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Solution Papers

Summary: *Importing AutoCAD block attributes into Bid-Builder*

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Overview: The following procedures below will accurately take you through the necessary steps to tag AutoCAD blocks with attributes and import them into Bid-Builder.

Solution:

NOTE: You will have to create two attribute tags for each block, one for the item number and one for the quantity.

1. Create block in AutoCAD.
2. Type **attdef** to create the block attributes.
3. At the **Enter (ICVP) to** prompt, hit enter.
4. At the **Attribute tag:** prompt enter **itemnumber**
5. At the **Attribute prompt:** prompt enter the item number for the block.
This must be an item number that currently exists in Bid-Builder !
6. At the Default Attribute value: prompt enter the same item number.
7. At the Justify/Style..... prompt mark a point on the block for start of label.
8. At the Height prompt enter the height of the text for the label.
9. Next repeat steps 2-8 above to create the tag for quantity, substituting qty for itemnumber in step 4. Also substitute the quantity for the item number in step 5 & 6.
10. Next make a WBLOCK. At the command type wblock. The Save file dialog box opens and type in a name. At the **Block name:** prompt hit Enter.
11. At the **Insertion base point:** prompt, click on a point of the block to use for the insertion point.
12. At the **Select objects:** prompt, draw a box around the block and attributes. It will display the number found.

13. At the next
Select objects:
prompt, hit Enter. This finishes the wblock.
14. Once you have created the attribute tags for the blocks and made the wblocks, you need to create an export template in AutoCAD.
15. Open Notepad. type:
ITEMNUMBER N011004 (type in caps and leave 6 spaces between the R and N)
QTY N010002 (type in caps and leave 20 spaces between the Y and N)
16. Save this Notepad file in the AutoCAD Template folder and name it bidbuilder.
17. Next you need to create the export file. From the AutoCAD drawing that contains the tagged blocks type **attext** in the command line.
18. At the
CDF, SDF or DXF.....
prompt, enter CDF.
19. The Select Template dialog box opens and select the bidbuilder.txt file.
20. The Create extract file dialog box opens. Enter **autocad** for the file name and save with the .txt extension to a new folder labeled attribute extract.
21. The attribute extract file can now be imported in Bid-Builder.
22. Open Bid-Builder. Open the desired estimate or create a new one.
23. Select Tools → Utilities. Click on the CAD tab. In the file path window click on the Browse button. Locate the attribute extract folder you created in step 20. Double click on the autocad.txt file.
24. Toggle on the AutoCAD button. Click on the Import Button.
25. A message will appear
AutoCAD file import complete
click OK
26. The information is now displayed in the Bid-Builder estimate.