

Tutorial: Getting Started - Basics

1

Products: AutoCAD LT 2012 or later

Audience: New users

Prerequisites: None

Time to complete: 15 minutes

Download the Tutorial File

Before beginning the lessons, download the tutorial.

- Download *getting_started_basics_acdmacLt.zip* from <http://www.autodesk.com/autocadltformac-tutorials>.

In This Tutorial

Complete the lessons in this tutorial in the presented order. Earlier lessons include information that is needed in later lessons. In this tutorial, you learn how to do the following:

- Start the product and work with commands
- Create and remove objects
- Change the view of a drawing
- Find more information on using the product

NOTE For more information on the topics covered in this tutorial, see the product User's Guide.

Lesson: Start the Product and Work with Commands

In this lesson, you learn how to start the program. You also learn about the basic areas of the application window, and how to undo or cancel commands and actions.

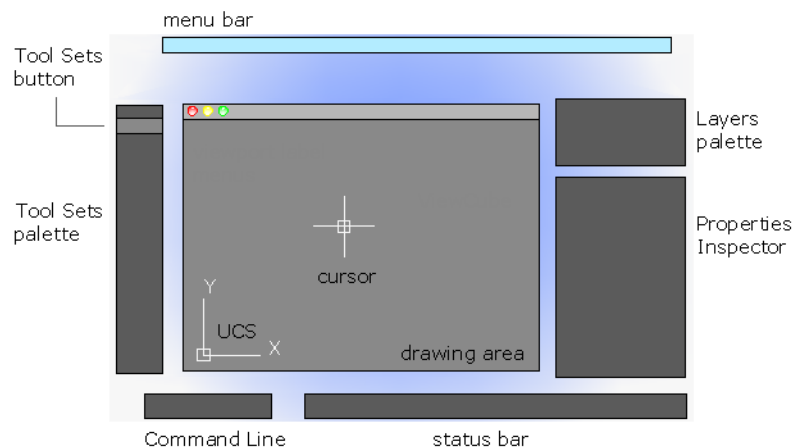
To start AutoCAD LT

- 1 Do one of the following to start the program:
 - In the Mac OS X Dock, click AutoCAD LT.
 - In Finder, on the Mac OS X menu bar, click Go ➤ Applications. Double-click AutoCAD LT.

NOTE Close the Welcome Screen, if displayed.

The program starts with an empty drawing file named *Drawing1.dwg*.

- 2 Before proceeding to the next lesson, identify the areas of the program.



TIP Use the Windows menu to display the Command Line and other palettes.

To start a command or action

Many of the options in the user interface start a command that requires some form of input or performs an action on a selected object.

Do one of the following to start a command:

- Click an icon from the Tool Sets palette. The Tool Sets button allows you to switch between categories of commands.
- Click a menu caption on the menu bar, and then an item under that menu.
- Enter the name of a command or command alias at the Command prompt.
- Click a control on the status bar to enable common drafting aids.

To provide input to a command

Commands often require additional information after they are started. These requests for information are displayed in the form of prompts at the Command prompt or in a dialog box.

Do one of the following at a command prompt:

- Enter a numeric or string value. You might need to enter a distance, the name of a symbol, or a coordinate value (X,Y).
- Use the cursor to specify a point in the drawing area or select an object.
- Enter a command option. The letter or letters that need to be entered to use a command option are displayed in capitalized letters.

To undo or cancel commands or actions


During the remaining tutorials, if you make a mistake or want to restart a lesson, you can undo completed commands or cancel active commands and actions.

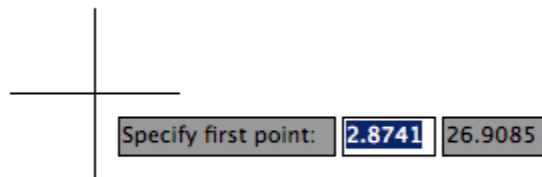
- To undo a command, on the menu bar, click Edit menu ► Undo. Repeat to undo additional commands.
- To cancel a command or action (such as inadvertently clicking in the drawing area or displaying a shortcut menu), press Esc.

Lesson: Create and Remove Objects

In this lesson, you learn how to draw a line, a series of connected lines, and a closed object created with lines. In addition, you learn how to select and erase lines.

To draw a line

- 1 On the Tool Sets palette, click the Tool Sets button, and then click Drafting.
- 2 In the Drafting tool set ➤ Open Shapes tool group, click Line. 
- 3 Use the mouse or trackpad to position the cursor over the drawing area. Three dynamic input boxes appear near the cursor.



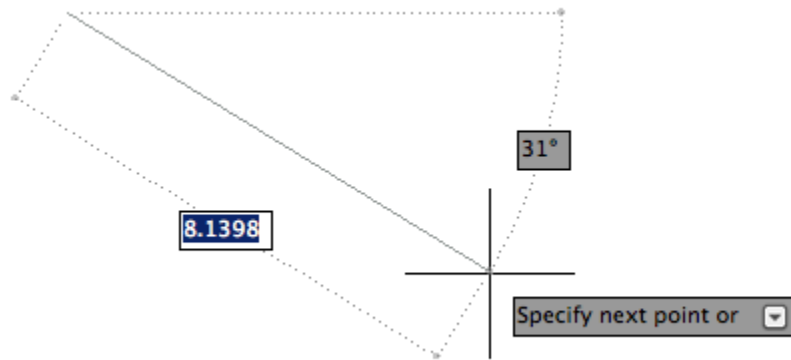
NOTE If the dynamic input boxes are not visible, click Dynamic Input in the status bar.



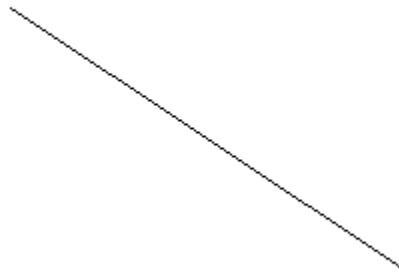
The “Specify first point” box is called the *dynamic prompt*. Dynamic prompts allow you to keep your eyes on your work without having to look at the command line.

The other two text boxes show the cursor’s *X* and *Y* coordinates. Notice that the coordinates update as you move the cursor.

- 4 In the drawing area, click to specify the line’s start point.
The dynamic prompt changes to `Specify next point or.`



- 5 Drag the cursor in any direction and click to specify the line's end point.
A new dynamic prompt appears with additional information about the line. You can ignore this for now.
- 6 Press Enter to end the line and exit the LINE command.

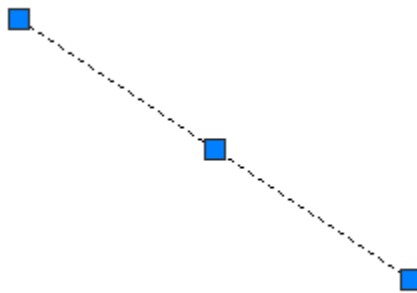


To select and remove a single line

Before you learn how to draw a series of lines, select and remove the line you just drew.

- 1 Move the cursor over the line to highlight it; the line appears bold and dashed.
- 2 Click to select the line.
Three square selection handles (or *grips*) appear and the line changes to a dotted line. Grips are used to modify the selected object.
- 3 On the Tool Sets palette, click Drafting tool set ➤ Explode and Erase

tool group ➤ Erase.



NOTE You can also press Delete to remove the line.

To draw a series of connected lines

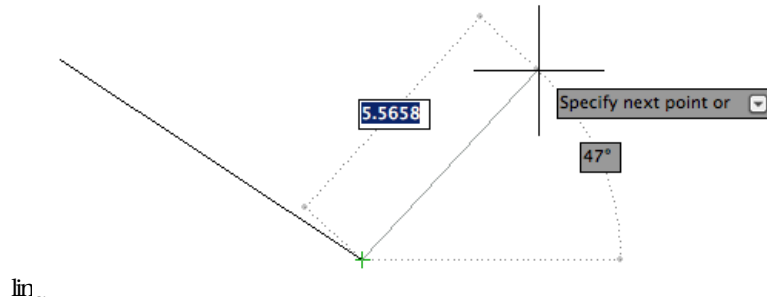
- 1 On the Tool Sets palette, click Drafting tool set ➤ Open Shapes tool

group ➤ Line.



- 2 Position the cursor over the drawing area. Click to specify the line's start point.
- 3 Drag the cursor in any direction and specify the line's next point.

- 4 Drag the cursor and specify another point to draw a second, connected

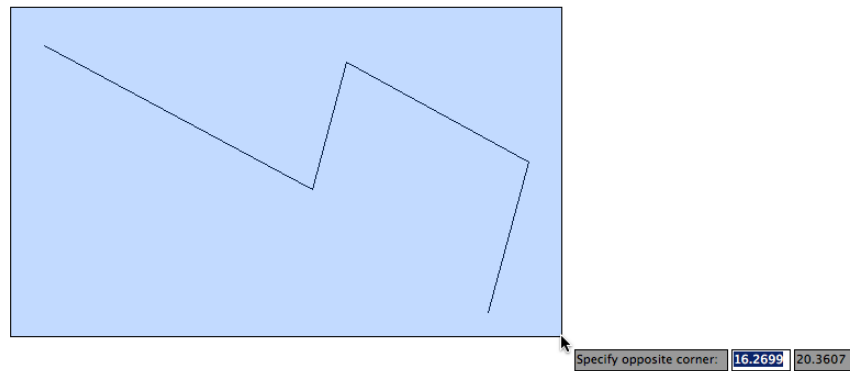


- 5 Continue to drag the cursor and specify points to draw more lines.
- 6 End the series of lines by pressing Enter.

To select and delete a series of lines

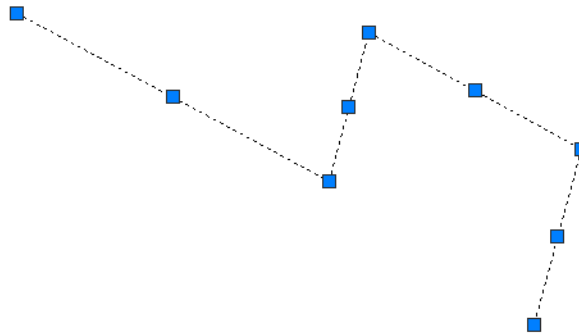
Before you learn how to connect a series of lines to create form a closed object, delete the lines that you just drew. This procedure uses a window selection box to select all of the lines at once.


- 1 Move the cursor above and to the left of the lines.
- 2 Click and hold down the left mouse button or perform a double-click and hold on the trackpad.
A selection box is started.
- 3 Drag rightward and downward to complete the selection box around the lines.



- 4 Release the mouse button or remove your finger from the trackpad to select all of the lines inside the box.


Grips appear and the lines become dashed.



- 5 On the Tool Sets palette, click Drafting tool set ➤ Explode and Erase tool group ➤ Erase. 

NOTE You can also press Delete to remove the lines.

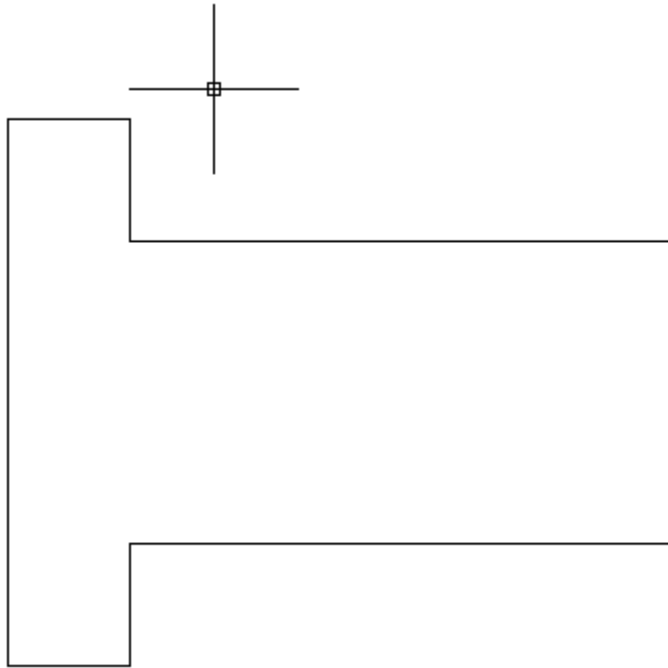
To connect a series of lines to form a closed object

- 1 On the Tool Sets palette, click Drafting tool set ➤ Open Shapes tool group ➤ Line. 
- 2 Position the cursor over the drawing area. Click to specify the line's start point.
- 3 Drag the cursor in any direction and click to specify the line's next point.

NOTE To increase the precision of your drawing, use the drafting aids available from the status bar or from the DSETTINGS command.

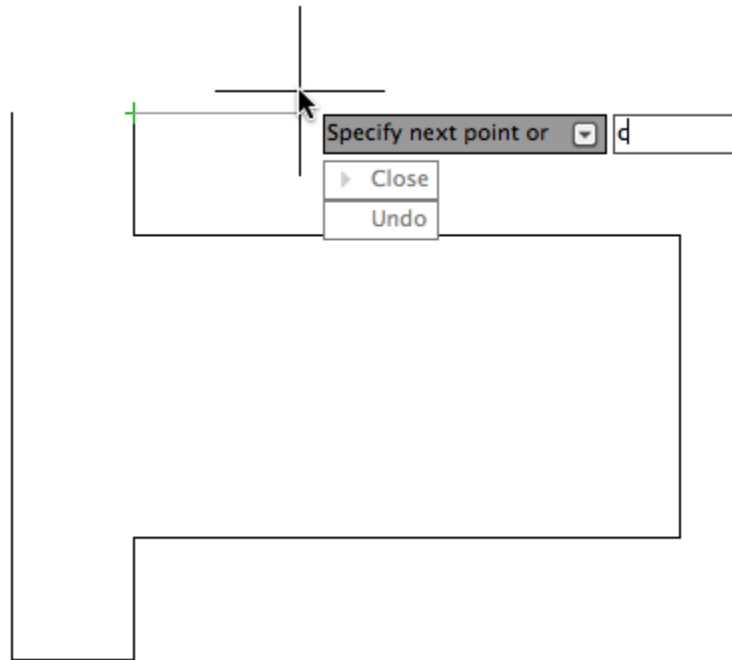


- 4 Continue specifying points to create a few more lines.
- 5 After you specify the last point, enter c. As you type, a small text box appears near the cursor.
- 6 Press Enter to complete the Close option.
A line segment is drawn between the first and last points specified while using the LINE command.



The dynamic input method that was used to directly enter the Close option into the window is faster and easier than using the command line.

NOTE You can also press the Down Arrow to display a menu of available options at the dynamic prompt, which can be seen in the previous image.



- 7 Before proceeding to the next lesson, click File menu ► Close to close the current drawing. Click Don't Save to ignore the changes you made to the drawing.

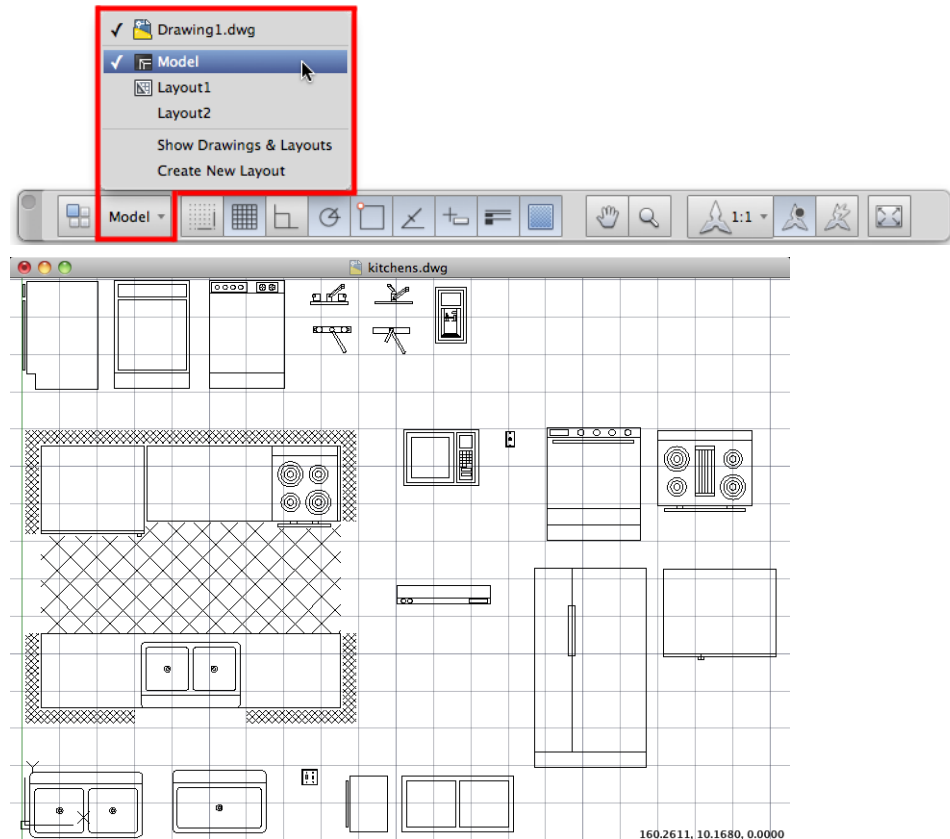
Lesson: Change the View of a Drawing

In this lesson, you learn to zoom and pan in a sample drawing.

To open the sample drawing

- 1 On the menu bar, click File menu ► Open.
- 2 In the Open dialog box, browse to and select *kitchens.dwg*.
This is one of the files contained in the ZIP file that you downloaded before starting this tutorial.
- 3 Click Open.

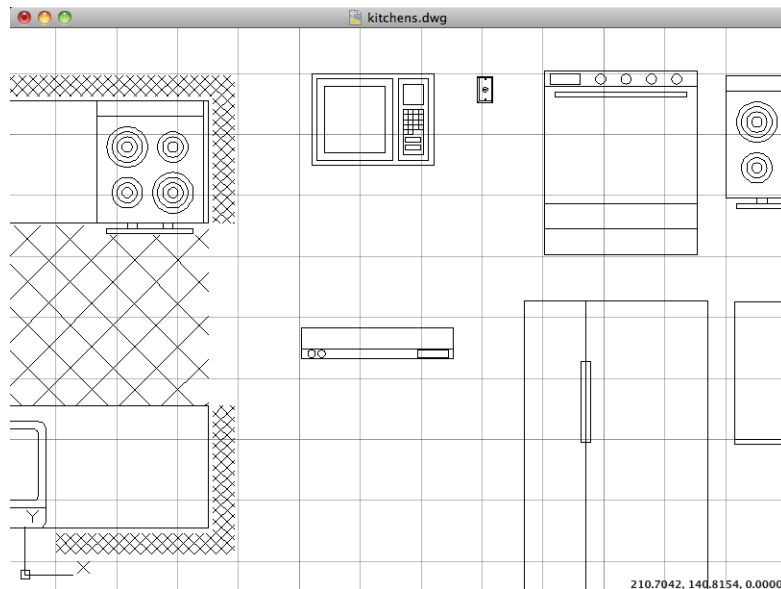
- 4 Make sure you are working in model space. Model should be listed in the Model/Layout pop-up menu on the status bar. If not, click the pop-up menu and click Model.



To zoom using the pointing device

The easiest way to change the view's magnification is with the mouse wheel, Magic Mouse, or trackpad.

- 1 With the cursor in the drawing area, do one of the following to zoom in to a section of the drawing:
 - On a mouse with a wheel, scroll up the mouse wheel.
 - On a Magic Mouse, swipe with a single finger up.
 - On a trackpad, pinch two fingers together.



- 2 To zoom back out, do one of the following:
 - On a mouse with a wheel, scroll down the mouse wheel.
 - On a Magic Mouse, swipe with a single finger down.
 - On a trackpad, drag two fingers apart.

To display the entire drawing in the drawing area using the mouse wheel

- 1 Use the mouse wheel to zoom in a section of the drawing.
- 2 To display the entire drawing, double-click the mouse wheel.

TIP If you zoom in and notice that arcs and circles lose their smoothness, or if you cannot zoom in or out beyond a limit, regenerate the display. Enter **regenall** at the Command prompt and press Enter.

To display the entire drawing using the ZOOM command

- 1 On the status bar, click Zoom.



- 2 Enter **e** at the Command prompt and press Enter.

To pan using the mouse wheel

You can pan to reposition the view without changing the magnification level.

- 1 With the cursor in the drawing area, press and hold the mouse wheel. A hand icon appears.
- 2 Drag the cursor to pan the view.
- 3 Release the mouse wheel to stop panning.

To pan using the PAN command

- 1 On the status bar, click Pan.



- 2 Click and hold the left mouse button or double-click and hold on the trackpad. Drag the cursor to pan the view.
- 3 Release the mouse button or trackpad to stop panning.

TIP Another method for panning is to press and hold the Spacebar while moving the mouse or swiping on the trackpad.

- 4 Before proceeding to the next lesson, on the menu bar, click File menu
➤ Close to close the current drawing. Click Don't Save to ignore the changes you made to the drawing.

Lesson: Find More Information on Using the Product

In this lesson, you learn how to access and use the AutoCAD LT Help and how to locate menu items on the menu bar.

To access Help

In AutoCAD LT, do one of the following:

- On the menu bar, click Help menu ➤ AutoCAD LT Help (or press Fn-F1).
If no command or dialog box is active, the Help home page is displayed.
If a command or dialog box is active, the related help topic is displayed.
- On the command line, click the '?' button that displays when a command is active.

The related help topic is displayed.

To navigate Help

- 1 On the menu bar, click Help menu ► AutoCAD LT Help (or press Fn-F1).
- 2 On the Help home page, click one of the books located along the left side.

The book's topics are displayed in the middle of the page.

- 3 Click a topic link and do one of the following:
 - View the topic content in the middle of the page.
 - Access related external links along the right side of the page.
 - Use the navigation bar on the left side to navigate to additional topics in the current book.

To search Help

- 1 On the menu bar, click Help menu ► AutoCAD LT Help (or press Fn-F1).
- 2 In the upper-right corner of the Help home page, enter a search string in the Search box and press Enter.

The search results are displayed.

- 3 Click a book along the left side to filter the search results.
- 4 Click a topic link to view the topic.

To locate menu items on the menu bar

- 1 On the menu bar, click Help menu.
- 2 In the Search box, enter a search string, such as Line, to locate all menu items containing the search string.

- 3 Click the 'X' in the Search box to clear the search results and return to the standard Help menu.

