

Digital Canal Corporation

Solution Papers

Summary: *Loading and Unloading Reference Drawings*

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Overview: Reference Drawings are models that are loaded onto the screen and provide a reference for the creation of another model. They are used as “tracing” guides. To load a DXF file (imported from another CAD program) as a reference it must be first saved as a .drw file. This solution paper shows you how to load and unload reference drawings.

Solution:

1. Select File → Import → DXF. Enter the path to the DXF drawing (ex c:\dxfl\brown\floorplan) or click on the Browse button.
2. Leave all toggles set to no and hit OK.
3. The DXF file is opened in Solid Builder and appears on your screen. Depending on the size of the DXF it may take several minutes to load.
4. You are prompted Rotate into x-y? Select yes. Click on Plan View and you now see the dxf.
5. Click on File→Save As. Type in a name for the file and Ok. This will save the DXF as a .drw drawing.
6. Select File/Cad Menu. The scale of the drawing is usually 12x the original size, you need to switch to Cad to reset the units and then back to SolidBuilder.
7. Select Tools→Toolbars→Edit, Select Developer, Click OK.
8. Click Open in the developer toolbar; change Files of Type to EX. And open sbstart.ex.
9. Click on Execute file (!). This will open Solid Builder back up.
10. Select File → Save.
11. Select File→New→Model to start a new model. This file will be the actual SolidBuilder™ model drawing.
12. Select File → Reference → Load. The drawing is now loaded as a reference. You may have to hit the zoom out icon a few times to be able to see the drawing as the zoom all will not work. (If you do not see the drawing at all, go into Cad and select View→Zoom→Reference. Then go back to SolidBuilder by clicking on the Execute icon).
13. You can now trace over the drawing. Once you are done with the Reference drawing, select File → Reference → Unload and it will disappear but everything you draw in Solid Builder™ will stay.