

AUTOCAD® ELECTRICAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Can I upgrade from AutoCAD® to AutoCAD® Electrical?
- 2. What productivity gains can I realize by using AutoCAD Electrical?
- 3. Do I have to purchase different modules to get everything I need for electrical controls design?
- 4. How is intelligence stored in AutoCAD Electrical software, for automatic report generation, and so forth?
- 5. Can my customers and vendors view and modify my AutoCAD Electrical drawings using standard AutoCAD or AutoCAD LT software?
- 6. What happens to all my AutoCAD drawings and LISP routines?
- 7. I already have my own electrical symbols. Does AutoCAD Electrical include tools to convert standard AutoCAD blocks to intelligent AutoCAD Electrical symbols?
- 8. Can I add custom symbols to the Insert Component icon menu?
- 9. How do I integrate internal part numbers into AutoCAD Electrical?
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- 11. I have customers who require us to use specific layers and colors. Is this easy to do with AutoCAD Electrical?
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1. Can I upgrade from AutoCAD® to AutoCAD® Electrical?

Yes. AutoCAD® software users can upgrade their existing products to AutoCAD® Electrical design software.

AutoCAD® Electrical software is AutoCAD® for controls designers, purpose-built to create and modify electrical control systems. The software also provides comprehensive symbol libraries that help teams increase productivity, eliminate errors, and share accurate information throughout the design process. AutoCAD Electrical delivers tools to help you design electrical controls quickly and accurately with significant cost savings.

Find out more about the benefits of making the move from AutoCAD to AutoCAD Electrical by reading: [Top 10 Reasons to Move to AutoCAD Electrical](#).

2. What productivity gains can I realize by using AutoCAD Electrical?

AutoCAD Electrical software provides a true electrical controls engineering and design environment. It helps you create better designs, reduce errors, and save time by enabling you to focus on design and engineering tasks rather than on repetitive drafting functions. Project reports such as bills of materials (BOMs), from/to wire lists, and terminal reports are automatically generated from the schematic design. This capability alone offers significant productivity gains and helps reduce errors.

Associative production drawing functionality enables you to automate drawing creation, thus accelerating design time. Furthermore, you can make design changes faster and more accurately than with basic AutoCAD software.

3. Do I have to purchase different modules to get everything I need for electrical controls design?

No. AutoCAD Electrical is not a modular offering. It is a stand-alone offering for electrical controls design. This means that all functionality is available in each release.

4. How is intelligence stored in AutoCAD Electrical software, for automatic report generation, and so forth?

Since AutoCAD Electrical is part of the AutoCAD family of software products, the intelligence is stored in the AutoCAD drawing, mainly in the form of attributed blocks. Because intelligence is stored in the drawings and not in a proprietary database, you can send drawings to customers to open and manipulate using AutoCAD or AutoCAD LT® software without compromising drawing integrity.

5. Can my customers and vendors view and modify my AutoCAD Electrical drawings using standard AutoCAD or AutoCAD LT software?

Yes. AutoCAD Electrical creates native AutoCAD DWG files that can be viewed and modified using AutoCAD or AutoCAD LT.

6. What happens to all my AutoCAD drawings and LISP routines?

Because AutoCAD Electrical is part of the AutoCAD family of software products, most custom LISP routines work with AutoCAD Electrical just as they did with basic AutoCAD software.

7. I already have my own electrical symbols. Does AutoCAD Electrical include tools to convert standard AutoCAD blocks to intelligent AutoCAD Electrical symbols?

Yes. AutoCAD Electrical has a built-in utility called the Symbol Builder that automates the process of converting your existing blocks. The Symbol Builder walks you through placing certain attributes on your blocks to make them intelligent symbols.

8. Can I add custom symbols to the Insert Component icon menu?

Yes. You can easily customize menus in AutoCAD Electrical. The Icon Menu wizard walks you through the process.

9. How do I integrate internal part numbers into AutoCAD Electrical?

Each catalog entry has three user fields that are commonly used for internal part numbers. The internal part numbers can then be displayed in any applicable report, such as a bill of materials (BOM) report.

10. When creating a new design in AutoCAD Electrical, can I copy and paste from old drawings?

Yes. In fact, AutoCAD Electrical provides tools such as Save Circuit, which saves a circuit to the icon menu for use in any project. When inserted, the circuit updates component tags, wire numbers, and even cross-referencing when applicable. In addition, AutoCAD Electrical automatically rennumbers your wires and devices based on the new project's configuration.

11. I have customers who require us to use specific layers and colors. Is this easy to do with AutoCAD Electrical?

Yes. AutoCAD Electrical software's flexible configuration makes it easy to conform to your customers' standards. In AutoCAD Electrical, users have full control over layers.

12. Can I use AutoCAD Electrical with Autodesk Streamline?

Yes. You can use AutoCAD Electrical with the Autodesk Streamline® on-demand collaborative project management solution to work more closely with your extended team and become involved in the design process earlier than ever before. This helps to reduce mistakes and to deliver products to market faster.

13. What are the benefits of an AutoCAD Electrical subscription?

Autodesk® Subscription is the easiest way to keep your AutoCAD® Electrical software up-to-date. For an annual fee, you get the latest versions of the software, web support direct from Autodesk, self-paced training options, and a broad range of other technology and business benefits. AutoCAD Electrical subscriptions are sold by Autodesk Authorized Resellers on behalf of Autodesk.

14. How can I learn more about AutoCAD Electrical?

To learn more about AutoCAD Electrical, call Autodesk at 800-964-6432, or contact an [Autodesk Authorized Reseller](#).

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