ground to underside.
2. Change the colour or material of the soffit too, so once it is copied they are all the same.
3. Move the first soffit into it's correct position e.g. the first rafter from the wall.
4. Add one CAD object near to the soffit e.g. a line drawn from the end of the soffit away.
5. Hold SHIFT key down and drag a “multiple selection window” around the CAD object & soffit. (if you miss the soffit, keep the shift key held down and click on the soffit to select it).
6. Click on the Open Dialogue icon and the Edit CAD item box will appear (because you have included a CAD item with the 3D item).



7. Set the number of copies (Replications) and tick the “Move Relative to itself” box so you can set the spacings (either X or Y direction spacings or using Polar = distances and angles) then click OK.
8. Hold SHIFT key to multiply select all the CAD lines to delete them.



ArchiCAD Tuition



EDUCAD's new ArchiCAD trainer is ready for action. **For One-on-One on-site or group training, give us a call.** We would be more than happy to help.

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Creating Hatches

To create a new hatch pattern, first decide what the hatch should look like. For this example we will make a tile hatch 600x300, stretcher bond. Look for lines that repeat, a good idea is to sketch out the hatch pattern, so you can work out where the lines repeat.

Step 1

To create a new hatch, open the **resources palette** and then click the **NEW** button. Choose **Hatch** and then click on the **Create** button. Now you see the **Edit Hatch Dialog**.(shown adjacent)

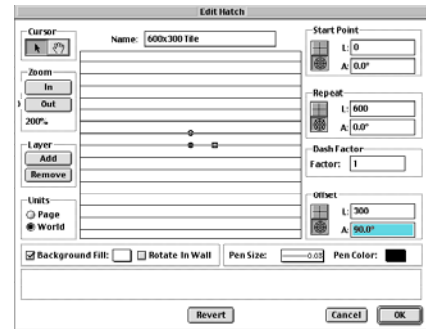
Name the hatch 600x300 tile.

Change the Units to World Units.

Set the Start point to be 0,0.

Set the repeat to be 600mm @ 0°.

Set the Offset to be 300mm @ 90°.



Step 2 – Creating the first course

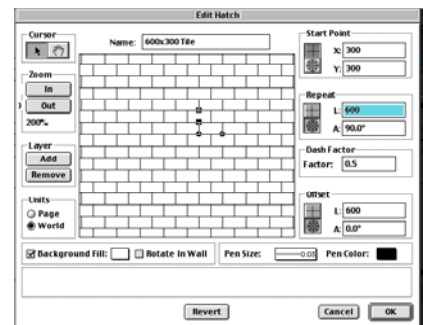
Click on the **new layer** button on the Edit Hatch dialog. When it creates the new line (layer) it's at the wrong angle. VectorWorks will not let you have both the offset and the repeat at 0° so change the offset angle to 45 and then you can change the repeat angle to 0°.

Set the start point to 0,0

Set the repeat to be 600mm @ 90°

Set the dash factor to 0.5, we will end up with a repeating line 300 long that skips a tile course.

Set the Offset to be 600mm @ 0°

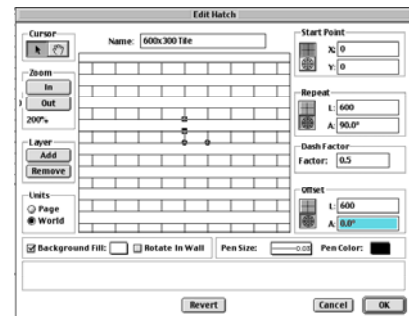


Step 3 – Creating the second tile course

Click on the **new layer** button on the Edit Hatch dialog. It should repeat the first tile course.

Set the start point to 300,300.

When you are happy click on the **OK** button.



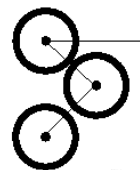
Step 4 - Finishing

This hatch is in your current file and should be imported back in to the library file so that you don't have to remember where you left it.

Plant Counter – for VectorWORKS !!

Priest Mansergh Landscape Architects Ltd and EDUCAD Ltd, CAD Training Specialists have jointly developed a set of Vectorworks add on productivity tools for counting plants and scheduling planting plans.

The tools allow for the development of a library of plant and tree symbols for use within the Vectorworks CAD Package complete with attached database. Symbols or areas of mass planting can then be counted and scheduled, eliminating lengthy plant count cross checking processes. **For more information, please call us.**



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