AUTODESK® IMPRESSION 3

Questions and Answers

Contents

1. General Product Information

1.1 What is Autodesk Impression?

With Autodesk® Impression software you can quickly create compelling presentation graphics with a hand-drawn look from your DWG™ and DWF™ files.

Autodesk Impression is not intended for conceptual modeling or creating photorealistic renderings:

- Conceptual modeling tools are built into many Autodesk applications, such as AutoCAD®, Autodesk® Revit® Architecture**,** Autodesk® Inventor®**,** and Autodesk® 3ds Max® products and product families.

- Autodesk 3ds Max software is the tool to use for advanced design visualizations and animations.

1.2 Who uses Autodesk Impression?

Anyone who wants to quickly create illustrative presentation graphics from CAD files will find Impression useful. Currently, the Autodesk Impression user community includes architects, landscape architects, interior designers, urban designers, industrial designers, and mechanical illustrators.

1.3 What are the primary benefits of Autodesk Impression software?

The following benefits make Autodesk Impression a good choice for creating presentation graphics:

- **Generate Great-Looking Images—Fast.** Presentation graphics are about winning business. Your images have to sell your projects, and often you must produce the images quickly. With Impression, you can easily apply graphical styles to your CAD files using prebuilt styles or customized styles that you create.
- **Easy to Learn and Use.** Impression is designed so that anyone in the office can learn to use it in minutes and get great results right away. Autodesk Impression includes built-in learning resources and an intuitive user interface.
- **CAD-Compatible.** Because Impression recognizes CAD data, the illustration process goes much faster than with general-purpose graphics applications. Impression recognizes blocks, layers, hatches, and other CAD-specific data. You can open any DWG or DWF file in Impression.

1.4 What is new in Autodesk Impression 3?

Users of previous versions of Autodesk Impression will notice several new features and overall improvements. New features include:

- **Style Book Wizard.** Creating custom style libraries in Impression is currently a laborious and time-consuming task. In order to create a new library you have to manually copy/create each style and modify the color of individual style elements one by one. The Style Book Wizard automates this process by generating a pre-determined number of color variations based on an existing "source" style.
- **Adaptive Gradients.** The adaptive gradient is a new type of gradient which is added to the two currently available gradient types: Linear and Radial. With adaptive gradients, the gradient follows the shape of the object that is being filled.

Enhancements include:

- **Block Identification.** Now, when you roll over a block, a special ToolTip identifying the block name will appear and the cursor will indicate if it is a block, a substituted block, or a multiblock.
- **Block Creation**. Quickly create a block from a selection on the canvas directly from the right-click menu.
- **Global Style Controls.** There are two new global style controls: global rotation control and global hue control.
- **New Layer Tools.** The Tools palette now contains controls for turning layers on and off as well as isolating layers.
- **Layer Filters.** A new Filter Selected Layers button on the Layers palette toolbar allows you to create selection filters so you can easily see only the layers that you need.

1.5 What is a good way to get started with Autodesk Impression?
A variety of learning resources are available for Autodesk Impression. Two of them are built right into the product:

- The Jump Start Tour helps you understand the basic concepts used in creating a rendered image in Impression, with easy-to-follow, step-by-step exercises and informational videos.
- The Quick Start Guide, available from the Help menu, provides a more in-depth introduction to the application.

An online resource, the Impression Community (**http://impression.autodesk.com**) includes everything from tutorials to discussion groups to user-submitted tips.

2. Availability and Licensing

2.1 How can I obtain Autodesk Impression 3?
Autodesk Impression is available as a free* download for Autodesk® Subscription customers of the following products:

- AutoCAD®
- AutoCAD® Architecture
- AutoCAD® Civil
- AutoCAD® Civil 3D®
- AutoCAD® Inventor® Suite
- AutoCAD® Inventor® Professional Suite
- AutoCAD® Inventor® Routed Systems Suite
- AutoCAD® Inventor® Simulation Suite
- AutoCAD® Inventor® Tooling Suite
- AutoCAD® Map 3D
- AutoCAD® Mechanical
- AutoCAD® MEP
- AutoCAD® Revit® Architecture Suite
- AutoCAD® Revit® MEP Suite
- AutoCAD® Revit® Structure Suite
- Autodesk® Revit® Architecture
- Autodesk® Revit® MEP
- Autodesk® Revit® Structure

2.2 Is Autodesk Impression available for purchase as a stand-alone product?
No. Autodesk Impression is not available for purchase as a stand-alone product.

2.3 Is Autodesk Impression available worldwide?
Yes.

2.4 In which languages is Impression available?
Currently, Autodesk Impression is available only in English. Localized versions may be released at a later date.

2.5 Does Autodesk Impression require any additional software activation?
No. No additional software activation is associated with Autodesk Impression. However, per the End User License Agreement, Autodesk Impression is licensed as a Stand-alone (Individual) Version. The software should therefore only be installed on one individual computer for each subscription license of the following products:

- AutoCAD
- AutoCAD Architecture
- AutoCAD Civil
- AutoCAD Civil 3D
- AutoCAD Inventor Suite
- AutoCAD Inventor Professional Suite
- AutoCAD Inventor Routed Systems Suite
- AutoCAD Inventor Simulation Suite
- AutoCAD Inventor Tooling Suite
- AutoCAD Map 3D
- AutoCAD Mechanical
- AutoCAD MEP
- AutoCAD Revit Architecture Suite
- AutoCAD Revit MEP Suite
- AutoCAD Revit Structure Suite
- Autodesk Revit Architecture
- Autodesk Revit MEP
- Autodesk Revit Structure

2.6 Is there a student version of Autodesk Impression?
Yes, a student version is available on the Student Design and Engineering Community website as a free* download. Join today at **www.students.autodesk.com.**

3. Compatibility

3.1 What files does Autodesk Impression open?
Autodesk Impression can open or import DWG and DWF files, as well as IRF files, the native file format for Impression.

Impression can open 2D DWG and DWF files from the following Autodesk products:

- AutoCAD 2010 software and prior releases
- AutoCAD LT® 2010 software and prior releases
- AutoCAD Architecture 2010 software and prior releases

- Autodesk Revit Architecture 2010 software and prior releases, as well as all Revit®-based products
- AutoCAD Revit Architecture Suite 2010 software and prior releases
- Autodesk Inventor 2010 software and prior releases, as well as the entire Inventor family of products
- AutoCAD Civil 3D 2010 software and prior releases
- AutoCAD Map 3D 2010 software and prior releases
- Autodesk MapGuide® Enterprise 2010 and Autodesk MapGuide® Studio 2010 software products and prior releases
- AutoCAD Mechanical 2010 software and prior releases

3.2 Do I need to have any other Autodesk applications installed on my computer to run Impression?
No, Autodesk Impression runs as a stand-alone application.

3.3 In which formats can I save my Impression images?
Impression illustrations can be saved as DWF files, viewable with Autodesk® Design Review software. They can also be saved into several file formats popular in the desktop publishing world, including PSD, the native Adobe® Photoshop® format; EPS, the standard for embedding graphics in page layout applications; PDF, for electronic document sharing; and a variety of popular image file formats such as PNG, JPEG, and BMP.

4. System Requirements

4.1 What are the system requirements for Autodesk Impression software?
The recommended system requirements for Autodesk Impression are as follows:

- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor, 3.0 GHz or faster, or Intel or AMD® processor, 1.7 GHz or faster for laptops
- Windows Vista® Enterprise, Business, Ultimate, Home Premium, or Home Basic; or Windows® XP Professional SP2 operating system
- 2+ GB RAM
- 2+ GB available hard disk space (not including installation)
- 1280 x 1024 32-bit color video display adapter (True Color)
- 128+ MB DirectX® 9.0c application programming interface–capable graphics card supporting pixel shader 2.0 or better (64 MB minimum). For optimal performance with Autodesk Impression software, download the latest video driver from your card's manufacturer's website
- Windows Internet Explorer® 6.0 browser (SP1 or later)

4.2 Which graphics cards are recommended for use with Autodesk Impression?
Recommended graphics cards include:

- NVIDIA Quadro® FX
- NVIDIA® GeForce® FX 5, 6, and 7 families (for example, 6600, 7800)
- ATI Radeon™ X series (for example, x300, x600, x1300)
- ATI Radeon 9500 and later
- ATI FireGL™ V3600, V5600, V7600, V8600 and V8650

For more information, visit **www.autodesk.com/autocad-graphicscard.**

4.3 Does Autodesk Impression support 64-bit operating systems?

Not at this time. Impression can be installed on Windows XP Professional x64 Edition and Windows Vista 64-bit, but for optimal performance this is not recommended.

5. Support

5.1 How do I obtain direct technical support?

Autodesk Support will support Autodesk Impression software as part of support for subscription customers on the following products:

- AutoCAD
- AutoCAD Architecture
- AutoCAD Civil
- AutoCAD Civil 3D
- AutoCAD Inventor Suite
- AutoCAD Inventor Professional Suite
- AutoCAD Inventor Routed Systems Suite
- AutoCAD Inventor Simulation Suite
- AutoCAD Inventor Tooling Suite
- AutoCAD Map 3D
- AutoCAD Mechanical
- AutoCAD MEP
- AutoCAD Revit Architecture Suite
- AutoCAD Revit MEP Suite
- AutoCAD Revit Structure Suite
- Autodesk Revit Architecture
- Autodesk Revit MEP
- Autodesk Revit Structure

5.2 How do I find out if service packs are available for Autodesk Impression?

In the event that Autodesk releases an Autodesk Impression service pack, it is easy to access and install it using the Communication Center feature within the product. Autodesk Impression automatically checks whether you have the most up-to-date release and prompts you if an update is available. When you click the link, Autodesk Impression automatically downloads and installs the update.