

## Setting up PrintAPlot Pro in DataCAD 7

Chapter 9 in the DataCAD 7 Reference Manual has detailed information on options in the Plotter menu and PrintAPlot Pro. This article provides basic information for getting PrintAPlot Pro up-and-running....

Once your drawing is ready to print, go to the Plotter menu and set your paper size (PaperSiz), set your drawing scale (Scale), and layout the drawing on the sheet (QwkLayout). If you will be printing in color, you will also need to choose SetPens and assign pen numbers to each color used in your drawing. All settings are saved inside the drawing file. You will need to perform these steps in each drawing before continuing with the following directions. For more detailed information see page 9-31 in your DataCAD 7 Reference Manual.

To setup PrintAPlot Pro, choose Printer from the Plotter menu. In the Printer submenu, choose Setup. This action will "shell" you out of DataCAD 7 and run PrintAPlot Pro. In the upper-left corner of the PrintAPlot Pro Settings menu is the Plotter Type option. This should be set to HP-GL/2 and never changed. Changing this setting from HP-GL/2 will disable the link between DataCAD and PrintAPlot Pro, and you will not be able to print. This setting is not for your printer model. The setting for your printer is on the next screen in the Configuration menu.

To get to the PrintAPlot Pro Configuration menu, press [Page Down], choose Other Menu from the lower-right corner of the screen with your mouse, or press [F10]. Choose Printer from the upper-left corner of the screen. Scroll through the list to highlight your printer and press the [Enter] key.

Before you exit PrintAPlot Pro and return to DataCAD, you must save your settings. To do this choose Save Setting from the bottom of the screen, or press [F3]. Press [Enter] to accept the default path and filename, and press the [Y] key to overwrite the file. Once the settings are saved, you can press [Esc] to return to DataCAD.

Your PrintAPlot Pro settings are now saved to the Setting Sheet named DCAD.SS; each time you want to print, those settings will be used automatically. You need not change your settings again unless you need to update your paper size or pen color assignments, or you want to enable an advanced feature such as Tiling. Remember to save any new settings before exiting PrintAPlot Pro.

When you return to DataCAD, choose Print from the Printer submenu to send your drawing to your printer. For those of you that have run DataCAD 5 or 6, and used DCPrint, the steps involved are different. You no longer have to manually plot to a file and select the plot file in DCPrint. The new Print function in DataCAD 7 takes care of all those steps automatically.