

USING CAD REGISTER

INTRODUCTION

The new version of CAD Register published by Thomas Register is a fantastic resource for architects and engineers that use any CAD software including VersaCAD, MicroStation or Solid Edge.

There are actually millions of CAD files that are available to use, FREE of Charge, for any application.

There are two ways to get at the millions of pre-drawn details: via FREE CD or via FREE access to an online database.

Access to the online database is the preferred method since the files are always up-to-date and take up no space on your local computers. In short, there is no file maintenance required on your part. But, this is only practical if you have a DSL or cable connection to the Internet. If you are using dial up, you are probably better off to get your free CDs from Thomas Register.

PROCEDURE

Here is what you do to get started:

- Just go to www.cadregister.com
- You will see links to 3 different databases of CAD drawings and models:
 - Partspec- This is for mechanical and electrical parts
 - Plantspec- This is for plant-design components
 - CADBlocks- This is for building products used by architects and facility planners
- You can click at the bottom of the first screen to request your free CD if you don't have a good Internet connection. (or you can do both!!)
- For either method, you will have to sign on and get a password. You can click on any of the three, say CADBlocks and that will take you to the sign-on screen to get your password.
- You will see "Welcome to CADRegister.com". Click on Free Membership. Then, fill out your name etc and get your ID and password. Write it down and put in safe place for next time.
- After accepting your registration, you will be back to CADRegister

EXAMPLE

As an example, let's use CADBlocks to get the floor plan of a complete, modular building.

- Click on CADBlocks again.
- You will see a dialog asking for your preferences of file format, units and scale. For 2D and VersaCAD, you can use any of their formats. For 3D, you can use SAT 4.0 for MicroStation or Solid Edge. Use DWG 14 for Rhino 3D.
- After accepting your preferences, you will see a search tree on the left and contents in the large panel on the right. This tree works exactly like Windows Explorer. Double click the icons to go deeper into the tree. It is that simple.
- Note the manufacturer's names on the tree on the left side. As an example of how to use it, let's get a drawing of a modular building, manufactured by Allied Modular Building Systems:
 - Double click the icon next to Allied Modular Building Systems
 - Double click on their product line, for example "Advantage 200"
 - Looking in panel at right, select the specific product. For example, choose 24x12x2 Wall System. Double click it.
 - Click on Floor Plan.
 - In the main panel to the right, see the blue [24x12](#) link. Click links like this just once. Wait a few seconds while the next window is presented.
 - Click "Download Drawing" That will give you a "File Download" dialog
 - Click 'Save'
 - On the "Save As" Dialog box, choose a folder on your computer to download the file to, example c:\Thomas\
 - After the file is downloaded to your computer (very few seconds), launch VersaCAD to get the file:
 - In VersaCAD, File>Translator
 - At top of VersaCAD translator dialog, "Set type of conversion" to dxf→vcad
 - Navigate "translate From" to the folder where file was downloaded: c:\Thomas\dwg73136.dxf
 - Either click "same as from" so the translated file will be in same folder, or navigate to the desired folder under "Translate To"
 - Highlight dwg73136.dxf and then click "Translate" button.
 - Open 73136.2d in VersaCAD by File>Open

At this point you will have a completed floorplan of an Allied modular building in VersaCAD ready for plotting, or making into a symbol, or merging as a detail in your overall plan drawing.

In the same way you can download the elevation and other files for the same building.

Notes:

1. Make sure that the .dxf file name is 8 characters or less. You can always rename the file after download.
2. Since AutoCAD doesn't always use real world units in their files, any downloaded file may need to be scaled to accurate real world in VersaCAD. For example, the floorplan comes into VersaCAD measuring $2 \frac{5}{16}$ " for the 24' dimension. So scale the whole file up by factor of 124.54 to one. $(24 \times 12) / 2 \frac{5}{16}$
 - a. To scale a whole drawing in VersaCAD: G>B>N>Y>F, then Q
 - b. S to scale the group
 - c. Click any "stationary point"
 - d. Click any "handle"
 - e. F for Factor, then type 124.54 <enter>. Now the drawing is to scale.

USING CAD REGISTER FOR MECHANICAL PARTS

INTRODUCTION

If you are doing mechanical work, you can download files from over 150 manufacturers. Files can be downloaded as 2d files showing various views of the parts or some manufacturers also have 3D files that can be downloaded in a variety of formats. Operation is very similar to the procedure described above.

PROCEDURE

Assuming that you have already got your User ID and Password as described above, and you have the free CD or you are using the Internet online version, here is what you do:

- Just go to www.cadregister.com
- You will see links to 3 different database of CAD drawings and models:
 - Partspec- This is for mechanical and electrical parts
 - Plantspec- This is for plant-design components
 - CADBlocks- This is for building products used by architects and facility planners

In this case, select Partspec. You will see a list of over 150 manufacturers on the left and the large panel on the right. Again, just like Windows Explorer.

Note that there is a search function. See “Find” at top of tree on left. Say you want to find a good bevel gear. Just enter “bevel gear” in the Find window and click the Find button. Wait a few seconds and the search comes back with Arrow Gear and their product line.

EXAMPLE

Here is how you would download the drawings or files:

2D Drawing for VersaCAD:

- Double click on Arrow Gears icon
- Single Click + near Stock Gears unless you want a special one.
- Double click on Section
- Note in large panel, over 30 types.
- Single click the blue link for the gear ratio and pitch you need
- You will see a dialog asking if it is OK for security. Click Yes
- Then you see buttons on the right. Click Download
- Then, use VersaCAD translator to translate as above.
- Open the file in VersaCAD.

3D model for Solid Edge.

- Use couplings as an example
- Find Coupling
- You will see 23 manufacturers listed on left
- Choose Colder as the manufacturer
- Double click Quick Coupling for Medical
- Double click MPU
- Double click “inline hose body”
- Double click “3D” See the part in right hand panel
- Click “insert into CAD”.
- (If wrong CAD indicated, Back out of 3D, go to top of screen to see Format Options. Click on that and then switch 3D to Solid Edge)
- Click insert into Solid Edge

Of course, you must have Solid Edge on your computer with a valid license. If you do, CAD register will insert a solid model of the coupling in your solid edge file.