
Author: Chris vanOosterom, New Zealand Dairy., Hamilton, NEW ZEALAND

Digitizers

If you have an old digitizer that does not have a Windows95/98/NT driver available, you can still use the TECHBASE digitizer program from 2.50 or earlier versions of TECHBASE. To use this earlier version use the following steps:

Create a new directory for the digitizing program, for example, Digitizer.

In the Digitizer directory install a 2.50 version of Sdigit.exe plus the following files, from that same version.

ER.MSG
SDIGIT.INI
SDIGIT.EXE
GV.DRV
AL.MSG
TG.MSG
TG.HLP
GFONT.2

Create a short cut to the sdigit.exe and place it on your desktop. Your digitizer can then be launched from the new directory. The advantage is that you can have the digitizer open as well as any other TECHBASE Program. The old messages and help screens will not interfere with your new TECHBASE Programs. If you have not set up your digitizer in the past, or you just acquired a new-to-you digitizer, you will also need to consult the TECHBASE manual pages for the parameters in the sdigit.ini file. These can be found in the 2.52 version of the TECHBASE manual, as well as previous versions of the TECHBASE Manual.

Polygons

For those who use AUTOCad alongside TECHBASE, quite often there is a requirement to get polygons from the AUTOCad drawing. Digitizing or converting .dwg to .dxf to .met file, then using Polyedit can do this .

Using AutoCAD 14 or AUTOCad/97, there is a much more direct method. If the polygon you require is already in your drawing in the form of a polyline, **list** the poly line

Select objects:

LWPOLYLINE Layer: LINES
Space: Model space
Color: BYLAYER Linetype: CONTINUOUS
Handle = A7

Open

Constant width 0.0000

at point X=338062.7300 Y=655083.4200 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338049.9200 Y=655085.5800 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338041.9100 Y=655086.8000 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338028.5000 Y=655092.1900 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338023.5900 Y=655092.6600 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338015.2700 Y=655088.4800 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338007.8800 Y=655083.9300 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338001.9000 Y=655076.6400 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338003.9300 Y=655070.9200 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338007.1000 Y=655066.3100 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338007.6800 Y=655059.7500 Z= 0.0000

Technote: Digitizers and Polygons

at point X=338013.8500 Y=655045.7600 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338027.0100 Y=655044.0600 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338043.7600 Y=655048.4400 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338058.8200 Y=655058.1800 Z= 0.0000

Press ENTER to continue:

at point X=338062.7300 Y=655083.4200 Z= 0.0000

area 2122.7449
length 175.4955

Copy to clipboard the X,Y polyline information

at point X=338062.7300 Y=655083.4200 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338049.9200 Y=655085.5800 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338041.9100 Y=655086.8000 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338028.5000 Y=655092.1900 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338023.5900 Y=655092.6600 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338015.2700 Y=655088.4800 Z= 0.0000
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at point X=338013.8500 Y=655045.7600 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338027.0100 Y=655044.0600 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338043.7600 Y=655048.4400 Z= 0.0000
at point X=338058.8200 Y=655058.1800 Z= 0.0000

Then use any text editor, use the replace function to obtain your polygon. Remember a polyline doesn't close so the first line has to be repeated

338062.7300 655083.4200
338049.9200 655085.5800
338041.9100 655086.8000
338028.5000 655092.1900
338023.5900 655092.6600
338015.2700 655088.4800
338007.8800 655083.9300
338001.9000 655076.6400
338003.9300 655070.9200
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338013.8500 655045.7600
338027.0100 655044.0600
338043.7600 655048.4400
338058.8200 655058.1800
338062.7300 655083.4200
338062.7300 655083.4200