

Printing with DataCAD 8 for Windows

DataCAD 8 for Windows prints using your installed Windows printer driver(s). However, you do need to define the plot layout, drawing scale, and pen settings. This is done through the DataCAD Plotter menu.

Default Printer Driver

DataCAD 8 will automatically use your Windows default printer unless you select a different printer driver in Print Setup. This setting, which sets the default printer specifically for DataCAD, is separate from your Windows default printer that you set from the Start, Settings, Printers menu on your Windows desktop. DataCAD will display which driver it will use in the Message Window when you enter the Plotter menu.

Printing

1. Open a drawing file and choose Print Setup from the File menu.
2. Select a printer or plotter from the Printer Name drop-down box. This sets the default printer for DataCAD.
3. Select a paper size and source and set paper orientation to Portrait. Click OK.
4. Now choose Plotter from the DataCAD Utility menu.
5. Choose SetPens. Assign pen numbers to the line colors in the drawing. Exit when complete.
6. Choose PenTable. For each pen number as set in step 4, assign a width, density, and color. Settings may be saved to a .PEN file for later retrieval. Exit when complete.
7. Toggle AllBlack on to print all lines in black. Toggle AllBlack off to print lines in color, or a combination of black and grayscale.
8. Choose PaperSiz and set it to Windows. DataCAD will then get the paper size from the configured printer.
9. Choose QwkLAYOUT from the Plotter menu. The layout box, representing the maximum effective plotting area, is displayed.
10. Position the layout box over your drawing and click to place it. If the drawing does not fit properly on the sheet, right-click to exit back to the Plotter menu and choose Scale to set a larger/smaller drawing scale. You are then returned to the QwkLAYOUT menu to place the layout box.
11. Choose Print from the File menu to print your drawing to the currently selected printer or plotter.

Printing to File

1. Perform steps 1 through 10 above.
2. Choose File, Print and check the Print To File box. Click OK.
3. You will now be asked to enter a name and destination for the Windows printer (.PRN) file. (A windows printer file can be copied to a device like a plot (.PLT) file.)
4. Enter the information and click OK.

Tips

1. Make sure the printer is configured to take pen settings from software to get proper pen settings.
2. Always set the options in Print Setup before using QwkLAYOUT or MltLAYOUT. Changing printers, paper sizes, or paper orientation after setting your layout could result in your layout printing incorrectly. If you do change the options in Print Setup after using QwkLAYOUT or MltLAYOUT, make sure to check your layout again.
3. The default orientation in the Print Setup dialog box is Portrait. This will display a horizontal layout in DataCAD's quick layout view. To rotate the sheet printed at the plotter, set the Print Setup to Landscape orientation, and enable Rotate from the DataCAD Plotter menu.
4. If your printer or plotter is not in the Printer Name drop-down box in either the File, Print or File, Print Setup dialog boxes, you need to install the printer driver. To do this, choose Add Printer from Start, Settings, Printer

on your Windows desktop. For more detailed information, choose Help from the Start menu on your Windows desktop.